From the Director's Chair - Welcome, Class of 2008

The arrival of the new first-year class is always an exciting day at Seton Hall. Many of us come out to help you carry your essentials into the Residence Halls. It is interesting to see that growing list of things that you can’t live without!

Monsignor Sheeran encouraged you to imagine your Seton Hall career as a book of many pages upon which you will write your story. He advised you to think carefully about what you put on the pages since you cannot rewrite them.

He asked you to be mindful of those small courtesies that make a big difference in the atmosphere of our lives. Small gestures like holding a door, saying hello, offering a ride can grow into the virtues of generosity, courage and compassion that will make you the servant leaders of tomorrow.

At Seton Hall we are committed to an education of the whole person, the kind of education that enriches a person in mind, heart, and spirit. Education has that wonderful effect of expanding your point of view, overcoming any narrow-mindedness, and reminding us what is essential.

My prayer as you join us here at Seton Hall is that you will grow in grace and wisdom since it is the only road to happiness. I pray that each of you will listen to that personal calling God has for you. God’s call is always a call to service and always a cause for joy.

Dr. David Foster
First “Hall Retreat”

Campus Ministry begins a new retreat program this month, which they hope will be an experience shared by generations of Seton Hall Students.

The new format, planned in cooperation with the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership, is designed to be the foundational experience of the Center’s “IMPACTS” Program: Inspiring, Motivating, Promoting A Call To Service.

Entitled simply the “Hall Retreat,” the program provides students the chance to reflect on the personal call that each one has. The retreat considers the special part each of us can play in God’s plan of salvation and it provides an opening for that awareness to come to each of us.

The retreat begins Friday, September 24 and ends Sunday, September 26. Father Stanley Gomes is the Spiritual Director and Tom Wurtz, of the FOCUS Team, is the Lay Director.

Although the bulk of the cost is underwritten by the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership, students are asked to pay a $25 fee. Students can sign up in the Campus Ministry Office.

New Provost Accepts Invitation

The Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership is grateful to Dr. Thomas Lindsay, Seton Hall’s new Provost, for accepting an invitation from Lilly Endowment to attend their October conference entitled “Enhancing Theological Conversation on Vocation” in Indianapolis.

Each year Lilly Endowment hosts a conference for schools participating in its Program for the Theological Exploration of Vocation grant and provides funds for three members from each school to attend.

Also attending from Seton Hall are Robin Cunningham, Freshman Studies Mentor and Coordinator for the Student IMPACTS Program, and David Foster, Director of the Center.

The conference includes time for participants to exchange ideas with the staff of the Lilly Endowment as well as with each other. The list of prominent speakers includes Miroslav Volf, Gustavo Gutierrez, and William May.

Four Faculty Retreat Opportunities

In cooperation with the Center for Catholic Studies, the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership is offering our faculty and staff an opportunity for reflection with good company amid the calming effects of natural beauty. Two retreats will be hosted at both Loyola Retreat House in Morristown and Carmel Retreat in Mahwah. The retreats are rooted in our Catholic tradition, but welcome colleagues from all faith traditions.

The retreats at Carmel Retreat in Mahwah will focus on the personal experience of vocation of those assembled and a common reflection on the vocation of a Catholic University. The retreats at Loyola House in Morristown will be an experience of the Ignatian approach to prayer led by Charles Moutenot, S.J.

Each retreat is only 24 hours long, beginning late Thursday afternoon. Room and board will be underwritten by the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership.

Accommodations limit us to twenty participants for each retreat. To sign up or for more information please contact David Foster or Carol Ann Koert at the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership at csl@shu.edu or 973-313-6042.
Kristen Weis is the new Director of Community Outreach Programs for two Lilly Project Initiatives for the Heart – the Seton Hall Experiential Learning and Leadership through Service (SHELLS) and Community Renaissance programs.

Kristen earned a Master of Public Administration and Master of Arts in Diplomacy and International Relations from Seton Hall University in 2002. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of Virginia in Accounting.

Through the SHELLS program, the Institute for Service Learning (ISL) provides stipends to faculty for curricular development in the area of service learning. The ISL implements seminars and conferences to introduce faculty to the theory and practice of service learning and facilitates collaboration among University constituents and community leaders to enhance service in the community.

