The Frank J. O’Hara Award
A Look Back at Outstanding Examples of Service and Achievement

The Frank J. O’Hara Award is the highest honor bestowed jointly by the University and its Alumni Society. It was established in 1981 to celebrate and remember 53 years of service of Frank O’Hara and to recognize alumni and others who have achieved distinction in their professions or personal endeavors.
Frank J. O’Hara ’25: “Mr. University”

If Frank J. O’Hara were alive today, he would be celebrating his 80th reunion at Scranton. Yet this reunion – and many before it – involved a celebration of Mr. O’Hara’s lifetime of service to Scranton through the presentation of the Frank J. O’Hara Awards – the highest honor bestowed jointly by the University and its Alumni Society.

Over the years, the O’Hara Awards have become synonymous with Reunion, and Frank O’Hara has become synonymous with the term “Mr. University.” It’s no small wonder.

After graduating from the University in 1925, Mr. O’Hara was appointed registrar at the then St. Thomas College and served in that capacity until 1957. During that 32-year period, he became personally acquainted with several thousand students from throughout the eastern United States. His commitment to keep students enrolled in spite of formidable challenges lives on in the hearts of generations of Scranton alumni.

Capitalizing on remarkable connections with former student, Mr. O’Hara assumed the duties of Director of Alumni Relations, a position he held until 1970 when he became moderator of the Scranton Alumni Society.

In 1969, the University renamed the former Glen Alden Building O’Hara Hall in his honor.

Beyond the Scranton campus, Mr. O’Hara was equally well known and regarded. He served as President of the Jesuit Alumni Administrators and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, as well as the Scranton Kiwanis and the Lackawanna United Fund. In 1977, he received one of the region’s highest tributes when he was selected as the recipient of the 25th Annual Americanism Award of Amos Lodge No. 136 B’Nai B’rith.

While Mr. O’Hara died in 1977, his legacy lives on through the examples of service and achievement with the annual O’Hara Awards.

Msgr. Andrew J. McGowan H’82
1991 O’Hara Award in University Service

The Priest with the Punch Line

Msgr. McGowan is known as much for his amazing wit as for his remarkable service to the Church.

While playing a round of golf in Virginia Beach several years ago, Arnold Palmer was entertaining some of his partners with golf jokes. Unable to remember the punch line, he pointed to a member of the group and said, “The guy in the cowboy hat knows the punch line.”

The “guy in the cowboy hat” was none other than Msgr. Andrew J. McGowan, a priest known as much for his amazing wit as for his remarkable service to the Church and the community. He’s not a bad golfer, either.

Combining a spectacular sense of humor with deep spirituality, Msgr. McGowan has led and supported countless community service initiatives in his 50-plus years as a priest of the Diocese of Scranton. Msgr. McGowan’s uncanny ability to “serve with a smile” has become a hallmark of his community service that spans everything from the Salvation Army in Wilkes-Barre to celebrity fundraising events attracting the likes of Jack Nicholson, Clint Eastwood and Kevin Costner, whose pictures appear in Msgr. McGowan’s office at Mercy Hospital.

Msgr. McGowan’s career of community service can be traced to Cardinal O’Connor, who was named Archbishop of New York after a short stay as Bishop of Scranton.

“Bishop O’Connor wanted the Church to have a loaned executive for the community and he appointed me to be his representative,” Msgr. McGowan recalls of his appointment.

It’s safe to say that Msgr. McGowan has earned his keep over the years. At one point, he served on no less than 22 boards of local, regional and national organizations, including Catholic University of America, the Heinz Institute of Rehab Medicine, Allied Services, Leadership Lackawanna, Leadership Wilkes-Barre, Mount St. Mary’s College, and all four Catholic universities in Northeastern Pennsylvania, not to mention the F.M. Kirby Center, Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Wachovia Arena and Second Harvest Warehouse.
Not to be forgotten in his list of commitments is his service to his alma mater at The University of Scranton. Msgr. McGowan was a student at the University for two semesters in 1947 before transferring to Mount St. Mary’s University, Emmitsburg, Md., where he graduated in 1949 after entering the seminary.

