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1995-2010
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Memories of Seton Hall

With fewer than 90 days remaining in his tenure as the University’s 19th president, Monsignor Robert Sheeran reflected on his administration and the future of Seton Hall.

Q. You have been at Seton Hall for more than 30 years, half that time as chief executive. What are some of the key memories of those years?

A. My first — and one of my strongest — memories is the day in September 1963 when my Dad dropped me off in front of Boland Hall. Like any freshman I was excited, uncertain of what lay ahead, and I soon felt absolutely at home.

And a flood of memories over the decades. I think of taking classes that helped to shape my life and perspective on almost everything; welcoming new students at orientation; basketball games and those always exciting post-season trips. I recall, as if it were yesterday, my first teaching experience at Seton Hall in 1980 and my years as rector of the College Seminary. How could I ever forget the night we celebrated our 150th anniversary with fireworks and when we closed our $153 million campaign?

There are many images etched in my mind: the bittersweet-nesc of Move-In Days, alums I have visited around the country — and how I was able to encourage fledgling alumni chapters in Chicago, Austin, Dallas and San Francisco. Also, many hours poking around campus — I think it is fair to say I know nearly in Chicago, Austin, Dallas and San Francisco. Also, many hours poking around campus — I think it is fair to say I know nearly every tree planted here during my time. The renovation of the Chapel is a special page in my presidential memory; and, of course, University Days with the great fall weather and alums and their children on campus.

Q. What major educational successes and challenges can you point to over the course of your presidency?

A. We have certainly achieved greater national recognition for Seton Hall and greater prominence in New Jersey, especially through our graduate and professional programs. Recruiting excellent faculty and students and, yes, the best priests, is an ongoing strategic challenge for us.

Our faith-based programs, in the classroom and through service in the community, have grown dramatically over the past decade and a half. We are uniquely positioned, as a Catholic institution founded on Judeo-Christian beliefs, to form our undergraduate students as true servant leaders. Our pioneering and innovative core curriculum has been, in large part, created to address the contemporary human need for principles and values that raise us up as individuals and as a society.

Q. How have you personally dealt with the requirements of being both priest and administrator?

A. Being president allows me to help shape the institution, to sell and to sing its virtues to many constituencies. But even as I spend a lot of my time on big strategic matters, I appreciate working directly with people. There is nothing I enjoy more than welcoming a student from far away, acknowledging a professor’s outstanding service, awarding diplomas on graduation day with family and friends present, or even just being in the cafeteria with students and learning about their perspectives on Seton Hall.

First and foremost, I am a priest, and I have the opportunity to celebrate liturgies at moments of our greatest joy and deepest sorrow. I thoroughly enjoy saying Sunday Mass and my regular 8 a.m. Mass at the beginning of the day.

Also, these years have made me much less afraid to ask people to be involved with the University, to give of their time, talent and treasure. I have invited hundreds of people to be involved in the life of Seton Hall, to give of themselves — and so many have responded with enormous generosity. Inevitably, their involvement is as much or even more of a gift to them!

Q. Do you have a final thought for us?

A. When I was appointed in 1995, I could never have guessed that there would be no Seton Hall president with a term of office longer than mine. I trust that Seton Hall has become better under my presidency, but I will let others judge. I will await Professor Dermot Quinn’s history of the University! Suffice it to say that I thank God for the opportunity to serve, and hope that one day it will be said: “He served well.”

Seton Hall actively participates in some of the transforming phenomena of our time: The healthcare revolution through the College of Nursing and School of Health and Medical Sciences; globalization through the Whitehead School; science and technology innovations in a range of new academic programs; interreligious dialogue; as well as huge leaps forward in learning technology.

There are sad memories, too: the tragic moments of the Boland Hall fire and its aftermath. The memorial service for the 13 members of the Seton Hall community who died on 9/11.

Of course, I remember being involved in the start-up of Freshman Studies, inaugurating the School of Diplomacy at the U.N., welcoming to campus Mikhail Gorbachev, Shimon Peres, Kofi Annan and Tony Blair.

As a society we are more diverse racially, ethnically and economically than we have ever been. Along with diversity, cultural and political tensions arise — as we see in today’s national debates. Scientific and technical advances continue at a rate unimaginable to anyone 30 or 40 years ago. Economic pressures have grown more intense over this period, as the cost of a college education has increased for everyone.

And faith today plays a larger role than ever in the life of this Catholic university. I have just finished reading God Is Back about how the global rise of faith will change the world — in our own time. It is happening right now.

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The Hero Next Door

A Seton Hall nursing student can take credit for saving the life of a woman she pulled to safety from her burning home. Victoria Blevins, who is in her second semester of the accelerated nursing program, was in the second-floor apartment above her mother and stepfather's home in Belmar on Oct. 21 when she heard her mother scream shortly after 5 p.m. Black smoke was pouring from the bungalow next door, home of 78-year-old Helene Rosen.

“She doesn’t leave the house,” Blevins told the Asbury Park Press. “I knew she was in there.”

The student jumped over a fence and ran in the woman’s front door, where she was met by heavy smoke. Although temporarily blinded, she found Rosen slumped in her living room and having collapsed in her arms.

“I don’t think twice about it,” Blevins said. “I never met her before, but you gotta do what you gotta do.”

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SHU in the news

“The senator's letter was beautiful, and it was the letter of someone seeking peace in his last days.”

— Monsignor Robert J. Wisler, School of Theology, in The Boston Globe, on Sen. Ted Kennedy’s letter to Pope Benedict XVI

“The virulence is basically the same as seasonal influenza.”

— Victor Huang, Whitehead School of Diplomacy, in Forbes.com, on deciding if it is safe to get the H1N1 vaccine

“The more you stonewall these things, the longer they tend to drag on.”

— Rick Gentile, Stillman School of Business, in the Los Angeles Times, on Tiger Woods’ dealings with the media

“People recognize that part of his motivation for this unprecedented presidential involvement is that Chicago is his home city. But they also think he would do it enthusiastically for any city because it’s good for the country.”

— Joseph Marbach, College of Arts and Sciences, in USA Today, on President Obama’s efforts to secure the Olympic bid for Chicago

“We are the first to bring these products to the market.”

— Eric Streif, Ph.D. candidate, College of Arts & Sciences, in Small Business Magazine, on producing shark repellent

“I do not think that the SciFi Channel will lose an ounce of equity by changing to Syfy.”

— Walt Guarino, College of Arts and Sciences, in Bloomberg News, on deciding if it is safe to get the H1N1 vaccine

“A lot of the voters who voted for Christie really were voting against Corzine.”

— Joseph Markbi, College of Arts and Sciences, in USA Today, about New Jersey’s gubernatorial race

In Case of Emergency...

Seton Hall’s ability to be prepared got a boost when the U.S. Department of Education awarded it a $536,000 emergency management grant.

The grant will improve the University’s response by funding a number of projects, including the development of an “all hazards” University Emergency Operations Plan that will assess threats and vulnerabilities, train staff, implement drills and exercises, and review campus infectious disease plans.

The money will also fund a volunteer Community Emergency Response Team. The team will be equipped with radios, first-aid kits and rescue and safety gear, including two special chairs used to evacuate disabled people from buildings when elevators cannot be used, said Thomas Giordano, assistant director for emergency management.

“One of these evacuation chairs will be presented to the South Orange Fire Department, the agency that provides firefighting and fire rescue services to the main campus,” he said. “They are an important partner in the University’s emergency preparedness and response efforts.”

The great money will also:

• Help create online resources and other programs to educate the campus community about emergency preparedness and procedures.

• Improve coordination with local, county and state emergency management offices.

• Help address the needs of people with disabilities during emergencies.

• Improve recognition of students at risk for committing violence, and provide intervention training for faculty and staff.

• Seton Hall is one of 26 universities to receive grants from the $9.7 million Emergency Management for Higher Education program overseen by the Department of Education. The money must be used to address all four phases of emergency management: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Sesquicentennial Celebration

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology (ICSST) marks its 150th anniversary on April 25, 2010.

To commemorate the sesquicentennial, the seminary has planned a year-long schedule of events, including alumni reunions, lectures and spiritual reflections, and a special banquet to be held on May 18, 2011. The celebration will officially close on Dec. 8, 2011, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, with Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark—at which the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States will preside.

“We are approaching a great time in the history of Immaculate Conception Seminary,” says the seminary’s rector and dean, Monsignor Robert F. Coleman, J.C.D. “As one of the very few seminaries founded before the Civil War that continues to serve the Church’s mission today, we rejoice in the great history of these 150 years and are filled with hope and confidence for a future of continued growth and service.”

The school, which admits seminarians studying for the Catholic priesthood as well as lay students, serves as the major seminary for the Archdiocese of Newark and the University’s school of theology. Founded at Seton Hall, ICSST remained part of the University until 1926, when it moved to Darlington, N.J. It affiliated with Seton Hall again in 1984.

The seminary community has already begun to prepare spiritually for the sesquicentennial anniversary with special prayers for the 150 days before the opening celebrations. To join in prayer or learn about coming events, visit www.shu.edu/academics/theology.
The Golden Age

The Seton Hall Honors Program recently celebrated 50 years of fostering intellectual development through academic challenge. The program, which began in 1959, enrolls students from every undergraduate college to collaborate with faculty in intense study that broadens their sense of how the world came to be and the process of critical thinking. Honors students first immerse themselves in classical civilizations, medieval cultures, the early modern world and the contemporary world, then take seminars in the humanities and social sciences. Independent research at the end of the program leads to a senior honors thesis. The program, directed by Peter G. Ahr, Ph.D., associate professor of religious studies, also takes advantage of cultural opportunities in the greater New York City area. Students visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art, attend concerts, opera and theater, and study abroad on faculty-led summer trips to places like Rome and Athens.

