From the Classroom to the Ballroom

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The meanings of servant leadership

If you have read Seton Hall’s vision statement, you will see that we are about the education of “servant leaders for a global society.” This commitment is woven through everything we do. Last year at graduation, one of our students spoke of servant leadership. I knew at that moment that the concept was seeping deeply into the educational experience.

Over the years, I’ve often been asked: Just what is servant leadership, where does the concept come from and how is it a part of the Seton Hall mission?

One definition: Servant leaders model excellence in every endeavor, answering the call to lead while always being mindful to contribute to the common good, putting the well being of others into focus — whether they be employees, customers, students or the wider community.

A recent example: Former Prime Minister Tony Blair spent a day at Seton Hall talking and dining with members of the University family. He was here not as a politician but as an educator. At the World Leaders Forum, the man who had led Great Britain for a decade revealed himself to be a thoughtful statesman and an engaging personality.

“Shared values” can bring people together and resolve the most pressing problems of our age, he posited. But he left no doubt that they must be the right values. Discovering — and living — those values can help lead seeming irreconcilables to mutual respect.

The former prime minister, who is now a Middle East envoy and founder of the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, pointed to the Northern Ireland conflict as one concrete example of the power of such persistent effort to seek shared values and common purpose.

The Blair speech is only the latest appearance on our campus by one who has helped shape the world and the history of our times. We have previously hosted presidents Corbacher of the Soviet Union, Khatami of Iran and Peres of Israel. They have all been committed to the task of fostering dialogue among the different cultures and faiths of our world, in order to cultivate understanding among the civilizations that comprise our small, often troubled planet.

As I wrote in my last column for this magazine, Seton Hall’s mission is to foster such dialogue, globally and locally. That is the mark of leadership. That is yet another facet of servant leadership.

Since our founding by a remarkable leader, Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley, this institution has persistently, even doggedly, clung to our educational mission, especially through grave challenges in previous generations. Bishop Bayley had a vision of Seton Hall as the place that would prepare young Catholic men to play their “appropriate role in Church and society.” Today we educate capable and committed young people — women and men — for their “appropriate role” in the world, for their vocations.

To them, as to all college students, much has been given. And of them, much is expected.

It is no accident that six years ago, having received one of our largest ever grants from the Lilly Foundation, we founded the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership. It has become a beacon that has allowed for the formation and education of students as servant leaders.

In the Center’s activities, as well as in our newly established core curriculum and in virtually every program and activity, we seek to foster the deepest possible understanding of the ways we can serve one another.

One effect has been that our students are involved in DoVOL and myriad volunteer initiatives in record numbers. Tony Blair, in giving back, in making a difference in the world around us — and in his continuing service to an ever-wider global constituency — embodies this concept in an uncommon way.

Can each of us say, as Jesus did, “I come not to be served but to serve”? As professionals and parents, teachers and neighbors, members of our multiple communities — do we respond to this call to serve, even as we lead others on the right path for the common good?

At Seton Hall — where to be a student is, in fact, to be called to servant leadership — we are committed to redoubling our efforts in those daunting times in order to serve and to lead. And off campus, visiting with alumni, I am impressed not only by the kind of people and professionals they are — but also by the kind of service they do in giving back so much, with generous hearts.

Welcoming Tony Blair, I stated that I had every confidence that in the audience there may have been a future president or prime minister — and perhaps more than one. But certainly in attendance there were many hundreds of servant leaders to whom we will proudly point one day, perhaps even tomorrow.

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**THE DISCOVERY ZONE**

**Crazy for Basketball**

How did the NCAA Basketball Tournament turn into “March Madness”? Why is no other American sporting event quite so “mad”? Rick Gentile, director of sports editing at Seton Hall, weighs in. Gentile is an Emmy Award-winning sports broadcaster and former CBS Sports executive. He served as executive producer for five NCAA Tournaments (1993-97).

In March 1979, Indiana State University and Michigan State University—led by future NBA stars Larry Bird and Earvin “Magic” Johnson—set a collision course through the NCAA men’s basketball tournament. In the championship game, the teams set viewing records and created national hysteria among sports fans, turning the tournament into must-see television.

That year, on NBC's contract, the tournament’s broadcast rights expired after the 1981 tournament, CBS wrested them away. And in 1982, the final game was won on a buzzer-beater by a freshman playing for the North Carolina Tar Heels—a pretty good player named Michael Jordan. March Madness was upon us.

CBS Sports hired me as chief researcher just as it was about to broadcast its first tournament, and I became an insider to the greatest grassroots sporting event in America.

Here’s how the tournament works: Sixty-four teams are invited from every region of the country. Every community seems to be involved: it could be that a local school is playing, or a local kid, or a coach or assistant on one of the teams is a local. Fans everywhere become involved in neighborhood betting pools and fill their tournament brackets with their picks for the winners, awaiting that first tipoff.

And for the field of 64, it’s the final. A team has to win four games in 11 days to make it to the Final Four (capital letters well earned over the years), and then win two more to be crowned the champion of college hoops. It’s “win or go home” six times for a team to get to the top.

Why does the tournament attract such attention? In March the football season is long gone, and the baseball season hasn’t yet begun. The NBA and NHL are in play, but neither sport is in the postseason yet, and everyone knows that the regular season in those sports doesn’t count for much. And so March is dominated by college hoops.

The Final Four usually takes place the last Saturday in March and is a basketball fan’s dream. There is no more electric atmosphere anywhere in sports.

To put it in perspective, Super Bowl Sunday is one day. The World Series is the best 4-0-7 between the same two teams. The Olympic Games, which continue for more than two weeks, have a lot of sports you’re probably not interested in.

The NCAA basketball tournament is all hoops, all the time, over the course of three weeks. Life or death for 64 teams, 63 times.

Let the Madness begin!

What do you want to know? Send as 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 shwnter@rich.edu with “The Discovery Zone” in the subject line.

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**Expert Addition**

Former New York Times foreign correspondent Anthony DePalma ’75 has joined Seton Hall as the first “writer-in-residence” in the College of Arts & Sciences. Over the course of his five-year term, he plans to design classes that reach students of many disciplines, particularly those he can teach using his background in journalism, diplomacy and Latin America.

DePalma, a staff reporter for the Times for more than 20 years, served as bureau chief in both Mexico and Canada. He is known for his understanding of Latin American geopolitical issues and is the author of The Man Who Invented Fidel and Here: A Biography of the New American Continent.

The first course he taught at Seton Hall focused on the United States, Latin America and the media, and attracted many students from the Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, as well as the Latin American and Latino/Latina Studies program. His current course deals with the news media and the problems with eyewitness reports, and a course scheduled for spring 2010 will focus on contemporary Mexican history.

In October, DePalma gave a campus lecture called “The Devil We Know: Seeking Change in Latin America and the United States,” which looked at how political curvets and a growing anti-American populism are bringing change to the hemisphere.

DePalma’s most recent work for the Times has focused on the environment and conservation, and he plans to bring some of that expertise to the classroom. He is working on a new book, tentatively called City of Dust, about the toxic fallout in Manhattan after the collapse of the World Trade Center towers on 9/11.

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**BY THE NUMBERS**

The Whitehead School’s fall lecture series, “Africa: Health & Security”

**2000**

Year Seton Hall awarded its first master’s degree in diplomacy and international relations

**1960**

Year the United Nations sent its first mission to Africa

**47 of 53**

Countries in Africa the U.S. government provides assistance to

**2 million**

Number of people in sub-Saharan Africa given life-saving treatment through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

**2.5 million**

People helped by HIV/AIDS programs that are supported by the Product (RED) campaign, an awareness and fundraising initiative

**$100 million**

Amount of money (RED) partners have generated for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

**100 percent**

Percentage of the contributions from (RED) products that go directly to the Global Fund

Data sources: U.S. Department of State; Product (RED); Whitehead School of Diplomacy & International Relations

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**PICTURE DESCRIPTION**

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**KIM DEBOURN**

Photo by Michael Paras
David Brancaccio, host and senior editor of the PBS news program “Now,” visited campus recently to talk about the global economic crisis. The Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations sponsored the talk, which was held in November.

After his visit, Seton Hall magazine spoke with Brancaccio and explored the subject further. Excerpts from the conversation follow.