While he didn’t receive his bachelor’s degree from Scranton, he considers himself an alumnus of the University. “Universities often forget about the students who didn’t graduate. We’re not outsiders,” he says. Clearly, Msgr. McGowan is not.

A Trustee Emeritus and former Chair of the Board of Trustees at Scranton, he received an honorary degree from the University in 1982. He was the Co-chair of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Committee for the “Second Cornerstone” capital campaign and received the O’Hara Award for University Service in 1991.

Msgr. McGowan’s leadership and contributions to Northeastern Pennsylvania over the past 50 years have been recognized by Mercy Health Partners with the establishment of the McGowan Institute for Community Health Initiatives, which offers programs designed to improve the health of the region.

Msgr. McGowan also serves as Chair of the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, Inc. The Foundation was established by and named for the late William G. McGowan H’88, an alumnus of Scranton, founder of MCI Communications Corporation and Msgr. McGowan’s brother. It supports health care and educational initiatives, including the McGowan Scholars Program.

Looking back at all he’s been part of over the years, Msgr. McGowan says that, above all, he feels “lucky.” “I feel fortunate that I’ve been part of a variety of activities that have allowed me to meet a lot of people. There’s nothing that makes you feel better than to have gifts that can help others.”

One of those gifts is Msgr. McGowan’s masterful use of the English language as a speaker and master of ceremonies for countless prestigious events. At a major fundraiser in Pittsburgh where Bob Hope was the guest speaker, Msgr. McGowan was invited to offer the invocation. With the invitation came the possibility that he might have to fill in at the last minute as guest speaker because of Mr. Hope’s ailing condition at the time.

Given the uncertainty of his role for the evening, Msgr. McGowan used a generous dose of humor to warm up the audience. But he forgot one thing, as Bob Hope was quick to point out when he took the stage. “Ladies and gentlemen,” said Mr. Hope. “For the first time tonight, Let us Pray.”

It’s one time when someone other than Msgr. McGowan delivered the punch line.
As Executive Vice President, Service Delivery of AXA Financial Services, LLC, Mary Beth Farrell oversees and manages a 1,300-employee operation that provides service to 3.2 million customers of AXA's life and annuity business. She is continually faced with tough decisions and ethical dilemmas. More often than not, she turns to her Jesuit education at Scranton to find the answers.

“The education at Scranton is very grounding,” says Ms. Farrell, referring to the mix of humanities, philosophy and theology classes included in her Scranton education. “There are many times throughout my career where the values that were solidified during my Scranton years supported my ability to make tough but fair decisions,” she says. “If you have confidence in your mindset around right and wrong, the solutions are much more easily reached.”

Ms. Farrell says her liberal arts education has proved invaluable over the past year as AXA relocated 200 people from New Jersey to Syracuse. “It was extremely difficult to tell people that they were losing their jobs and that they had to work through a transition period,” she said.

It’s not the first time she’s been required to deliver an unpopular message. And it won’t be the last. In communicating these messages, she tries to bring a balanced view and an understanding of why the decision is vital to the company’s ongoing success.

“I always review the facts with my key management members,” she said. “Then I ensure that I get buyin from the people who have to do the work. The ability to communicate persuasively, without being coercive or manipulative, has been critical to my success and had its early origins in Scranton.”

Ms. Farrell’s management expertise, which also includes previous positions at GreenPoint Financial/GreenPoint Bank, CITICORP and KPMG Peat Marwick, was recently recognized by Irish America; she was listed among the magazine’s “Wall Street 50” for 2005. Several boards, including that of her alma mater, also benefit from her management skills. Ms. Farrell is on the corporate board of Lincoln Center in Manhattan and the executive board of the Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees at The University of Scranton and is Vice Chair of the University’s President’s Business Council.