Chang, a professor of biological sciences and neuroscience, has received close to $9.5 million from the federal medical research agency since 1989. (One of her projects has now received 20 years of continuous support.) Her current research focuses on the effects of drugs and alcohol use on the nervous and immune systems.

Two of Chang’s 2009 awards were continuations of existing grants. One of the new grants, which will bring more than $1 million to Seton Hall over two years, is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This grant will support four new researchers at the University to study nicotine’s effects on alcohol use on the nervous and immune systems.

Another new grant, valued at almost $2.5 million over five years, is for research to study nicotine’s effects on memory problems associated with HIV.

A fifth grant supports summer research at Seton Hall by a high school senior.

CAREER REBOOT

The Seton Hall Career Center hosted a forum this fall for more than 150 people looking to return to the work force.

The event was a one-day conference organized by iRelaunch.com, a company that offers re-entry programs for women who have taken a break in their careers. With men accounting for most of the job losses since the beginning of the recession, more women are being motivated to return to the workplace to pay the family’s bills, said Carol Fishman Cohen, one of the company founders.

“You have to go through a vigorous analysis of how your skills have changed, or not changed, since you left work,” she said. Fox News broadcast live throughout the day from the Oct. 29 forum, which was held at the Main Lounge of the Bishop Dougherty University Center.

The event featured breakfast, a keynote speech, a networking lunch, and a number of panel discussions and breakout sessions.

In Brief

The Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations hosted its Global Leadership gala at the New York Public Library in December. The gala honored Ambassador Frank C. Carlucci, a former secretary of defense and assistant to the president for national-security affairs.

Petra Chu, Ph.D., professor of museum professions, was recently nominated for a second term as board member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums.

In September, 2009, Father John F. Russell, S.T.D., was awarded the Papal Benenente medal by Pope Benedict XVI. The medal was conferred on Father Russell at the Sacred Heart Cathedral by the Most Reverend John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D., Archbishop of Newark, for Father Russell’s contributions to the Church’s life and mission.

The College of Nursing recently received scholarship funding for students enrolled in its accelerated master’s program. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded the college $150,000, and the Dasino-Nitti Foundation awarded $10,000.

In October 2009 the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, one of two national associations approved by the U.S. Department of Education to review programs, continued the accreditation of the College of Education and Human Services.

Assefaw Barlaghero, Ph.D., professor and faculty chair at the Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, was elected president of the Association of Third World Studies.

The Seton Hall United Nations Association student organization was presented with the Outstanding Large Delegation Award for its performance at the 32nd annual Security Council Simulations at Yale University.

William J. Consell, Ph.D., professor of history, was elected to the editorial board of the journal Storia e politica.

Brian B. Shulman, dean of the School of Health and Medical Sciences, was recently appointed dean commissioner on the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant.

Nina Capone, Ph.D., professor of speech-language pathology, was appointed associate editor of the Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research.

Patricia Remshizahi, M.S., director of clinical education and professor of speech-language pathology, was appointed to the board of directors of the New Jersey Speech-Language Hearing Association.
What's simple about New Jersey? With nearly nine million people packed into just 7,500 square miles, an exceptionally diverse population, and some of the richest and poorest cities in the country — not much.

Still, Seton Hall history professor Maxine Lurie, along with co-editor Peter O. Wacker and cartographer Michael Siegel (both from Rutgers), have illustrated key facets of the state through a series of stunning maps. In Mapping New Jersey, they track the evolution of transportation, land use, demographics and the environment. All in 240 pages.
Little was known about the science of sleep during the 19th century when Fyodor Dostoyevsky worked until dawn writing Crime and Punishment. Dostoyevsky’s seizures were recognized during his lifetime, but the sleep disorder that may have complicated his epilepsy went undiagnosed until more than a century after his death.

Then, in 1997, the sleep expert Dr. Sudhansu Chokroverty led a delegation of physicians to Russia on a cultural exchange to St. Petersburg. During a tour of Dostoyevsky’s home, an interpreter described the author’s unusual habit of doing most of his writing at night, often not going to sleep until 4 or 5 a.m. The detail caught the attention of Chokroverty, a professor of neuroscience in the School of Health and Medical Sciences and program director of the Clinical Neurophysiology and Sleep Medicine Residency Program at the New Jersey Neuroscience Institute in Edison, N.J.

“I got interested. Why did he write during the night?” Chokroverty recalls. “I got the clear idea that this patient — Dostoyevsky — had delayed sleep-phase syndrome,” a circadian rhythm disorder in which the normal sleep period is shifted, so that patients can’t fall asleep until hours after midnight and have difficulty waking before midday.

An examination of the biographical literature provided support for the diagnosis, and Chokroverty published a review of the case in Sleep Medicine, the journal he founded in 2000 as a resource to educate physicians about the latest developments in the emerging field of sleep science. Chokroverty is an internationally respected authority in sleep medicine and an expert in restless legs syndrome. He has written for hundreds of scholarly publications on subjects across the field of sleep studies, from parasomnias and movement disorders to the links between neurological disease and sleep. But the legacy he is building is that of an educator. “People are getting more knowledgeable now, but for hundreds of years — until the last 15 years or so — we talked about what happens during the daytime and totally ignored the nighttime,” he explains. “And there is still a great ignorance around sleep.”

He has therefore dedicated much of his nearly 50-year career as a neurologist to illuminating sleep’s mysteries. “He was one of the pioneers in bringing sleep medicine into the forefront of neurology and recognized the interconnection of sleep with virtually every aspect of neurology — from stroke, its epilepsy, to neuromuscular diseases,” says neurologist Seth Minkel, medical director of the Vanderbilt Sleep Disorders Center at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

After founding Sleep Medicine, Chokroverty went on to establish the World Association of Sleep Medicine, an organization of healthcare professionals supporting sleep research and promoting the prevention and treatment of sleep disorders. He has also written two books for the general public, 100 Questions and Answers About Sleep and Sleep Disorders and the forthcoming 100 Questions and Answers About Restless Legs Syndrome. Does sleep really need an advocate? It seems such a simple phenomenon: Just lie down in the dark at the end of the day, and you’ll wake up in the morning refreshed. For many of us, including the 50 million to 70 million Americans afflicted by insomnia and other sleep disorders, this fundamental biological mechanism is not so simple. We know that when our sleep is disrupted, we suffer poor concentration and lost productivity. We have more accidents at work and on the roads, more than a quarter of respondents in the National Sleep Foundation’s 2009 “Sleep in America” poll admitted to having fallen asleep behind the wheel in the last year.

But the effects of sleep debt go beyond our ability to stay awake the next day. “Heart attacks, high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes, memory problems, obesity: All of these have been connected to lack of sleep,” Chokroverty says. “But people — and not just the public but physicians as well — are not aware that [a lack of] sleep can cause these things.”

A doctor may treat a patient’s cardiovascular disease without ever identifying the sleep apnea that may be a contributing cause. Or a patient with insomnia may be prescribed sleeping pills while another underlying sleep disorder goes untreated. These are not hypothetical situations; the National Institutes of Health estimates that 50 percent of sleep disorders remain undiagnosed. Dostoyevsky’s delayed sleep phase syndrome might have gone unrecognized even today.

But it’s not only because Dostoyevsky’s doctor missed a diagnosis that the case is relevant to the healthcare professionals who read Sleep Medicine. In identifying the author’s sleep disorder, Chokroverty could as easily have been describing the case of a contemporary writer: Many circadian rhythm sleep disorders, like jet lag disorder and shift work disorder, are on the increase in modern times. “We don’t view sleep as a serious thing, and we’re all so busy working, moving abroad, competing, that there’s no time” to get more rest, he says. “So a large percentage of the population is sleep-deprived. But too many of us are not aware of the consequences.”

Tricia Brick is a writer based in New York.
THE SIMPLE POWER OF
‘Thank You’

MIDDLE-SCHOOL TEACHER DANIEL KOCISIS ’69 GIVES HIS STUDENTS
LESSONS IN HISTORY – AND LIFE – WITH AN INSPIRED CLASS ASSIGNMENT.

Twelve years ago, Daniel Kocsis paused on Veterans Day to make a few phone calls.

The New Hampshire middle-school teacher dialed his good friend Dan O’Leary, a Vietnam veteran. He also called his father-in-law, Eugene Schmidt, and another friend, John Saveriana, both World War II veterans.

Kocsis’ purpose was simple. He thanked them for their military service. “It was just something I thought I should do,” says Kocsis. “I wasn’t watching military service. Saveriana, both World War II veterans. His father, John Kocsis, served in the Army before World War II, and three of his uncles served during the war. A cousin, Gary Kocsis, served in Vietnam, and two high-school acquaintances — a classmate and a volunteer football coach — died there.

For O’Leary, the call was a pleasant surprise. “Vietnam veterans in particular spent many years without being thanked,” says Kocsis. “They write letters like this, they’re learning history. And our school has a mission statement that says we serve the community. I figure this is one way kids can reach out to the community.”

Within a few weeks, the students had received about 100 responses, many containing photos and other mementos. And most of the veterans who wrote back shared stories from their time in the military.

