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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The meanings of servant leadership
**Expert Addition**

**Crazy for Basketball**

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

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

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

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

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

And for the field of 64, it’s the six or death. A team has to win four games in 11 days to make it to the Final Four (capital letters well earned over the years), and then win two more to be crowned the champion of college hoops. It’s “win or go home” six times for a team to get to the top. Why does the tournament attract such attention? In March the football season is long gone, and the baseball season hasn’t yet begun. The NBA and NHL are in play, but neither sport is in the postseason yet, and everyone knows that the regular season in those sports doesn’t count for much. And so March is dominated by college hoops.

The Final Four usually takes place the last Saturday in March and is a basketball fan’s dream. There is no more electric atmosphere anywhere in sports. To put it in perspective, Super Bowl Sunday is one day. The World Series is the best 4-of-7 between the same two teams. The Olympic Games, which continue for more than two weeks, have a lot of sports you’re probably not interested in. The NCAA basketball tournament is all hoops, all the time, over the course of three weeks. Life or death for 64 teams, 63 times.

The Madness begins!”

**THE DISCOVERY ZONE**

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

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

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

In October, DePalm a gave a campus lecture called “The Devil We Know: Seeking Change in Latin America and the United States,” which looked at how political curriculums and a growing anti-American populism are bringing change to the hemisphere. He has invited the consul general of Mexico to visit Seton Hall for an address, and is working to establish student internships at the Mexican consulate as well.

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

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**BY THE NUMBERS**

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

**2000**
Year Seton Hall awarded its first master’s degree in diplomacy and international relations.

**1960**
Year the United Nations sent its first mission to Africa.

**47 of 53**
Countries in Africa the U.S. government provides assistance to.

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

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

**$100 million**
Amount of money (RED) partners have generated for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

**100 percent**
Percentage of the contributions from (RED) products that go directly to the Global Fund.

Data sources: U.S. Department of State; Product (RED); Whitehead School of Diplomacy & International Relations.
The one thing that mitigates our fault — we the media — is that there were very few Ph.D. academics who understood what was going on and raised the danger flag. They didn’t know either.

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

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

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

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

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

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

T he Office of Mission and Ministry brought Thanksgiving into focus as the Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE) hosted events recognizing National Hunger and Homelessness Week in the days before the holiday.

Collections taken at the week’s opening Masses raised about $1,000 for Covenant House, an international shelter organization for homeless and runaway youth. A week later, Covenant House New Jersey residents came to campus for a day of fun that included lunch, a tour, and basketball and video games. During the week, six young people from Covenant House spoke candidly about their experiences in a panel discussion called "Faces of Homelessness.”

Seton Hall provided hands-on help for the hungry in two ways. "PB&J for the Hungry" was a campus-wide effort that set up the fixings for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and asked the campus community to make as many as it could, resulting in 1,440 sandwiches. In the "Cart Out Hunger!" drive, students, staff and faculty donated canned and nonperishable food items from their pantry. A can load of food was donated to St. John’s Soup Kitchen in Newark, which had to close temporarily several weeks earlier for lack of food.

The highlight of the week was the Hunger Banquet, which focused attention on local poverty and world hunger. The 40 people attending were randomly assigned identities as first-, second- and third-world citizens, with dinner served accordingly to the realities of food distribution around the globe. Third-world meals, served to 70 percent of the population in the room, consisted of soup and bread. Second-world citizens received finger foods, and first-world diners enjoyed three-course meals.

Seton Hall chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary program presented the Hunger and Homelessness committee with its Spotlight Award for November, in recognition of the outstanding weeklong program.

Story of Survival

A series of newspaper articles on the January 2000 Boad Hall fire has been expanded into a book called After the Fire, published in August by Little, Brown and Company.

Subtitled "A True Story of Friendship and Survival," After the Fire follows two survivors, roommates Shawn Simons and Alvaro Llanos, and how they, their friends and family managed a grueling recovery at the Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, N.J.

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

In the fall, the Stilman School of Business will launch a professional development program for alumni with M.B.A. or M.S. degrees from the school. Consisting of five courses -- offered at a discounted rate of $500 a credit and with no application or IT fees -- the program can be tailored to meet students’ individual needs.

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

For the third consecutive year, Princeton Review’s The Best 368 Colleges, 2009 Edition included Seton Hall University in its list of “Great Schools for 15 of the Most Popular Undergraduate Majors” for the University’s communication program.