Quoting the familiar Scranton adage that, “To whom much is given, much is expected,” Ms. Farrell says she became involved with the President’s Business Council to provide the opportunity for students. It’s an objective that is especially close to Ms. Farrell’s heart because of her own experience at Scranton.

During her senior year, Ms. Farrell completed an internship at KPMG in New York City. It was an experience that, she says, enabled her to realize a dream of living and working in New York. “Any time I can support a student in a similar experience, I want to do that,” she says.

The President’s Business Council also provides the opportunity to meet on a more personal level other successful business graduates spanning a spectrum of years. “My participation in the Council has allowed me to form new and warm friendships that will last a lifetime,” she says.

The Council’s goal of raising funds for the University’s Presidential Scholarship Endowment Fund provides a way for alumni to keep giving back to the University, says Ms. Farrell, noting that, “There will always be a need to fund scholarships.”

Looking back over the path her career has taken since she graduated from Scranton, Ms. Farrell advises today’s students “not to forget about the priorities of God and family as they pursue their goals.” She encourages students to see life as an adventure, to take on new challenges and to be willing to step outside their safety zone and not necessarily measure success in the traditional sense.

“Sometimes, allowing yourself to be ‘stretched like a rubber band’ will take you on the adventure of a lifetime.”
In 1996, while watching CNN, Jean-Paul Bonnet, D.O., ’76 listened intently to news reports from Haiti—a country of eight million people torn by poverty and a dictatorship. CNN’s news coverage of the poorest country in the Northern Hemisphere tugged at the heartstrings of Dr. Bonnet.

Drawing on the tenets of his Jesuit education, he decided to “let his heart be his moral compass.” One phone call led to another, and within months he had put his call to serve others into action. He went on to found the International Modular Medical Educational Delivery System (IMMEDS), a non-profit organization that is designing modular medical clinics to provide direct medical services to the disadvantaged of Haiti and sub-Saharan Africa.

According to Dr. Bonnet, IMMEDS was founded on the belief that “no person should go without having medical and educational attention in today’s technologically-advanced world.” Dr. Bonnet relates the vision of IMMEDS to the teachings of Jesus Christ. “We must learn to live with and help one another, and in that process, we can see the miraculous work of God’s hand.”

A physician of osteopathic medicine and an active member of Scranton’s Medical Alumni Council (MAC), Dr. Bonnet initiated MAC’s first service trip to Haiti in January 2002. Six Scranton alumni and students staffed a remote clinic in Haiti for a week as part of a service mission organized by MAC.

So dedicated was Dr. Bonnet to this cause that in 2001 he stepped down from a leadership role of Skylands Medical Group, a group that he began in 1983. While still maintaining a family practice in two of Skylands’ offices in northern New Jersey, Dr. Bonnet has devoted an increasing amount of time to his work with IMMEDS. In his work with IMMEDS, Dr. Bonnet is surrounded by an international team of volunteers from the Caribbean, Africa, North America and Europe, with diverse expertise and experiences in health and childcare. While the group helps the underprivileged of all ages, a major focus for the future is in the area of HIV/AIDS patients.

In 2001, the University honored Dr. Bonnet for his unwavering commitment to community service by presenting him with the O’Hara Award. Reflecting on the award as it relates to his community service work, Dr. Bonnet says, “The principles and philosophy of Frank O’Hara have been an inspiration to me. His mind and his heart were set on seeing the value of and helping others.”

Dr. Bonnet encourages young people—especially Scranton students—to engage in service before embarking on a career. “I would advise any young student to serve others first and then reassess what is most important in life.”

Whatever you give in the way of service comes back to you tenfold, as Dr. Bonnet points out. “The rewards of service are immeasurable. You’re paid in ‘God’ dollars—and there’s no bank account that can measure that.”
At an age when many people are retiring and thinking of working less, Dr. Carl E. Bartecchi ’60 is more active than ever.