What role did the media play in contributing to the financial crisis? What responsibility, if any, do the media own, indirect though it may be, for our economic troubles? The media bear a decent amount of responsibility. What happened in our financial markets was very complicated. A lot of financial reporters thought they could get by without having the expert knowledge to cover it. What many journalists do is rely on the interviews they do with experts to get them into complicated stories. But that isn’t good enough.

There have to be some people who do the very tough dirty work of diving into the finances of these crucially important companies.

Do you see your fellow journalists changing the way they cover the recession and the economic-stimulus plan? I do not see a wave of journalists trying to educate themselves about the plumbing of the financial-services industry. That is a shame, because a major story going forward — crucial throughout 2009 — is: “What is the regulatory response going to be? What are the new rules going to be?”

If the news media are not watching this — minute by minute, hour by hour — having the facility to understand what is being proposed, it will get watered down, or will disappear in a compromise in the middle of the night. It’s going to require a different kind of more aggressive investigative business reporting. There are some leading lights out there who do a pretty good job, but we need to see more of them.

Is there anything else that is important to talk about? Swirling over any discussion of how we are going to get out of this economic mess is something that some people think is a different topic, and it is — in fact — completely interrelated: climate change.

We think it’s a mess now? Some scientists are worrying about terrible scenarios of mass dislocations of people all around the world if we don’t get a handle on the climate-change issue. There may be a movement to put climate change on the so-called back burner because of the economic mess that’s in front and center now. A lot of people think of climate change when it comes to rising sea levels, but it turns out that the ocean’s chemistry also is changing profoundly. So as you and I are talking, I’m finishing a story about how the ocean itself could be reaching a tipping point.

In April, I have an hour special based on my trip to India. The glacier that feeds the Ganges River is melting too quickly, and that becomes a food-security issue in the Indian subcontinent. And that becomes a national security issue for us if you have masses of people who can’t get enough food. You have smaller versions of that happening in the American West.

So we’re going to keep the focus on climate change [in addition to the economic crisis] because, in a way, it is an economic story.

**Q&A**

**East Meets West**

Seton Hall and a medical university in Taiwan are working together to research drug abuse and neuroimmune pharmacology — how drugs interact with the body’s central nervous and immune systems.

An agreement between Seton Hall’s College of Arts and Sciences and China Medical University’s College of Pharmacy in Taiwan is intended to coordinate education, training and faculty research while building on each school’s areas of expertise. Joint research projects and access to research materials are planned, as well as faculty and student exchanges and short-term visits for lectures and seminars.

Sue J. Chang, Ph.D., director of the Institute of Neuroimmune Pharmacology at Seton Hall, is coordinating the initiative, which is in keeping with the University’s efforts to globalize graduate education and faculty research. Chang spent most of a sabbatical leave during the fall semester at CMU, giving lectures and supervising students there who will be trained at Seton Hall for one year as part of a requirement toward their doctorate degrees. She has also been collaborating with CMU scientists to submit a grant proposal to the National Science Council in Taiwan to investigate the neuroimmune pharmacology of Chinese herbal medicines.

**Paperwork Art Exhibit**

An exhibit called “Paperwork” was on display for a month this fall at Seton Hall’s Walsh Gallery. The exhibit was open to artists who use paper in their work, especially those who use this traditional material in a nontraditional way. The exhibit was curated by graduate students Erin Peters and Ellen Woods of the Museum Professions program.

Billed as a group thematic exhibition, “Paperwork” featured the works of 25 international artists who use paper in unexpected manners. Artists were chosen based on their technical skill and aesthetic mastery, as well as their sense of experimentation. The exhibit included books, photography, origami, sculpture, fashion, installations, cut paper, collage, sound and drawing.

“Paperwork” limited artists to a neutral color palette, which unified the pieces and provided a sense of balance throughout the exhibit. Many of the artists used everyday items, such as coffee filters, cardboard and repurposed printed material. Others used handmade abacá, cotton paper, rice paper or papier-mâché. A catalogue of the exhibit may be seen online at library.shu.edu/gallery/paperwork_catalogue.pdf.

**Detail: “Death Mask” by Matthew Gosser.** Black and white photos on paper and wood.

**Photo by Zane Crave**
**Help for the Hungry**

The Office of Mission and Ministry brought Thanksgiving into focus as the Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE) hosted events recognizing National Hunger and Homelessness Week in the days before the holiday. Collections taken at the week’s opening Masses raised about $1,000 for Covenant House, an international shelter organization for homeless and runaway youth. A week later, Covenant House New Jersey residents came to campus for a day of fun that included lunch, a tour, and basketball and video games. During the week, six young people from Covenant House spoke candidly about their experiences in a panel discussion called “Faces of Homelessness.” Seton Hall provided hands-on help for the hungry in two ways. “PB&J for the Hungry” was a campus-wide effort that set up the fixings for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and asked the campus community to make as many as it could, resulting in 1,440 sandwiches. In the “Cart Out Hunger” drive, students wheeled shopping carts through the residence halls to collect canned and nonperishable food items from their peers. A van load of food was donated to St. John’s Soup Kitchen in Newark, which had to close temporarily several weeks earlier for lack of food.

The highlight of the week was the Hunger Banquet, which focused attention on local poverty and world hunger. The 40 people attending were randomly assigned identities as first-, second- and third-world citizens, with dinner served accordingly to the realities of food distribution around the globe. Third-world meals, served to 70 percent of the population in the room, consisted of soup and bread. Second-world citizens received finger foods, and first-world dieters enjoyed three-course meals. Seton Hall’s chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary program presented the Hunger and Homelessness committee with its Spotlight Award for November, in recognition of the outstanding weeklong program.

**Story of Survival**

A series of newspaper articles on the January 2000 Boiland Hall fire has been expanded into a book called *After the Fire*, published in August by Little, Brown and Company. Submitted “A True Story of Friendship and Survival,” *After the Fire* follows two survivors, roommates Shawn Simons and Alvaro Llanos, and how they, their friends and family managed a grueling recovery at the Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, N.J.

*After the Fire* was written by former Star-Ledger writer Robin Gaby Fisher whose original seven-part series was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Feature Writing in 2001.

**In Brief**

- Princeton Review’s *The Best 368 Colleges*, 2009 Edition included Seton Hall University in its list of “Great Schools for 15 of the Most Popular Undergraduate Majors” for the University’s communication program.
- The American Psychological Association appointed Susan A. Nolan, Ph.D., chair of the psychology department, to a four-year term as the association’s representative to the United Nations.

**China has the problems of any transitional economy, but the deeper and more fundamental challenge China faces is a systematic lack of business ethics.**

- Zheng Wang, Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, in *The Star-Ledger*

- The bottom will indeed be a process, not a point. “Case of Insider Sabotage at Omega Engineering,” a case study co-written by Elizabeth McCrea, Ph.D., assistant professor of management, won the New Jersey Policy Research Organization Foundation’s Bright Idea Award.

- In November, the College of Nursing held its inaugural art exhibit, created to show how some nurses choose creativity to relieve stress.

- A $70,000 grant from the Simon Foundation, the Catholic Center for Family Spirituality in January. Dedicated to theological and pastoral dimensions of family life, the center will offer retreats, summer courses, and administer a photo contest.

- Judith C. Stark, Ph.D., professor of philosophy and director of environmental studies, for her efforts to provide public access to the New Jersey side of the river.

- In the fall, the Stillman School of Business will launch a professional development program for alumni with M.B.A. or M.S. degrees from the school. Consisting of five courses—offered at a discounted rate of $950 a credit and with no application or fees—the program can be tailored to meet students’ individual needs.

In the December 2008 version of its Board Leadership Institute, the Robert L. Augustine Laboratory in the Science and Technology Center in October, the result of $155,000 in contributions from some of Professor Emeritus Augustine’s former students.

- In October, the Neurology Sector Resource Institute in the Department of Public and Healthcare Administration conducted a five-week version of its Board Leadership Institute for employees of Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. at its corporate headquarters.

- For the third consecutive year, the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey awarded more than $55,000 to Project KIDS, a partnership between the University and the Livingston Board of Education.

- In October, the Livingston School of Nursing launched a professional development program for alumni with M.B.A. or M.S. degrees from the school. Consisting of five courses—offered at a discounted rate of $950 a credit and with no application or fees—the program can be tailored to meet students’ individual needs.