The American Psychological Association appointed Susan A. Nolan, Ph.D., chair of the psychology department, to a four-year term as the association’s representative to the United Nations.

The Institute of Museum Ethics held its first conference, "Defining Museum Ethics," in November. The conference covered the meaning of accountability, transparency and social responsibility.

Senior Meg Tarrant, a sport management major, is the 2008-09 recipient of the John M. Pocher Memorial Scholarship. Pocher ’88, a Stilman School graduate, was a 9/11 victim.

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"Case of Insider Sabotage at Omega Engineering," a case study cowritten by Elizabeth McCrea, Ph.D., assistant professor of management, won the New Jersey Policy Research Organization Foundation’s Bright Idea Award.

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

With a $70,000 grant from the William E. Simon Foundation, the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology launched the Catholic Center for Family Spirituality in January. Dedicated to theological and pastoral dimensions of family life, the center will offer retreats, summer courses, and administer a photo contest.

The Hudson River Conservancy honored Judith C. Stark, Ph.D., professor of philosophy and director of environmental studies, for her efforts to provide public access to the New Jersey side of the river.
Last September, sophomore Kate Kapshandy was sitting in the Jubilee Hall office of one of her closest mentors, business professor Mike Reuter. While they were chatting, finance professor Yeomin Yoon dropped in.

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

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

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

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

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

Her dancing life began at home in Schererville, Ind., with ballet and jazz lessons at age 3. In the summer of 2003, when she was 14, she began “pro-am” Latin dancing, featuring students dancing with instructors. She hated the first few months, and by October, was ready to quit.
Kapshandy’s mom, Marcy, begged her daughter to watch one last competition before quitting. The girl consented, attending a competition in Chicago where, for the first time, she saw kids dancing with other kids. “It was really weird. I just knew. The whole weekend I couldn’t eat anything,” Kapshandy recalls. “I started that Monday taking six lessons a week when I used to dread taking even one.”

For the next couple of years, Kapshandy danced pro-am in many competitions across the country. In July 2005, she went to a large Manhattan competition put on by Gary and Diana McDonald, a world-renowned dance team. Gary McDonald had seen Kapshandy several times before, and was impressed. When the McDonalds invited her to move into their New Jersey home for the summer and train in their famous Fairfield, N.J., studio, she gladly accepted.

At school I focus on school. And when I’m dancing, I’m just dancing.

“These people were 10-time U.S. champions — very, very strong in the dance world,” Kapshandy says. “I couldn’t have gotten a better offer.”

At first, her parents were unsure about the move. “There was still hope in our mind that, ‘Gee, maybe it won’t work out, maybe she won’t like New York,’” jokes her father, Tim Kapshandy. But she did. Five weeks later, in Anaheim, Calif., she performed at her first amateur competition — finally with a partner her own age.

She remembers the dress — a light-blue halter with blue fringes — and the intimidation of competing against 90 couples from all over the world. She made it to the semifinals.

A month later, her parents moved to New Jersey so she could continue the training with the McDonalds. She found a new dancing partner, 18-year-old Tal Livshitz, from East Brunswick. Their dance chemistry was instant, and the duo went on to win a slew of national and international competitions.

Despite the flurry of wins and the all-consuming schedule — she attends about two competitions a month, and spends 20 to 30 hours a week practicing — Kapshandy has always had a backup plan: a business career.

She was at the top of her class in high school, doing especially well in math. When looking at colleges, she originally chose Drew University. But she changed her mind one blustery February day, after attending an informational session at the Stillman School of Business. “She was really impressed. The Seton Hall business program was more focused, more hands-on. She realized it was the right decision,” her father says.

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

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

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

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

In March 2008, just as Kapshandy finished her freshman year, she and her partner again won the national championships in Provo. As her dance reputation continues to grow, Kapshandy remains focused on the other aspects of her life. She stopped dancing with Livshitz last summer because he wanted to spend even more time practicing. She’s now dancing with Andrei Kazlouskai, a 19-year-old from Belarus who was the 2008 world vice-champion in Latin dance.

“You just never know. Even if you’re lucky enough to dance for a while, you can’t be a dancer forever,” she says. She would love to own and manage her own dance studio. “I still want to be around it when I’m older. So a business, with dancing? That would be great!”
In recent years, American universities are in the midst of a "silent revolution" that is changing the human face of higher education, says Martin J. Finkelstein. "The next book is going to be about teaching, research and service to the university— is rapidly becoming an endangered species."

