



# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

\$5 million gift launches the transformation of The Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J. Recreational Life Center

Hy-Flex classrooms coming to Pope Hall

Opening of the O'Toole Library Digital Research Commons

Renovation underway on state-of-the-art Frank J. Guarini School of Business

Hy-Flex classrooms coming to McDermott Hall

Six-story residence hall at 762 Montgomery, slated to open academic year 2021-22





## Shared Responsibility

While classes are remote for the Fall 2020 semester, Saint Peter's University has taken every precaution to ensure the health and wellbeing of its community. With many students still residing on campus and faculty, staff and administrators providing essential programs and services through a mix of in-person and virtual formats, masks worn indoors and outdoors has become a regular part of life.

At the entrance to the Mac Mahon Student Center, the masked statue of Saint Ignace of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, reminds us of our shared responsibility to look out for one another and minimize the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19.

Saint Peter's University is readying, at the time of printing, for a return to campus for the spring 2021 semester through a hybrid approach of in-person and virtual learning.

## Doing Even More



We give the students of Saint Peter's University our undivided attention. We give them support, guidance and a pathway to a better future. Our faculty, athletic coaches, career counselors, librarians, campus ministers, residence life staff, Jesuits and others have always encouraged and challenged students to find the potential within, so that they may live the words of Saint Ignace of Loyola to, "Go forth and set the world on fire."

Now, we're doing even more to enhance opportunities for our students and position the University for future success, by ushering in an era of campus revitalization. This issue of the magazine highlights five capital investments that impact nearly every aspect of the University experience—academics, scholarship, career readiness, residential life and athletics.

As you may already know, a \$5 million lead gift from Thomas P. Mac Mahon '68 will launch the phased renovation of The Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J., Recreational Life Center (RLC). We couldn't be more grateful to Tom, who led the way in establishing the Mac Mahon Student Center in 2012, a facility that transformed living and learning on our Jersey

City campus. This proud Peacock is humbled and honored by Tom's continued belief and extraordinary support of Saint Peter's.

We're at a unique moment in our nearly 150-year history. Like every institution of higher education in this country, we must confront and overcome a myriad of challenges due to the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic that will be with us for some time. In this century of rapid change and uncertainty, it's essential that we continue to plan and build for the future.

**"Now, we're doing even more to enhance the opportunities for our students and position the University for future success, by ushering in an era of campus revitalization."**

I'm encouraged by the strength and resilience of our students, and the generosity of loyal alumni and friends. This fiscal year raised more than \$1.7 million in unrestricted giving—the highest level ever recorded in Saint Peter's history—that will go a long way in meeting the University's most essential needs. Donors also demonstrated great faith in our mission with sustained commitments to *Hearts & Minds: The Saint Peter's University Scholarship Celebration*, even though the in-person event could not be held, and by making Saint Peter Day a huge success. On behalf of the entire University community, thank you. Your support makes all the difference.

With gratitude,

Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D.  
President



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**On the cover:**  
 A bird's-eye view of the campus map highlights five capital improvements that will enhance the student experience and strengthen Saint Peter's University.

**CONNECT**



Photographs taken on campus for this issue followed the University's coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic social-distancing protocols.

**FEATURES**

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# Lord Abbett Partnership is a Big Win for Students



Students will soon be managing a real investment portfolio with real money, thanks to a new partnership between Saint Peter's University and Lord Abbett & Co. LLC., a leading investment management company headquartered in Jersey City. In September, the University announced the launch of its first Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF), made possible by a \$50,000 investment generously provided by Lord Abbett. The SMIF is just the beginning.

"Our mission is to make meaningful contributions in partnership with other organizations, and have a lasting impact on our communities worldwide," explained Catherine Tantillo, head of community relations at the investment firm since 2018. "We are committed to investing both our time and expertise in our community."

For Saint Peter's business students, that means valuable training, industry coaching and career engagement opportunities. "Education is such a big focus for us as a firm," Tantillo added, noting that the partnership could encompass resume reviews, mock interviews, internship readiness presentations and financial literacy. "We seek to empower young adults by

helping them develop their full potential and providing opportunities for them to succeed."

Students with majors in finance and economics will be eligible to apply for the investment team and there will be required co-requisite courses for selected participants. Faculty advisors Samar Issa, Ph.D., assistant professor of economics and finance, and Amanda Page-Hoongrajok, Ph.D., assistant professor of economics and finance, will lead implementation of the academic component of this project for the University. The Office of Career Engagement and Experiential Learning (CEEL) will coordinate internship and career-related events for students as part of the partnership.

The team will also be invited to complete a "boot camp" training session with Lord Abbett investment professionals to gain firsthand exposure to managing client assets. "Students will get hands-on experiences with portfolio managers, analysts and traders to enhance their understanding of these different roles and how they work together," said Tantillo. "Together, this foundational learning will help the students structure their team and develop an investment strategy."

*Continued on next page*



**CLASS OF 2020  
COMMENCEMENT  
PLANNED FOR  
NEXT MAY**

The Class of 2020 has weighed in. After the historic postponement of commencement in May 2020 due to the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, Saint Peter's University surveyed the graduates to determine how to best honor their achievements. An overwhelming majority prefer an in-person graduation ceremony. Rather than doubling up on commencement in May, Saint Peter's will keep the spotlight on each class by planning separate graduation exercises for the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021. The date, time and place for the two commencements will be announced as details become available.

*Continued from previous page*

KPMG Dean of the Frank J. Guarini School of Business Mary Kate Naatus, Ph.D., called the partnership a big win for students and the University. "We consistently seek new opportunities for our students to have valuable experiences that will help them develop necessary leadership and professional skills," she said. "The partnership with a respected asset manager such as Lord Abnett will not only provide new career opportunities for our students, but will also build the University's

brand and highlight our talented students and young professionals."

Tantillo is equally enthusiastic: "We have a unique opportunity to draw on our core expertise—money management—and ignite the passion for investing among a new generation of adults. What is equally exciting is that our partnership also offers a potential pipeline of diverse talent that may have the opportunity to develop and thrive at Lord Abnett."

**21 Students Named to MAAC Esports All-Academic Team**



Saint Peter's University had the most students, 21, named to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) 2019-20 Esports All-Academic Team. To be eligible, members of the esports program, a form of organized, multiplayer video game competitions, must complete two semesters at their institution and hold a cumulative 3.2 GPA.

A total of 69 student-athletes in the MAAC qualified for this year's All-Academic team. The esports program at Saint Peter's began in 2018 and was established as a member of the MAAC and the Eastern College Athletics Conference (ECAC). The University was also among the first in the nation to offer a bachelor's degree in business with an esports concentration.

**Highest Honors**

Fourteen Saint Peter's University students were inducted into the Most Noble Order of the Peacock (MNOPE) at the Michaelmas Convocation on September 30. Held virtually, the event echoes the medieval tradition of convening students and faculty to start the fall term and celebrates the feast of the archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. It represents an opportunity to recognize student excellence in the true spirit of striving for the *Magis*, a hallmark of Jesuit education.

The keynote speaker for the event was Rev. Mario Powell, S.J., president of Brooklyn Jesuit Prep. Fr. Powell is an accomplished educator who has taught and worked in secondary and middle schools within the Jesuit school network of the Northeast Province. He has successfully developed and expanded programs that focus on the importance of quality education in changing the trajectory of the lives of students from migrant and minority families.



Keynote speaker Rev. Mario Powell, S.J.

The MNOPE is the University's oldest and most distinguished honor society, reserved for seniors who have attained the highest scholastic average during their first three years of study.

Members of the Class of 2021 inducted were: Gineen Abuali '21, Chantal Chaco '21, Tiffany Do '21, Alejandro Gomez Gonzalez '21, Andres Machin '21, Jennifer Martinez '21, Alexa Montas '21, Anton Moore '21, Cinthya Munoz-Tepan '21, Iria Pineiro '21, Adrista Ramirez '21, Ahmed Shehata '21, Sidra Tariq '21 and Nathalie Tejada '21.

**MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**



The Saint Peter's University community gathered in person and virtually on September 9 for the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit to bless the beginning of the fall semester. Held at St. Aedan's: The Saint Peter's University Church, the service was celebrated by Rev. Andrew Downing, S.J., vice president for mission and ministry, with Rev. Claudio Burgaleta, S.J., rector of the Jesuit community, and Rev. Rocco Danzi, S.J., parish administrator at St. Aedan's. Viewers were also invited to participate via the parish Facebook page.



**PRESIDENT NAMED TO  
EDUCATION  
POWER 50**

In September, Saint Peter's University President Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D., was named by *NJBIZ* to the Education Power 50, a group of influential leaders representing colleges and universities throughout New Jersey. The 2020 Education Power 50 highlights leadership from institutions of higher learning who are responsible for managing [education] organizations, making policies that directly affect the institutions or are themselves directly responsible for imparting knowledge to students, apprentices and the citizenry at large.

The business publication noted the University's recent announcements about capital improvements to the campus and lauded the President for positioning the University for even greater success in the future.

## Value That is Hard to Beat



Saint Peter's University continues to score high in the college ranking category that matters most to prospective students these days, value. The University ranked highest in the State of New Jersey and 11th overall for best value, according to the 2021 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges Rankings in the Regional Universities North Category.

The factors used to determine best value rankings include academic quality and the net cost of attendance for a student who received the average

level of need-based financial aid. In other words, colleges like Saint Peter's rank highest on the list, because they offer the best quality programs at the lowest cost.

Saint Peter's remains among the top 100 "Best Regional Universities in the North," with a considerable climb of 11 places on the list. The jump in rankings reflects the University's increase in graduation rates and an improved peer assessment score. The University also ranked as a leader in social mobility, the upward socioeconomic movement of students a college enrolls and graduates, and economic diversity, a measure based on the percentage of undergraduates receiving federal Pell Grants for low income students.

U.S. News & World Report defines a regional university as one that provides a full-range of undergraduate programs and master's programs, but few doctoral programs. The North Regional University category includes institutions of this type in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington D.C.

# Enrollment Efforts Intensified

In a year when colleges and universities struggled to enroll new students due to repercussions of the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, enrollment efforts intensified at Saint Peter's University.

Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing Elizabeth Sullivan described the recruiting and enrollment process as an interesting adventure. "The admission counseling staff, enrollment service areas and orientation leaders adapted to a virtual environment," she stated. "We found that many students and their families were able to 'meet us' through

various platforms of engagement and successfully transition into the college experience."

These intensified efforts will need to continue. "We know that many students will continue to be challenged because they have not fully returned to in-person instruction, nor will they have access to the kinds of financial resources to help them keep college in their future," Sullivan added. "The University must remain vigilant in helping students find a pathway to higher education that works for them, which includes making Saint Peter's an affordable option."

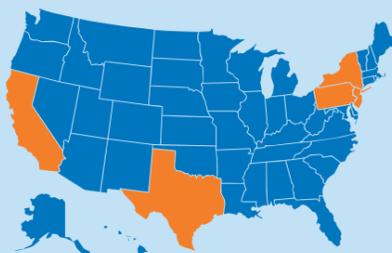
## Facts About the Class of 2024

### Top majors:



### Top states that our new students hail from:

New Jersey  
New York  
Pennsylvania  
California  
Texas



## CIVIC IMPACT



Through a series of virtual events this fall, the Guarini Institute for Government and Leadership at Saint Peter's University has fostered discussion about public policy issues shaping today's world. The challenge: to encourage continuing civic engagement in a world constrained in many ways by the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic. While the online-only format has presented challenges, Ginger Gold Schnitzer, the institute's executive director, has developed creative ways to engage stu-

ents. "Since we're fully online, we've found ways to make these events fun and interactive," she said.