- For the third consecutive year, the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey awarded more than $55,000 to Project KIDS, a partnership between the University and the Livingston Board of Education.
Last September, sophomore Kate Kapshandy was sitting in the Jubilee Hall office of one of her closest mentors, business professor Mike Reuter. While they were chatting, finance professor Yeomin Yoon dropped in.

Yoon loves ballroom dancing, and every year at the Stillman School of Business’ annual dinner dance, he invites a professional dance instructor to perform with him. So when introducing the two, Reuter mentioned that Kapshandy was quite a dancer, too — taking four national amateur titles in the past two years.

Yoon immediately asked Kapshandy if she’d like to dance with him at the upcoming Stillman dance. She politely declined, explaining that she prefers to keep her academic and dancing lives completely separate.

“I’ve always felt they just don’t mix well together, dancing and school,” Kapshandy explains. “People at school think it’s cool that I dance, but at school I focus on school. And when I’m dancing, I’m just dancing.”

And she’s done a lot of dancing. The 19-year-old has performed in more than 90 national and international competitions and won more than 40 titles.

Yet when it comes to planning her dancing career, Kapshandy is surprisingly pragmatic. Other amateurs may focus entirely on competitions, but she spends just as much energy on her academic life, developing skills and contacts in the world of business.

Her dancing life began at home in Schererville, Ind., with ballet and jazz lessons at age 3. In the summer of 2003, when she was 14, she began “pro-am” Latin dancing, featuring students dancing with instructors. She hated the first few months, and by October, was ready to quit.
She was at the top of her class in high school, doing especially well in math. When looking at colleges, she originally chose Drew University. But she changed her mind one blustery February day, after attending an informational session at the Stillman School of Business. “She was really impressed. The Seton Hall business program was more focused, more hands-on. She realized it was the right decision,” her father says.

“She had a very clear mind, and pretty much knew from the get-go that she wanted a degree in business,” recalls Director of Midwest Admissions Maureen Barney, who reviewed Kapshandy’s application. “She knows she has a talent and knows that it will always be an avocation in her life—even if it can’t be her vocation,” she adds.

In March 2007, in Provo, Utah, Kapshandy and Livshitz won the national championship in both the Latin and Ten-Dance categories. It was the top honor of her career at the time, and is now one of her fondest memories. A few weeks later, she moved into Boland Hall.

Kapshandy, who is double-majoring in Spanish and finance, was one of just 21 freshmen to be invited to join Stillman’s elite Leadership Studies Program. These students take a series of leadership courses, attend leadership conferences and networking events, and form mentoring relationships with local business people.

“The more I work with her, the more I see the richness of leadership within her,” says Reuter, director of the program. “She shows that the key to success in life is a very simple truth: you find something you love, and you go after it.”

In March 2008, just as Kapshandy finished her freshman year, she and her partner again won the national championships in Provo.

As her dance reputation continues to grow, Kapshandy remains focused on the other aspects of her life. She stopped dancing with Livshitz last summer because he wanted to spend even more time practicing. She’s now dancing with Andrei Kazlouski, a 19-year-old from Belarus who was the 2008 world vice-champion in Latin dance. “You just never know. Even if you’re lucky enough to dance for a while, you can’t be a dancer forever,” she says. She would love to own and manage her own dance studio. “I still want to be around it when I’m older. So a business, with dancing? That would be great!”

Virginia Hughes is a science writer and blogger based in New York City. She can be reached at virginia.hughes@gmail.com.
MARTIN FINKELSTEIN’S RESEARCH HAS IDENTIFIED DRAMATIC SHIFTS UPENDING ACADEMIA IN AMERICA. HOW WILL THE CHANGES PLAY OUT?

Uncharted Territory

The shift Finkelstein and Schuster describe is the result of the rise of a new class of faculty members, hired into full-time but non-tenure-track positions, often with contracts renewed annually. When the half million part-time faculty currently working in American colleges and universities are considered, untenured faculty make up more than half of this country’s professoriate — and their numbers continue to grow.

"It really knocked our socks off," Finkelstein recalls. "We didn't believe it; we thought it was wrong, at first. But those numbers were real. From the early 1990s, the majority of new faculty hires were off-tenure-track. If present trends continue, by 2020, only 30 percent of faculty in higher education will be tenured or tenure-eligible — when I first started studying these questions, in the 1980s, it was about 60 percent."

On one hand, these off-tenure-track appointments have the potential to usher in new diversity among the American faculty. They bring some of the benefits of job flexibility increasingly offered by non-academic careers, and also free young academics from the multiyear struggle to balance teaching, research and service in order to achieve tenure. "These positions offer an alternative to the pressures of the tenure track, in the sense that they allow young professionals, especially women, to work full time in positions that are not all-consuming and inimical to family life," Finkelstein says.

But some scholars fear these very qualities may dissuade highly qualified individuals from pursuing academic careers. Historically, the tenure system has given faculty the academic freedom to take short-term risks to improve curricula, pursue potentially ground-breaking avenues of research, and engage students with controversial topics in the classroom. Without the protection of tenure and often working in term-limited positions, non-tenure track faculty members may be constrained in their ability to provide the open intellectual environment that has become the hallmark of the American higher-educational experiences over the last century.

In The American Faculty, Finkelstein and Schuster report that over the last three decades, faculty perceptions of their academic freedom has declined significantly, from more than 80 percent to only 63 percent. This shift, which Finkelstein and others suggest is connected to the erosion of the tenure system, affects not only research but also the classroom.

"These [non-tenure-track] faculty are not going to be challenging students with controversial ideas," says John Curtis, director of research and public policy for American Association of University Professors. "They may challenge students with assignments that will push them a little bit, since their jobs depend on student evaluations. If they’re not giving students good grades, they may not be getting good evaluations back, and they’re not going to be rehired."

In addition to being off tenure track, these new appointments tend to focus on either teaching or research. While the division of work provides a place for those who choose not to divide their time between the classroom and the lab or library, it also contributes to the decline of the traditional professorial commitment to teaching, independent scholarship and administrative service. This combination has helped make sure teachers are up-to-date on the latest developments in their fields; that researchers are available to mentor students; and that all faculty are involved in the development of their departments and curricula.

The American Faculty cites varied causes of this revolution, including demographic shifts among faculty and students, the impact of new technology and a changing economic climate. As the country pursues universal access to higher education, even as government funding decreases, universities must become increasingly efficient, and off-tenure-track positions provide flexibility as administrators try to increase student access without increasing costs.

But certain kinds of institutions are more vulnerable to these forces than others, and Finkelstein and others warn that the result may be a multilayered higher education system, in which a small percentage of students enrolled in elite liberal arts colleges and research universities will receive a traditional well-rounded education, while students at public universities and community colleges will be taught by short-term and untenured faculty.

In search of some clues to what the future holds, Finkelstein is focusing his research on such data as graduation rates and surveys of students reflecting on their college experiences. He hopes that the continued study will help universities, faculty groups and policy makers outside academia make informed decisions about their institutions’ futures — ideally, enabling them to adapt to the rapidly changing academic workforce in a way that benefits both students and their teachers.

"In some sense, this is like being alive a hundred years ago and seeing Johns Hopkins and the University of Chicago and all of these new institutions emerge, this whole new research enterprise," Finkelstein says. "It’s certainly an exciting time to be studying higher education."

Photo by Ian Bradshaw

Finkelstein and Schuster report a “swift and sweeping transformation” in higher education.
A Steady Path

BISHOP MANUEL A. CRUZ’S UNFALTERING PASSION FOR MINISTERING TO THE SICK TRACES BACK TO HIS CHILDHOOD IN CUBA.

On the bookshelves in the office of Bishop Manuel A. Cruz ’76/M.A.T. ’80 at the chancery of the Archdiocese of Newark, is a line of thick medical texts. These books, along with the portraits on the walls — of Carthusians Saint Bruno and Blessed John Houghton — signal how the 55-year-old Cuban emigre has combined physical healing with spirituality in his priesthood, a combination he hopes will be a hallmark of his episcopate.

With the added responsibility, “this could be the perfect opportunity to say, ‘No, I’m too busy,’” to continue to help,” said Bishop Cruz.

“But no, caring for the sick is very important and an integral part of our ministry as bishops,” he said.

Noting that the motto on Bishop Cruz’s coat of arms is “Caritas” (charity), Monsignor Robert F. Coleman ’74, J.C.D. rector and dean of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, said he is hardly surprised by the goal. Monsignor Coleman has been the bishop’s friend since they were in seminary together.