Finkelstein and Schuster report that over the last three decades, faculty perceptions of their academic freedom has declined significantly, from more than 80 percent to only 63 percent. This shift, which Finkelstein and others suggest is connected to the erosion of the tenure system, affects not only research but also the classroom. "These non-tenure-track faculty are not going to be challenging students with controversial ideas," says John Curtis, director of research and public policy for the American Association of University Professors. "They may not challenge students with assignments that will push them a little bit, since their jobs depend on student evaluations: If they're not giving students what the makers outside academia make informed decisions about their institutions' futures— ideally, enabling them to adapt to the rapidly changing academic workforce in a way that benefits both students and their teachers.

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

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

In the bookshelves in the office of Bishop Manuel A. Cruz ’76 M.A.T. ’80 at the chancery of the Archdiocese of Newark, is a line of thick medical texts. These books, along with the portraits on the walls — of Carthusians Saint Bruno and Blessed John Houghton — signal how the 55-year-old Catholic institutions closed. Out of a community of nearly 400 Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul only 70 remained in the country. Among them was Sister Monica. “Everyone who knows the bishop knows Sister Monica because she was such a tremendous part of his life,” Monsignor Coleman said. “Just learning his faith from this very devoted religious woman, and in the context of always seeing her caring for those who were sick, is surely where the seeds were planted.”

Bishop Cruz and his family left Cuba in 1966, when he was 12. After a year in Miami, they moved to Union City where his father, Juan, a newspaper reporter in Cuba, worked in a factory. His mother, Caridad, was a homemaker. Both are now deceased.

As a first-year college seminarian in the early 1970s here on campus, in his free time, he worked as an orderly at what was Saint James Hospital in Newark, he said.

But Bishop Cruz’s interest in medicine likely dates from his youth in Cuba, where Sister Monica, a nun in the pharmacy of a nursing home, taught him the catechism.

When Bishop Cruz was 10 years old, Fidel Castro ordered all but a handful of Catholic institutions closed. Out of a community of nearly 400 Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul only 70 remained in the country. Among them was Sister Monica. “Everyone who knows the bishop knows Sister Monica because she was such a tremendous part of his life,” Monsignor Coleman said. “Just learning his faith from this very devoted religious woman, and in the context of always seeing her caring for those who were sick, is surely where the seeds were planted.”

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Bishop Cruz decided on his vocation at age 15. “When I left high school my mind was set,” he said. “Seton Hall was the only choice, because of the seminary.” He was ordained to the priesthood in 1980.

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

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

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

The bishop’s bridge-building will certainly grow in an archdiocese with 226 parishes in Bergen, Hudson, Essex and Union counties. While serving as regional bishop for Union County, he will manage the ministry to the archdiocese’s Hispanics from Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and many other Latin American countries. The Hispanic community includes the unemployed lining Anderson Street in Fairview waiting for a contractor to beckon, as well as parishioners of Saint Aloysius Church in Caldwell, who recently inaugurated a monthly Mass in Spanish.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Al Frank ’72 is a writer based in Parsippany, N.J.
The Prescient Prediction

HOW LAW PROFESSOR MARK ALEXANDER AND HIS STUDENTS ACCURATELY CALCULATED IN 2006 THAT SEN. BARACK OBAMA COULD WIN THE PRESIDENCY.


If White were alive today and writing about Barack Obama’s seemingly out-of-the-blue win in 2008, there’s little doubt he’d include the story of a 2006 memorandum that was developed with the help of Seton Hall University law students in Professor Mark Alexander’s election law class.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alexander provided the framework for his research.

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

The realization slowly dawned that Obama could win by a big margin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The discussion his class had back in 2006 about how Obama might win the presidency was far from abstract.

“The overall idea was involving and empowering people at all levels,” he notes. “Not only the experts, but starting from the grass roots up, block by block.

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


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

Bob Gilbert is a writer based in Connecticut.
The Transformers

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

— Pablo Picasso

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

William Hudders and Lauren Schiller are two such painters.