Virtual events, which were co-sponsored by campus ministry and the political science departments, highlighted Constitutional rights in the United States, examined issues of racial and social justice through the lens of the Ignatian Examen and Black Lives Matter and explored careers in public policy. To generate interest in this year's presidential election, the University participated in Ballot Bowl (see sidebar), a competition among colleges and universities to register the most voters.

This fall, the Institute has also continued "Zoom in With," a virtual speaker series launched last spring. The series features small group dis-

cussions with professionals in politics, the non-profit sector and public policy. "Our goal was to get real about the journey," Schnitzer explained. "When students speak with professionals who are five, 10 or 25 years out of college, it's a lot easier to envision themselves later on. They see that careers don't necessarily follow a linear path. Mentors matter."

Schnitzer, who was recently named director of the University's Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.), which now falls under the Institute, noted that the graduate program provides a clear path for students to deepen their knowledge of how government impacts fields including healthcare, economic development, public safety

and environmental careers. "The Guarini Institute is the perfect place for students to examine critical public policy issues and promote civic engagement," Schnitzer explained. "They explore the things they're passionate about and get a very practical view of how to enact change through policy. We offer opportunities to develop critical leadership tools—budgeting, effective communication and problem-solving, an understanding of election polling—to prepare them to create a meaningful difference in the world."



### EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Saint Peter's University hosted the 2020 Ballot Bowl Kick-off Celebration, an annual voter registration competition at New Jersey colleges and universities, on September 22. Organized by the Guarini Institute for Government and Leadership, the Voter Registration Day event via Zoom had 125 participants.

Sponsored by the New Jersey Department of State, this year's virtual presentation featured a keynote address by Secretary of State Tahesha Way, commentary by Gov. Phil Murphy and New York Giants Offensive Tackle Nate Solder, who discussed the importance of getting people to register to vote, and to actually vote. Guarini Institute Executive Director Ginger Gold Schnitzer said, "The Ballot Bowl celebration has sparked a new level of energy and engagement for our students."

## INDUSTRY LEADERS TAPPED FOR UNIVERSITY BOARD

Saint Peter's University has appointed four leading business professionals and educators to the Board of Trustees, as well as five to the Board of Regents.

A successful restaurateur and real estate investor, **Eugene Flinn '80** has a long family history with the University. While attending Saint Peter's, Flinn worked serving food to the Jesuits, and his father, Eugene C. Flinn, Ph.D., was an adjunct professor at the University. Flinn and his wife, Joyce, have hosted many Saint Peter's fundraising events and he has served as the auctioneer for the University's Hearts & Minds event.

**Michael A. Gomez, Ed.D.**, was named the 28th president of Saint Peter's Prep last year. He has also served in leadership roles at Jesuit schools including Creighton Prep, St. Joseph's Preparatory School and Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School. A graduate of Providence College, Dr. Gomez earned master's degrees from Binghamton University and Teachers College, Columbia University, and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

**William T. Price III '91**, vice president and chief communications officer for Zetis, began his career in the tech sector at

AT&T and Lucent Technologies, Inc. Later, he moved into the healthcare industry with positions at Pfizer Inc. and Johnson & Johnson. Price earned a master's degree from Fordham University and is a graduate of the Arthur W. Page Society's Future Leaders Experience for public relations professionals.

A retired ExxonMobil Corporation executive, **Joan Balmer Tully '72** enjoyed a 33-year career with the firm managing financial and operations models. After her retirement, she served as an adjunct mathematics faculty member at Saint Peter's University and chaired the Computer and Technology Club of ExxonMobil retirees in New Jersey. Tully earned a master's degree in operations research from New York University.

In addition, the University named **Natalie Brathwaite, Timothy Gallagher '90, Carlos Lejniaks H '11, Maria Solorzano '84 and John Susino '93** to the Board of Regents. **Carmel Galasso '79** was also appointed to the Alumni Board.



## NEW WAY TO NETWORK

Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Speaks on Gig Economy

The Saint Peter's Business Network (SPBN) is finding new ways to connect during these times of social distancing. SPBN and the Ignite Institute at Saint Peter's University presented Gig Economy: The Changing Nature of Work Virtual Symposium on September 10. Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez Sr. gave the keynote address that described the changing nature of work, along with priorities and strategies to help companies and people adapt to the rapidly changing economy. Gutierrez served in the administration of President George W. Bush. He is also the former Chairman of



the Board and CEO of Kellogg Co. and co-founder and executive chairman of EmPath, Inc.

A panel discussion followed, featuring **Alfa Demmellash H '10**, co-founder and CEO of Rising Tide Capital, **Brigid D'Souza, M.B.A.**, assistant professor of accountancy and business law, and **Douglas Houser**, managing director, global banking & markets, Bank of America. The discussion was moderated by **Ernabel Demillo, M.S.**, chair and lecturer of communication and media culture at Saint Peter's University. The virtual symposium was sponsored by The Provident Bank Foundation.

## IBM Skills Academy Launches on Jersey City Campus

Saint Peter's University students will have an added advantage when seeking employment: proficiency with digital technologies gleaned from the IBM Skills Academy that launched this fall.

The initiative is the result of a partnership between the Frank J. Guarini School of Business and IBM.

**Joseph Gilkey, Ph.D.**, associate professor and chair of the business administration department and director of the M.B.A. program, and **Guilhan Bizel, Ph.D.**, visiting professor in the Guarini School of Business, completed the IBM training, and were the first instructors in IBM history awarded the Enterprise Design Thinking Instructor Badge. This means the professors are qualified to apply design thinking techniques to key industry challenges, and teach the cogni-

tive, strategic and practical skills to others.

Courses at the University's IBM Skills Academy began virtually this fall and are available to graduate students, as well as undergraduates in accelerated programs.

"We want to ensure that Saint Peter's graduates not only have a desirable skill set on paper, but also are educated in the latest digital technologies, enabling them to innovate in their respective careers," said Dr. Gilkey. Classes offered during the fall trimester include Enterprise Design Thinking and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Managers. In future terms, Internet of Things for Managers and Quantum Computing for Managers will be added. Students enrolled in these courses have the opportunity to complete a test with IBM for official IBM certification.



## SURPRISING DISCOVERY FROM THE GUARINI CENTER FOR COMMUNITY MEMORY

Director of the Theresa and Edward O'Toole Library **Daisy DeCoster, M.L.I.S., M.B.A. '14** was fulfilling a request for archival Michaelmas Convocation programs this fall, when she noticed an unprocessed box of miscellaneous photos. A quick peek into the box revealed a surprising discovery: five Kodachrome prints that document the historic visit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. H '65 to Saint Peter's University



in 1965 to address Michaelmas Convocation and accept an honorary degree. The photographs depict what others published from that day do not. "They really capture the frenzy of the day," said DeCoster. "Dr. King was escorted by patrolmen and Saint Peter's own R.O.T.C. guys." Also pictured in the foreground of the photo series is then President Rev. Victor Yanitelli, S.J., who invited Dr. King to campus.

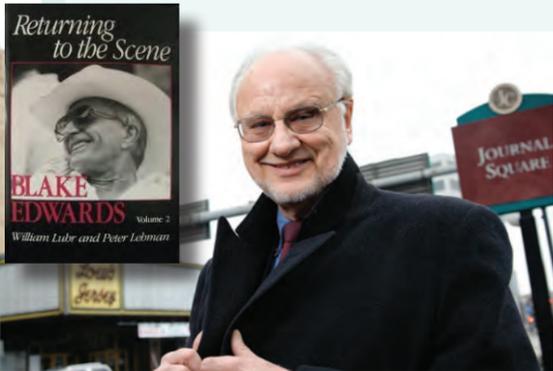
DeCoster hopes to learn more about the provenance of the photos. They will be processed and held in the Guarini Center for Community Memory.



## \$1.3 FEDERAL GRANT AWARDED TO UNIVERSITY FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The U.S. Department of Education awarded a \$1.3 million federal TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) grant to Saint Peter's University in September. The competitive grant provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements and is intended to motivate successful degree completion. It is specifically designed to provide services to low-income, first-generation college students and individuals with disabilities. Funds from the five-year grant will support the existing EDGE (Explore, Discover, Gain, Experience and Excel) SSS Program at the University, which has exceeded its goals for college persistence and graduation over the last five years. Serving a minimum of 140 students annually, the EDGE SSS Program will be able to expand its cornerstone offerings of tutoring, coaching and mentoring to encompass an increased emphasis on career development through internships, experiential learning and graduate studies.

# LAURELS



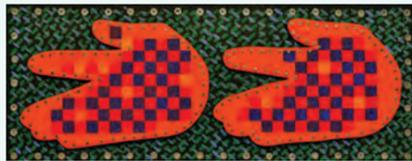
## NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE LIFE AND CAREER OF BLAKE EDWARDS

The history of the life and career of American filmmaker Blake Edwards would not be complete without the input of Professor of English **William Luhr, Ph.D.**, and Peter Lehman, Ph.D., who co-authored two books on Edwards' films. The French film journal *Positif* recently featured three never-before-published interviews with the director's creative collaborators, composer Henry Mancini, animator Richard Williams and writer-director Richard Quine. Dr. Luhr and Dr. Lehman conducted all the interviews with these luminaries, who had decades-long relationships with the Hollywood director best known for *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and the *Pink Panther* series.

"All three had important connections to the career of Blake Edwards and were also major figures on their own," said Dr. Luhr. Interest in the life and career of Edwards, who died in 2010, has heightened in recent years.

Julie Andrews, who was married to Edwards for 41 years, published a memoir in 2019, and her public appearances have included conversations about life with Edwards.

A noted expert on *film noir*, Dr. Luhr is co-chair of the Columbia University Faculty Seminar on Cinema and Interdisciplinary Interpretation. He and Dr. Lehman are currently working on a new book about Edwards to be published by Wiley, which will take a new approach to the director's work and his impact on film, television and Broadway. They will also edit a series of books about other filmmakers for Wiley.



## IN LIVING COLOR

"Their work is full of shapes and symbols, and their message is in living color," is an apt description of "David and Beatrice: Hands and Other Symbols. The Work of David W. Cummings and Beatrice M. Mady," the two-person exhibition held at the Drawing Rooms and the Dvora Gallery in Jersey City.

**Beatrice M. Mady, M.F.A.**, is graphic arts coordinator, director of the Fine Arts Gallery and professor in the Department of Fine Arts at Saint Peter's University. The show celebrates the life and work of Cummings, who passed away last year. He lived with Professor Mady, and the show explores the ways the two artists' works developed and interacted with each other. The couple—who lived and worked in a former factory building in Jersey City Heights since the 1980s—are considered pioneers in the city's art scene.

Professor Mady spoke about Cummings' work and her own on September 11, at a Zoom event hosted by the Dvora Pop-Up Gallery. Her work was also featured in the online Drawing Rooms exhibition, "Prayers for the Pandemic; Prayers for Progress."



## A PROFOUND MUSICAL THINKER

Adjunct Professor of Fine Arts **James Adler** received glowing reviews of his latest CD, "Homages & Remembrances," from Albany Records. "There is no doubt that Adler is a profound musical thinker," wrote *Fanfare* magazine in its review of the pianist-composer's recording that pays homage to people influential in his life, including his late brother, Norman. *New York Arts*, an international journal for the arts, gave a positive review to a recital, held at the Yamaha New York Showroom in New York City, to celebrate the release of the CD.