“As a first-year college seminarian in the early 1970s here on campus, in his free time, he worked as an orderly at what was Saint James Hospital in Newark, and in his free time, he taught him the catechism,” Monsignor Coleman said. “Just learning his faith from this very devoted religious woman, and in the context of always seeing her caring for those who were sick, is surely where the seeds were planted.”

Bishop Cruz and his family left Cuba in 1966, when he was 12. After a year in Miami, they moved to Union City, New Jersey, where he grew up. Bishop Cruz decided on his vocation at age 15. “When I left high school my mind was set,” he said. “Seton Hall was the only choice, because of the seminary.” He was ordained to the priesthood in 1980.

Bishop Cruz’s fascination with medicine grew during the 14 years he spent as chaplain at Saint Michael’s Medical Center. Today, no hobby interests him as much as parsing dense medical terminology and viewing under his own microscope the countless slides in his collection of biological specimens.

He has been a lecturer and adjunct assistant professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, has published articles in journals, and is a member of the Society of Neuropathology of New York.

“How doctors think and face issues, how diseases affect the patient, has given me great insight,” he said. “His understanding has enabled him to serve as a ‘translator,’ deciphering jargon and helping to explain diagnoses and treatment protocols to families, especially Hispanics who may have trouble understanding English.

The bishop’s bridge-building will certainly grow in an archdiocese with 226 parishes in Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties. While serving as regional bishop for Union County, he will manage the ministry to the archdiocese’s Hispanics from Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and many other Latin American countries.

The Hispanic community includes the unemployed lining Anderson Street in Fairview waiting for a contractor to beckon, as well as parishioners of Saint Aloysius Church in Caldwell, who recently inaugurated a monthly Mass in Spanish.

“The undocumented, that is a sorrow, and reminds us how the Church is our mother, and we have opened our doors wide for them to know they are safe and don’t have to be afraid,” Bishop Cruz said.

And of the parishioners who initiated the Mass in Caldwell, he said: “They’re thrilled to be Americans, and the community took this initiative to begin this ministry for the second generation. For many, it is a way to keep the Spanish language alive for themselves and their children, but in a much deeper way, it is an opportunity to worship in the language in which they have always worshipped.”

Maintaining ties to one’s homeland and cherishing early experiences are things Bishop Cruz knows a lot about, considering his deep, lifelong connection to his early mentor.

During his periodic visits back to Cuba, Bishop Cruz said he never failed to visit Sister Monica until her death in her 90s in 2000. Her photo now sits on his desk.

“I was the lucky one that got to go to a sister who was making an incredible sacrifice for the Gospel,” Bishop Cruz said.

“Talking about me is not the real thing. Talking about her is the real thing.”

Al Frank ’72 is a writer based in Parsippany, N.J.
early 50 years ago, historian Theodore H. White wrote *The Making of the President, 1960*, a chronicle of the nuts-and-bolts tactics behind John F. Kennedy’s improbably victorious campaign for president. If White were alive today and writing about Barack Obama’s seemingly out-of-the-blue win in 2008, there’s little doubt he’d include the story of a 2006 memorandum that was developed with the help of Seton Hall University law students in Professor Mark Alexander’s election law class.

Its prescient heading read, “It Can Be Done.”

The text was not the kind of soaring rhetoric Obama had already become famous for. Rather, it was a data-laden, four-and-one-half page playbook that laid out emerging voter trends, state political leanings and the likelihood of crossover votes in swing states. It catalogued the number of African-American voters in key states, along with voting patterns, registration numbers and demographics, and discussed the importance of institutions like the African-American church. Alexander’s memo showed how Obama could win a presidential election.

Alexander recalls that he was “agnostic” at the time about whether he thought Obama should run. But he did offer the then-rising political star this bit of advice over the phone: “You may believe my memo, or you may not believe my memo. But don’t run unless you really believe it can happen.”

Alexander doesn’t necessarily think the memo convinced Obama to run. “The modest side of me says not,” he says. “But I am confident that I gave him information that would resonate with him —
a presentation that was unique and helpful.”

In February 2007, Alexander took a leave of absence from Seton Hall to become the candidate’s policy director. He was put in charge of developing position papers on everything from foreign affairs to the economy. He and his team prepared daily briefing papers and networked with professors, politicians, think-tank experts and others to develop specific policy positions.

“My responsibility was to create the book, basically, of what Barack Obama would do as president,” says Alexander, who later became the New Jersey state director for the Obama campaign. Last fall, he was named to the president-elect’s transition team, where he assessed the challenges facing the Federal Election Commission. But Alexander’s work began with the “It Can Be Done” memo, which emerged from a class discussion about the electability of an African-American man in contemporary America.

Former student Eileen Fitzgerald, J.D. ’07 recalls what happened vividly.

“It was in the fall of ’06, right during the midterm congressional elections,” she says, “and the discussion inevitably jumped about two years to the presidential races.” The class was studying the Supreme Court case that resolved the 2000 presidential election of George W. Bush.

“We were talking about potential tickets, and I said, ‘Wouldn’t it be amazing if it were [Rudy] Giuliani versus Obama?’” Fitzgerald’s comment led to the pivotal question: Is America ready for an African-American president?

Alexander and Fitzgerald recall that the discussion that followed — which spilled over after class to a stairway in One Newark Center — was less about race relations and historical turning points than about nitty-gritty details.

“After all,” Fitzgerald says, “we had grown up after the whole civil-rights struggle of the 1960s.” In other words, the topic wasn’t about whether, but how. Or, as Fitzgerald recalls saying: “America doesn’t have to be ready, all he [Obama] has to do is win the Electoral College majority of 270 votes.”

Alexander agrees. “It was a very practical question. It wasn’t about any black man. It wasn’t, for example, about me. And as we talked about it, I sort of sketched out the basic idea. And I thought, jeez, it could happen.”

Fitzgerald, who was Alexander’s research assistant at the time, was assigned to dig for facts, and to discover how electable Obama might be as a Democrat, analyzing whether his political positions would have broad appeal.

Kyle Rosenkranz, J.D. ’07, another research assistant, crunched the numbers. He recalls they spent days investigating everything from voter lists to tallies from the 2006 election and census reports.

Alexander provided the framework for his research.

“He had an idea in his head how the states would go,” Rosenkranz says. “Particularly, we were looking at the untapped potential of unregistered black voters in traditionally Republican states, places like Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia, as well as swing states like Florida. Rosenkranz remembers going through Florida’s voter lists county by county. ‘Step by step, I started to see the numbers racking up … [to the point where they totaled more than he needed to get the job done],’ says Rosenkranz, who is now a legal services attorney in Newark. The realization slowly dawned that Obama could win by a big margin.

How accurate were those big numbers? Rosenkranz says that on November 5, 2008, he looked again at his version of the 2-year-old draft memo “to compare how the states went with how we predicted it.” Forecast: 360 to 404 electoral votes; actual votes: 365. “A lot of things had to come together for that to happen,” Rosenkranz adds, “but it nevertheless happened.”

“The idea was indeed borne out by the data,” Alexander says of the project, which took less than a week of researching, writing and editing to complete.

How Alexander was able to deliver the memo directly to the candidate goes back to a deep friendship between his sister, Elizabeth, and the Obamas. (Elizabeth, who now teaches at Yale, was chosen to compose and read a poem at the inauguration.)

Elizabeth had been a professor of English at the University of Chicago, where Barack Obama taught law. “He reminded her a lot of me,” Alexander says. “She said we had way too much in common, and that it would make sense that we meet.” Alexander first met Obama in person at Elizabeth Alexander’s wedding in 1997 and still had Obama’s cellphone number handy nine years later.

Alexander, who writes and teaches constitutional law and politics, comes by his interest naturally. His father, Clifford Alexander, was secretary of the Army under President Carter and a civil rights adviser.

The younger Alexander’s resume is replete with in-the-trenches political activity. He served as issues director for Sen. Bill Bradley’s 2000 presidential drive. He worked for Sen. Ted Kennedy in his 1988 re-election campaign and for Sen. Howard Metzenbaum’s Washington Senate staff. He was general counsel for Nework Mayor Cory Booker’s 2006 campaign and served a two-year term as an elected official in his hometown of Washington, D.C.

Alexander’s academic credentials are as deep as his political ones, having been a Fulbright Scholar in Spain and a visiting scholar at Yale Law School. Being a Seton Hall professor has helped sustain his eclectic career, one that also includes writing articles about First Amendment rights and criminal law.