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

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

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

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

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

The desire for spareness led to “Urban Landscape #1.” “I wanted to do a simple painting; I didn’t want to add any information to it,” Hudders says. So he painted the view from his studio on New York’s Lower East Side in a style reminiscent of Edward Hopper.
Food features prominently in Lauren Schiller’s work. Images take on a dreamlike quality: oversized cupcakes hover in midair, a giant Devil Dog snack teeters against a doorframe, and grains of rice float like snowflakes over statuettes of a bride and groom. Schiller uses her art, she says, as a way to explore “relationships between food, family, self and society” in a style that mixes “subtle humor and social commentary.”

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

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

Schiller extracts significance from the ordinary. Explaining her choice of subject matter, she says: “We think of it as fun, but people have sacred beliefs about food.”

Lauren Schiller, associate professor of art, M.F.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Sloth,” Oil/Panel

“Measuring and Massaging,” Oil/Panel
National Basketball Association player Adrian Griffin ’96 knows the value of education — so much that he’ll pursue it for its own sake. Not many professional athletes earn an online M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix, but as Griffin puts it: “Life in the NBA comes with a lot of travel and boring nights in hotel rooms. I just needed something to do.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BASEBALL**

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

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

Offensively, Sheppard will look to his power-hitting senior catcher and designated hitter Chris Affinito, who in 2008 led the team with 10 home runs, 40 RBI and nine doubles, finishing third on the team with a .308 batting average. Joining Affinito are junior Ashley Forsyth, who in 2006 led the Pirates pitching staff, Seton Hall's softball team is primed to prove that last year's disappointing finish was nothing more than a fluke.

"Last season was a tough year for us," head coach Bay Vander May says of the team's 20-33 overall record and its 6-16 mark in the BIG EAST. "We had 14 one-run losses, and if we turn those into wins, we end up with a great season. I do think we have matured a lot from that experience." Senior slugger Kealan Waldron is back after earning All-BIG EAST Second Team honors. (She led last year's team with a .361 batting average, nine home runs and 35 RBI.)

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

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

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

\[JOE MONTEFUSCO\]

**WITH SOMETHING TO PROVE**

**SOFTBALL**

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\[MIKE KOWALSKY\]

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**Sound Off**

Do you frequently attend, occasionally attend or never attend professional or collegiate sporting events?

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As a result of what’s been happening with the stock market and economy, please tell me if you will be less likely to spend money on entertainment such as going to concerts, movies, sporting events, theater?

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Six hundred and sixty four randomly selected adults from the general public were interviewed as part of the Seton Hall Sports Poll conducted by the Sharkey Institute. All results are adjusted, based on demographic data, to mirror the population of the United States.
The Cinderella Murders
By Diane Sawyer, M.S., Ph.D.
(St. Martin’s Press, $23.95)
In Diane Sawyer’s fourth mystery novel, Kelly Madison is adamant that something terrible has happened to her missing sister, though the police found no evidence of foul play and have closed the case. One of Sawyer’s characters, the fictional Sam Chambers — a journalism professor at Seton Hall — promotes an unpopular theory: that a serial murderer is on the loose. Kelly believes him and places herself in harm’s way to try to save her sister.

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

Déodat de Séverac: Musical Identity in Fin de Siècle France
By Robert F. Waters, Ph.D., assistant professor of music (Ashgate Publishing Co., $91.96)
Robert Waters provides a study of the life and works of French composer Déodat de Séverac (1872–1921), best known for his piano compositions. Séverac’s compositions often reflected a sense of regional identity within France that countered the restrictive styles sanctioned at the time by the Paris Conservatory. His musical philosophy mirrored larger social and political debates regarding anticentralist positions on education, politics, art and culture in France.

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

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

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

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

Book descriptions contain direct quotes from book covers and publisher-provided materials.
Cultural and Historical Gifts

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

Nearly 400 books about Abraham Lincoln, for example — including two rare volumes from the late 1860s for example — were added to the Msgr. William Noé Field Archives & Special Collections Center last summer. The collection, donated by Dr. Jules C. Landenheim, a neurological surgeon, includes several mid-1860s titles, special-edition copies and multivolume texts. Among them are the exceptional Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life, the History and Personal Recollections of Abraham Lincoln (three-volume set) by William Henry Herndon and Jesse William Weik, and Life of Abraham Lincoln by Ward H. Lamon. These volumes are original publications dated more than a century ago and valued for their scarcity.