The recipient of the 2000 O’Hara Award in Medicine, he still practices medicine full time, including teaching and clinical research in his busy schedule. He’s written a number of scholarly articles and several books, including Soc Trang—A Vietnamese Odyssey, an account of his tour of duty in Vietnam as a U.S. Army flight surgeon with ambulance helicopter units, and The Science and Art of Living a Longer and Healthier Life. As a nationally and internationally recognized anti-tobacco campaigner, he will soon publish a major study on the relationship between secondhand smoking and acute myocardial infarctions.

A Distinguished Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado Medical School, he is also a founding partner of the 45-physician Southern Colorado Clinic, Pueblo, Colo.

In 1997, distressed by the quality of health care in Vietnam, he founded the Bach Mai Hospital Project in Hanoi, where he is a visiting professor. The mission of the project is to improve medical care and education in Vietnam by providing training for doctors and nurses and providing medical equipment for the Bach Mai Hospital, which serves the poor people of Hanoi and surrounding areas.

Dr. Bartecchi believes in contributing to society, something he says he’s been able to do because of his University of Scranton education, and his many activities and contributions certainly led to his being named an O’Hara Awardee.

“I was surprised when I learned of the award,” he says modestly. “I’m not sure that I thought that I deserved it.”

Dr. Bartecchi’s career began with a Jesuit education at Scranton Preparatory School and continued at The University of Scranton. He attended medical school at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and completed post-doctoral studies in internal medicine at Henry Ford Hospital before serving in Vietnam in 1965-66, and at Fort Carson, Colo.

Like so many others attending Scranton during the late 1950s, Dr. Bartecchi regularly encountered Frank O’Hara.

“He was a great person. I was always impressed that he knew my name whenever I would run into him,” he says. “He was a real gentleman. Knowing him made the award even more meaningful.”

Not one to rest on his laurels, Dr. Bartecchi has continued his hard work since receiving the O’Hara Award. In January 2005, he founded a volunteer clinic for migrant workers in southern Colorado, where he makes his home. The Bach Mai Project has expanded, and he’s published another book, The Alternative Medicine Hoax, which examines alternatives to traditional medical treatments.

Dr. Bartecchi has no plans for retirement.

“I’m enjoying medicine too much to retire,” he says. “Besides my teaching in Vietnam, I continue to teach medical students at the University of Colorado Medical School and enjoy the interaction with these bright young people.”
Msgr. Godfrey Mosley ‘75
2005 O’Hara Award in Religion (Ex-Aequo)

Answering the Call

Msgr. Godfrey Mosley discusses the responsibilities and the rewards of serving God and the community.

Msgr. Godfrey Mosley ‘75, recipient of the 2005 Frank O’Hara Award in Religion (Ex-Aequo), can describe his reaction to being nominated for the award in one word: shock.

“No one really expects to be recognized for doing what they believe they’ve been called to do, whether that’s being ordained to the priesthood or being in service as a faithful member of the community,” says the Washington, D.C., native, who is Pastor of St. Ann’s Church in his hometown.

Msgr. Mosley believes that his nomination carries extra responsibility.

“Once you’re recognized by an institution for the things that you do, it makes you aware of what more needs to be done,” he says.

And the things that he has done are numerous.

He served as an Associate Pastor in two Maryland parishes before becoming secretary to James Cardinal Hickey, the Archbishop of Washington, D.C. Within the Archdiocese, he held several offices, including the Cardinal’s Master of Ceremonies, Vice Chancellor, Secretary of Parish Life and Worship, Director of the Office of Worship, Assistant Judicial Vicar, and most recently, Vicar General.

Msgr. Mosley came to Scranton at age 17 as a different kind of student. He was a seminarian in training.