Although Kocsis never served in the armed forces himself — he completed mandatory ROTC training during his freshman year at Seton Hall but drew a high number in the January 1970 draft lottery and wasn’t conscripted — he had developed a deep appreciation for those who had. His father, John Kocsis, served in the Army before World War II, and three of his uncles served during the war. A cousin, Gary Kocsis, served in Vietnam, and two high-school acquaintances — a classmate and a volunteer football coach — died there.

With the United States still at war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the veterans’ responses offer the students real-life examples of military sacrifice.

“I wrote that I admired their bravery, and they said they had no choice in being brave,” says Emily Lachance, the 12-year-old daughter of a veteran, who wrote 46 letters.

Adds Maggie Boisvert, also 12: “I didn’t realize how many things people went through.”

In Allendale, N.J., Vietnam veteran Everett Lang received eight letters from Kocsis’ students. They were the first letters of recognition he had received since his 1967-68 tour of duty.

“I think the children are good for doing this,” he says. “It was a very special time in my life.”

Mike Cullity is a reporter for the New Hampshire Union Leader and a freelance writer.
The Sheeran Presidency
1995-2010
In Your Words

Monsignor Robert Sheeran ’67, S.T.D., tells incoming students that each day they spend at the University, they write a book that captures their experiences. The single moments they experience accumulate, adding characters, plot twists and emotional resonance to their Seton Hall stories. His own story has become more of a series than a single volume: student, professor, priest, president.

It is hardly surprising, then, that the events populating the pages of his story intermingle with those held by myriad others in the extended University community. When Seton Hall magazine asked people to share their memories about Monsignor, reminiscences came in by email and handwritten letter from students, colleagues, alumni and friends.

These contributors talked about how Monsignor Sheeran had touched their lives, how he made a difference — often with a small gesture, or a smile — that ultimately had a profound effect.

Do you have a story you’d like to share? Send it to shuwriter@shu.edu.

A Wisdom Community

When in 1996 Monsignor Sheeran asked me to return from a leave at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University to work on the Catholic identity and mission of Seton Hall, my first thought was about the centrality of the faculty.

A line from a 1952 article by Bernard Lonergan came to mind: “A university is a reproductive organ of cultural community,” he wrote. “Its constitutive endowment lies not in buildings or equipment, civil status or revenues, but in the intellectual life of its professors. Its central function is the communication of intellectual development.”

In other words, students come to a university, and within four (or five) years, they leave. But faculty members stay for 20, 30, perhaps even 50 years. (Albert B. Hakim, professor emeritus of philosophy, comes to mind!) The intellectual and cultural development of the faculty is “the product” of the university. That is what our students pay for.

And so in 1997, Monsignor Sheeran enthusiastically endorsed the creation of a Center for Catholic Studies, whose primary focus would be faculty development and interdisciplinary dialogue.

Among the centers many activities would be the faculty seminars that have taken place for three or four days every May since then. More than 150 faculty members have participated in these seminars from virtually every department and school of the University: Catholics and Protestants, Jews and Muslims, Hindus and those professing no religion.

The seminars have allowed faculty to gather in small groups, to get to know one another, and to engage in dialogue about the meaning of being human in the light of the Catholic intellectual tradition. All of these seminars have been guided by outside facilitators who are able to spark questioning and dialogue among the participants.

The result is that community has been built, deep issues vented, and good will generated. Among other results has been the creation of the University’s new core curriculum.

Here is just one evocative comment from a Jewish participant who attended the seminar on “Divine Madness” in 1999:

Please note that to this day, that week remains the most intellectually stimulating week I’ve had with rollercoasters to date. We faculty in attendance came from diverse backgrounds, and the discussion crossed religious boundaries, yet helped us see that within the Catholic philosophy discussed was core content that not only applied to all of our lives but also enriched our perceptions of Catholic thought. The faculty bemoaning during that week, even years later, is still alive among so many of us.

I, for one, would like to pay great tribute to Monsignor Sheeran for his great courage and leadership in establishing the Center for Catholic Studies and for all that he has done during these years for the intellectual and cultural development of the faculty of Seton Hall.

Monsignor Richard M. Liddy, S.T.D., Ph.D., professor of religious studies and director of the Center for Catholic Studies

Faculty Seminar Topics:

1997
“Knowledge and Wisdom”
1998
“Dialogue and Culture”
1999
“Faith at Work”
2000
“The Call of Poetry”
2001
“The Call of Justice: Citizenship and Public Life”
2002
“Postmodernism and Religion”
2003
“From Catholic to Catholicist”
2004
“Strategies and Themes of Luke”
2005
“Faith and Wisdom”
2006
“Knowledge and Wisdom”
2007
“Postmodernism and Religion”
2008
“Teaching as an Ethical Act”
2009
“Trials and Tribulations”
2010
“Faith and Wisdom”

FACULTY SEMINAR TOPICS:

“A Strategy of Luke”
“Strategies and Themes of Luke”
“Kierkegaard and Catholicism”
“Postmodernism and Religion”
“Modernization and Catholicism”
“Strategies and Themes of Luke”
“Teaching as an Ethical Act”

JANUARY 2001
A ceremony is held in honor of Monsignor Sheeran in the Memorial Garden.

2002
A committee is convened to研讨 Seton Hall’s core curriculum over a seven-year period.

2003
Angelo Cardinal Sodano, Secretary of State of the Holy See, addresses Seton Hall students on the Holy See’s presence in international affairs.

2004
The John Templeton Foundation names Seton Hall in its guide, Colleges That Encourage Character Development.

2005
A ceremony is held to remember the Boland Hall fire victims. More than 600 people gather for the groundbreaking of the Boland Memorial Garden.

2006
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As a three-time alum of Seton Hall and a member of Monsignor’s cabinet for eight years, I have wonderful memories that will last a lifetime. My favorite memories were created with Monsignor after the 8 a.m. Mass. He would always start my day off with a good laugh. During those most challenging days, Monsignor would remind me “to lighten up” if I came across overly concerned about an issue. Within months of my arrival at Seton Hall, Monsignor developed a hand signal to remind me to “lighten up,” and as soon as he lifted his hand I would be reduced to laughter.

His quick wit was one of his most precious gifts to all and brought us through the good times and the tough ones.

— Mary Meehan ‘72/M.A. ’74/Ph.D. ’01, president of Marymount College in Virginia, Wis., and former executive vice president of the American Catholic College Association.

I first met Father Boden, as we called him, as a very young parishioner in the early 1970s at St. Michael’s in Cranford, N.J. My parents always held him in high regard—for many reasons—not the least of which was his genuine love of Catholic life and faith.

When I decided to enroll at Seton Hall, I had the chance to relive a relationship that was a great honor for me. I would see him on campus regularly and the first thing that stood out to all of the students was the way he related so easily with us. We would often comment on his calm demeanor and genuine concern and interest in whatever was going on.

We even used to play racquetball against him in the new gym, and it took me awhile to develop a hand signal to remind me to “lighten up” as soon as he lifted his hand.

— Jürgen Haucke, Ph.D., associate professor of art history

On December 17, 2002, Monsignor Sheeran was at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel ballroom with more than 1,200 guests to celebrate the Whitehall School Centennial. Just three or four days later, he was in Clearwater, Fla., with about 30 people for an alumni reunion at the Clearwater Beach Hotel. Monsignor mingled with the guests at the cocktail hour, chatting with each person. After dinner, he rose to give an impressive 20-minute talk. During his speech, he named each guest by first name without a hitch. We all were impressed and knew that Seton Hall had chosen the right person to lead the University into the 21st century.

— Igre and Frank Spatuzzi ’39/M.A. ’42

A few years ago, I was an adjunct professor in the Department of Public and Healthcare Administration teaching an evening graduate course. I was sitting alone in a hallway in the library preparing to follow the same Lord he served by, we have always known what was most important to him. What a great witness for all of us who seek to follow the same Lord he served so well.

I am sure he still has a lot to do for many more people, I would bet on it.

— David Gainspurk ’78

I thank Monsignor Sheeran from the bottom of my heart for his friendship and for his strong support of the Whitehall School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall.

The school could not have had the great success it has had without his strong hand and wise judgments over the years. I am proud of the school and proud of his support.

— John C. Whitehead, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, and namesake of the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations

THE WORLD VIEW

Back in 2007, Monsignor Sheeran enticed me with launching a campuswide task force to advance internationalization at Seton Hall. Being asked to take part in an initiative that has been a cornerstone of Monsignor Sheeran’s tenure was a great honor.

Our task-force team, made up of more than 50 faculty members and administrators, was selected to participate in the Internationalization Lab, a rigorous, two-year institutional research program sponsored by the American Council on Education (ACE). As part of the endeavor, we attended workshops in Washington, D.C., and hosted ACE administrators and peer reviewers from other universities here on campus. Our work, the product of our collaboration, ultimately translated into a comprehensive report that offered fresh insights into our institutional history and culture and proposed a set of strategic recommendations to guide the University as it moves toward comprehensive internationalization.

Seton Hall’s selection for the campuswide laboratory was certainly benefited from Monsignor’s longstanding track record with ACE, first in 1992 as an ACE Fellow, and ever since as a member who continues to serve the council in manifold ways. Yet the Laboratory has only been the most recent and prominent manifestation of Monsignor’s vision for the University’s place in the world. His life experience and education already demonstrated an international perspective. His high school and college years in the Garden State preceded extensive sojourns abroad (including his education for the priesthood in Rome). A voracious traveler, Monsignor’s life journey not only testifies to the evolution of a spiritual leader and a cosmopolitan thinker, but also embodies the very spirit of the University’s mission to form “serving leaders” in a global society.