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

In October 2007, Seton Hall received 35 limited-edition prints, dated 1985 to 1995, that were donated by former teachers Edward J. ‘58/M.S. ’61 and Jane Quinn and were produced by a well-known archive. Several of these prints, framed in accordance with museum standards, hang on the walls of the Science and Technology Center and Fahy Hall. Another of the works, “Whale House,” a lithograph by architect Stephen Holl, was featured in the Walsh Gallery’s most recent exhibit, “Paperwork,” curated by two graduate students in the Museum Professions program.

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

If you would like information on how to make an in-kind donation, please contact Leticia Villalon-Soler at villalon@shu.edu or 973-378-2635.
Peter C. McDermott ’69, of Albany, N.Y., received a Fulbright Award to teach in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He taught at the University of Sarajevo, sharing democratic methods of teaching.

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

Secret identity: It’s not easy for the mascots to keep their identities secret. They make excuses when friends invite them to basketball games. One says he works for the team backdrop. “Sometimes I’ve seen inside the arena before or after the game,” says another, “but never in between.” The mascots don’t use the public restrooms either. Can you imagine the Pirate coming out of the next stall? They have a private bathroom and dressing room to use.

Fan favorite: Children are, without a doubt, the Pirate’s biggest fans. They love to touch him or hold the sword he carries. “I give them things to do,” says one. “I let them touch the mask, touch his costume, or hold the sword.”
NEWS & NOTES

NEWLYWEDS: Christy (Guerra) Moncion '01 married on May 31, 2008.

ADVICE TO ALUMNI: More than 2,000 alumni in
LinkedIn Network or stay connected to Network or stay connected to Facebook.

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

90s

Rodney B. Spady '70, of Long Valley, N.J., was recognized as one of the 120 Most Inspiring People in the Life-Science industry by Pharmaceutical Executive Magazine. ... Alice R. Connelly '83/Ph.D. '93, of Bridgewater, N.J., recently appeared as an expert on the panel of “Fresh Outlook,” a weekly, one-hour talk show on Ebur University that analyses some of the key issues affecting the welfare of Americans. Her private therapy practice was also featured in the Center’s Jersey Courier News. ... Paul Lawrence, M.B.A. ’74, of Jackson, Miss., was named deputy chief of staff at G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center. ... Brian L. Jark '96, of Shelton, Conn., has joined the U.S. State Department as a special agent with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. ... Thomas S. Russo Jr., M.P.A. ’83, of Parsippany, N.J., is the new team leader of Nortel, N.J., of Lourdes University, N.J., from the 2008 Nature Valley Amateur golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Florida. ... Anthony Grant ’93, of East Orange, N.J., became a certified notary signing agent and member of the National Notary Association. 

00s

Jaclyn (Brestska) Brest ’00, of Willow Grove, Pa., was appointed to director of quality assurance for Multicare Region with U.S. Security Associates Inc. ... Christopher H. Carr ’00, of Cape Coral, Fla., received a master's degree from Nova University and was appointed assistant principal at Colonial Elementary School in Fort Myers, Fla.; ... Megan B. Jenkins ’00, of East Rutherford, N.J., received a master's degree in teaching from Manhattan College.

Alumni Interested in the Slavic Club

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

If so, we want to know! The Slavic Club is planning to host an alumni event this year as well as invite interested alumni to lectures and other events that the club holds.

If you are interested in hearing about upcoming Slavic Club events and future alumni events, please contact Anna Kuchta at (973) 275-3875 or by e-mail at kuchtanu@shu.edu.