“There was a new program that was introduced to the vocation directors on the east coast,” he explains. “An individual could be sent to the University to get a baccalaureate degree and remain at seminary and the house of formation.”

He found Scranton to be a warm, welcoming community, particularly for one preparing for the priesthood.

“I have very happy memories of the Jesuit priests who were there, especially Father Gannon and Father J.J. Quinn. These were very outgoing and happy individuals who happened to be priests and had a great charisma of bridging the gap between mentor and student,” he says. “I think that’s one of the draws of the University. The Jesuits who were at the University were not only professors but mentors. They took an interest in students, not only in the classroom but outside of the classroom.”

Among the lay people he encountered, Msgr. Mosley remembers Frank O’Hara.

“Frank O’Hara was a gentle individual who was also very warm and pleasant,” he recalls. “He really was an unflappable person, as you can well imagine, being in the registrar’s office.”

Msgr. Mosley is not certain how his life will be affected as a result of the O’Hara Award he received, but he acknowledges that the University itself changed his life indelibly.

“It was a privilege for me to attend The University of Scranton. It afforded me an opportunity to meet so many people who have continued to be a part of my life. Scranton affords each of its students the opportunity, in a Jesuit mindset, to address spiritual and intellectual concerns, and the whole question of service to the Church and the community at large. This is what Scranton does well, and continues to do well today.”
Rose Marie Loven Bukics, C.P.A., ’76
1997 O’Hara Award in Education

An Educator, First and Foremost

Receiving the O’Hara Award for Education validated Rose Marie Loven Bukics’ passion for teaching.

Rose Marie Loven Bukics had always thought of herself as a CPA first and educator second. That is, until she received the Frank O’Hara Award for education in 1997.

“After receiving the O’Hara Award, I clearly began to think of myself as an educator first and foremost,” says Professor Bukics, the Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Professor of Economics and Business at Lafayette College.

“The award provided validation for me as a teacher.”

Professor Bukics has been a member of Lafayette’s faculty since 1980, serving as the Chair of the Economics and Business Department for seven of those years. She is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and is on the editorial board of the Pennsylvania Institute CPAs. The 1976 graduate of the University, who earned her MBA from Lehigh University, has authored numerous scholarly journal articles, reviews and six books in the fields of accounting and financial management.

She has also published numerous articles on her “true love” - teaching and her creative approach to facilitating her students’ learning.

Her students turn into a human balance sheet to learn about valuation and classification in her intermediate level Financial Theory and Analysis class.

Her students role play as technicians, managers and entrepreneurs to learn different ways of thinking in her First Year Seminar on Entrepreneurship.

Her students roam the streets of Paris on scavenger hunts to learn about French businesses for the class she teaches on French Commerce and Culture in January in France.

“I think a lot before I teach, always with the end result in mind,” says Professor Bukics. “I first decide what I want to accomplish. Then, I think about how I can best accomplish it. I try to imagine how a 20-year-old would think about this information. I think it helps that my children are that age,” says Professor Bukics, who lives in Bethlehem with her husband, Joseph, and their two daughters, Karen and Alison.

Her ideas come at different times and places, like when she is walking, swimming or coaching her volleyball team. She carries a small notebook with her to jot them down.

Her unorthodox way of teaching has won her numerous accolades. At Lafayette, she received the Marquis Distinguished Teaching Award for extraordinary teaching, the Lindback Foundation Award for teaching and service, the Student Government Award for Excellence in Teaching and has twice won the Daniel F. Golden Faculty Service Award.

Even in her books, Professor Bukics teaches.

“I try to see where there is a need and fill it. Today, because of the nature of health care, doctors need to be able to run their practice as a business, but they were not trained that way. I wrote the book to address this need.” Professor Bukics said of her book Medical Practice Accounting and Finance.

She always tries at least one new approach each semester. Sometimes it works, some of it doesn’t.