His institutional stewardship of internationalization echoes other, equally significant advances that demonstrate his expansive thinking: the launching of a mobile computing initiative, the development of a new core curriculum, and the founding of the Whitehall School of Diplomacy and International Relations. Other examples include Monsignor’s efforts to transform the campus into a world stage for political leaders and influential voices that include, among others, Tony Blair, Mohammad Khatami, Mikhail Gorbachev, Tariq Ramadan, Shimon Peres and Lech Walesa.

Yet, aside from such distinguished initiatives, I would like to offer a lesser-known view of Monsignor Sheeran’s engagement with the world, a unique perspective I obtained thanks to the privilege of working closely with him. It is best described as his human-centered view of higher education in a global context.

Be it his hosting of a 1998 conference about ethical dimensions of poverty and international debt, or his decision to join Law School faculty on their 2008 journey to Zanzibar toprobe modern-day slavery and human trafficking, Monsignor Sheeran’s view of internationalization consistently upholds the world’s deepest needs while never losing sight of human suffering in the world.

As a result, his understanding of internationalizing higher education markedly differs from current trends in which universities embrace the world merely as a tool for revenue growth and institutional prestige. Important as that may be, the world’s recent economic meltdown not only shows the perils and shortcomings of such approaches, but also reminds us that Seton Hall, as a Catholic university, does well in drawing from its long tradition of approaching the task in a caring, human-centered way that transcends any given institutional, economic, or national preoccupations of the day.

Monsignor’s well-balanced vision of Seton Hall’s focus on the human in the world is long-proven, and will be, I expect, long-lasting.

Jürgen Haucke, Ph.D., associate professor of art history

2001

2004

2005

2006
In 1998 I was vacationing in Florida, golfing, staying retired co-workers and just enjoying the warmer winter weather away from New Jersey. During the down time I read William F. Buckley's Nearest, My God. His auto-biography of faith. It held a certain fascination for me because I didn't believe in the beliefs of some very impressive intellectuals including Ronald Rees and Malcolm Muggeridge, both of whom converted to Catholicism later in life. My own faith journey was a study in lazy and lapsel belief, which began surprisingly enough at Seton Hall as a student.
Monsignor Sheeran was always very much a priestly president, viewing the University as his parish and extended family. His memory for names and faces is legendary. He knew how to find the right word of encouragement or comfort that has touched many hearts. He has been very rightly admired for the friendship and good company he has brought to campus over many years. He has been a pastor as much as a president, and Seton Hall is the better for it.

He has also been aware of the occasional absurdity of his job and has managed, against daunting odds, to maintain his sense of humor. It has not been easy. On the clock, it has been absolutely essential.

A few years ago, for example, I was privileged to travel with him to Ireland, the idea being to establish a connection between Seton Hall and a small Catholic college there. The other memb- ers of the group were Professor Jack Shannon of the School of Business and Monsignor Andy Cusack of the Prison’s Institute. It was a memo- rable experience.

Monsignor Cusack, we know, loved Ireland. He also loved to drive. The difficulty was to combine the two. Even as we emerged from the airport charmingly named for one of our number, he insisted on getting behind the wheel of a small car and not sending the driver back. (Monsignor Sheeran was too interested in the map to notice the mortal danger to his passenger!)

Without Monsignor's interventions, these events would have a new sight to be pointed out and explained. Every explanation would require the car, carpool of technology, to cease and start. Every steering would become a miss-steering. Every valley was exalted, every rental car laid low.

Every valley was exalted, every rental car laid low.

As a graduate student, I worked in Cerrigan Hall for the computer science department. I played softball as a “walk-on” during the years we practiced. Those who would reveal a new sight to be pointed out and explained. Every explanation would require the car, carpool of technology, to cease and start. Every steering would become a miss-steering. Every valley was exalted, every rental car laid low.

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Beginning in 1980, I was blessed to have spent two years under the leadership of Monsignor Sheeran (then Father Sheeran) at St. Andrew’s College Seminar at Seton Hall. There the hall was transformed by his commitment to his vocation and to his unwavering change. He was the mind, body and spirit in a Catholic tradition.

When I met my mentor and advisor to research in Classics, Monsignor Sheeran would always make changes to my schedule to increase the academic rigor beyond what I felt I could accomplish. On one occasion, Monsignor agreed to let me take an independent study for three credits with Father Radamus, the chair of the religious studies department. What I believed would be a “easy class” turned into a major research study on the ecumenical movement. Who would have guessed that later in my life, this experience would provide the defining factor in my ability to finish my doctoral dissertation, when many of my classmates retained ABD (all but dissertation) at the end of those years. Without Monsignor’s interventions, those accomplishments would not likely have been part of my Ph.D. plan. After all, I was a Hudson County native whose parents did not have any educational experience except a high-school diploma.

Finding me in college was a miracle in and of itself. I could have never imagined graduating from Seton Hall, completing two master’s degrees from Columbia University, and earning a Ph.D. from Fordham University. It wasn’t imagination but inspiration that made it possible.

I have been the direct beneficiary of Monsignor Sheeran’s belief in “faith that does justice.” I have taken the gifts of my Catholic Seton Hall education and used them as he always instructed. “Never forget,” he had told graduating seniors, “the price that love has paid in bringing you to this step in your lives. Be servant leaders and give back what you have been so freely given.”

I am blessed to have been an educator for the past 28 years — the last five as a superintendent of the Bergenfield Public School system — and I hope that in my vocation I will help others to maximize their potential. Because I know that any success I have enjoyed would not have been realized without the mentorship, guidance, support, and encouragement of Monsignor Sheeran. In 1989, Pope John Paul II recognized Father Robert Sheeran’s commitment to the Catholic Church and bestowed on him the Church’s title of diocesan: Monsignor. For a man who has done so much for the Church, Catholic education, and Seton Hall University, it is a well-deserved honor.

I must admit, though, that while I always respect my mentor and have adjusted to speaking his name and title — Monsignor — when I do, my heart will always echo, “Father.”

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I met Monsignor Sheeran just after graduating from Seton Hall and, over the years, I have safely said that no other man has had a greater effect on my professional life.

Five years into his presidency, Monsignor Sheeran put a great deal of trust in me with his surprising invitation to become the University’s first vice president for Mission and Ministry. Few leaders are more important than an institution’s mission and identity, and, for a Catholic university in the 21st century, nothing is more fraught with challenges or more crucial to its success.

It was clear from the outset that Monsignor Sheeran had already set Seton Hall’s mission on very firm ground: “We are here,” he said, “to form servant leaders for a global society.”

I immediately took that mandate to be derived from the Gospel of Luke: “The one who is least among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.”

In other words, we at Seton Hall want our students not to lead, and then serve; we want them to lead through service.

But I soon came to understand that Monsignor located the genesis of servant leadership in an entirely different chapter of Luke’s Gospel. He came to explain it, in innumerable talks to students and parents, to professors and staff, to journalists, to anyone who would listen, in this way: “To whom much is given, much is expected.”

A college education, he was fond of pointing out, is a tremendous gift. And from those who have been fortunate enough to receive this gift, a great deal will be required. Seton Hall graduates should be marked by an awareness of the difference in the world — and all because they are acutely aware of the great gift of knowledge and wisdom — and faith — that they themselves have received.

If there is any idea that lies at the heart of Monsignor Sheeran’s own leadership — if there is any treasure that might be called his legacy — I believe that “servant leadership” is the inter- sentiment that runs throughout his whole presidency and affects us all.

I have been proud all these years that he invited me to join him in the adventure of bringing that theme of life to life.
Along for The Ride

The Gowanus, the BQE, the LIE, the GW, the dreaded Cross Bronx — the arteries were hardening again at the start of another week, another Monday rush hour, and also, as it turned out, another era in the annals of commuting in the New York metropolitan area. Because on this morning, Dec. 3, 1979, someone was watching the bumper-car mayhem more closely than ever before, taking its measure in a radically new way for the first time.

In a nondescript office building on Route 22 in North Jersey, a gang of kids barely out of college was busy assembling a portrait of the morning’s traffic: “The wait at the tunnels was how long? An accident had closed a lane on Route 22. ‘It was earth-shattering back then to have one person be on multiple stations at the same time — it was unheard of’.

That day, Shadow Traffic — which had debuted earlier in Philadelphia and Chicago — changed the drive-time habits of millions of commuters in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Before Shadow, only a handful of radio stations broadcast anything more than the most rudimentary information about what was happening out on the highways each morning. After Shadow, even the smallest stations did. Traffic woes still plagued the metropolitan region each rush hour, and while the Shadow reporters couldn’t cure the affliction, they were able to diagnose it more precisely.

And in those first years of Shadow, the majority of its voices were trained at a single college station, WSOU. The first time that I was talking on the radio and being paid for it was on WNYW, which was at that time NBC-owned and broadcasting from the ninth floor of 30 Rock,” said Forman, who had graduated just a few months earlier, and whose Shadow handle was “G.W.,” so no bleary drivers would later become a colleague at Shadow, Pete Tauriello.

“I did my homework long before I got to Seton Hall,” said Wagenblast, whose previous commuting experience had consisted mainly of driving his Chevy Nova from his Cranford home to the campus whose radio station had beckoned him since he was a boy. “WSOU was the unique combination of the tri-state area of both being run by the undergraduate students and having a wide coverage area.”

He signed up at the station as soon as he arrived on campus for freshman orientation. Within a few months he had his air clearance, granted by an upperclassman who would later become a colleague at Shadow, Pete Tauriello.