90s

Jill Weisberg, M.A. ’90, of Montclair, N.J., launched a new audio CD for expectant mothers called “Prenatal Peace & Calming.” ... Blake Robertson, M.B.A. ’90, of Morris Plains, N.J., was promoted to director of finance and operations at Avionics Inc., New Providence, N.J.; ... Rodney Logan, B.S. ’91, of Harrison, N.J., was selected for two honors: The New Jersey Principals and Superintendents Association 2008 Visionary of the Year Principal at the Secondary Level, and the McIntyre/National Association of Secondary School Principals State Principal of the Year. ... CPL William Barnes ’92, of Ramsey, N.J., is on active duty in Iraq with the Marines at the Joint Prosecution and Exploitation Center. ... Gina M. Butler ’92, of Manasquan, N.J., is the development manager for Covant House New Jersey — Amy (Roch) Landes ’92, of Staten Island, N.Y., accepted a position with New York City Councilman Vincent Gentile. ... James J. Sayegh ’92, of Cedar Grove, N.J., opened a law practice in South Orange, N.J.; ... Kaitlin Kelter ’93, of Bernardsville, N.J., was promoted to account supervisor at CoreOne Public Relations in Parsippany, N.J., and earned an Accreditation in Public Relations. ... Brian J. Pyle ’93, of Milton Township, N.J., was promoted to director at the BlackRock Investment management firm. ... Kenneth Knutson ’93, of Parsippany, N.J., received his master's degree in accounting from New Jersey City University. ... Katy (Johnson) Green ’94, of Tahoe, Okla., received a doctoral degree from the University of Tulsa College of Law and will join the legal department of Suiter Chemung USA. ... Ashley (Strickland) Smith ’04, of Cape Coral, Fla., is head nurse of the impatient psychiatric ward at Fort Benning, Ga.; ... Stephanie B. Fantini, M.H.A. ’05, of Butte, Mont., was promoted to director of medical staff relations at St. James Healthcare in Butte; ... Jeff Pacek ’05, of Canfield, N.J., took a position as director of development at Saint Joseph Regional High School in Montville, N.J.; ... Philip R. Santell ’05, of Charleston, N.C., obtained an M.B.A. at the University of Toledo and is a benefits administrator with HR 326, in Charlotte, N.C.; ... Ely S. Schadel, M.A. ’05, of Nanuet, N.Y., was promoted to director of community relations for Sanford Pasukur US. ... Detective Sgt. Ralph King ’05, of Montclair, N.J., was elected president of the Superior Officers Association/Paterson Benevolent Association Local 1; ... Bradford W. Muler ’06, of Highlands, N.J., was awarded the Andrew B. Chummy Memorial Scholarship from the Seton Hall University School of Law. ... Las Vegas, M.A. ’06, was promoted to associate alumni editor of Ruby Magazine. ... Michael R. Perani ’07, of New Providence, N.J., was presented the Rising Star Award by the State Bar of New York City’s ERPA Foundation. ... Nicholas P. Doro, Ph.D. ’08, of Cedar Knolls, N.J., received the Risk Innovator Award in the Higher Education category from Risk & Insurance magazine.

Marriages

Michael Munker ’95 to Scott Chauen; ... Jennifer Nuth ’95 to Michael Russo; ... Kelly Korringa ’96/M.A. ’03, to Anthony Delmon; ... Luis Doeherty ’97 to Aaron Addison; ... Orlando Lendres ’97 to Edy Vekarlo; ... Mary L. Lapka ’98/M.A. ’00 to William Bernowich; ... Scott J. Morris ’99/M.B.A. ’00 to Danielle Allo ’00; ... Kristine Olivier ’99 to Scott Tritton; ... Jaclyn Benzoni ’00 to William Dech; ... Sean R. McNeill ’00 to Emily Downs.

One of the most challenging aspects of Soriano’s work has been conveying to the local government the need for financial transparency and explaining how to distribute resources wisely. Last year Anbar received $183 million from the central government in Baghdad for capital-improvement projects. “The objective,” Soriano says, “is to get the Iraqis to spend their own money on reconstruction — not U.S. money.”

A proponent of intercultural exchanges, Soriano felt personal satisfaction when he organized a visit by Anbar’s governor and other officials to the United States in 2007. The trip, aimed at presenting the full spectrum of democracy, included a meeting with President George W. Bush. “Person-to-person contact is the only way to break down Iraq’s longstanding isolation,” says Soriano.