Professor Adler, who has performed at Lincoln Center and London's Royal Albert Hall, teaches music and performance classes at Saint Peter's. He also serves as conductor of Argus Eyes.

## FINE ARTS PROFESSOR JURIES MORRIS MUSEUM SHOW

**Meryl Taradash, M.F.A.**, adjunct professor of fine arts, was on the panel of jurors that curated the exhibition "A Cache of Kinetic Art: Tiny Intricacies" at the Morris Museum in Morristown, N.J. The exhibition of intricately crafted treasures opened in March and will be on view until August 2022.

Professor Taradash is a sculptor who has exhibited at Fordham University Lincoln Center, the Michener Art Museum, Newark Museum and Long Island Children's Museum among others. "The Music of Light" a commission awarded to Professor Taradash in national competition, was featured in the May issue of CODAworx, an online resource for commissioned creative talent and artwork projects. The abstract artwork is suspended over the grand stairway of The Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda, Md., home to the Baltimore Symphony.



## HISTORY PROFESSOR SPEAKS ON 19TH AMENDMENT

On the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which legally guaranteed the right to vote to American women, **Christiane Warren, Ph.D.**, participated in a YWCA Northern New Jersey event commemorating the

historic milestone. Dr. Warren, adjunct professor of history, spoke to YWCA CEO Helen Archontou on August 18 about the suffrage movement and the obstacles women overcame during a live-streamed conversation on YouTube and Facebook. The event was part of the YWCA's Why Women Vote series, a nationwide initiative to highlight the diverse voices of women and the policy priorities that benefit all citizens.

## OVATION AWARD WINNER



The New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJCPA) named Assistant Professor of Accounting **Philip Sookram, CPA, MAcc**, an Ovation Award winner in June.

Professor Sookram was recognized in the Emerging Leader category, specifically for his impact on the accounting program at Saint Peter's and the University's students.

The University's 2019 accounting majors achieved a placement rate of 100 percent in the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Report. Professor Sookram assisted in the development and instruction of a new capstone course, "Pathway to the CPA." He also regularly speaks to students about their careers and is active in the NJCPA Emerging Leaders Council. The Emerging Leader category recognizes standout professionals who have been working in the field of accounting for 10 years or less.

## ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY COME TOGETHER



Associate Professor of Business **Marilú Marcillo, D.M.**, and Manfred Morales, Senior Operations Project Manager at UPS, presented

"Taking Experiential Learning on the Road: Engaging Students in International Business Through Corporate Visits," at the NASBITE International conference in June. NASBITE International is the leading not-for-profit membership organization supporting training and education in the field of global business. The paper by Dr. Marcillo and Morales highlighted how partnerships between academia and industry can arm students with a real-life understanding of the challenges and opportunities in international business.

## FEMALE ATTORNEYS ON FILM



Chair and Professor of Accounting & Business Law **Lori Ann Buza, J.D.**, spoke about the representation of female lawyers in film at the Columbia University

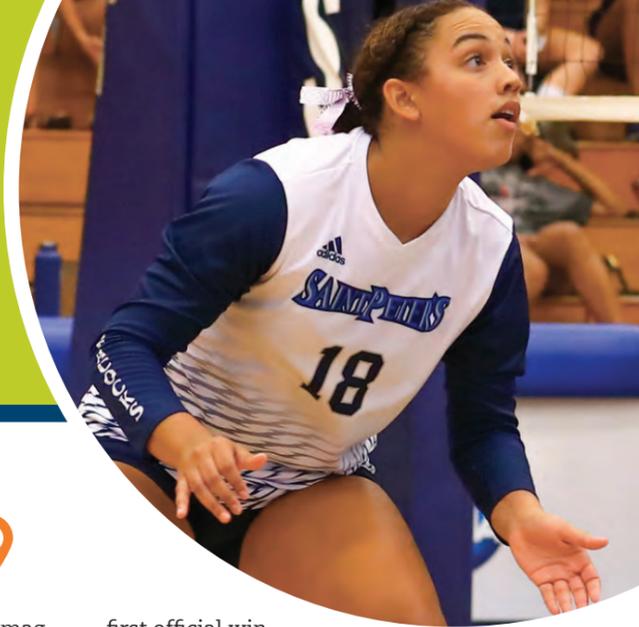
Seminar on Cinema and Interdisciplinary Interpretation earlier this year. Professor of English **William Luhr, Ph.D.**, who co-chairs the seminar, invited Professor Buza to speak after connecting with the attorney-professor at a New York University summer seminar for faculty he led on gender and sexuality in film. "I really respected her guts and her mind," said Dr. Luhr.

# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

A series of dramatic enhancements to campus will elevate the student experience and Saint Peter's University



It will definitely draw a bigger crowd and will motivate people to support our teams. We are going to work very hard to make our home games victories.” – Angeleyshka Curbelo '22



## SEEING IS BELIEVING

Transforming The Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J. Recreational Life Center 

It's been a long time coming. The announcement that Thomas P. Mac Mahon '68 committed a \$5 million lead gift to launch the phased renovation of The Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J. Recreational Life Center (RLC) ignited pride, excitement and gratitude among Peacocks far and wide. After the announcement was made in July, the University's social platforms lit up with likes, loves, "Go Peacocks!" and an outpouring of thanks to Mac Mahon, a standout men's basketball player on the 1967-68 team.

"Seeing is believing," said Director of Athletics Rachele Paul, noting that the demolition of the RLC arena began in August. "This phased renovation will produce a state-of-the-art facility that enhances the experience of student-athletes who strive to be great every day." The transformation of the RLC also has positive implications for the University. "This is a highly trafficked area on campus that serves as a focal point similar to the Mac Mahon Student Center," Paul continued. "It's going to be used by a variety of campus constituents for fitness and recreation. It will bring more people together for Division I games that are a shared community experience."

### Introducing the Run Baby Run Arena

The centerpiece of the phase one renovation is the modern basketball and volleyball arena (conceptual rendering left). The space will feature retractable bleachers with an allotment of chairback seating, full replacement of the hardwood court,

updated branding and signage, a reimagined entryway, enhanced lighting and new video scoreboards. It will be named the Run Baby Run Arena as a tribute to the legendary team that earned the moniker after routing Duke in the 1968 NIT quarterfinals in front of a record crowd at Madison Square Garden. The gift will also create a Hall of Fame to celebrate the legacy of Peacock athletics which will be enhanced over the course of the multi-phase project.

Mac Mahon, a member of the Saint Peter's University Board of Trustees and retired chairman and chief executive officer of LabCorp, is passionate about athletics and providing student-athletes with an exceptional experience and facility.

"The foundation of my life was built on the streets of Jersey City at the corner of Kennedy Boulevard and Montgomery Street," he stated. "This project has been a lifelong dream of mine and I am thrilled that it is coming to fruition. I am also delighted that this gift will pay tribute to my teammates, celebrate our time together at Saint Peter's and create a lasting legacy of basketball in the late 1960s."

### Energizing the Campus Community

While fall Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) sport competitions remain suspended due to the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, enthusiasm for the Run Baby Run Arena has energized the University community. Head Women's Basketball Coach Marc Mitchell would love to go down in the Peacock history books for the

first official win in the new arena.

"But in all seriousness," he stated. "It will be a refreshing feeling coaching in a facility that will be viewed as one of the best in the MAAC."

Coach Mitchell predicted the renovated arena would make Saint Peter's more attractive to potential student-athletes and bolster the competitiveness of the program. "Having state-of-the-art facilities is a must in today's day and age," he noted. "The new facility will go a long way in keeping up with the recruiting race."

Head Men's Basketball Coach Shaheen Holloway agreed with that assessment. "We will be able to show future student-athletes and their families that we are committed to putting tremendous resources behind them in order for them to succeed." He also added that the Run Baby Run Arena, "is a great way to honor past Saint Peter's teams and make them feel remembered as we move into a great future!"

Veteran volleyball player Angeleyshka Curbelo '22 can't wait to compete in the new arena when it is completed next year. "It will definitely draw a bigger crowd and will motivate people to support our teams," she said. "The newcomers on our team seem to really love the news. We are going to work very hard to make our home games victories."

Continued on page 14

## SEEING IS BELIEVING

Continued from previous page



### New Era for Athletics

Beyond the first phase of the renovation, the long-term master plan for the RLC will dramatically upgrade nearly every facet of the facility. It would encompass improvements to the swimming pool, locker rooms and more. The subsequent phases will be launched as additional funding is secured.

Paul said the immediate and long-term plans for the RLC will usher in a new era for Saint Peter's athletics. It's a development Addie Acosta '91, a season ticket holder who has followed men's basketball since the late 1980s, has been waiting to hear for some time. The transformation of the RLC benefits everyone. "It raises the team's profile, gives student-athletes a better place to play and improves the overall fan experience," Acosta said. "It's also going to engage more students who bring a lot of energy to the games. It's a great thing."

For now, the Director of Athletics is telling Peacocks to stay tuned. You can follow the progress of the transformation project at [saintpeterspeacocks.com/feature/ylc](http://saintpeterspeacocks.com/feature/ylc).

"We are going through an extraordinary time with the challenges of the pandemic, but also seeing enormous opportunities," said Paul. "People do want to step up and help and we appreciate every dollar. The continued philanthropic support says a lot about the spirit and character of Peacocks and their devotion to Saint Peter's as a whole."



The landmark gift has allowed us to accelerate the infusion of the most modern certifications into our business curriculum."

— KPMG Dean of the Frank J. Guarini School of Business Mary Kate Naatus, Ph.D.



Saint Peter's is really giving us all the tools and guidance we need to be successful in our careers."

— Valeria Moreno '22

## ACCELERATING THE PACE

### The Vision for the Frank J. Guarini School of Business Begins to Materialize

One year after Hon. Frank J. Guarini H '94 made a transformative \$10 million gift that named the School of Business, the University's vision for business education is coming to fruition. In May, the Frank J. Guarini School of Business launched a fully online M.B.A. program designed to meet the needs of working professionals and in July, entered a partnership with IBM to establish the IBM Skills Academy (see story on page nine) on campus. "The landmark gift has allowed us to accelerate the infusion of industry experiences across the curriculum, develop robust new courses and programs and build out an Artificial Intelligence Lab," said KPMG Dean of the Frank J. Guarini School of Business Mary Kate Naatus, Ph.D. "It's been a catalyst for a lot of progress."

One of the more visible signs of progress is the renovation of the lower level of Dinneen Hall occupied by the business school. Expected to be completed by the end of the academic year, the space is being outfitted with a new global finance lab that provides students greater access to Bloomberg terminals and other financial tools for independent research. The focal point of the renovation is the innovation hub, a much-needed addition that provides a professional environment and the resources for business students to make the most of experiential learning opportunities. The area features two new classrooms, study pods, offices, co-working spaces for individual or team meetings, project rooms and huddle rooms outfitted for live and remote meetings and a conference room. The second phase of the renovation will involve the construction of a new lobby and entranceway on the first floor of Dinneen, a data analytics lab and a multipurpose space. The buildout of this project is slated for a later date.



While plans were under development for early renovations, underutilized space was identified and a dedicated area created for The Urban Social Impact Incubator of the Ignite Institute. Its purpose is to foster social entrepreneurship among business students while helping to strengthen small businesses, nonprofits and community-oriented enterprises in Jersey City. The Urban Social Impact Incubator was established with a \$100,000 Signature Grant from The Provident Bank Foundation. "Graduate and undergraduate students across the University will have a collaborative area and resources to do remote internships and consult with community clients who are part of this program," said Dr. Naatus. "It supports our efforts as a Jesuit business school to create wealth, jobs and social change in the community."