“I knew I wanted to be in radio from when I was in elementary school,” Wagenblast said. WNJK-AM was his station. William B. Williams, Klavan and Finch, Ted Brown — these were who he wanted to be, and Seton Hall, he reasoned, was his best route there. “WSOU was the unique combination in the tri-state area of both being run by the undergraduate students and having a wide coverage area.”

None of them were old enough yet to truly understand the disorienting implications of a jackknifed tractor-trailer on the Turnpike, but they quickly became the voices of authority to drivers trying to find the clearest passage between home and work.

“When we got to the last traffic report of that morning rush hour it was like, ‘Oh my gosh, we did it. It came off and there were no major goofs and everything worked, and can you believe it, it was a success.’” said Wagenblast, whose previous commuting experience had consisted mainly of driving his Chevy Nova from his Cranford home to the campus whose radio station had beckoned him since he was a boy.

WSOU was an early occupant of the FM band, staking out a wide listening area from the time it began broadcasting from the basement of the University’s recreation center in 1948. It was a beacon, too, to many New Jersey kids who had dreams of spinning Beatles records on the air, or calling a basketball game, or reporting the latest news.

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George Forman had his own epiphany in seventh grade, when he visited the Ocean County Fair with his grandparents and was enthralled by the two radio stations that had set up remote broadcasts there: WJLK and WORBM. He joined WSOU his first week on campus and by November he was hosting “Take It Easy,” a midday show that played music tagged with an adjective much employed in the 1970s: mellow. He still remembers his first set: The Rolling Stones’ “As Tears Go By,” the Beatles’ “She’s Leaving Home,” and Emerson Lake and Palmer’s “Still You Turn Me On.” “I even found a mellow Jerry Lee Lewis record,” he said.

Joe Nolan and Donna Fiducia came to Seton Hall with different career ambitions, each expecting it to be a prelude to law school. WSOU lured them down another path. “WSOU really taught you the basics,” said Fiducia ’79, who also hosted “Take It Easy.” “That station, no matter what happened, never went off the air. You stayed there until the next person came on the air. The show went on. Everybody had to know how to do everything else, no matter what their interest was.”

Nolan was a big basketball fan, and he was soon broadcasting Pirates games. “People hear you,” said Joe Nolan, whose grandfather was police chief in Jersey City, and whose father was a St. Peter’s grad not too thrilled that his son was headed to his alma mater’s basketball archival. “It’s not like so many college radio stations around the country where you’re heard in the cafeteria and the parking lot. You can hear WSOU all over New Jersey.”

He covered news, too, and managed to get onto the White House lawn when President Jimmy Carter presided over the famous handshake between Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat. When Pope John Paul II made his first trip to the United States in the fall of 1979, the loyal Polish listeners of WSOU sent enough donations to pay for Nolan to follow the first Polish Catholic pope. A team of eight student reporters stationed themselves along the route of the pope’s ticker-tape parade in Manhattan. “He covered news, too, and managed to get onto the White House lawn when President Jimmy Carter presided over the famous handshake between Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat. When Pope John Paul II made his first trip to the United States in the fall of 1979, the loyal Polish listeners of WSOU sent enough donations to pay for Nolan to follow the first Polish Catholic pope. A team of eight student reporters stationed themselves along the route of the pope’s ticker-tape parade in Manhattan. “I remember walking back to the hotel and saying a little prayer and I remember saying, ‘John Paul the Second, please pray for me,’ and I walked back to the hotel and sure enough within 30 seconds I found that train ticket.”

“Everybody had to know how to do everything else, no matter what their interest was.”

Soon after he came home, he got the call to audition for Shadow while still a junior at Seton Hall. “Fred Feldman hired me,” he said, referring to the veteran helicopter reporter who ran Shadow’s traffic operations, “and the rest is history; all because of the pope, and Cousin Stan.”

When Shadow was hiring its first traffic reporters — a job category that had barely existed before — WSOU alumni were a natural target: young, plentiful and technically skilled beyond their years.

“It was the opportunity of a lifetime — none of us knew it at the time, but it really was,” Nolan said. “You were out there working on big-time radio stations. We were all 21, 22, 23. We worked a split shift: 6 a.m. to 9.15 a.m. for the morning rush hour, then back again from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. as the tide reversed. ‘It was almost like an extension of the college,’ Fiducia said. ‘All our friends were there. We were young. It was a lot of fun to do, and we were getting paid for what we wanted to do.’

And after the last report on Friday nights, they made their own brief commute, to a restaurant called Beggars Banquet in Union. ‘Fred Feldman used to say, ‘You guys are like a fighter squadron after a mission,’ ” Nolan said. “We were all single, we were all basically still college kids and we had our own money for the first time in our lives.”

Nolan is still getting up long before dawn, and driving into the WABC-TV studios in Manhattan to give traffic updates every seven minutes. Pete Tauriello is the traffic voice on 1010 WINS every weekday morning, broadcasting from the Rutherford studios of the company now known as Metro/Shadow Traffic. George Forman is a weekend DJ on WORBM in Toms River, and works for a company that produces DVDs. Donna Fiducia has worked just about everywhere, on both TV and radio, from Howard Stern to WNEW to Fox News. She now raises horses on a farm in Georgia.

“I could hold down the fort for two hours,” she said about her stints hosting television broadcasts when news was breaking, like the death of Princess Diana. “I attribute that to radio, because radio is so spontaneous — nothing is scripted. You’re not just reading a teleprompter. You have to be able to ad lib and you have to be informative and you have to sound good. I really think that does go back to WSOU, because that really was a great training ground.”

Bernie Wagenblast is back on WINS part-time after a long series of transportation-related jobs, and he edits several transportation newsletters. His is also the voice you hear in the airport trains at Newark and JFK. And the best communing tip he has for anyone headed to his alma mater — where the biggest problem usually isn’t getting there, but finding a place to park once you do — is to do whatever he always did: wake up early, and be there first. “It’s a recurring theme,” he said. “Getting there early and beating the crowds.”

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Kevin Coyne is a New Jersey writer who teaches at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism.
CONFERENCE LEADER: Junior Centerfielder Nalin Bennett (below) led the BIG EAST last season with 11 stolen bases during conference play. 

ON THE MOUND: Senior pitcher Ashley Forsyth (below) has won 18 games in two seasons.

PIRATES TO HOST 2011 NCAA REGIONAL

Seton Hall University has been named a host institution for the Regional Round of the 2011 NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship. The Prudential Center will be the competition venue for two games of the regional semifinals on March 24-26, 2011. Seton Hall University has been named a host institution for the Regional Round of the 2011 NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship.

BASEBALL

A WINNING COMBO OF OLD AND NEW

Head baseball coach Rob Sheppard enters his seventh season with an influx of new talent and fresh faces, but enough experienced players to lead the team to the BIG EAST Tournament. Although 25 of the 35 players on the Pirates’ 2010 roster are freshmen and sophomores, Sheppard expects his returning juniors and seniors to help guide the team to its second conference tournament trip in three years. On the mound, junior right-hander Joe DiRocco, the only returning starter from Seton Hall’s 2008 conference tournament appearance, will be the ace of the young pitching staff. During the last two years, DiRocco has posted 110 innings on the hill with seven wins, one save, and 65 strikeouts. Also returning, as the closer, will be fifth-year senior Matt Singer, who has improved each season on the mound. In the past three campaigns, the right-hander has made 56 appearances from the bullpen, posting a 10.4 record with seven saves and 49 strikeouts in 89 and one-third innings of work. Last season, Singer set career highs with 48 innings, six wins, and 28 strikeouts, and a conference-leading 29 appearances en route to being named to the All-BIG EAST third team.

In the field, A.J. Rusharsky will anchor the defense as he has the past two years with his strong play at shortstop. Entering his third season, Rusharsky ranks seventh all-time in the career record books with 327 assists. Senior Michael Rogers will lead the outfield, having been a mainstay in right field last season, when he started a career-high 43 games, picking up four assists in the field and 46 hits at the plate.

| JOSEPH MONTEFUSCO |

(Clockwise from bottom left) ON DEFENSE: Shortstop A.J. Rusharsky ranks seventh in career record books with 327 assists. THE CLOSER: Matt Singer, a fifth-year senior, was named to the All-BIG EAST third team. LEADING THE OUTFIELD: Michael Rogers was a mainstay in right field last season. THE ACE: Junior pitcher Joe DiRocco has posted 110 innings and 65 strikeouts.

PIRATES TO HOST 2011 NCAA REGIONAL

Seton Hall University has been named a host institution for the Regional Round of the 2011 NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship. The Prudential Center will be the competition venue for two games of the regional semifinals on March 24-26, 2011. Seton Hall University has been named a host institution for the Regional Round of the 2011 NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship.
Volleyball Back in Tournament Play

After just missing trips to the BIG EAST Championship the last two seasons, the Seton Hall volleyball team finally broke through this year and made its first conference tournament appearance since 1994. The road was not easy for the Pirates, who much of the year were on the outside looking in at the eight playoff positions. The team came up with a big 3-1 road victory against a tough West Virginia team on the final day of the regular season, but had to await the outcome of a later match to see if they had clinched.

“We were on the bus ride home with our cell phones and computers on trying to keep up with the score of the other matches,” fourth-year head coach Kris Zeiter said. “When we saw the result we needed to get in, the team was so excited. I was so happy for the girls, especially the seniors who worked so hard to achieve this goal.”

On the eve of November 18, the Pirates flew to Louisville, Ky., to face top-seeded Notre Dame in the quarter-finals of the BIG EAST Championship. The team was scheduled for an afternoon practice at the Kentucky International Convention Center the next day, but had to await the outcome of a later match to see if they had clinched.