His team has also arranged for eight moderate Sunni clerics to visit the U.S. in early 2009 on an interfaith study tour. One of the trip’s planned stops? Seton Hall. — | ISABEL BAUER
Babe Pirates
Connie (Bijanik) Sankurati ’83 and Richard, a girl, June 29, 2009.
Sandra (Patterson) Shurley ’67 and Jack, a boy, Dominick Michael, September 29, 2008.
Laurie (Brechard) Chu ’00 and Alex, a boy, Kylee Marie, July 28, 2008.
Lori (Curren) Smith ’69 and Doug, a girl, Elizabeth Rose, August 3, 2008.
Dave & Karen ’92 and Jake, a boy, February 23, 2009.
Laura (Neele) Bricker ’01 and Dru, a girl, Ella Frances, August 26, 2008.
Alexei & Ruth ’00 and Ben, a boy, Jaden Angel, February 12, 2009.
Jenna Dea ’02 and Courtney (Keiper) ’02, a boy, January 4, 2009.
Benjamin (Manana) Rosen ’03 and CF, a boy, August 21, 2008.
Jill (Lawler) Olexa ’94 and Daniel, September 15, 2008.
Sara & Joe ’09 and Shion, a boy, July 25, 2008.
Wesley & Jennifer ’06 and Andrew, a boy, July 11, 2008.
Nancy & David ’07 and Morgan, a boy, June 27, 2008.
Cheryl & David ’05 and Javi, a boy, July 13, 2008.
Bridget & Matt ’07 and Ryan, a boy, July 26, 2008.
Luann ’00 and Judah, a boy, July 9, 2008.
Deborah & Marc ’01 and Olivia, a girl, January 11, 2009.
Pam & Joseph ’06 and Ian, a boy, February 28, 2009.
Lauren & John ’06 and Morgan, a boy, April 9, 2009.
Jillian LaFlam ’01 and Michael, a boy, July 29, 2008.
Kathy & John ’06 and Emily, a girl, July 28, 2008.
Jennifer & William ’07 and Jordan, a boy, September 27, 2008.
Robert & Kristin ’07 and Jennifer, a girl, August 28, 2008.
Beverly & Joseph ’08 and Samantha, a girl, July 22, 2008.
Katie & Matt ’09 and John, a boy, July 3, 2008.
Cutty & Kevin ’10 andბ, a boy, July 3, 2008.
Dana & Jason ’09 and Brian, a boy, July 17, 2008.
Karina & Joseph ’10 and James, a boy, July 2, 2008.
Kathleen & Peter ’06 and Joshua, a boy, June 28, 2008.
Nancy & Jack ’09 and Emily, a girl, December 14, 2008.
Diane & Michael ’08 and Miles, a boy, August 30, 2008.
Sharon & Edward ’09 and William, a boy, July 14, 2008.
Tina & Michael ’08 and Emma, a girl, July 29, 2008.
Ben & Thill ’09 and Cameron, a boy, July 18, 2008.
Jenna & Peter ’09 and Morgan, a boy, July 12, 2008.
Lauren & J.C. ’05 and Skyler, a girl, June 27, 2008.
Kathleen & Patrick ’08 and Jordan, a boy, June 20, 2008.
Jennifer & Andrew ’09 and Fabian, a boy, July 2, 2008.
Pam & Joseph ’06 and Morgan, a boy, April 9, 2009.
Kathleen & Michael ’08 and Christine, a girl, July 28, 2008.
Katie & Brian ’09 and Dominic, a boy, April 30, 2009.
Natalie & Michael ’08 and Dylan, a boy, January 18, 2009.
Sara & Steve ’08 and Morgan, a boy, July 7, 2008.
Melissa & Christopher ’09 and Joseph, a boy, April 26, 2009.
Sara & Andrew ’09 and Hunter, a boy, June 13, 2008.
Jay & Sarah ’09 and Jordan, a boy, August 22, 2008.
Linda & John ’08 and Mary, a girl, July 26, 2008.
Jill & Ben ’09 and Costello, a boy, February 19, 2009.
Lee & Nicholas ’09 and Sarah, a girl, July 22, 2008.
Jamal & Sarah ’08 and Anthony, a boy, May 28, 2008.
Kevin & Sarah ’09 and Christopher, a boy, March 17, 2009.
Lori & Brian ’09 and Lila, a girl, January 25, 2009.
Sara & Michael ’08 and Hannah, a girl, August 11, 2008.
Sarah & Sean ’08 and Thomas, a boy, July 15, 2008.
Lynn & Joseph ’08 and Thomas, a boy, June 25, 2008.
Scott & Margaret ’08 and Jordan, a boy, January 13, 2009.
Amy & Peter ’08 and Melissa, a girl, March 24, 2008.
Michele & Robert ’08 and Dylan, a boy, April 11, 2009.
Mark & Jessica ’08 and Sanja, a boy, July 28, 2008.
Tracey & Matt ’08 and Jordan, a boy, January 2, 2009.
Alex & Karen ’08 and Rachel, a girl, August 21, 2008.
John & Stephanie ’07 and Thomas, a boy, May 9, 2009.
Tina & Kevin ’08 and Hunter, a boy, March 21, 2009.
Diana & Ryan ’09 and Nicholas, a boy, August 14, 2008.
Amy & Matt ’09 and Samantha, a girl, July 15, 2008.
Tina & Brian ’09 and Benjamin, a boy, March 29, 2009.
Sara & Kevin ’09 and Zachary, a boy, July 17, 2008.
Katherine & Mark ’09 and Connor, a boy, June 26, 2008.
Caitlin & Matthew ’09 and Logan, a boy, February 19, 2009.
Mark & Lisa ’08 and Taylor, a boy, February 29, 2008.
Michael & Mary ’08 and Cameron, a boy, July 14, 2008.
Derek & Jennifer ’09 andcash, a boy, May 31, 2009.
Michelle & Robert ’08 and Matthew, a boy, June 29, 2008.
Jenn & Sean ’09 and Henry, a boy, March 13, 2009.
Erin & Brian ’08 and Maxwell, a boy, January 26, 2009.
Kim & Michael ’08 and Kaitlyn, a girl, July 1, 2008.
Ann Marie & Rob ’09 and Hunter, a boy, February 12, 2009.
Melissa & Mark ’08 and Max, a boy, July 1, 2008.
Michelle & Matthew ’08 and Gabriella, a girl, November 30, 2008.
Laura & Ryan ’09 and Jackson, a boy, July 2, 2008.
Sara & Clay ’09 and Adam, a boy, November 13, 2008.
Audrey & Michael ’08 and Samantha, a girl, December 21, 2008.
Katie & Tommy ’09 and Autumn, a boy, August 23, 2008.
Donna & John ’08 and Samantha, a girl, November 28, 2008.
Nicole & John ’09 and Hunter, a boy, September 30, 2008.
Mark & Stacie ’09 and Ben, a boy, March 29, 2009.
Randy Newsom ‘08 and Michelle (Weston) ’08, a boy, Audrey Lynn, July 28, 2008.
Lauren & Ryan ’08 and Anna, a girl, April 16, 2009.
Emily & Russ ’08 and Cash, a boy, August 23, 2008.
Jill & Christian ’08 and Morgan, a boy, August 30, 2008.
Bryan & Kate ’08 and Dean, a boy, June 23, 2008.
Heather & Michael ’08 and Payton, a girl, March 14, 2008.
Jill & Matthew ’09 and Jordan, a boy, September 21, 2008.
Mike & Deirdre ’09 and Lucy, a girl, July 18, 2008.
**NEWS & NOTES**