“The really cool thing about being a professor here is that I get paid to think,” he says with a laugh. “I am always thinking about things I care about, things that matter to me.” He constantly asks his students, “What’s going on in the world in politics?”

“I want them to make the connections between what we study and the real world,” he says. “It’s not abstract.”

The discussion his class had back in 2006 about how Obama might win the presidency was far from abstract. “The overall idea was involving and empowering people at all levels,” he notes. “Not only the experts, but starting from the grass roots up, block by block.

“There’s no doubt that we have arrived at a historic moment, an intersection in the African-American journey.”

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Mark Alexander and Sen. Barack Obama talk backstage at a rally at the Izod Center on Feb. 4, 2008. Photo from the Getty Images Collection

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"There’s no doubt that we have arrived at a historic moment, an intersection in the African-American journey." More than 69 million people did turn out to vote for Obama.”

Borrowing a phrase from Abraham Lincoln, he adds, “Ultimately, American people are people who want to believe in their better angels. We asked whether our appeal to hope would triumph. In that sense, I think this was a battle for the very soul of America. And hope won.”

Bob Gilbert is a writer based in Connecticut.
The Transformers

There are painters who transform the sun into a yellow spot, but there are others who, thanks to their art and intelligence, transform a yellow spot into the sun.

— Pablo Picasso

Some artists have the power to draw an audience into a world of their own making. They create vivid scenes that invite the viewer to linger, to soak in the painted environment and study how light plays off shadow. In their hands, everyday objects take on the aura of distinctness.

William Hudders and Lauren Schiller are two such painters.

In the past two years, the works of these artists, both of whom teach at Seton Hall, have earned high praise. Each has won a prestigious grant from a well-regarded source and has exhibited work in galleries throughout the metropolitan area.

We share examples of their work here.
William Hudders, adjunct professor of art, M.F.A., University of Pennsylvania

Though William Hudders himself is not often in the public eye, his work appeals to those who are. Fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger, racecar driver Mario Andretti and Mrs. Myron Minskoff, the widow of a prominent New York builder, all own his paintings. Several of his cloud landscapes appear in the 2005 movie "Bewitched," starring Nicole Kidman and Will Ferrell, hanging on the walls of Samantha and Darren’s Los Angeles home.

Early in his career, Hudders worked briefly as a painting assistant to the artist-provocateur Jeff Koons; Hudders also earned an artist-in-residence spot at Yaddo, the renowned artists colony. In 1996, he was commissioned to create paintings for the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. Most recently, a grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation for visual artists, started by Jackson Pollock’s widow, Lee Krasner, allowed Hudders to complete the work he showed in the Beauregard Fine Art Gallery in Rumson last fall.

CLOSE-UP The quality of the light at sundown shining on the trees next to a neighbor’s garage in Eastern Pennsylvania drew Hudders to the landscape in "Coleman St. Landscape #2." That his neighbor had left porch furniture, a canoe and other household items in the driveway only added to the scene’s appeal. "My neighbor always offered to clean up the area," Hudders said. "But I told him, 'No, no, that's great.'"

The desire for spareness led to "Urban Landscape #1."

"I wanted to do a simple painting; I didn't want to add any information to it," Hudders says. So he painted the view from his studio on New York’s Lower East Side in a style reminiscent of Edward Hopper.

"Urban Landscape #1" Oil on Canvas (detail and previous page) "Coleman St. Landscape #2" Oil on Canvas
Lauren Schiller, associate professor of art, M.F.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison

Food features prominently in Lauren Schiller’s work. Images take on a dreamlike quality: oversized cupcakes hover in midair, a giant Devil Dog snack teeters against a doorframe, and grains of rice float like snowflakes over statuettes of a bride and groom. Schiller uses her art, she says, as a way to explore “relationships between food, family, self and society” in a style that mixes “subtle humor and social commentary.”

Both a painter and a printmaker, Schiller was one of 30 artists chosen in 2008 for a fellowship grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and one of three finalists who received perfect scores from the judges. (A related exhibition will be held April through June at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, located in Summit.) She has shown her work previously in the Alan Stone, Adam Baumgold and HBO Corporate Galleries.

Schiller’s paintings rely heavily on drawing and image. “I’m not a ‘painterly painter’ whose brushstrokes are apparent,” she says. The rich scenes she creates are born from dioramas she builds herself, like tiny movie sets, set to scale. Each one can take weeks to complete.

Schiller seeks significance from the ordinary. Explaining her choice of subject matter, she says: “We think of it as fun, but people have sacred beliefs about food.”
National Basketball Association player Adrian Griffin ’96 knows the value of education — so much that he’ll pursue it for its own sake. Not many professional athletes earn an online M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix, but as Griffin puts it: “Life in the NBA comes with a lot of travel and boring nights in hotel rooms. I just needed something to do.”

But Griffin didn’t stop with his first master’s. He began pursuing his second — in guidance counseling — last fall through Seton WorldWide.

Griffin’s upbringing in Wichita, Kan., as one of Helen and David Griffin’s five children, shaped his belief that learning is priceless. His father was a pastor, and his mother worked various jobs to make ends meet. “We didn’t have much,” says Griffin. “I remember at a real young age going with my dad and brother to pick up cans for extra money and mow lawns. My father had a lot of pride, but he did whatever he could to help his family. I was getting life lessons at a young age. Regardless of circumstances, you don’t have a reason to quit.”

Not that staying the course was always easy; coming east to Seton Hall as an undergrad required adjustment. “It was a culture shock when I got to New Jersey. I was a young kid who thought he knew everything. Then I came to Seton Hall and it was all so different.”

Playing BIG EAST basketball came more naturally, and he became only one of six players in Seton Hall history to score more than 1,400 points and grab more than 800 rebounds. Griffin played for coach P.J. Carlesimo as well as coach George Blaney, who once said about him, “Some guys improve two out of four years, and some improve three out of four, but not many guys improve all four years, and that’s what Adrian did.”

In the classroom, Griffin applied the same persistent focus. Despite all the hours he spent playing basketball, he took 21 credits his final semester to make sure he graduated in the spring of 1996.

After college, Griffin played basketball in the Italian League, United States Basketball League and Continental Basketball Association, where he was named Most Valuable Player and Finals MVP in 1999. After a number of NBA tryouts and rejections, his break came in the fall of 1999 with the Boston Celtics. His basketball savvy and work ethic made an impression. Former NBA great Larry Bird once said of him: “There’s very few in this league in this day that really know how to play the game. He’s got the talent to just go out there and play because he knows what he’s doing.”

Griffin’s NBA career continued with stops in Dallas, Houston, Chicago, Seattle and Milwaukee. A nine-year veteran, he played in 477 career NBA games and saw action in 48 playoff games, including 20 during Dallas’ run to the NBA Finals in 2006. Not a bad career for a player who one NBA scout referred to as “neither a pure guard nor forward, a ‘tweener’ whose skills do not dazzle.”

Last fall, the Milwaukee Bucks hired him as an assistant coach, which means he’ll need to put his second master’s degree on hold — for now. “When I got waived by the Bucks and Coach [Scott] Skiles offered me the opportunity to be part of his staff, I knew it was something I had to consider,” he says. “It seems like a long journey, but the things I went through and the things I learned helped me to get where I am today,” Griffin says.

Now Griffin gets the chance to share the experiences of his education as a coach. As he says, “It’s definitely a blessing the way things worked out.”

“It seems like a long journey, but the things I went through and the things I learned helped me to get where I am today.”

GRIFFIN AT WORK AND HOME: Adrian Griffin was a major scorer for Seton Hall. His professional career included stops in Chicago and, most recently, Milwaukee (right). ABOVE: Griffin and his wife, Audrey ’98, and their children Alan, Vanessa, Aubrey and Adrian Jr., clockwise from left.
AFTER THE DRAFT

BASEBALL

After losing star pitchers Greg Miller and Corey Young to the Milwaukee Brewers and the Texas Rangers in last summer’s draft, head coach Rob Sheppard’s attention has turned to senior Keith Cantwell, junior Sean Black and sophomore Joe DiRocco to lead the Pirates pitching staff.