"Students can see the opportunities," said Valeria Moreno '22, an economics and finance major who originally hails from Ecuador. Moreno chose Saint Peter's in large part because of the warmth of the University community and the personal attention given to students by business faculty. The Jesuit principle of *cura personalis*, or care for the entire person, "is the most valuable resource I've received to become my best self," Moreno explained. "Everyone has been so involved and caring about my growth as a person and as a professional."

Beyond her 4.0 GPA, Moreno participated in the Goldman Sachs Local College Collaborative through the Center for Career Engagement and Experiential Learning (CEEL) last year, as well as the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute Research Challenge, a competition where university-sponsored teams research and analyze financial markets and present their findings to a panel of judges. This year, she has been selected for the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF), a new program established by the department of economics and finance with industry support from Lord Abnett & Co. LLC.

Moreno believes the physical transformation of the Frank J. Guarini School of Business is one in a long line of opportunities that students won't take for granted. "Every student in the business school is busy," she stated. "The new infrastructure and programs show students that the University really wants to help us thrive. We know we have to put in effort and hard work to achieve our goals. Saint Peter's is really giving us all the tools and guidance we need to be successful in our careers."

## HY-FLEX CLASSROOMS

### Come to McDermott and Pope Halls

Hy-Flex (hybrid flexible) classrooms can do two things at the same time—accommodate live instruction between faculty and students, while simultaneously streaming and recording the lecture, seminar or interactive class. The benefit of the learning innovation is clear to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Frederick Bonato, Ph.D. "If a student can't physically make it to class, he or she can log in to attend," Dr. Bonato said. "And there's a recording, so students can revisit or review material covered."

Hy-Flex is part of a substantial investment in technology upgrades to McDermott and Pope classrooms. The enhancements to 10 classrooms include new whiteboards with large displays, new podiums with a control system featuring classroom computers and monitors, Blu-ray/DVD player, wireless display, as well as speakers.

"It's very basic, but very powerful," said Dr. Bonato of the technology upgrade, which will impact humanities and social science courses that utilize McDermott classrooms. "With up-to-date equipment we'll have better connectivity, as well as quicker and more seamless displays to make the most of class time."

While the fall semester at Saint Peter's University is being held virtually due to the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, the newly outfitted classrooms will serve an even greater purpose when faculty and students can use them together. "We have now fully embraced technology and learned how to use it to great effect out of necessity," Dr. Bonato explained. "But the benefits of integrating technology into our courses go beyond this pandemic. I'm really proud of our faculty. We have professors who never taught online before the pandemic who embrace instructional technology having seen its benefits. David Surrey, director of faculty development, and Nicole Luongo, director of distance learning, have done an incredible job organizing and implementing training both internally and bringing in resources from the outside. It's been an amazing transformation."



[The Digital Humanities Center] is a valuable resource. Having a high quality interview process to document oral histories is essential.”

– John Johnson Jr., Ph.D.

## BOOSTING SCHOLARSHIP



### The O’Toole Library Digital Research Commons Opens

Scholarship is no longer a solitary process. Today, students work collaboratively on team-based projects, because that’s how new ideas are generated and real world problems solved. In addition to print text, student-researchers need access to electronic resources and space to connect and create.

This fall, the Theresa and Edward O’Toole Library unveiled the O’Toole Library Digital Research Commons, a dedicated environment to better support scholarship and research at Saint Peter’s University. “Many college libraries embrace this model,” said Library Director Daisy DeCoster, M.L.I.S., M.B.A. ’14. “The intention is to transform the library into a campus-wide hub, attracting faculty and students to cross-pollinate ideas.” The space was reimagined with new seating areas for collaboration or individual study. Infrastructure upgrades like new lighting and faster WiFi provide a productive work environment along with a laptop bar, outlets and charging stations for electronic devices and new desktop computers. Relevant print resources remain and the Reference Desk occupies a central position for University librarians to provide expert guidance with research and technology.

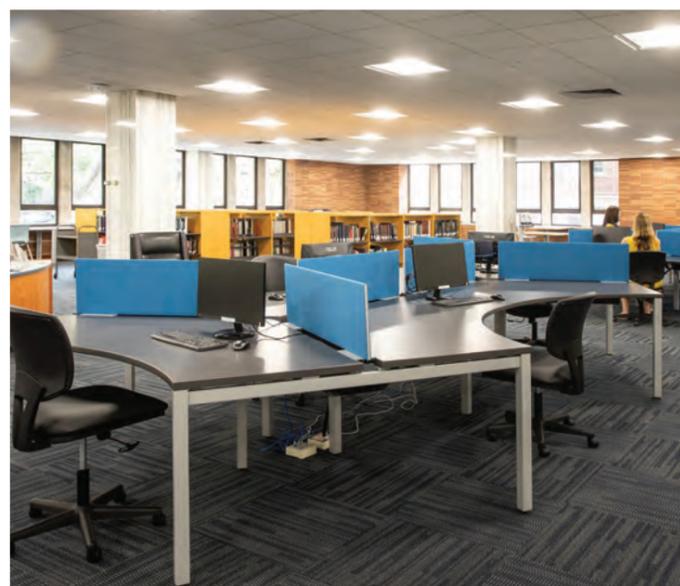
Funding for the renovation was made possible by the Theresa and Edward O’Toole Foundation and the George I. Alden Trust. While the University holds classes virtually during the fall semester, the O’Toole Library is open on a modified schedule, so students are utilizing the new Research Commons at a social distance. These capital investments are vital according to DeCoster, because they open up new opportunities for academic inquiry and exploration.

Also in the Theresa and Edward O’Toole Library, the Digital Humanities Center, located in the Guarini Center for Community Memory, has sparked dynamic opportunities for scholarship that go beyond the writing of an academic paper. The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) recently awarded a grant to Saint Peter’s for “Special Topics in Public History,” a digital humanities

course that will investigate the civil rights history of the University and the Jersey City African American community.

The two-part course is slated to begin next year. In the fall, students will utilize the University’s archives, conduct interviews and gather oral histories on two milestone events: the historic visit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. H ’65 to Saint Peter’s one year after the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and the minister’s stirring address to congregants of the Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church in Jersey City, eight days before he was assassinated. “It’s a narrow time frame to examine what was happening with civil rights in the life of the University and the city,” said Assistant Professor of History John Johnson Jr., Ph.D., who is teaching the fall course. The project will take students into the field to examine how Saint Peter’s became a more diverse university in the 1960s and 70s, and explore the historical significance of Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion and its role in the Bergen-Lafayette community.

In the spring, students will take all the oral histories, research and findings gathered to produce a documentary and public event in a course taught by Associate Professor of History Michael DeGrucchio, Ph.D. This kind of engagement with public history can happen in large part because of the Digital Humanities Center. “It’s a valuable resource,” said Dr. Johnson. “Having a high quality interview process to document oral histories is essential.”



Having this apartment-style residence hall is going to make students want to become more engaged and involved on campus.”

– Maxwell Tomcho ’22

## A HUB FOR LIVING

### New Residence Hall Coming to 762 Montgomery



For Maxwell Tomcho ’22, the suite-style, six-story residence hall under construction at 762 Montgomery Street represents a lot more than a place to live. The forthcoming facility will help more students build productive lives on campus, and in Jersey City.

“It’s an amazing development for the University,” said Tomcho, a second-year resident assistant (RA) at Veteran’s Memorial Court. An honors business student from Cleveland, Ohio, the RA recognizes the value of the new addition. 762 Montgomery will be equipped with kitchenettes, spacious study lounges, game rooms and modern laundry facilities. In addition to amenities and a fantastic view of the skyline, the added appeal of the new residence hall is its proximity to the Mac Mahon Student Center and vibrant McGinley Square neighborhood. “It brings everything together, so students living in Jersey City are a part of Jersey City,” he said. “Having this apartment-style residence hall is going to make students want to become more engaged and involved on campus.”

roots down at the University, the demand for apartment-style residences grows. Having these suite-style apartments so close to the Mac Mahon Student Center is going to create a hub for residential life. It will instill a bigger sense of community and a better living experience.”

The anticipated opening of the new residence hall is academic year 2021-22. Tomcho has heard from commuting classmates, some who travel from South Jersey each day, who are now interested in residing on campus. “You can do a long day of classes and activities until 10:00 p.m. and not have to worry about a long drive home,” he explained.

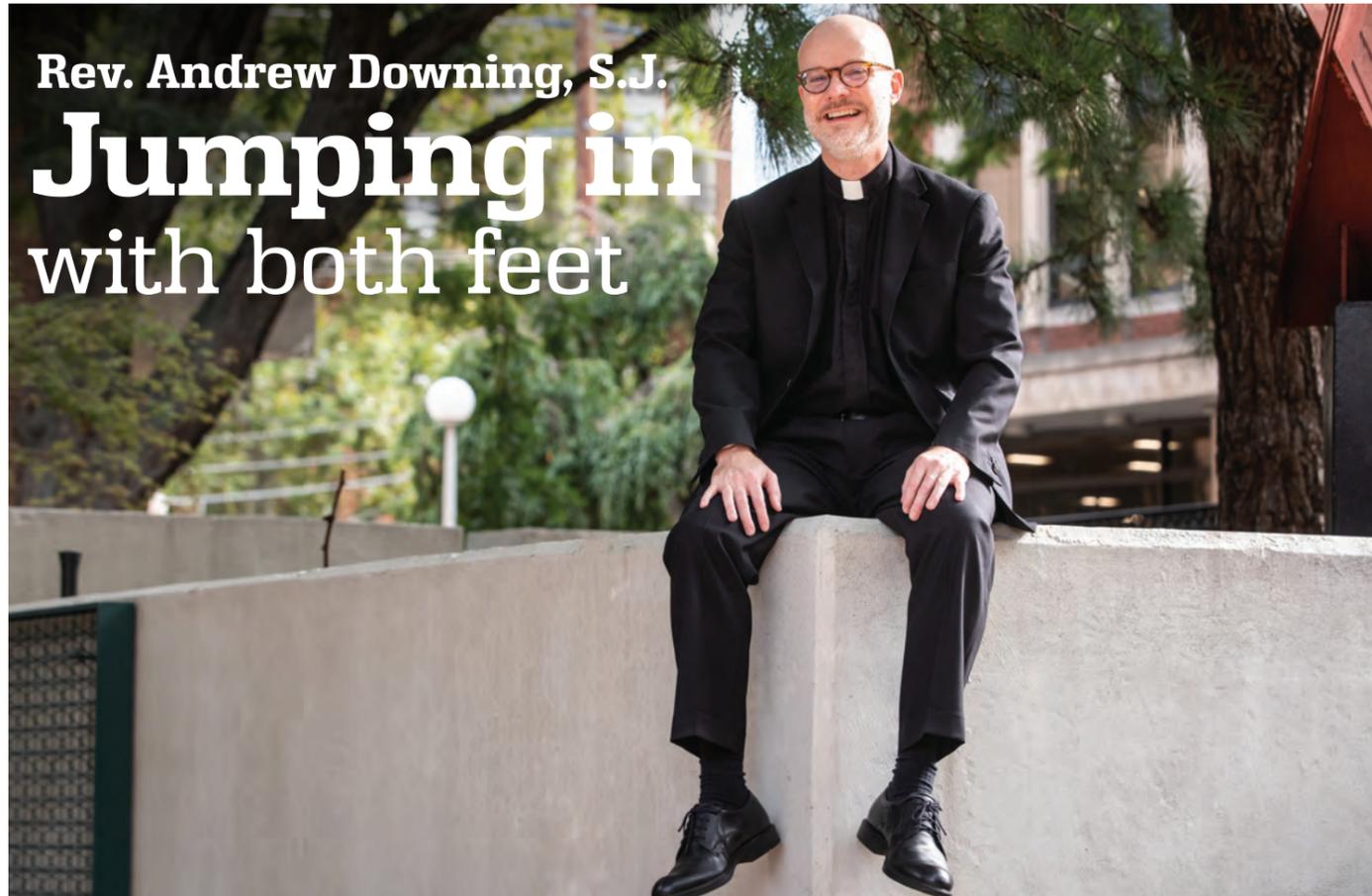
McCann believes the project could not have come at a better time. “The coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic underscores how critical it is for Saint Peter’s to stay on top of its game. This is a huge step in the right direction to achieve these goals. It’s telling our students that we’re putting our resources into bettering the University because we plan on being here for a very long time.”