“I am only a good professor if I learn from my students. I can always do better. I listen very carefully to their feedback,” says the Scranton native, who originally wanted to be a French major, but decided that accounting was more practical because she knew that she would find work after graduation.

What she didn’t realize was how rewarding she would find her career choice, even after 25 years.

“I love to teach. I find it easy to teach the good students. My challenge comes in reaching the student who looks at me bored and distracted. It’s a great feeling when that bored student later writes to you to thank you for the ‘kick in the pants’, “ says Professor Bukics. “Teachers really do make a difference in their students’ lives. I hope that I am teaching them beyond the textbook information and inspiring them to have a lifelong love for learning.”
Paul M. Borick, Ph.D., ’47
2003 O’Hara Award in Science and Technology

Discovering His Potential

Frank O’Hara’s tough advice provided inspiration for Paul Borick’s major discoveries.

Paul Borick first encountered Frank O’Hara when he was having a “tough go of it” in a biology course.

“Frank O’Hara had a way of inspiring students by giving them incentives to work toward,” says Dr. Borick. “He told me that I had to work harder if I ever wanted to go to medical school.”

That was tough advice to follow for the young World War II veteran from Olyphant, who was the 11th of 13 children working his way through college.

“I would leave the lab at the University at 5 p.m. and go straight to my job at the Hotel Jermyn and work there until 2 a.m.,” recalls Dr. Borick of his college days.

Nevertheless, Dr. Borick somehow managed to try harder, and in 1947, graduated from The University of Scranton with a double major in biology and chemistry, becoming the first of his siblings to earn a college degree.

He became a Ph.D. instead of an M.D., earning both a master’s degree in bacteriology and a doctorate in microbiology from Syracuse University.

He then spent the next 37 years in the pharmaceutical and medical surgical industries, working for top brand name companies like Bristol-Meyers, Ethicon of Johnson and Johnson and Wyeth Laboratories.

“I always looked forward to work. When you make a new discovery it is very satisfying,” says Dr. Borick, who was instrumental in the introduction of many new medical and drug products, including Advil®, Excedrin® and antimicrobials used as chemical sterilizing agents in hospitals.

While working at Ethicon, he developed products and performed work on surgical implants such as hip and knee replacements.

“I didn’t think that there would be a need for more than 10,000 replacement devices,” says Dr. Borick. “I am glad that I was in research and development, not marketing.”

Over his career he has led many teams in developing new products.

“As the Director of Research and Development for Parke-Davis, we presented a polymer capable of absorbing more than 100 times its weight in fluid,” says Dr. Borick. The polymer has since been added to diapers and bed pads and is now used throughout the world in a billion dollar industry.

“You have to be persistent, diligent and see the process through to completion,” says Dr. Borick of his successes, something that he calls ‘stick-to-it-iveness.’

Although “officially” retired for 15 years, Dr. Borick still serves as a consultant. He is an international authority on disinfection and sterilization.

He has recently published a book based on his 25 years of service in the Air Force Medical Reserves, from which he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. “Ho! Ho! Weekend Warrior,” (X-Libris Publishing), follows medical units from post World War II through the Vietnam War.

Dr. Borick resides in South Carolina with his wife Joan. He is very proud of his 14 grandchildren and six children, all of whom are successful in their own right and include an architect, doctors, lawyers, an author, business entrepreneur and even a Harvard cancer researcher.

Looking back, he is grateful that by “trying harder” his work has resulted in accomplishments that have greatly benefited others.

“When you get older, you appreciate more the accomplishments that have made for a better life for others,” he says.
Charles W. Nutt, Jr., ’70
1985 O’Hara Award in Arts and Letters

The Business of Information

Charles Nutt has dedicated a lifetime to working with words.

To thank him for serving as the managing editor of the Aquinas, Charles Nutt was given an engraved pewter mug at graduation in 1970. “I wondered if that would be the highlight of my career,” he says.

It was not. Yet his time at the Aquinas set the course for the rest of his career.