“The convention center was so big and had so many rooms, we had trouble finding where the buses were,” Zeiter said. “Eventually, we ran into the Syracuse coach and he pointed us in the right direction.”

After practice, the team went to the awards banquet and saw senior Allie Matters earn a spot on the All-BIG EAST Second Team for the second straight year. Seton Hall also created the biggest buzz of the night when the emcee began listing team accomplishments.

“When they announced that Seton Hall was making its first tournament appearance in 15 years, everyone looked at our table and started talking, Matters said. “It was kind of cool because we weren’t expected to be there and we proved a lot of people wrong.”

The Pirates took the floor on the first day of the tournament, knowing they would have a tough game against the #23-ranked Irish. Seton Hall got off to a quick start in the first set, leading 8-4, but ultimately lost to Notre Dame in straight sets.

Zeiter sees the short stay at the BIG EAST tournament as a stepping stone in the program’s development.

“Just to be there was a huge accomplishment for us,” said the coach. “It got the monkey off our backs a little bit and now the returning players know what it takes to get there. I think we’ll be a better team next year after going through this experience, so I don’t expect another 15-year gap between post-season appearances.”

| Mike Knowalsky |

RECORD BREAKER: Senior Allie Matters (above left) broke Seton Hall’s career and single-season dig records last season. KEY PLAYER: Sophomore Meghan Malsak (above right) was named to the BIG EAST Weekly Honor Roll twice last season.

FALL ROUNDPUP

Women’s Soccer
5-12-1, 1-9-1 (B.E.)
Sophomore Danielle Schullman earned a team-high six goals and 14 points, followed by junior captain Nikki Gross’ 13 points (four goals and a team-high five assists). Gross ended her third season fifth in the career record books in points, eighth in goals, and ninth in assists, while also adding her first BIG EAST Player of the Week honor.

Men’s Soccer
4-10-2, 1-7-2 (B.E.)
It was a rare down year in men’s soccer, but the Pirates did see several players receive individual accolades. Juniors Brayan Martinez and Andrew Weker were named to the All-BIG EAST Third Team. Weker, who led the team in both goals and points, was also named a CoSIDA Academic All-District selection. Team highlights include a 3-1 victory over Syracuse and a tie with 15th ranked St. John’s.

Volleyball
12-10, 6-8 (B.E.)
The Pirates qualified for the BIG EAST Championship for the first time since 1994 after beating West Virginia on the final day of the regular season. Senior Allie Matters broke Seton Hall’s career and single-season dig records and recorded double-figure digs in all straight matches, which was the nation’s longest active streak. Matters was also named Second Team All-BIG EAST for the second straight year. Freshman setter Olivia Trudeau led the conference, averaging 11.73 assists per set in BIG EAST matches.

Cross Country
N/A
The Seton Hall women’s cross-country team placed 15th and the men took 14th at the BIG EAST Championships. Both squads’ best performances came at the Monmouth Invitational. The women finished third, led by freshman Elvira Paredes, while freshman Jared Hanko paced the men en route to a fifth-place finish.

Golf
N/A
All five golf tournaments the Pirates competed in this fall resulted in Top-10 finishes. The best team effort was at the Navy Fall Classic, a 6-over-par, 574-performance, which was good enough to earn third place among 17 schools. Five golfers averaged 76 strokes per round or lower during the fall. Seton Hall was led by freshman Brandon Park, who had a team-best 74.92 stroke average.

Women’s Tennis
N/A
The Pirates sent sophomores Courtney Kilarski and Lizette Verow to the ITA East Regionals in New Haven, Conn. Kilarski played her way into the main draw by winning a qualifying match against the second-ranked player from Boston College. Kilarski and Verow also played in the doubles portion of the event.

Junior Andrew Welker led the men’s soccer team in points and goals; junior Sarah Barnum earned her 1,000th career kill in 10 matches; junior captain Nikki Gross earned her first BIG EAST Player of the Week honor last season.
 Called from the Jews and from the Gentiles
By Father Pablo T. Gadenz, S.T.D., assistant professor of theology (Mohr Siebeck, $135)

In Called from the Jews and from the Gentiles, Father Pablo T. Gadenz examines Paul’s view of the Church in Romans 9-11. Using rhetorical analysis and considering the scriptural background of the chapters, Father Gadenz investigates Paul’s understanding of the network of relationships between Israel and the nations.

Voices From the Void: Poems & Prose-Poems
By Thomas D. Jones ’87 (The Poet’s Press, $14.95)

Voices From the Void is an eclectic collection of poems that takes the reader on a journey from the mundane to the surreal. Each poem acts like an open window into places that are common, poignant, bizarre and capricious. The author moves from recent news headlines to the world of myth and whimsey with cave dwellers and Egyptian mummies.

The Dark Side of Educational Leadership: Superintendents and the Professional Victim Syndrome
By Peter R. Uttech ’03, Walter S. Polka (Roman & Littlefield, $24.95)

Many school superintendents do not expect, when they take their positions of power, that there is a potential to have their reputations tarnished by a board of education that may not be well-informed or well-intended. The Dark Side of Educational Leadership provides insights into the “professional victim” syndrome, as well as the factors that may help superintendents become resilient to it.

Marketing Public Relations: A Marketer’s Approach to Public Relations and Social Media
By Gaetan T. Giannini Jr., M.B.A. ’93 (Pearson, $96)

Marketing Public Relations takes a fresh approach to public relations by using a marketing, rather than a communications studies or journalistic, approach. This text recognizes the similarities between public relations, word-of-mouth, and social networking media and creates a framework for constructing marketing strategies that incorporate these cost-effective tools.

A Lenten Journey with Jesus Christ and St. Thérèse of Lisieux
By Father John F. Russell, S.T.D., professor at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology ($14.95)

A Lenten Journey with Jesus Christ and St. Thérèse of Lisieux is a compilation of spiritual wisdom. It begins with a brief biography of Saint Thérèse, one of the “greatest saints of modern times,” then moves into an overview of the Carmelite order and concludes with a section on the Lenten season. Each day of Lent is discussed and accompanied by a Gospel reading, a selection from the writings of St. Thérèse, a reflection and a prayer.

Celebrating the Obama Family in Pictures
By Jane Katirgis ’87 (Enslow Publishers Inc., $22.60)

Celebrating the Obama Family in Pictures is a close-up look at the nation’s first family: President Barack Obama, his wife Michelle, their daughters Malia and Sasha and the first dog, Bo. This book captures family moments — from the Obamas’ wedding to the day the first family moved into the White House, and many memorable moments in between.

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.
For the Love of a Country

During a live tribute to Pope John Paul II held in Wallington, N.J., in 2005, a CNN correspondent proclaimed, “Polish pride and Catholicism are inseparable in Wallington.” In life and legacy, Edward J. Loyas ’53, exemplified the strength of that bond.

A longtime resident of Wallington until his death in 2008, Loyas left more than $2 million to Seton Hall to fund scholarships for any student who has a demonstrated appreciation of Polish culture and tradition. Loyas devoted his life to sharing his heritage. “He was especially proud of his Polish Highlander background,” says Jane Gromada Kedron, a distant cousin. He spoke Polish like a native, she says, even though he had never been to Poland.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Loyas actively participated in a popular Polish Tatra Highlanders Folk Dance Group and a dramatic society led by Kedron’s father. Loyas was a “marvelous actor” who in his teens “could play an old man beautifully,” says Kedron.

Loyas also served for 10 years on the editorial staff of The Tatra Eagle, a bilingual folkloric quarterly founded in 1947 by Kedron and her brother, Thaddeus “Ted” Gromada ’51.

During the time Loyas attended Seton Hall, the University had a loyal following in the Polish community. WDOSU began carrying Polish music programming, and in 1963, the Polish University Club of New Jersey, which counts many Seton Hall alumni among its members, inaugurated an Institute of Polish Culture at the University. New Jersey’s Polish parishes, such as Bayonne’s Our Lady of Mount Carmel, began offering scholarships for students to attend Seton Hall. The increased focus led many young people from those communities to enroll. Loyas’ gift will help maintain that connection between Seton Hall and the Polish community.

Twenty-seven students will receive the first Loyas Scholarships totaling $125,000 this academic year, an amount the committee expects to award each year going forward.

Professor Richard Hunter, Father James Spera (both of Polish ancestry), Professor Anna Kuchta and Assistant Director of Admissions Kacie Miklaszewski Krause ’06 have the task of reviewing applications, identifying recipients and promoting the scholarships.

Patricia Bargielski, a junior majoring in diplomacy and international relations and a Loyas Scholarship recipient, typifies the type of student Loyas, a former teacher in the Clifton school system, must have envisioned as a deserving beneficiary of his legacy.

“I applied for the scholarship because it provides evidence of how I’m connected with my Polish heritage,” she says. Born and raised in the United States, Bargielski has traveled to Poland often and speaks the language. She joined the Polish Cultural Society as a high-school student and remains active in her Bayonne community.

Loyas Scholarship

The Loyas Scholarship is available to incoming or current undergraduate students who:

- demonstrate an appreciation of Polish tradition, culture, history and/or community life;
- establish financial need; and
- apply with (and maintain) a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Polish and Proud of It: The late Edward J. Loyas ’53 was active in the Tatra Highlands Folk Dance Group. Patricia Bargielski, right, is one of the first Seton Hall students to receive a Loyas Scholarship.