The goal of Community Renaissance is to create a university-community partnership designed to address the needs of the urban poor in Seton Hall’s neighboring communities. The initiative utilizes the resources of the University – its faculty, students and staff – to promote social justice and build social capital in the community.

Prior to returning to Seton Hall to join the Lilly Project team, Ms. Weis worked at the United Nations Association of the USA in its global policy department, focusing mainly on global security issues and international dialogue programs. In 2000, she spent 5 months in Ghana, West Africa, working with a microfinance NGO on lending programs and community-building projects for rural villages.

CEO Conference Held

In the aftermath of Enron and its “off balance sheet” financial structures that served to enrich top executives at the expense of millions of shareholders, what do Catholic business leaders have to say about the nature of contemporary corporate values, ethical leadership, and the ways in which their Catholic faith influences their work?

These were among the many topics addressed at a recent gathering of 23 CEO’s at the North Maple Inn in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, on July 15th and 16th. Co-organized by Seton Hall’s Center for Catholic Studies and the Woodstock Theological Center, and funded by the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership, the conference gave Catholic CEO’s an opportunity to share experiences, to analyze more closely the roots of the ethical problems confronting business today and to pinpoint key moral values drawn from their faith that can make a positive and lasting contribution to the ethical climate of the corporation and society.

In four sessions organized by Msgr. Richard Liddy, Director of the Center for Catholic Studies, and Dr. William Toth, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, participants reflected upon their personal vocation to become business leaders, as well as the glory and the pitfalls of executive leadership.

A major consensus that emerged from the conversations was the conviction that the cause of ethical failure in organizations is directly related to the failure of leaders to promote ethical ideals. The influence of top management is the single most important factor in setting the tone for the ethical climate of the corporation. Lower-level managers and employees take their cues for appropriate behavior from the actions and rhetoric of superiors that will suggest the expectations that managers have for subordinates. Many of the participants expressed a desire to learn more about Catholic social teaching as it relates to their corporate activity.

The conference organizers plan to continue the conversations that surfaced during the conference. As one participant put it: “I never realized how much of a resource my Catholic faith is to my work. This conference definitely helped me to re-position some of my priorities. I’m looking forward to the next round.”
Call for Creativity!

Film Competition
The Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership and the Programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation (PTEV) presents the 2005 Student Film Competition.

The subject of the competition is “Exemplars of Vocation: Campus, Congregation, and Community.” Successful films should shed light on the different ways people discover God’s personal call in their lives.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the first- and second-place films, and finalists will be viewed at the national PTEV student conference in October 2005. The 88 colleges and universities involved in the PTEV program are invited to submit entries, so competition will be stiff.

Seton Hall University is permitted to submit one entry. All films must be in DVD format.

Please contact the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership at 973-313-6042 or email us at csl@shu.edu for guidelines, deadlines and information.

Essay Contest
In conjunction with Public Service Month in February, the Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership will sponsor the Second Annual Essay Contest.

Deadline: January 24, 2005; Prize: $500 check

Winners will be announced at the Public Service Job Fair in February.

Submit entries to: Center for Vocation and Servant Leadership, Lower Level of Presidents Hall or email them to csl@shu.edu.

DOVE Lands in Vailsburg

Seton Hall’s Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE) has added a new program to its outreach this fall. Students will be encouraged to become mentors for at-risk children at Sacred Heart School in the Vailsburg section of Newark.

In conjunction with the HUGS (Hope Underscores Great Societies) Program, Seton Hall students will spend time building the self-confidence of a sixth-grader through books, activities, games, and conversation. A mentor can profoundly affect a young life through conveying values and providing stability and encouragement.

Mentors are asked to make a one-year commitment to the program. DOVE will provide transportation for volunteers on Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the Fall and Spring semesters. Simply stop by the DOVE office in Boland Hall to find out more.

In Memoriam: Professor John Deehan

With sadness we mark the passing of John Deehan, a true servant leader for over 40 years at Seton Hall. Professor Deehan began his career on the faculty of the Stillman School of Business in 1959. John and his wife Rose Marie raised 10 children and, as members of Serra International, were tireless supporters of those with vocations to the priesthood and religious life. John was an example of generosity as a father, teacher, and colleague. The many family and friends gathered for John’s funeral were moved by the sight of his 21 grandchildren bringing up the gifts of bread and wine to the altar, and flowers for the pall-draped casket.