Cantwell returns to the mound after an injury-shortened 2008 season. In his three previous campaigns he posted five wins, five saves and 116 strikeouts in 126 innings. Black, a second-round draft pick of the Washington Nationals in 2006, will remain a conference-starter for the Black, after totaling 112 strikeouts in 114.2 innings in two seasons. DiRocco is coming off a freshman campaign in which he made 16 appearances, including four conference starts, and posted a 3-3 record with 32 strikeouts in 35.1 innings pitched.

Offensively, Sheppard will look to his power-hitting senior catcher and designated hitter Chris Affinito, who in 2008 led the team with 10 home runs, 40 RBI and nine doubles, finishing third on the team with a .386 batting average. Joining Affinito are Chris Spagnuolo, the 2008 Seton Hall Sophomore Athlete of the Year, who boasted a .333 batting average and a team-leading .414 on-base percentage, and red-shirt senior Matt Smedberg, who had a .388 on-base Percentage, and red-shirt senior Matt Smedberg, who had a .388 on-base percentage, and red-shirt senior Matt Smedberg, who had a .388 on-base percentage, and red-shirt senior Matt Smedberg, who had a .388 on-base percentage, and red-shirt senior Matt Smedberg, who had a .388 on-base percentage, and red-shirt senior Matt Smedberg, who had a .388 on-base percentage, and red-shirt senior Matt Smedberg, who had a .388 on-base percentage.

Senior Keith Cantwell (left) will return to the pitching mound this season.

WITH SOMETHING TO PROVE

SOFTBALL

With seven returning starters and a loaded, experienced pitching staff, Seton Hall’s softball team is primed to prove that last year’s disappointing finish was nothing more than a fluke.

“Last season was a tough year for us,” head coach Ray Vander May says of the team’s 20-33 overall record and its 6-16 mark in the BIG EAST. “We had 14 one-run losses, and if we turn those into wins, we end up with a great season. I do think we have matured a lot from that experience.”

Senior slugger Kealan Waldron is back after earning All-BIG EAST Second Team honors. (She led last year’s team with a .361 batting average, nine home runs and 35 RBI.)

Junior Ashley Forsyth took over as the pitching staff’s ace last season, with 11 wins and a 2.54 ERA in 29 appearances. The Pirates also have senior Kim Schweitzer, who is slated to be the number-two starter, as well as junior Danielle Zanatali and sophomore Katie Stilwell.

Freshman Nicole Loewenstein will handle much of the catching duties and should add another power hitter to the lineup. Vander May was so impressed with Loewenstein during the fall season he is thinking of using her as the team’s cleanup hitter.

“I’m very enthusiastic about this year,” Vander May says. “Having those returning players and talented newcomers, I know they can all have tremendous seasons. We expect to be better and we should have a good year.”

NO ‘SENIORITIS’ HERE:

Senior Keith Cantwell (above) brings her big bat back for the Pirates. Senior Keith Cantwell (left) will return to the pitching mound this season.

“We had 14 one-run losses, and if we turn those into wins, we end up with a great season. I do think we have matured a lot from that experience.”

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NO ‘SENIORITIS’ HERE:

Senior Keith Cantwell (above) brings her big bat back for the Pirates. Senior Keith Cantwell (left) will return to the pitching mound this season.
The Cinderella Murders
By Diane Sawyer, M.S. ’65, Ph.D.
(Shaft Books, $23.95)
In Diane Sawyer’s fourth mystery novel, Kelly Madison is adamant that something terrible has happened to her missing sister, though the police found no evidence of foul play and have closed the case. One of Sawyer’s characters, the fictional Sam Chambers — a journalism professor at Seton Hall — promotes an unpopular theory: that a serial murderer is on the loose. Kelly believes him and places herself in harm’s way to try to save her sister.

Saint Edith Stein: A Spiritual Portrait
By Diane Marie Traflet, J.D., S.T.D., associate dean, Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology (Pauline Books & Media, $16.95)
Dianne Traflet’s biography of Edith Stein, the German-Jewish philosopher who became a Carmelite nun and was later killed at Auschwitz, draws upon Stein’s own writings to give readers a better understanding of this revered woman. Stein gave up the practice of Judaism as a teenager, and struggled with faith issues throughout her young adulthood. After experiencing a prolonged spiritual void, she embraced the Catholic faith. Saint Edith Stein explores the three pillars of Stein’s spirituality: the Eucharist, the Blessed Mother, and the Cross, which allowed Stein to sacrifice and suffer in order to save others — even if it cost her life.

Spport Promotion and Sales Management, Second Edition
By Larry M. McCarthy, Ph.D., associate professor of sport management, Richard L. Irwin and William A. Sutton (Human Kinetics, $65)
This textbook presents a wide-ranging view of what it takes to be successful in sales management, sport promotion and sponsorship. The authors use their academic and professional knowledge and provide examples based on their consulting experience with the teams, events and organizations of the NFL, NBA, NHL and LPGA.

Images of America: Italian Americans of Newark, Belleville and Nutley
By Sandra S. Lee, Ph.D., professor of psychology (Arcadia Publishing, $19.99)
Italians first settled in the Newark area in the 1880s. For this book, Sandra S. Lee has chosen more than 200 early- to-mid-19th-century photographs of immigrants and their families from family albums to tell the Italian people’s stories of connection and new beginnings.

The Economics of the Isolation of Turkish Cypriots
By Omer Gokcekus, Ph.D., associate professor of international economics and development (Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce)
In this book, Omer Gokcekus analyzes the effect isolation has had on the economic development of the Turkish Cypriots living in North Cyprus. He explores the ways — shipping, tourism, education and investment — that Turkish Cypriots are economically isolated and he calculates the heavy price they have paid for it since 1974.
Cultural and Historical Gifts

Without question, some of the most valuable donations to Seton Hall University are not monetary. In-kind gifts — works of art, literature, music and other records of cultural and historical significance — all advance the University’s educational and research mission.

Nearly 400 books about Abraham Lincoln, for example — including two rare volumes from the late 19th century — were added to the Msgr. William Noé Field Archives & Special Collections Center last summer. The collection, donated by Dr. Jules C. Landenheim, a neurological surgeon and music and other records of cultural and historical significance — all advance the University’s educational and research mission. Many of the volumes are original publications dated more than a century ago and valued for their scarcity.

Last fall, Seton Hall showcased a donation made to the Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute: the Trina Padilla De Sanz Collection. Padilla was a poet, suffragist and composer who played a prominent role in Puerto Rico’s cultural and literary worlds. One of the few foreign-language collections in the University’s archives, the Padilla collection includes original manuscripts, photographs, poetry and music, plus correspondence with some of the most influential people in Puerto Rico, Spain and Latin America. Padilla’s letters and personal papers capture the sociopolitical transition of the last two Spanish colonies, Cuba and Puerto Rico, and the developing relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States from the turn of the century through 1957, the year of Padilla’s death.

In October 2007, Seton Hall received 35 limited-edition prints, dated 1885 to 1995, that were donated by former teachers Edward J. ’58/M.S. ’61 and Jane Quinn and were produced by a well-known archive. Several of these prints, framed in accordance with museum standards, hang on the walls of the Science and Technology Center and Faby Hall. Another of the works, “Whale House,” a lithograph by architect Stephen Holl, was featured in the Walsh Gallery’s most recent exhibit, “Paperwork,” curated by two graduate students in the Museum Professions program.

Through the generosity of donors, Seton Hall continues to build its valuable collection of materials that are of historical significance.

If you would like information on how to make an in-kind donation, please contact Leticia Villalon-Soler at villalol@shu.edu or 973-378-2635.

The Newton Street School Project has been in operation since spring 2007. For seven consecutive years before the project began, the school, which serves about 500 students in grades pre-K to eighth grade, had been unable to meet federal testing benchmarks set out in the No Child Left Behind law. The school’s performance had put it in danger of either being shut down or overhauled, but initial reports on the project’s progress indicate that efforts to create a “new Newton” are succeeding.

Seton Hall has worked closely with Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning, a Denver-based nonprofit organization, to provide professional development to the school’s teaching staff, and University faculty members are coaching the school’s teachers. Housed within Seton Hall’s College of Education and Human Services, the Academy for Urban School Transformation is led by Charles P. Mitchell, Ed.D., an associate dean who was once a Newark principal.

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Peter C. McDermott ’69, of Albany, N.Y., received a Fulbright Award to teach in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He taught at the University of Sarajevo, sharing democratic methods of teaching.