“It’s going to be a game changer for us.”

University officials agree. President Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D., called the facility a critical addition that will position Saint Peter’s for future success. “The new space will improve the quality of the residential experience for our current students, persuade more students to join the Saint Peter’s residential community and will ultimately have a positive impact on the McGinley Square area,” he stated when the project was announced in July.

“It’s going to be a game changer for us,” said Vice President of Student Life and Development Erin McCann. On the East Campus, Millennium Hall, Whelan Hall and Saint Peter Hall provide traditional, double room occupancy, “That is really great for building community freshman year,” McCann noted. “As students put





## Rev. Andrew Downing, S.J. **Jumping in with both feet**

Since he became a university Jesuit associate in 2018, Rev. Andrew Downing, S.J., has been a visible and involved member of the Saint Peter's University community. The Jesuit taught theology in the classroom, provided support to campus ministry and served as parish priest at St. Aedan's: The Saint Peter's University Church. Now, he's the vice president for mission and ministry, a leadership role the Jesuit engages with humility, enthusiasm and hope in the midst of the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic.

**You came to Saint Peter's University in 2018 for a 10-week tertianship, the final period of formation in the Society of Jesus. How did you end up staying?**

As a tertian, I had no idea what I was getting into initially, but had the luxury of knowing, "Well, I won't be here forever." It was supposed to be a short stay, but I jumped in with both feet. Jesuits often do something different after tertianship or they change assignments. In talking with my superior about where I might go next, he suggested, "Why don't you stay at Saint Peter's?"

They seem to like you, you seem to like the place." Both statements I think were really true.

**What did you like about Saint Peter's?**

I liked so many things. Both the University community and the St. Aedan's community—which is one community really—were so welcoming to me. Everyone appreciated that I was jumping into things and I felt very much at home. I find Saint Peter's and St. Aedan's to be very real. You see people for who they are, there's not a

lot of pretense. It's not a university putting on grand airs or a parish putting on grand airs. It's just people doing their thing, trying to learn, trying to live their lives with God.

**You entered the Society of Jesus in 1995. When did you know you wanted to become a Jesuit?**

In high school basically. Did I know 100 percent that I wanted to be a Jesuit and a priest in high school? No. But looking back, I was pretty sure, maybe more sure than I had a right to be. I went to a Catholic high school

»» **"It's just people doing their thing, trying to learn, trying to live their lives with God."**

outside of Philadelphia, run by the Augustinians that was essentially the prep school for Villanova University. There was something different that was appealing to me, the brotherhood, the fact that Augustinians were teachers. They had something more going on beyond being parish priests. But I also knew about the Jesuits. A number of people who were very influential in my life—including my mother—encouraged me in this. I knew I wanted to check out the Jesuits eventually, and I did.

**Before high school, you lived in South Africa, Australia and California. How did that inform your world view?**

Growing up in different places, a global sense was certainly in my imagination. Being interested and excited to see the world was just part of life. It was something that attracted me to the Jesuits, and keeps me attracted to the Jesuits. I've traveled to a number of places, studied and taught in different countries.

Coming back to the U.S. and to Jersey City is also part of what being a Jesuit is about. This is a place where there's so much difference and yet people have so much in common. God is in that. God who created all of us, created all this diversity and also something that holds us in unity. Being a Jesuit, and especially being a priest, allows me to enter into that and to really fall in love with the place and the people. I'm grateful and continue to be shaped by it. It's informed what it means to be a priest and what it means to be a Jesuit.

**Every Jesuit who serves as Vice President for Mission and Ministry gets to shape the Ignatian identity of the University in some way. How are you approaching the role?**

Coming into the role during this COVID-19 moment has its challenges, so much is up in the air right now. You can't sidestep the fact that Saint Peter's, along with every college and university in the country, is going through a real strain right now. My job is focused on how to keep the Catholic, Jesuit tradition and identity alive and lively.

My predecessor, Fr. Rocco Danzi, did some wonderful things in this position. I'm hoping I can bring my own academic experience to bear on this role of vice president for mission and ministry. How we make religion and faith more present in our minds and consciousness is also part of the job. It's personal to a lot of people, but I want to see if there are ways to make that more an intellectual part of the campus community, not just the private part.

**Given the uncertainty of the year ahead, where do you see opportunity and hope?**

Some blessings have come out of COVID-19. We had a loyal following of students in campus ministry before the pandemic. They've really taken responsibility for themselves to stay together and develop their own programming. For me, it was eye opening because the ball was in their court and they really ran with it. They showed how one can grow in faith because they've stuck with it. I want to follow those lines as well and see where that can take us.

While things are not easy for the University right now, there are developments that are signs of hope. The building of the new residence hall. The renovation of the RLC is a real vote of confidence from a very generous donor to the University, Tom Mac Mahon. Congressman Frank Guarini, who made the \$10 million gift for the School of Business before the pandemic. It really affirms that people believe in the future of Saint Peter's. 🇺🇸

*Rev. Andrew Downing, S.J., holds a B.A. in religious studies from Yale University. He completed a Licentiate of Sacred Theology, S.T.L. from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology and a M.A. in philosophical resources from Fordham University. Fr. Downing completed his studies at the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a Ph.D. in theology in 2014.*



### **NEW ROLE FOR FR. DANZI**

Rev. Rocco Danzi, S.J., assumed the role of administrator of St. Aedan's: The Saint Peter's University Church and University chaplain on July 1. Fr. Danzi described the transition as a very busy one, since couples and families are returning to St. Aedan's for the socially distanced services, baptisms and to plan future weddings.

"It's an amazing moment that has revealed that people have such great faith and find solace in the Church," he said. The Jesuit remains very available to members of the University community and reminds alumni living in the area that, "We are no longer in ordinary times. I'm here and St. Aedan's is open and welcoming. Maybe we can make some connections."

# The Right Stuff

Determination and grit inspire new brand image



Vernetta Gosier '23 (women's track & field), Dominic Laws '21 (men's soccer)

Grit, determination, courage, persistence and loyalty run through the fiber of every student-athlete at Saint Peter's University. As they juggle the rigors of academics and athletics—and this year, the uncertainty the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic poses to intercollegiate competition—today's Peacocks embody ideals that have been embedded in Saint Peter's student-athletes for generations.

So, when the University decided to rebrand its athletic programs, it sought to capture the qualities that make Peacocks stand out. "Most of our student-athletes were not born into privilege. They've had to work hard all their lives," explained Rachelle Paul, director of athletics. "It was imperative that the new Saint Peter's brand reflect the tenaciousness that has come to define Peacock athletics."

For proof, look no further than women's track standout Vernetta Gosier '23. The sprinter was enjoying a breakthrough indoor season last winter, winning the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) 60-meter title and being named the MAAC Rookie of the Meet, when the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly cancelled the rest of the year. Her high school track career had been interrupted by

family tragedy: Gosier lost her grandmother in 2017 and then her mother in 2018. The Newark, N.J., resident returned to the sport during her senior year, before choosing to continue running at Saint Peter's.

Despite setting several school records in high school, Gosier arrived at Saint Peter's wondering if she had what it takes to run Division I track. "I've been through a lot recently," the criminal justice major said. "I felt like maybe I wasn't ready to compete." Gosier looked deep inside, marshalling her courage and determination. "My coaches had faith in me, but I needed to have faith in myself," Gosier recalled. "I realized that I'm lucky to be here, and that this opportunity could have gone to somebody else. I started to go to practice with a new mindset. It's an inner strength—that's what it means to be a Peacock."

Those who have competed for Saint Peter's through the years harbor a fierce loyalty to the University and their teammates that never dims, even years after graduation. Teams like the legendary "Run Baby Run" 1967-68 men's basketball team develop lifelong bonds (see page 32). In today's student-athletes, that strong bond translates into extraordinary success on the field.

With the fall season cancelled, the men's soccer team is training in hopes of playing a spring season. Through the uncertainty, Peacock loyalty has buoyed them. Dom Laws '21, last year's MAAC Offensive Player of the Year, led the men's soccer team to the MAAC regular season title and their best record (13-6, 9-1 in the MAAC) in nearly a decade. Yet he's quick to acknowledge that the team's success was far from a one-man show. "One of the main reasons we've done so well is that we have each other's backs," said Laws. "We're always looking out for each other. That commitment—to your classes, your team and your teammates—is instilled as soon as you walk in the door here as a freshman."

The enduring presence of the Peacock legacy travels well beyond the Saint Peter's campus. Laws said he's been stopped by enthusiastic strangers when he wears Peacock gear out in public. It's common to hear, "Hey, Saint Peter's—my dad went there." A business administration and management major from Sunderland, England, Laws added, "Most of our team wears the new Saint Peter's logo all the time. We're proud to represent the school."

Coaches with a firm belief in *cura personalis* play a critical role in developing the strong character that molds Peacocks into leaders. Head Men's Soccer Coach Julian Richens is the longest-tenured coach at the University. Now in his 10th year at the helm for the Peacocks, he has cultivated a strong work ethic and sense of pride in the many athletes he's mentored over the past decade. "What he's built within our soccer program was really an inspiration for the grit embodied in the new brand," said Chris Aliano, associate athletic director/digital media & communications.

Yet, ultimately, it is the student-athletes who have always defined what it means to be a Peacock. While many weighed in on the brand during development, both Laws and Gosier said that the University's athletic programs are elevated by the tight bond that develops between teammates, especially now with most students studying virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. "The men's soccer team all live together, so that helps us to gel," Laws said. "We're a tight-knit group with a close bond, like a family." Gosier added, "When it's time to really be a team, everybody comes together as one. It's cool vibes." 🦉

## New Brand Identity Harnesses Peacock Potential



Peacocks have always been among the most hardworking, determined student-athletes in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), and now they have an image to match their indomitable spirit. Saint Peter's University Athletics unveiled a new visual identity and brand in August designed to harness the potential of a Division I program on the rise.

The Peacock mascot, the only one in the NCAA Division I ranks, was made even more distinctive. There are subtle nods to tradition: The three crest feathers symbolize the Holy Trinity in the University seal and the Peacock stance is updated to reflect the grit of today's student-athletes with a bit more Jersey City attitude. A refreshed wordmark, unique typeface and assortment of new spirit marks round out the department-wide rebrand. It all works to convey that Saint Peter's student-athletes have the right stuff.

Though the rebrand began long before the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, Director of Athletics Rachelle Paul said the timing was momentous. "The announcement of the renovation of the Recreational Life Center (see cover story page 12) and the rebrand is a good thing," she stated. "The feedback has been extremely positive, I think because both the brand and renovation are reflections of our values. Both developments are signs of hope and progress that give people something to hold onto during uncertain times."