New Jersey’s Largest Polish American Communities

Wallington, N.J., has one of the largest percentages of residents (more than 51.5 percent) of Polish ancestry in the nation. Per capita levels in other New Jersey cities:

- Manville – 23.1 percent
- Garfield – 22.9 percent
- South Amboy – 20.6 percent
- Bayonne – 17.5 percent

Source: 2000 U.S. Census
Dr. Michael F. Holick ‘68, of Sudbury, Mass., was awarded the Linus Pauling Institute Prize for Health Research in May 2009 for redefining vitamin D deficiency.

It’s been more than three years in the making, but once Abe Kasbo ’94, M.P.A. ’99, gets Queens Noir on film, he’ll take “The Arab American Experience” to the editing room.

The full-length documentary will tell a story in many ways no different than that of Irish or Italian immigrants. But it remains a tale untold.

Two Seton Hall teachers are advising: world religions professor Cisela Webb, Ph.D., and sociology professor Philip Karpal, Ph.D., who serves with Kasbo on the New Jersey Arab-American Heritage Commission.

“If there were five reasons why I’m doing this film, those two [professors] are probably two of the five reasons,” Kasbo says. “They were so inspirational in their classes, and so open about the subjects they taught. They brought a flexibility to the classroom that allowed you to think.”

Now that most of the interviews are done, the challenge is deciding how to put the film together and writing an outline. Kasbo is working with an editor and a music coordinator, and will have a piano score by classic Syrian composer Malek Jandali. The result, he hopes, will be a compelling film that reflects the depth of Arab contributions to the United States.

And Queens Noir of Jordan? She was born American.

“She’s actually from New Jersey, you know,” Kasbo laughs, referring to her years as a Princeton student. “We hope to sit down with her soon.”
Charles M. Nowakowski, J.D., ’85, of Pittsford, Pa., was announced as a partner in the business transaction group at the law firm Dechert, Philadelphia, Pa. … Matt Frattaleo ’21, M.B.A. ’21, of Otisco, N.Y., is celebrating his first anniversary as owner of the restaurant Max Humpty. … John Silvestri ’17, of Bridgewater, N.J., was promoted to western division manager/commercial vice president at Valley National Bank. … Ken Buttschlag ’88, a newsletter and production manager at Microsoft, was offered an opportunity for promotion at Microsoft’s headquarters in Redmond, Wash. … In honor of Seton Hall’s 150th anniversary, the Alumni Relations Office is highlighting alumni who have made a meaningful benefit to the university. … Have you joined Seton Hall’s social networking sites? Have you connected with old friends or new business contacts? … Millions of people connect daily on social networking sites to form professional contacts. Search for the Alumni Relations Office on Facebook and LinkedIn. … The Office of Alumni Relations is seeking feedback on new graduates’ use of social networking sites to form or maintain connections. Write us at alumni@shu.edu. … Do you receive the alumni Profile newsletter? Students and reserve exclusive discounts on Seton Hall merchandise as well as special promotions. To subscribe, email Alumni Relations at alumni@shu.edu.

00s

Mark J. Di Comite, M.A., ’00, of Indianopolis received his doctorate in education from Purdue University and was hired as the vice chair for education for the department of education and general education at Indiana University School of Medicine. … Karlek Said ’02, of Paramus, N.J., graduated from the Passaic County Police Academy on August 4, 2009, and is a police officer for the state of New Jersey. … Heather Jackson, E.D., ’03, of Burlington, N.J., published her first book, fromCourier in Completion: How to Get Your Dissertation Done Without Losing Your Mind. … Karen Ross ’04, of Hamilton, N.J., is on the faculty of the Pennsylvania School in Pennsylvania, N.J., Innocent Njoku, ’09, of Cedar Grove, N.J., is at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases as an Internships Research Training Award Fellow.

09s

Nancy C. Basile ’21, of Manalapan, N.J., was announced as president of the New Jersey Counseling Association. … Mary P. (McKeen) Ricci ’02, M.S.N., ’06, of Pennington, N.J., was promoted to nurse manager of cardiac diagnostics, cardiac catheterization laboratory, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation at the University Medical Center at Princeton. … Zakia Smith ’21, of Tampa, Fla., is the new fitness coordinator for the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office. … John D. (Dick) McCarthy, J.D., ’84, of Mendham, N.J., became a partner in the litigation department at Schick Price, Price, & King in Morristown, N.J., in late September. … Matt Dowling ’96, of Howell, N.J., was named an assistant managing editor for The Star-Ledger, overseeing the company’s online content on its.com. … Michael H. Hoffman, M.S.E.E. ’98, of Carl Brookwood, N.J., was promoted to partner at the accounting firm WheatmanSmith-Brooks. … Maria A. (Glionna) Margovich ’98, of Randolph, N.J., received the Grace Under Pressure award from the National Kidney Registry. …

Pirate Pride

Pirates in the San Francisco Bay Area gathered for the annual Chapter Christmas Dinner on December 13, 2009. Alumni of both Seton Hall Prep and the University were in attendance. Pictured (from left) are Bob Mulhern ’70, Father Thomas J. Hughes ’06 and Mike Russo ’67 and Frank Maxwell ’70.

Lucinda Ferreti Pantano ’95 (left) and Jeannette Paulsens Sera, M.S. ’01, show their Pirate pride at Hillsborough Middle School in Hillsborough, N.J., where both work.

If you have requested a bulletin, we want your photo! E-mail your photos to alumni@shu.edu or mail prints to Alumni Relations, 457 Centre Street, South Orange, N.J. 07079. (Digital photos must be high-resolution JPEG or TIFF files that are at least one megabyte in size.)

Marriages

John P. Major ’50 to Jennifer Olsen

Kimbry A. Conner ’88 to Ida A. Kukul ’80

Felicia Vanderberg ’93 to Corey Hartmann

Kim K. Oyola ’10 to Christopher J. McGeever

Magnus B. Sickeley ’00 to Anthony E. Rizzoza ’02

Joseph McEnaugh ’01 to Anna Simones ’06/M.A. ’10

Matthew Stedle ’03 to Victoria Jacques

Michelle Konno ’04 to Chip Chaefi

Rosanne L. Targozzi ’04 to Giuseppe Sidoti

Garnett A. Brooks ’05 to Erin Frances Kown

Sarah John ’05/M.A. ’10 to Jordan Scott Goldberg

Thomas J. Hughes ’00 to Melissa Mathews

Kristie Mattman ’07/M.S.P.A. ’10 to Peter Trubball ’07

Michelle Gold ’10 to Ryan Stern

T o engage and empower New Jerseyans—that's what Lauren Skowronski ’98 is trying to do.

As state campaign director for the Citizens’ Campaign, a nonprofit organization that helps people become servant leaders, Skowronski works to educate individuals about the importance of community involvement.

Created by New Jersey’s Center for Civic Responsibility, the Citizens’ Campaign provides the tools for people to take up political office and provide quality representation in government. The initiative aims to recruit at least 5,000 new leaders to positions in New Jersey over the next few years and to put a stop to corruption and waste.

“I feel that I’m at my best when I’m in the community, educating folks on their powers as citizens,” Skowronski says. She recently ran a leadership forum at the City Hall of Jersey City to educate people about the process of leadership and policy making. An indictment against another local government had just occurred that summer so I didn’t know what to expect, says Skowronski. “But 200 people showed up engaged and ready to work toward changing the culture of corruption.”

When asked how she came to be involved with community leadership, Skowronski says, “My parents were very civicly and politically active. I grew up going to rallies on the beach to stop ocean pollution and sitting at the local police party headquarters.”

“Power to the People makes my day,” says Skowronski majored in criminal justice at Seton Hall, and decided to pursue a career that would help people empower themselves and improve their communities. After she completed her education she interned with the Citizens’ Campaign, and as Skowronski says, “I never left!”

Now, not only does she teach people how they can run for political office, she also holds a community position herself. “I don’t ask people to do anything that I’m not doing,” says Skowronski. As a member of the Human Relations Council of Plainsboro, Skowronski helps to make sure the diversity of her town is celebrated and promoted through culturally informed programs.

Skowronski believes that when reports of corruption in government become common, there is a need for motivated individuals to step outside their own self-interests and better their community.

“I believe that we can tap into the apathy and frustration that is out there and motivate people,” she says, “because if we get them before they throw their hands up and walk away for good, we can harness their energy for change and really do something meaningful with it.”