Disneyworld!

I’m going to Disneyworld! We don’t even say “We don’t even say”...

Wednesday, November 4, to Sunday, November 8, 2009.

Enjoy free time during the day to visit attractions while taking advantage of amenities unique to Seton Hall.

- Seton Hall Welcome Breakfast
- Seton Hall Dessert Night
- Scavenger Hunt and special tours with Louis A. Mongello
- Seton Hall Dinner
- Q&A with Louis A. Mongello prior to the trip

Flights do not have to originate from Newark Liberty International Airport.

The Walt Disney World Trivia Book and founder of DisneyWorldTrivia.com

Live in New Jersey? Go to Walt Disney World during the New Jersey Teachers’ Convention when your kids are home from school.

Maria Florio, M.B.A.’88
Betsy Cahn, M.A.E.’83
James Walsh
Jacqueline (Capellini) Witt, M.A.E. ’92
Reginald Cantave ’91
Father Alphonsus LaChapelle, M.D.M. ’83
Richard A. Venditto ’86
Father Frederick J. Meyers, M.D.M. ’91
Mark A. Ciolino
Louis A. Mongello, M.A.E. ’83
Mary E. (McKnight) Kearney ’79
Mary F. Kohl
Akio A. Ruppert
Martin G. Picillo
Austin S. Murphy
Father Brian E. Magaline
Patrick J. Donohue

Here is some of what we have heard so far:

**Favorite things about SHU:**
- 1989, the Pub, the diversit...
You’ve Got Hatemail

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are numerous ways you can make a planned gift, while reducing your taxes. Consider a charitable gift annuity or remember Seton Hall in your will. To learn more, contact Joe Guasconi, J.D., senior director of major gifts and gift planning at (973) 378-9850 or visit www.shu.edu/gift_planning.

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“ I give to help students who need financial aid like I did to complete college. Due to alumni support of The Annual Fund, nine out of 10 students receive financial aid. The Annual Fund made my college education possible, and I want today’s students to have the same opportunities I had.”

For more information or to make a gift, please contact The Annual Fund office at 973-378-9826 or annualfund@shu.edu or visit us on the Web: www.shu.edu/giving.