#StrutUp is the new social media anthem adopted by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Alumni and friends are encouraged to use the hashtag when posting about athletics as a sign of support of student-athletes and Peacock teams. For more information, visit [saintpeterspeacocks.com](http://saintpeterspeacocks.com).

# Family Philanthropy

Saint Peter's University has seen a groundswell of support from generous families who have established funds to honor the spirit of late loved ones. These five families are honoring the past, while making a deep impact on the future of our students.



## Rooted in STEM

A brilliant attorney, the late Frank J. Murphy Jr., Esq. '69 could trace the beginnings of his successful legal career to Saint Peter's University, where he majored in mathematics and was president of the Glee Club. When the fun-loving Irish charmer passed away in 2013,

Alice holds a M.B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and retired as managing director and executive vice president of investor relations from Wells Fargo in 2010.

Through Frank's association with Saint Peter's, Alice was familiar with the tremendous investments the University has made through the years to grow STEM-related academic offerings. The Frank J. Murphy Jr. '69 STEM Internship Fund is dedicated to furthering student recognition and achievement in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) studies through internship opportunities that prepare students for compelling STEM careers. Designated as "Murphy Fellows," recipients must be honors STEM majors, who will receive annual stipends to fund their participation in external internships. They must formally document their experiences, providing reflection on what they've gained through the experience.

"Since Frank's passing, it has been personally important to me to continue to support the institutions that made a difference in his life. He was always very proud of his experience at Saint Peter's, and I have become passionate about the mission myself. I am delighted to be making this gift in Frank's memory in support of today's aspiring STEM professionals," Alice commented.

Murphy's wife of 30 years, Alice Lehman, set out to create a legacy in her husband's name at institutions that made an impact on his life. In a nod to Frank's mathematics major, she has established the Frank J. Murphy Jr. '69 STEM Internship Fund at Saint Peter's.

After earning his Juris Doctor from Fordham School of Law, Frank embarked on a prolific career spanning the New Jersey Supreme Court, Metropolitan Life in New York, NationsBank, which became Bank of America Corporation, and Hunton & Williams, where his practice focused on regulatory issues relating to the products, business and governance of financial institutions. He was considered a mentor, adviser and coach by many colleagues. A prominent leader in the banking industry,



## Heart and Soul

The families of the late Konstantyn Sawczuk, Ph.D. '56 and James J. Grant, Ph.D., share a simple purpose: to recognize the commitment of devoted faculty members to Saint Peter's University through two new endowed scholarships. Now, the Konstantyn Sawczuk '56 & Marta Sawczuk Endowed Scholarship and the James J. Grant, Ph.D. Endowed Scholarship will continue the mission of these two extraordinary educators by providing greater accessibility to a Saint Peter's education.

"Faculty are the heart and soul of Saint Peter's University," said WeiDong Zhu, Ph.D., dean of the college of arts and sciences. "Experiences in the classroom shape the lives of our alumni, long after graduation. It's extremely important to memorialize their longstanding commitment to the University and its students, as these two generous families have chosen to do."

A former professor and chair of the history department at the University, Dr. Sawczuk (pictured top left with late wife, Marta) taught at Saint Peter's from 1964 until his untimely death in 1981.

He initiated an annual history conference, now named in his memory, to provide a forum for faculty, students and guest lecturers to present original scholarly research on topics of historical significance. Established through the generosity of Dr. Sawczuk's son, Adrian Sawczuk, and daughter-in-law, Dara Liberatore-Sawczuk '93, the Sawczuk Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to history majors who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, and who graduated from Saint Peter's Prep or Saint Dominic Academy. Preference is given to students who participate in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).

Dr. Grant (pictured bottom left) was a highly respected physics department chair and professor, who later went on to serve Saint Peter's as dean and academic vice president until his retirement. After their father's passing in August 2019, Dr. Grant's four children established the James J. Grant, Ph.D. Endowed Scholarship to honor his longtime commitment to the University. Together, the family members—Theresa Grant '86 and her wife, Kirsty J. Eisenhart; Catherine Fowler and her husband, Duane Fowler; Sheila Dott, her husband, Francis Dott, and daughter, Melissa Dott; and James J. Grant III and his wife, Elaine C. Grant—have donated to the fund. The family encourages those who knew Dr. Grant to also support the endowed scholarship.



## Social Justice Legacy

Robert Armbruster '63 truly embodied the Jesuit imperative that compels Saint Peter's University graduates to live as men and women for others. After Armbruster was tragically killed in a traffic accident in 2018, his family sought

to honor his deep commitment to social justice by establishing the Robert Armbruster '63 Social Justice Endowed Scholarship at the University. His brother, Bill Armbruster '71, was the impetus behind the new scholarship. "I just think this is a very appropriate way to honor Bob, who was one of the kindest, most generous people I have ever known," Bill said.

A longtime journalist and editor, Robert spent much of his career at well-known newspapers, including *The Record*, *The Star-Ledger* and *The Wall Street Journal*, as well as *The Catholic Advocate*,

the newspaper published by the Archdiocese of Newark. Outside the newsroom, he devoted his time to helping others, overseeing a meal program for the homeless at St. John the Evangelist Church in Bergenfield, N.J., and serving homeless families through Family Promise of Bergen County.

Following Robert's death, Bill wanted to establish a legacy to carry on his brother's deep commitment to social justice. Bill contributed funds inherited from Robert's estate to create the endowed scholarship. Already, two other Armbruster brothers, as well as a number of Saint Peter's alumni and friends, have also contributed. The Robert Armbruster '63 Social Justice Endowed Scholarship will be awarded annually to support students engaged in social justice.

"Technically, Bob was a German major, but he always said his real major was *The Pauw Wow*, which he edited in his senior year. Bob worked as a journalist, but he had a strong interest in social justice. This scholarship will help to advance those same values in a new generation of students," added Bill.



## Good Deed Multiplied

Prior to his passing in 2015, George De Luca '74 was a generous benefactor to Saint Peter's University. To continue that philanthropy in perpetuity, De Luca, in conjunction with his brother, Thomas De Luca '72, designated the University as a beneficiary of a donor advised fund. The donor advised fund has established the De Luca Family Endowed Scholarship at Saint Peter's in his honor and has

directed additional contributions to the University.

Donor advised funds provide a number of important tax benefits to donors. When you establish or make a contribution to a donor advised fund, you are making a charitable contribution and are entitled to receive the maximum tax deduction allowed by law. In addition, the investments in your donor advised fund will grow tax free and will incur no capital gains taxes. Your contribution will also reduce the impact of the alternative minimum tax, and your fund will not be subject to estate taxes.

"This is a growing form of philanthropic support that benefits charitable organizations and donors alike," explained Leah Leto, M.Ed. '05, vice president for advancement and external affairs. "Many families have these funds, but may not fully realize the benefits. Your financial adviser can offer further details on how contributions to Saint Peter's through a donor advised fund provides families—like the De Lucas—with unique tax advantages."

Tom and George grew up in Bayonne and both attended Saint Peter's University (then College). Many of their family members also attended Saint Peter's. As Tom noted, "Saint Peter's was instrumental to both George and me, not only by educating us, but also through the career office through which we both got our first jobs. Saint Peter's set up both of us for the success we had in our lives." Tom continues to make generous contributions to the scholarship through the donor advised fund he and George established. 🙏

For more information on how you and your family can pay tribute to a loved one or contribute to any of these funds, please contact Leah Leto, M.Ed. '05, vice president for advancement and external affairs, at [lleto@saintpeters.edu](mailto:lleto@saintpeters.edu) or (201) 761-6110.

# YOU Make Us Resilient

The story of giving at Saint Peter's University is a story of resilience for the fiscal year, July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020. Thank you to the 2,916 alumni, trustees, regents, Jesuit community members, faculty, staff and friends whose generosity and support keep the University strong.

Total Raised in FY'20: **\$5,325,689**

Awarded **\$1,965,017** to **254** students in donor-funded scholarships

Total Donors: **2,916**

President's Council Members: **586**

First Time Donors: **357**

**GOLD Donors: 119**  
(Graduates Of the Last Decade)

Saint Peter Day Results: **671 donors**

Unrestricted Giving Total  
**\$1,723,991**

HIGHEST IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY

At a time of rapid change and uncertainty, support for The Saint Peter Fund helps the University to weather crises and maintain its momentum.

These gifts are arguably the most important funds for mission and immediate impact.

### SIGN OF STRENGTH

74% of donors from FY'19 either maintained or increased their giving in FY'20.

### SIGN OF STRENGTH

Despite the fact that an in-person celebration could not take place due to COVID-19 restrictions, *Hearts & Minds* was still a priority for donors.

### SIGN OF STRENGTH

The President's Council, a core group of alumni and friends who demonstrate an admirable dedication to the University's mission and students by generously making an investment of \$1,000 or more annually, numbered 586 in 2020.

### Top Priorities for Donors:

- ✓ The Saint Peter Fund
- ✓ General Scholarship Fund
- ✓ *Hearts & Minds*

## Send us your NEWS!

### Have you...

- Landed your first job?
- Retired from your last job?
- Met the love of your life?
- Celebrated a milestone anniversary?
- Welcomed a child?
- Welcomed a grandchild?
- Reminised with friends from Saint Peter's?
- Received a promotion or honor?

*Saint Peter's University welcomes any and all news about your career, education, family life and reconnecting with other alumni. Submit a class note on: [alumni.saintpeters.edu/newsandnotes](http://alumni.saintpeters.edu/newsandnotes) or send to: Office of Alumni Engagement, 2641 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, NJ 07306.*

### 1956

**LTC Roger Miller, USA (Ret.)** was headed by Saint Peter's ROTC into a 24-year Army career with assignments in Europe, the Far East and the United States.

### 1959

**Col. Thomas Foley, USA (Ret.)** and his wife, Maryellen, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 12 in St. Augustine, Florida. They met at Saint Peter's on October 10, 1959.

**Thomas E. Maresca**, professor emeritus and former chair of the English department at Stony Brook University, recently published the

results of his years-long study of the complexities of allegory as an online book, *The Strangeness of Allegory*. The whole study can be accessed at [thestrangenessofallegory.net](http://thestrangenessofallegory.net).

**John Tuffy** has joined the advisory board of Asi Somos Who We Are | Black Culture in Chicago and is contributing on a *pro-bono* basis writing captions and developing fundraising materials, as well as general editing. The project aims to mount a museum exhibit of soul-searing images of representative Black individuals, exposing the richness and diversity of the ethnic culture in the Midwestern city, as well as publish a book highlighting the images. For

further details about the project, please visit [asisomoswhoweare.org](http://asisomoswhoweare.org).

### 1960

**Anthony Cusumano** and his wife, Rosemarie, celebrated 60 years of marriage on June 18. Their five children and 12 grandchildren joined them in this wonderful celebration.

**James J. Magee, Ph.D.**, published *If You Fall, Don't Stop to Rise* (Kindle Amazon, 2020), a book of connected short stories.

### 1961

**Jack (John) Egan, Ph.D.**, recently retired from the New Jersey City University (NJCU) School of Business. Jack was awarded the rank of professor *emeritus* by the NJCU Board of Trustees in recognition of his 50 years of service. The NJCU School of Business recently created the Jack Egan Award to be given annually to a member of the alumni of the NJCU School of Business who has distinguished him- or herself in the field of business. The award will be presented at the annual Delta Mu Delta National Honor Society of Business Schools and Colleges ceremony each spring. Jack and his partner, Jeff, celebrated 45 years of partnership and five years of marriage on February 15.

**William F. Smith** and his wife, Angie, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 4.

### 1962

**Ed Casey** has been hired as a part-time tutor with the Writing Center at Hudson County Community College. He hopes to encourage students interested in completing their B.A./B.S. to attend *alma mater*.