In the classroom they are like many other students: diligent pupils and loyal friends. But when called to, they take on a covert persona: the Pirate, the University mascot.

The Pirate’s identity is one of the best-kept secrets on campus. Undaunted, Seton Hall magazine tracked down the costume wearers to find out what they experience underneath that blue polyester.

Communication is key: Mascots must never talk, so the Pirate resists to point out that it gets its message across. That can take getting used to. To signal that the Pirate understands, it taps its forehead. To show surprise, it puts its hand to its mouth. Unfortunately, the natural place to point—the student’s face—doesn’t match up well with the Pirate head. It is just 6 inches, after all.

In the heat of the moment: One student admits it gets “quite hot” in the costume, as mascots wear hydration backpacks with water hoses to avoid overheating. They bite down on the top end of the hose at all times. Otherwise it can fall into the mask, and the student can’t drink again until the next break. One mascot also blows his breathing down. “Sometimes I try to find a secret escape in the hallways behind covers to take my mask off for just a few seconds.”

Laughing it up: During the game, the Pirate is supposed to get the audience clapping, walk into the stands and hug people. In costume, the students get to act in ways they never would normally. The Pirate will run away with a fan’s cell phone, for example. “Sometimes, says one, ‘I rub my belly and get close to a fan’s food.’ Another says that messing up people’s hair is fun. ‘When can you do that to a stranger in real life?’

Secret identity: It’s not easy for the mascots to keep their identities secret. They make excuses when friends invite them to basketball games. One says he works for the team backdrop. “Sometimes I’m seen inside the arena before or after the game,” another says, but “never in between.” The mascots don’t use the public restrooms either. Can you imagine the embarrassment? Can you imagine the team spirit, the spirit at the event, the excitement of seeing their team?

Fan favorite: Children are, without a doubt, the Pirate’s biggest fans. They love to touch him or hold the sword he carries. “I give them a high-five, a hug, or a high-five and a hug,” says one. They have a private bathroom and dressing room to use.

In 1960

Vincent J. Kloskowski Jr. ’60, of West Bloomfield, Mich., has published Dach- cism: Montessori and the Dissatisfied Student. Alan West ’68, of Morgan, N.J., received the 2008 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the Somerset County Bar Association. Marie Mattioli Dillon ’61, of Hawthorne, N.J., was recognized as the New Jersey American Book Award winner. Muriel M. Storrs ’61/E.D.D. ’70, of Fairfield, N.J., was elected treasurer of the New Jersey State Nurses Association.

Lauren Rose were born by Bloomfield College. The college’s nursing Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Pomp ton Thomas Mertonand contemplative prayer at N.J., writes a column for the Eagle called “Strand on Seniors.”


Russo ’79, of Summit, N.J., was assigned by Newark Father Nicholas G. Figurelli ’78/M.A.T. ’83, Optometric Physician of the Year Award by the American Academy of Optometry.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. …ed to chief of police of Millburn Township, N.J., wrote a column for the New Jersey American Book Award winner. …

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More than 1,400 alumni are already members. Just search for the Seton Hall University Alumni Network on LinkedIn. Network or stay connected with University news, events, contests and more.

Facebook
Receive alumni updates, find old classmates and ask questions or answer ours. Join more than 2,000 alumni in The Official Seton Hall University Alumni Group (Global) on Facebook.

90s
Rodney B. Spady ’70, of Long Valley, N.J., was recognized as one of the 120 Most Inspiring People in the Life-Sciences industry by Pharmaceutical Executive magazine. ... Alicia R. Connell ’83/Ph.D. ’93, of Bridgewater, N.J., recently appeared as an expert on the panel of “Fresh Outfit,” a weekly, surreal talk show on Ebu TV that analyzes some of the key issues affecting the welfare of Americans. Her private therapy practice was also featured in the Jersey City Counter News. ... Paul Love, M.A. ’84, of Jackson, Miss., was named deputy chief of staff at L.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center. ... Brian L. Jenk ’89, of Shiloh, Ga., has joined the U.S. State Department as a special agent with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. ... Thomas S. Raso J. ’84, M.P.A. ’86, of Parsippany, N.J., is the new town manager of Nacon, N.J. ... Juan M. (Boutique) Vazquez ’84, of West Orange, N.J., was promoted to a new group vice president position at Stem + Associates in Cranford, N.J. ... Michael J. Stephonk ’85, of Lavintron, N.J., won the 2008 Nature Valley alpine golf tournament at TPC Saugeen in Toronto. ... Jeffrey Grant ’83, of East Orange, N.J., became a certified notary signing agent and member of the National Notary Association.

00s
Jaclin (Bestrick) DeBrito ’00, of Willow Grove, Pa., was promoted to director of quality assurance for Multisite7 Region with U.S. Security Associates Inc. ... Christopher R. Cane ’00, of Cape Coral, Fla., received a master’s degree from Nova University and was appointed assistant principal at Colonial Elementary School in Fort Myers, Fla. ... Megan B. Salojo ’00, of East Rutherford, N.J., received a master’s degree in teaching from Manhattan College. ... Jill Weiskopf, M.A. ’00, of Montclair, N.J., launched a new audio CD for expectant mothers called “Mambo Peace & Calming.” ... Black Robertson, M.B.A. ’00, of Morris Plains, N.J., was promoted to director of finance and operations at Armstrong Inc., New Providence, N.J. ... Rodney Logan, B.S. ’01, of Hamilton, N.J., was selected for two honors: The New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association 2008 Visionary of the Year Principal at the Secondary Level, and the NASSP/National Association of Secondary School Principals State Principal of the Year. ... Cpl. William Burns ’02, of Rosny, N.J., is on active duty in Iraq with the Marines at the Joint Prosecution and Exploitation Center. ... Gina M. Butler ’02, of Manahawkin, N.J., is the development manager for Covenant House New Jersey... ... Amy (Rhio) Lavelle ’02, of Staten Island, N.J., accepted a position with New York City Councilman Vincent Gentile. ... James J. Sayegh ’02, of Cedar Grove, N.J., opened a law practice in South Orange, N.J. ... Jeff Koller ’03, of Bernardsville, N.J., was promoted to account supervisor at Coyne Public Relations in Parsippany, N.J., and earned an Accreditation in Public Relations. ... Brian Pyle ’03, of Middletown Township, N.J., was promoted to director at the Blackhawk Investment management firm. ... Kenneth Stozicki ’03, of Parsippany, N.J., received his master’s degree in accounting from New Jersey City University. ... Katy (Johnstone) Green ’04, of Toronto, Ont., received a doctoral degree from the University of Toronto College of Law and will join the legal department of Suez Chemical USA. ... Ashley (Shinotani) Smith ’04, of Fort Mitchell, Ala., is head nurse of the interpretive pediatric ward at Fort Benning, Ga. ... Stephanie A. Fantini, M.S. ’05, of Butler, Mont., was promoted to director of medical staff relations at St. James Healthcare in Butte. ... Jeff Panic ’05, of Carlstadt, N.J., took a position as director of development at Saint Joseph Regional High School in Montvale, N.J. ... Philip R. Sarré ’05, of Charlotte, N.C., completed an M.B.A. at the University of Toronto and is a benefits administrator with HR III, in Charlotte, N.C. ... Elly S. Schindler, M.A. ’05, of Newark, N.J., was promoted to director of community relations for Sanford Pasteur 35. ... Detective/Sgt. Ronald King ’05, of Montclair, N.J., was elected president of the Superior Officers Association/Paterson Benevolent Association Local 1. ... Brandy W. Muder ’04, of Highlands, N.J., was awarded the Andrew B. Crummy Memorial Scholarship from the Seton Hall University School of Law. ... Ladi Varga, M.A. ’06, of Tallahassee, Fla., was promoted to associate alumni editor of Rutgers Magazine. ... Michael R. Porcari ’07, of New Providence, N.J., was presented the Rising Star Award from the Sunnyside chapter of the British Columbia ERA Realtors. ... Nicholas P. Turetzcheck, Ph.D. ’08, of Cedar Knolls, N.J., received the Risk Innovator Award in the Higher Education category from Risk & Insurance magazine.