S E T O N H A L L M A G A Z I N E | W I N T E R / S P R I N G 2 0 1 0
In Memoriam

Father Leonardi G. Casselli ‘43
Father Joseph F. Catlett ‘42/M.D.M. ‘77
Louis F. Weigl ‘42
Monsignor John E. Monte ‘43
George W. Puric ‘43
Gabriel E. Pettauti, M.A.E. ‘48
William A. Ryan ‘48
Nicholas C. Soccora ‘48
Reverend Carl C. Christensen ‘49
Joseph F. Hurley Sr. ‘49
James Anthony DiGiampa ‘50
S. Louis Carlo ‘50
Donato W. Chirico ‘50
Gene Ficchio ‘50
William F. Good ‘51
Father Harold S. Herrmanno ‘50
Thomas G. Ilia ‘50
John P. McDonagh ‘50
Joseph P. McGinn ‘50
Henry J. Gessie ‘51
William A. Gianlussio ‘51
John A. Malatesta ‘51
Harry W. Nakenson ‘51
Charles B. O’Connell ‘51
Pascale A. Petrosia ‘51
Gerald V. Savage ‘51
James R. Taylor ‘51
Waller G. Gull ‘53
James V. Laffrey ‘53
Albert Tutela ‘53
Arthur Avery Jr. ‘54
Charles W. Durney ‘54
Syrinx Green ‘54/D.D.S. ‘60
Herbert F. Han ‘54
William L. Runge ‘54
Stephen J. Magura ‘55
Arthur J. Schaub ‘55
Vincent Caputo ‘56
Sister Margaret M. Hoffman, M.S. ‘56
Paul J. Jannoni ‘56
Arthur R. Ringel ‘56
The Most Reverend Michael A. Saltarelli ‘56/M.A. ‘77
Mary E. Swiney, M.A.E. ‘56
Louis G. Vetter ‘56
John F. Fischer ‘56
Thomas W. Gambino, M.A.E. ‘55
Sister Mary Elizabeth Shalta, M.A.E. ‘55
Betty A. Galovic ‘55
Frank Rodgers ‘57
Jean D. Vela ‘57
Robert E. Watten Jr. ‘57
Jack H. Dadaian ‘58/M.D. ‘62
George H. Loomis ‘58
Sister Michaela A. Swinhoe, M.A.E. ‘59
Mary E. Swiney, M.A.E. ‘59
William Giancana, M.A.E. ‘59
John Harris, M.A.E. ‘59
Joseph Luciano ‘70
Harold Meehan, M.A.E. ‘70
Joseph P. Monaghan ‘71
Joseph A. Gobbi, M.B.A. ‘71

Sylvia N. Levine, M.A. ‘68
Sister Mary Madeline (Mary Theresa Stenno) ‘66
Gloria Peterson, M.A.E. ‘66
Stellinaw R. Rigor ‘66
Heinz E. Rush ‘66
John A. Wodrowy ‘66
Jeffrey A. Baranowski, M.B.A. ‘67
Richard Keating, J.D. ‘67
Andrew M. Lavoix ‘67
Paul V. Malcaclay ‘68
John Raskel ‘68
John A. Zimmerman ‘68
Monsignor Michael J. Allegro’s ‘65/M.A. ‘75
Seymour Brdoy, M.A.E. ‘69
William Gormely, M.A.E. ‘69
John Harris, M.A.E. ‘69
Richard C. Pizano, M.A.E. ‘70
Joseph Hurst, M.A.E. ‘70
John Harris, M.A.E. ‘70
Natalie Ann, born on January 12, 2009,
to Vincent ‘02 and Blanche Sklar ‘03.

Baba Pirates
Michael Zerega ‘94 and Jennifer, a girl, Ewino, November 12, 2009
Frank J. Caraglia ‘93 and Holly, a boy, Connor Christopher, February 26, 2009
Zavis Smith ‘93, a girl, Kari Ann Sage, June 4, 2009
Joanne (Galagher) Orth ‘93 and Derek, a girl, Rainey Grace, May 3, 2009
Joseph V. Arlotto ‘74 and Patricia Lee ‘74, a girl, Happe Gabriella, August 16, 2008
Ann (Pitzenmoser) Taubol ’94 and Robert, a boy, Matthew Joseph, May 5, 2009
Anthony Falcone ‘96 and Staci, a girl, Jamie Sophia, July 20, 2009
Jason M. (Vailalli) Ferrante, M.A.E. ‘77 and Lawrence, a boy, Michael John, September 18, 2009
John F. Ferrante ‘59 and Lynn-Marie, a boy, Nicholas, June 15, 2009
Alicia J. Jones ‘59 and Nari Wise, a girl, Ava Simone, August 11, 2009
Shannon (Rembock) Leconte ‘59 and Darren, a boy, Joseph Rembock, November 19, 2008
Volksa (Galkowska) Kopek ‘50/D.D.S. ‘55, and Jason, a girl, Eva Starks, May 6, 2009
Alexandra A. (Sgri) Pasquale ‘00, and Thomas, a girl, Rachel Allen, February 7, 2009
Briana (Kish) Biddle ‘02 and Vincent ‘02, a boy, Natalie Ann, January 12, 2009
Megan (Peggio) Scialoff ‘02 and Scott, a girl, Madison Elizabeth, September 16, 2009
Beth Hicks, M.B.A. ‘94 and Thomas, a girl, Ryanne Elizabeth, October 2, 2009
Ronald E. Filowsky ‘60
Helmut B. Botnack ‘61
Thomas E. Dunn ‘61
George P. Poslender ‘61
Donald R. Mcnaught ‘61
Donald M. Rutherford ‘61
Harry E. Beider ‘62
William F. Cadinu ‘61
Gerald F. Herson, M.D. ‘62
Robert G. Creminco ‘62/M.D. ‘62
John E. Wodlowy ‘63
Jeffrey A. Baranowski, M.B.A. ‘67
Richard Keating, J.D. ‘67
Andrew M. Lavoix ‘67
Paul V. Malcaclay ‘68
John Raskel ‘68
John A. Zimmerman ‘68
Monsignor Michael J. Allegro’s ‘65/M.A. ‘75
Thomas J. Dassie ‘66
Robert W. Dolny, M.B.A. ‘67
Vincent J. Squillaro ‘73
Richard J. Shanta ‘73
Karen L. Deodato ‘74
Darlene K. Mangold, M.A.E. ‘74
Patricia A. Novak ‘74
Doris P. Cherry ‘75
William F. Mahoney ‘75
Mary Wilson ‘75
Elizabeth M. Connelly, M.A.E. ‘76
Mark A. Infante ‘76
Sister Mary Madeline (Mary Theresa Stenno) ‘66
Gloria Peterson, M.A.E. ‘66
Stellinaw R. Rigor ‘66
Heinz E. Rush ‘66
John A. Wodrowy ‘66
Jeffrey A. Baranowski, M.B.A. ‘67
Richard Keating, J.D. ‘67
Andrew M. Lavoix ‘67
Paul V. Malcaclay ‘68
John Raskel ‘68
John A. Zimmerman ‘68
Monsignor Michael J. Allegro’s ‘65/M.A. ‘75
Seymour Brdoy, M.A.E. ‘69
William Gormely, M.A.E. ‘69
John Harris, M.A.E. ‘69
Richard C. Pizano, M.A.E. ‘70
Joseph Hurst, M.A.E. ‘70
John Harris, M.A.E. ‘70
Natalie Ann, born on January 12, 2009,
to Vincent ‘02 and Blanche Sklar ‘03.

Friends of the University
Dorothy A. Bachmann
David J. Bachner
Candeline Bombart
Edward J. Conry Jr.
Cecilia M. Dunning
Father Samuel Rampa
Russell J. Francisco
Mary J. Gaming
Catherine Galdo
Dr. Robert A. Herman
Mary J. Henn
U.N. Volunteer Dies in Haiti Earthquake

United Nations volunteer Nivah Odwori, M.A. ’06, died in the January 12 earthquake in Haiti, where she had been working as an elections adviser. She was 36.

She had earned two master’s degrees from Seton Hall, one in strategic communication from the College of Arts and Sciences and another in diplomacy and international relations from the Whitehead School, where she completed her thesis on conflict resolution challenges in Sudan and India.

“She was a wonderful woman whose passion for doing good was palpable,” said Patricia Kuchon, Ph.D., who as a member of the graduate faculty in the Strategic Communication and Leadership program was Odwori’s thesis adviser.

Odwori had been in Haiti since July 2009, working as a district coordinator of the U.N.’s mission to stabilize the elections process. Previously she had been a United Nations elections adviser in Nepal, and had also worked with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. She was buried in her native Kenya.
Men and women aren’t the only ones who have trouble understanding one another. Misunderstandings plague students and professors, too. That’s what Rebecca Cox, assistant professor of education, found in her research.

In her book, *The College Fear Factor*, Cox explores the basis for a worrying conundrum: that 69 percent of high-school seniors say they intend to get a four-year college degree and yet only 28 percent of 25-to-34-year-olds end up with one. Cox spent years studying community college students, and she believes that despite a national emphasis on getting students ready for college, colleges also need to better prepare for the students coming to them for an education.

Her work has gotten strong reviews. Washington Post columnist Jay Mathews recently wrote that the book “tells more about why undergraduates don’t succeed than anything I have ever read.” Seton Hall interviewed Cox to learn more.

**What is the “college fear factor”?** It’s that horrible, overwhelming feeling many students have as first-semester freshmen.

What counterproductive behaviors did students use to deal with their fears? One was not saying anything in class, whether it was to avoid being called on, or so the professor wouldn’t even see them. I had people tell me, “I sat in the front in the beginning, but now I sit in the back just hoping the professor doesn’t see me.”

Then there were people who decided to not hand in assignments so that they wouldn’t be assessed negatively. This was obviously counterproductive. They wouldn’t get an “F,” but they wouldn’t do well or pass the class either.

**Students failing to live up to their potential: does it all boil down to this fear?** The fear is part of it, but there’s another big piece: expectations.

What can professors do to deal with the problem? Most of the writing instructors I observed had journal assignments throughout the semester. But when they assigned those pieces and how they graded them was important.

One instructor explicitly addressed people’s fears in her classroom. That made a difference as well.

**What can parents do?** One message parents can give is to not give up and to encourage students to take action. Ask how the semester is going, and urge the child to speak to the professor. Also, encourage the student to seek out other people in the college, whether it’s an adviser or counselor, who might be able to give advice about how to get past some of those fears.

Is there anything else readers should know? Sometimes when I talk about this, the response is: “Don’t you think these are the students who aren’t ready for college or aren’t college material?”

I don’t think that’s the case. I was looking at students whom both the university — based on assessment tests — and professors considered able to “handle the work academically” and able to succeed.

There’s a need for institutions to be more aware of where students are and to help them integrate into the institution.
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