**Terrence Coen** authored his first book, *Retirement Italiano: Adventures and Misadventures in a Foreign Culture* (Donaldson Bain

Publishing, 2018), a memoir of his working retirement operating a bed and breakfast in a small Italian village. For more information, visit [terrencecoen.com](http://terrencecoen.com), Goodreads or Amazon.

### 1966

**Ray Bober** received his certification as a board-certified clinical chaplain and board-certified pastoral counselor from the College of Pastoral Supervision & Psychotherapy in March. He serves as a volunteer chaplain at Hackensack Meridian JFK Medical Center in Edison, N.J., as a way to give back during his retirement years.

Members of the Class of 1966 gathered late last year for a special dinner at The Grand Cafe in Morristown, N.J., hosted by classmates **Lawrence Codey, William Marino** and **Joseph Panepinto**.

### 1967

**Vincent McFadden** and his wife, Pamela, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 21.

### 1969

**Ed Fedak, Esq.**, and his wife, **Elaine Fedak '78**, welcomed their first grandchild, Sophia Elaine, of Roswell, Ga., on July 20.

### 1970

**Neal Goodman, Ph.D.**, professor emeritus (sociology) was recently featured on the BBC News World Services about the value of diversity training in dealing with racism and the aftermath of the George Floyd murder. Dr. Goodman came to Saint Peter's in 1965 because of his involvement in the civil rights movement and at the encouragement of Jesuits sympathetic to the movement. He led his first anti-bias workshop in Jersey City in 1965 and

## JOIN THE LEGACY CHALLENGE



**When you include Saint Peter's in your estate plan, the University will receive an additional 10% matching gift.**

The Legacy Challenge will provide an immediate cash match to the General Scholarship Fund for donors who document new or increased planned gifts, such as gifts by will, trusts or beneficiary designation of financial accounts (IRAs, investment accounts, donor advised funds or life insurance). This can also include existing planned gifts that have yet to be documented with the University.

Thanks to a generous group of alumni and friends who have donated the matching funds, your planned gift will have an immediate impact on our students today, while also creating a legacy that will provide for students of the future.

When you make a planned gift to Saint Peter's University, the University will receive a matching gift of 10% of the value of your commitment (up to \$10,000) to benefit today's students at no out of pocket cost to you.

**Act now!** The Legacy Challenge will end on March 31, 2021 or when the matching funds have been depleted, whichever comes first.

Let us know if you have already included Saint Peter's in your future plans or are in the process of updating your estate plans and give 110% to Saint Peter's University with the Legacy Challenge match. To learn how you can join the Legacy Challenge, contact Linda Moore, J.D., senior director of leadership and planned giving, at (201) 761-6128 or lmoore2@saintpeters.edu.

Give 110%

continues to offer anti-bias programs for leading organizations such as Prudential, Dow Jones and Johnson & Johnson.

**Anthony Spaldo**, once a member of Argus Eyes with Roy Irving as his director, is an actor, as well as a teacher. His most recent role was in *The Irishman*, sharing a scene with Robert De Niro.

### 1971

**Elaine (Ciarkowski) Petsu** retired as chair of the Department of Mathematics/Business/Technology at Immaculata High School in Somerville, N.J., after 33 years on the faculty.

### 1972

**Mary Ann McGuigan** is the proud grandmother of two grandsons, Patrick and Douglas.

### 1973

**Julia DiGioia, M.D.**, was appointed regional director of Breast Surgical Oncology for Hudson County at Englewood Health. She and her husband, Stephen Hall, M.D., also opened their new Jersey City office for Oncoplastic Breast Surgery.

**Robert Larkins** proudly shared that he wrote a story with pictures about his father's WWII service and another story about his father's parents and their wedding 100 years ago. He shared these with his grandparents' 30 living descendants.

**Paul McAndrew** has been named fencing coach for the Muhlenberg College fencing club.

**Vincent Scuro** served as executive producer and asset manager for the feature film *Woman In Motion*, the untold story of Nichelle Nichols' (*Star Trek's* Lt. Uhura) daunting task to recruit minorities and women for the Space Shuttle program. The film was selected to open the 2019

Florida Film Festival. The North American distribution rights to *Woman In Motion* have been acquired by Shout! Studios, which is planning to launch the film in 2021, potentially in theaters and via streaming channels. Scuro is currently enjoying his work as archival producer for *PRE FAB!*, the incredible story of Colin Hanton, his drums and a culture that gave birth to the biggest band the world has ever known, the Beatles. The film was shown at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the March on Washington activities and festival.

### 1974

**Andrew T. Filak Jr., M.D.**, has been selected to serve as dean of the University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Medicine and senior vice president for health affairs. He has amassed over three decades of experience at the UC College of Medicine, UC Medical Center and the UC Academic Health Center, serving in various roles including senior associate dean for academic affairs, designated institutional official and associate dean for graduate medical education, chair of the department of medical education and director of the family medicine residency training program. Dr. Filak continues to practice family medicine, teach medical students and residents and serve on many national, state and university committees.

Liaison **Rosalyn Waters-Maxwell** for the Jersey City West Indian Caribbean-American Carnival Association, Incorporated announces the celebration of the organization's silver anniversary for 25 years of carnival parades in Jersey City.

### 1975

**Patrick Driscoll, RPH**, and **Lorraine (Zolnowski) Driscoll, M.D. '76**, proudly announce the

recent graduation of their daughter, Elizabeth, from Bergen County Fire Academy as a volunteer firefighter. Elizabeth is also an attorney working in the financial district.

**Michael Hellriegel** and his wife, Donna, welcomed their first grandchild, Jacqueline Blythe Hellriegel, on June 13.

**Robert Kennedy, Ph.D.**, has been appointed to the clinical faculty at Montclair State University in the Graduate School of Education and Human Services.

**Thomas Wickiewicz, M.D.**, and his wife, **Catherine (Amoroso) '75**, are thrilled to welcome their new grandchild, Gloria Catherine, born on March 21 in New York City.

### 1976

**Guadalupe Martinez, M.Div.**, is running for justice of the peace in district in Rogers, Ark. in the general election.

**Judith Valente-Reynard** was the keynote speaker at the annual convention of the Religion Communicators Council held this year in Chicago. She also presented at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as part of the Upper Room Initiative in Christian Thinking, Being and Doing and was the keynote speaker at the annual Stewardship Day convocation at the University of Mary in Bismark, N.D., where she spoke on "Stirring the Ashes: Reclaiming a Sense of Hope in Our Work." In addition, she guided retreats for the lay associates of St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith, Ark., Holy Angels Monastery in Jonesboro, Ark., and Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery in Pecos, N.M. and led an Autumn Equinox retreat on "Becoming An Everyday Contemplative" at the Sophia Spirituality Center in Atchison, Kan. She has been invited next summer on a speaking tour in Australia, related to her most recent

book, *How To Live: What The Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning and Community*. She is co-chair of the Being Benedictine in the 20th Century Conference planned for May 2021 in Atchison, Kan., and has been named communications director of the 2021 International Benedictine Oblate Congress in Rome.

### 1977

**David McIntee, CPA, CVA**, of Hillsborough, N.C., is serving his second term on the Board of Directors of the Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill, N.C.

### 1978

**Peter Bihuniak** was inducted into the Guardians of the Rose at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway's (RWJUH) Annual Rose Ball in April. He was honored for his longtime leadership, dedication and commitment to RWJUH Rahway. He will be embarking on his retirement later in the year after 23 years of service. Prior to his career at RWJUH Rahway, he was employed for 18 years by the Franciscan Health System of New Jersey, which operated a two-hospital system in Hudson County.

**John T. M. Chester** retired from the Jersey City Board of Education after 44 years of service. John started working for the district in the facilities department during his freshman year at Saint Peter's. For the last 19 years he was an executive assistant in the business office overseeing various operations and finance areas including transportation, administrative services, facilities, payroll, purchasing and a \$670 million budget.

### 1979

**Carmel Galasso** received a humanitarian award from the Italian Educational Cultural Center, Casa Colombo in Jersey City on February 23.

### 1980

**Diane Nazario-Giordano** is happy to announce the birth of her third grandchild, Ashlynn Hope. Ashlynn was born May 20.

**John McCabe** is celebrating a big year. He and his wife, Terry, are celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. He is also celebrating being a Saint Peter's University alumnus for 40 years and 40 years working for Ryerson Steel Company.

**Giancarlo Prezioso** and his wife, **Suzanne (Mabille) '82**, would like to announce the birth of their fifth

granddaughter, Antonia Lynne, who was born on May 11. They are also proud grandparents to Alexandra, Lillian, Mia and Gianna.

### 1981

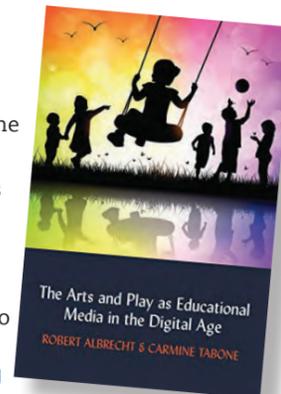
**Valerie (Koerber) Egan, M.B.A.**, was awarded the HR Excellence Award for Thought Leaders—Not For Profits on behalf of the Girl Scouts of the USA by the HRO Today Association in September. Valerie has worked for the Girl Scouts for the past four years heading up Talent Acquisition until last year, when she assumed the position of director, learning & development. She also received the Talent Acquisition Leader of the Year Award in 2018 from HRO Today Association for her excellence in the field of talent acquisition.

## Arts and Play

### JERSEY CITY EDUCATORS TEAM UP ON NEW BOOK

**Robert Albrecht, Ph.D. '71** and **Carmine Tabone, Ed.D.**, recognize that the prevalence of digital media in children's lives is here to stay. Rather than throw up their hands, the two educators joined forces on the new book, *The Arts and Play as Educational Media in the Digital Age* (Peter Lang). The co-authors relied on research and decades of direct experience working with young people in Jersey City to detail how the arts and traditional forms of interpersonal play can balance children's growing dependence on digital media as their primary form of communication.

Dr. Albrecht, an alumnus of Saint Peter's University, is a professor in the media arts department at New Jersey City University. He has authored many articles exploring the intersection of music, media, and culture in the U.S. and Latin America. Dr. Tabone is the founder and executive director of the Educational Arts Team, a Jersey City nonprofit that uses the arts to help low income students achieve success. He is also an adjunct lecturer in the Master of Public Administration program at Saint Peter's.



## 1982

**Brian Regan** was appointed to the Saint Peter's University Hospital Foundation Board in September 2019 and in July he retired for a second and final time.

## 1983

**Elba (Roque) Metrione** is a math teacher at Kearny High School and recently received the Teacher of the Year award.

**Joseph Michalik** recently joined Crown Bank in Elizabeth, N.J., as senior vice president-commercial loans.

## 1984

**John Graziano, CPA, CFP**, and his wife, Dawn, welcomed their third grandchild, Valentina Marie Graziano, on February 28. Their son, Chris, and wife, Vanessa, also have a 3-year-old, Isabella. Their daughter, Dana, and her husband, Matt, have a 6-month-old, Joseph Thomas.

## 1985

**The Very Rev. Wilfred Royer, Ph.D.**, celebrated his 30th anniversary of priesthood on June 14 at Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Bayonne during a Divine Liturgy presided over by Archbishop Michael Dahulich of New York. He has served as a parish priest in Perth Amboy, N.J., Newark, N.J., Spring

Valley, N.Y., Passaic, N.J., and Bayonne, N.J. He has also taught at Saint Peter's University as an adjunct lecturer of philosophy and theology. He is affiliated with the Orthodox Church in America and holds the rank of archpriest.