Marriages
Michelle Menker ’01 to Scott Chauen Jennifer Natz ’05 to Michael Russo Kathy Korgier ’06/M.A. ’03 to Anthony Deflere Louis Doherty ’97 to Aaron Audin Orlando Lomordo ’77 to Emily Veklody Karen Ray ’89/M.A. ’90 to William Bernowich Scott J. Mattis ’99/M.B.A. ’00 to Deache Atkins ’00 Kristine Olvier ’99 to Scott Tilton Jaclyn Bonzelli ’00 to William Blechti Sean P. McConnell ’02 to Emily Downa

News & Notes
Joining the Alumni Communities
For New Year’s resolutions or answers, join more than 1,400 alumni already members. Just search for the Seton Hall University Alumni Network on LinkedIn. Network or stay connected with University news, events, contests and more. Facebook
Receive alumni updates, find old classmates and ask questions or answer ours. Join more than 2,000 alumni in The Official Seton Hall University Alumni Group (Global) on Facebook.

Seton Hall Magazine | Winter/Spring 2009

One of the most challenging aspects of Soriano’s work has been conveying to the local government the need for financial transparency and explaining how to distribute resources wisely.

Last year Anbar received $183 million from the central government in Baghdad for capital-improvement projects. “The objective,” Soriano says, “is to get the Iraqis to spend their own money on reconstruction — not U.S. money.”

A proponent of intercultural exchanges, Soriano felt personal satisfaction when he organized a visit by Anbar’s governor and other local officials to talk about post-conflict reconstruction plans. “It’s not your normal contact to the office,” says Soriano.

As the State Department’s senior civilian official in Anbar since September 2006, Soriano has witnessed a “dramatic transformation from the dark days of the insurgency to the post-conflict period.”

Soriano (shown above and top far right) lives in a trailer at Camp Ramadi, where they live. “Not every day, of course. But several times a week, when he

Soriano heads a 50-member Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). Soriano says the trip was aimed at preparing the governor of Iraq’s Anbar province and other local government officials to talk about post-conflict reconstruction plans. “It’s not your normal contact to the office,” says Soriano.

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“Person-to-person contact is the only way to break down Iraq’s longstanding isolation,” says Soriano.

His team has also arranged for eight moderate Sunni clerics to visit the U.S. in early 2009 on an interfaith study tour. One of the trip’s stops? Seton Hall. — ISABEL BAUER

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Alumni Interesting in the Slavic Club
Were you a Slavic Club member or did you major in Russian studies at Seton Hall? Did you study under professors Linda La Rosa, Anna Kuchta or Nathaniel Knight?

If so, we want to know! The Slavic Club is planning to host an alumni event this year as well as invite interested alumni to lectures and other events that the club holds. If you are interested in hearing about upcoming Slavic Club events and future alumni events, please contact Anna Kuchta at (973) 257-3875 or by e-mail at kuchtaan@shu.edu.

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Baby Pirates
Jennifer (Selig) Gilbert "01 and Joe, a girl, Katryn Nicole, September 13, 2008.
Mary (Westcott) McCarthy "00 and Craig "01, a boy, Peter Michael. September 22, 2008.
Juan (Cevallos)FLint "03 and Kurt, a boy, Dwayne Will. November 6, 2008.
Kathy (Cevallos) Molley "03 and Jim, a girl, Brianna Michelle. June 30, 2008.
Joseph Van Buren "95 and Andrea (Culina) "06, a boy, Jack Forester. October 18, 2008.
Orlando Lomando "97 and Emry, a girl, Marcel Luis Amy (Davis) Ramaker "97 and Michael, a boy, Dolan May. July 24, 2008.
Anthony Biglia "07 and Jessica (Esaca) "00, a boy, Nicholas Ar. October 21, 2008.
Jaime (Ortiz) DeSantis "06, B.S. "08 and Pat, a boy, Patrick Anthony. March 25, 2008.
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The Pirate Adventures Travel Program offers alumni, their families, the University community and friends of the University the opportunity to travel among fellow Pirates while receiving a unique education from various Seton Hall experts.

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- Seton Hall Dessert Night
- Scavenger Hunt and special tours with Louis A. Mongello, J.D. ’94, author of The Walt Disney World Trivia Book and founder of DisneyWorldTrivia.com
- Seton Hall Dinner
- Q&A with Louis A. Mongello prior to Prices vary depending on choice of hotel, theme park package and other available options.

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Seton Hall Magazine, Alumni News and Notes
407 Centre St., South Orange, NJ 07079
Fax: 973-378-2640

www.shu.edu/alumni

** Must present Alumni ID

Everyone has a story

“My Time,” Seton Hall’s traditions project, is still under way. We want to know about your experiences at the University as a student, friend of the University, staff or faculty member. Fill out our survey and share your story today.

Fill out the survey at www.shu.edu/go/mytime

Complete the survey between April 1 and May 31, and be entered to win a Seton Hall prize package valued at more than $250.

Here is some of what we have heard so far:

Favorite things about SHU: 1989, the Pub, the diversity, Mass in the Chapel, The Green

Why did you choose Seton Hall?: Catholic, reputation, close to home, parent attended, BIG EAST basketball

Least favorite thing about SHU: No women, losing in 1989, when the Pub closed, parking

What were the rituals you recall? SHU 500, not stepping on the University seal, ringing of the Angelus bells, wearing jackets and ties, March Madness

You’ve Got Hatermail

“Sticks and stones may break your bones, but names can never hurt you.”

Sadly, the familiar schoolyard adage is not always true. When children, even adults, are taunted, humiliated or threatened through e-mail and instant messaging, the damage can be all too real.

The threat is increasingly common: 42 percent of young people say they have been bullied online and 53 percent of young people admit they have said something mean or hurtful to another person online, according to a study conducted by i-SAFE, an organization dedicated to educating people about Internet safety.

To learn more about the problem, Pegeen Hopkins spoke to Thomas Massarelli, ‘79/M.A.E.’84/E.D.S.’88/Ph.D.’98, director of Seton Hall’s school and community psychology program.

What is cyber bullying? It is when electronic media is involved in harassment. I’m a school psychologist; usually students will give us a hard copy of what has been said online. With the assistance of a student peer counselor, we conduct a mediation session between the students to talk about what was said and the implications of what has been said. Even if the harassment happens in the student’s home and continues in school, it is still part of the school environment, and the school is responsible for taking an active stance.

You mentioned peer mediation. Are these programs successful? It’s very surprising, but I see a lot of good coming from peer mediation programs. Often what I hear when I am a part of a peer mediation session is “I didn’t realize that what I said really bothered you.” Students usually listen to other students before they listen to adults as they get information from these exchanges that they wouldn’t normally get from an adult or administrator. For the most part it’s very helpful, and usually the bullying will stop.

Has cyber bullying changed the way we view the traditional “schoolyard bully”? It has. Based on my experience, a lot of times students will hold back on school grounds and in person. In cyber bullying, nothing is held back. Because of the anonymity involved, children say more. They feel as if they are immune from being caught or from having to face the person.

Is being bullied in the schoolyard over more quickly than being cyber bullied? There has been a lot of research that supports that claim. If there is face-to-face confrontation, it is usually dealt with right away; the administration is involved, the parents are called in and the situation gets resolved.

Cyber bullying can go on for days, weeks, even months, before children report what is going on to professionals. Children can carry this burden of being harassed for weeks with nothing happening.

Kids have a way of getting to online sites like MySpace and Facebook even if they are blocked by school authorities. They can bypass firewalls, link to AOL in Canada and use other Web sites to gain access to online messaging sites; they have ingenious ways of actually tripping up the system to do a lot while in school. Text messaging is also big. Children send each other text messages through cell-phones in class, so cyber bullying can go on right in front of you, sometimes, without you even realizing it.

What can parents do? It’s good to have the computer screen in an open room so that when you’re cooking dinner you can just glance over and see what is on the screen. And it’s important to make sure children know the people they are e-mailing or instant messaging. Young children must be educated, because they are growing up in this “mediafriends” society.

For older children, parents also have to know about the different blogs and Web sites their kids are visiting. This can be a warning sign that says, "Something is not right.”

One student I worked with had put up poetry on the Internet; one of the poems was very morbid and dark. She shared it with me, and I spent quite a bit of time working with her, making sure she was okay. She was not in a serious situation, where we needed to call 911, but she had certain things going on in her life that she needed to express and have people respond to her about.

The Internet is a good medium for communicating between friends; a student can get back a lot of positive feedback, but it also can be worrisome because you don’t always know what’s going on. The new media is just another way of getting the signal out that may say “Hey, this kid needs help.”

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