## 1989

**Jan Marose-Swuszcz** is celebrating 20 years with RE/MAX Alliance and 25 years as a realtor in Colorado.

## 1994

**La Toro Yates, Ph.D.**, was named the interim vice president for enrollment management and student affairs at York College/CUNY.

## 1998

**Maryam Bey** published her first book, *Broken Spirit: Let It Go So You Can Grow* (BookBaby, 2020).

**Stephanie (Lao) Thomas** and her husband celebrated their 20-year anniversary on August 17. Stephanie is the head of contract management for Sanofi. Her husband is a sergeant for Hudson County Corrections. They have three daughters and their eldest, **Brianni Thomas**, is a member of Saint Peter's Class of 2019 and is a teacher at Jersey City Global Charter School.

## 2001

**Jacob Pilipski** and **Tamika Lansdown '02** celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. They

have two wonderful boys. Tamika and Jacob met and fell in love while working in the Saint Peter's University training room.

## 2004

**Deirdre MacNamara** will be producing and performing in a new play, *Love is...* The play is composed of five one-act plays, each one representing a different aspect of love, based on the five ancient Greek words for love. It is directed by Maurice J. Moran.

## 2005

**Clayton Staton** retired as a New Jersey State Police detective after 25 years of service.

## 2007

**Ana Sierra** completed her Ph.D. in psychology. She also purchased a new home and owns a private practice in the heart of Washington, D.C.

## 2008

**Daniel Hrdina, Ph.D.**, completed his doctorate in educational leadership at Seton Hall University.

## 2010

**John Salierno, Esq.**, recently received the designation by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a certified civil trial attorney. He had his first published opinion by the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division. He and his wife are also expecting a baby.

## 2011

**Carley (Gibson) Dietrick** has been nominated by the Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore as one of the "Phenomenal Women Under 40." They are recognizing emerging leaders from Monmouth and Ocean counties not only for their accomplishments to date, but also for the potential of what they might achieve in the future. Carley is a business development representative at Seacrest Recovery Center and after volunteering with Tigger House Foundation, she joined the team part time.

## 2013

**Marinette Abanilla** celebrated her seven-year work anniversary in London as director and COO at Dinosaur Merchant Bank Ltd.

**Kinuthia McDavid** is celebrating one year with the NYC DOF as a city tax auditor. She is grateful for her education at Saint Peter's University for preparing her for her career.

## 2015

**Shambree Bonner** was officially sworn in as a North Carolina attorney and is licensed in two states before the age of 30.

## 2017

**Tony Haywood** is celebrating a promotion.

## 2018

**Rosa Larios** was hired as an account coordinator at Atrium Staffing.

## Engagements

**Michael Murcia '13** recently became engaged to Liliana Huerta, alumni engagement officer at Saint Peter's University.

## Marriages

**Matthew Feeney '15** is celebrating his recent marriage and new career.

**Quincy IHEME '10** and **Laura Bedon '09** were married on June 1, 2017. They welcomed their first child, Arya IHEME, on September 9, 2019.

**John Kip '60** celebrated his recent marriage to Jackie Keller in June.

**Nicole Onello '11** married Andrew Grabowski in Cancun, Mexico.

**Ashley (Mahoney) Roman '12** married Armando Roman, Jr. on April 12, 2019.

## Births

**Danielle (DePaula) '13, '16** and **Joseph Maini '13** welcomed their daughter, Lianna Nicole Maini, on October 26, 2019 at 12:11 p.m. weighing 7 lbs., 8.5 oz. and measuring 19 inches. Lianna Nicole is the granddaughter of Anna DePaula, assistant vice president of facilities and university services at Saint Peter's.

**Barza Diaz '10** recently welcomed a baby boy.

**Jennifer O'Connor '15** welcomed a baby girl in August 2019.



## Become an Ignatian Volunteer

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is accepting applications from Saint Peter's University alumni, ages 50 and older, for a commitment of service and spirituality. Volunteers commit to one or two days per week of service with local nonprofit organizations, as well as a monthly spiritual reflection in the Ignatian tradition.

Currently, IVC is providing much needed services to organizations, schools and churches working to fulfill their mission amidst the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic. IVC volunteers perform a variety of administrative and supportive services from home, as well as serving in-person following strict state and local social distancing guidelines. Data collection, phone support, online teaching and food prep are some of the ways men and women for others can serve.

Alumni interested in the IVC community are invited to visit [ivcusa.org](http://ivcusa.org), or contact IVC Director New York/New Jersey/Long Island Maureen Fullam at [mfullam@ivcusa.org](mailto:mfullam@ivcusa.org) or Claudia Pope-Bayne '16, director of alumni engagement, at [cpopebayne@saintpeters.edu](mailto:cpopebayne@saintpeters.edu).

*Save the Date*  
**5.7.21**

for a dinner reception, awards presentation and live fund-a-scholar auction.

*Honoring*  
**Patricia McQuillan Cummings '77 & Kevin Cummings**  
*Magis Award*

**Cheryl & Joseph Della Rosa**  
*Magis Award*

Maritime Parc  
84 Audrey Zapp Drive  
Jersey City, NJ 07305

Visit [saintpeters.edu/2021HM](http://saintpeters.edu/2021HM)  
for tickets and opportunities for support.

*At the time of printing, the event is scheduled, but please refer to the website above for possible adjustments due to coronavirus, COVID-19 restrictions.*

# We Remember

Saint Peter's University remembers a group of influential men and women who passed away in 2020 and honor their lasting contributions to students and the University.

## AN INDELIBLE PRESENCE



Professor. Mentor. Friend. **Rev. Thomas L. Sheridan, S.J.**, who taught theology at Saint Peter's University for 33 years, and held the post of department chairman twice, had an immense impact on the lives of Saint Peter's students.

Fr. Sheridan passed away on February 13 at Murray-Weigel Hall, the Jesuit retirement community in the Bronx. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1944, became an ordained priest in 1957 and completed a doctorate of theology at the Catholic University of Paris.

"I arrived at Saint Peter's University in the summer of 1966, just as the turbulence of the 1960s was beginning to make its way to the campus. The unlikely cause: 100 women students, the first admitted to the Day Session," wrote Fr. Sheridan in an essay for this magazine celebrating co-education and the first class of women admitted to the Day Session. He was an indelible presence on campus. In addition to teaching, Fr. Sheridan served on the Alumni Board and advised the North Jersey chapter of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps.

After becoming professor *emeritus* of theology in 1999, he commenced a ministry to immigrants in federal detention at the Elizabeth Detention Center.

Fr. Sheridan moved to Murray-Weigel Hall in 2013, where he served as spiritual director and assisted in community ministry.

## JOURNALIST AT HEART



**Rev. Raymond Schroth, S.J.**, had zero tolerance for lazy writing. That was the first thing students learned in the writing and communication classes he taught over a long career as a journalist and professor at Fordham University, Saint Peter's University and other Jesuit colleges and universities. His classes set high standards, where students not only developed their best writing, but also learned to question assumptions and dig for deeper truths.

Fr. Schroth passed away on July 1 at Murray-Weigel Hall. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1957 after serving in the U.S. Army, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1967. He held a M.Phil and Ph.D. from George Washington University, and was

a journalist at heart. "I wanted to write and teach and that's what Jesuits do," Fr. Schroth wrote in a NJ Voices column about his Jubilee in the Society of Jesus. He authored seven books and wrote articles for *America*, *The National Catholic Reporter*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Boston Globe* and many other publications.

The Jesuit's long teaching career included two stints at Saint Peter's: a visiting professorship and professor of humanities. Fr. Schroth then became associate editor of *America* magazine, a position he held until his death.

## TRUE TO HIS HUDSON COUNTY ROOTS



Professor *Emeritus* of Mathematics **B. Melvin Kiernan, Ph.D. '57** passed away on January 15 at the age of 83. The professor taught mathematics at Saint Peter's University for more than 40 years, during which he also served as chairman of the mathematics department.

A true faculty icon, Dr. Kiernan served as secretary of the Faculty Senate for 15 consecutive years garnering praise from colleagues and successors for his meticulousness in documenting what transpired at meetings.

Dr. Kiernan held fast to his Hudson County roots. Born in Hoboken, he was a lifelong parishioner of The Catholic Community of Saints Peter and Paul and attended Saint Peter's Prep and then

Saint Peter's College. He earned a master's degree from Brown University and began his long tenure teaching at *alma mater* in 1957. The professor, who was widely respected by colleagues and students alike, earned his doctorate in mathematics from New York University and was a member of the American Association of University Professors.

## GOOD FRIEND TO SAINT PETER'S

The world knew her as the bestselling author of more than 50 suspense novels. **Mary Higgins Clark H '93**, who passed away January 31, was also an alumni parent, devoted friend and generous benefactor to Saint Peter's University.

The relationship began when Higgins Clark's eldest child, **Hon. Marilyn Clark '72**, attended Saint Peter's. Even as her books became perennial *New York Times* best sellers, Higgins Clark never forgot her earlier struggles in life, and believed in opening the doors of higher education to others. She served on the University's Board of Regents and Board of Trustees for many years. The University awarded an honorary doctorate to the author in 1993.

A graduate of Fordham University, Higgins Clark is survived by her five children, stepchildren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. 🇺🇸



## Requiescant in Pace

Saint Peter's University wishes to extend its prayers and condolences to the families of alumni, members of the University community and friends who have passed away.\*

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Hon. Michael Yun  
Peter Zanone '84  
Eleanor Zindel  
Thomas J. Zygmund '78

\*September 2019–August 2020

## Staying Power

They were the Cinderella story of the 1968 NIT (National Invitation Tournament). When this group of scrappy Peacock players routed Duke in the quarterfinals of the NIT, they became forever known as the Run Baby Run team.

And now, their staying power will forever be celebrated in the forthcoming Run Baby Run Arena, the centerpiece of the phased renovation of The Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J. Recreational Life Center, made possible by a \$5 million lead gift from Thomas P. Mac Mahon '68. Mac Mahon chose the name to honor his 1967-68 men's basketball teammates and the camaraderie that endures to this day. "We were united by the fact that most of us had been passed over by bigger schools, but that had just strengthened an intense desire to prove we were as good as anybody," said Kenneth Grant '68, explaining the bonds of the iconic team. "Now, more than 50 years later, we still get together several times a year, and feel that shared passion that has always united us, and still defines our strong friendships even today."



The team celebrating their victory in 1968.



L to R: Kenneth Grant '68, Eugene O'Connell, Esq. '70, Elnardo Webster, Ed.D. '69, Thomas Mac Mahon '68, Walter Wilk '69, Patrick Finnegan '70, Harry Laurie '68 and Robert Leckie '69; Not pictured: Sam DePiano '69 and Mark Drew '69 Remembered in spirit: Peter O'Dea '68, Thomas Schwester '70 and William Twyman Sr. '69

Robert Leckie '69 shows off the key to Jersey City that each team member received from Mayor Thomas J. Whelan in commemoration of the team's historic win.

# Our students are made for this moment.

Saint Peter's, and the world, is at a critical juncture and we believe our students are made for this moment. But they need your support to ensure that their future remains bright.



An easy way to make an enduring impact is by becoming a sustaining supporter. Your monthly gift will provide the resources essential to sustaining Saint Peter's students' ability to lead and serve. And, your ongoing commitment will demonstrate your belief in our Jesuit mission and your willingness to lead Saint Peter's forward.

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