Although an experienced writer, having served as the editor of the Morris Catholic High School newspaper near his hometown of Dover, N.J., and as the sports information officer for the University and as a writer for the Aquinas throughout his college years, Mr. Nutt, an English Major, had envisioned a different life for himself and Deborah, his wife, who graduated from nearby Marywood.

“My wife still says that I misled her. She thought that she was marrying a future English professor,” says Mr. Nutt. “It was when I was working as the managing editor of the Aquinas that I decided to have a career in journalism. I thought that I could make a living at it, and began applying to graduate schools.”

Mr. Nutt went on to earn a master’s degree in journalism from Syracuse University in 1972.

He landed his first job as a reporter at the Courier News in Bridgewater, N.J., and worked his way up to become a business writer and editor.

In 1976 he was awarded a Davenport Fellowship in economics reporting at the University of Missouri.

“I think that I was a better business writer because of an interest in business, not because of the accounting and MBA courses I took,” says Mr. Nutt who enrolled in accounting, marketing and economics courses solely out of interest – not for career advancement.

He joined The New York Times in 1979 and spent a year and a half there as an editor on the metropolitan desk before becoming managing editor of the Easton Express. He later returned to the Courier News, this time as executive editor.

Mr. Nutt spent 18 years running newsrooms as an editor before getting into general management.

“(In 1981) I returned to work for Gannett Newspapers, the largest newspaper company in the country, because I saw opportunities there for upper management positions.”

It proved to be a good move.

He currently serves as the president, publisher and CEO of the Courier News, which is owned by Gannett Newspapers. He is responsible for the editorial content, advertising and circulation of the Courier News, its website, and several of its other publications.

He does not see conflict in serving his varied constituencies. “I am in the business of information. For it to be valuable, it must be reliable and complete. That is the best way to serve advertisers and readers. If the newspaper has credibility, it has value to advertisers.”

In 2004, Mr. Nutt received a President’s Ring Award as one of Gannett’s top publishers.

That, Mr. Nutt claims, is the highpoint of his career, to date…
Kathleen Curry Santora, Esq., ’80
2002 O’Hara Award in Law

Following in his Footsteps

In the spirit of Frank O’Hara, Kathleen Curry Santora seeks to give of herself without expecting anything in return.

As someone who has worked in higher education for her entire career, Kathleen Curry Santora, Esq., ’80, knows that a man who gave more than half a century’s service to her alma mater deserves admiration and recognition.

And as the recipient of the 2002 Frank O’Hara Award in Law, she feels “honored” to be among those who received the award named after that man.

“Knowing how many graduates of The University of Scranton have gone on to become attorneys and make outstanding contributions to the field of law, I was humbled to be chosen among them as the recipient of this award,” says the northern Virginia resident.

Ms. Santora is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of College and University Attorneys, a post she has held since 2001. There are more than 3,000 NACUA members on more than 1,400 campuses today. NACUA seeks to advance the effective practice of higher education attorneys for the benefit of the colleges and universities they serve.

Ms. Santora credits not only her professional success to the University, but also her success in everyday life.

“The way in which we live our lives each day is a reflection of so many of our past experiences,” she says. “My hope is that my contributions as a member of my family, my community and my profession all reflect well on the University and in some way show my thanks for the many gifts I received during my undergraduate days at Scranton.”

After graduating from Scranton, Ms. Santora attended the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., where she earned her juris doctorate.

She began her career in higher education at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, where she held a variety of positions. She also held various positions at Georgetown University, including as Assistant to the President, and was Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Association for Higher Education.

She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar and serves on the Policy Board of EDUCAUSE, and on the boards of the American Council on Education and the Academic Search Consultation Service. She chairs the Washington Higher Education Secretariat Steering Committee.

Looking back on her time at The University of Scranton, Ms. Santora says, “The firm educational grounding and support and sense of caring I received during those important formative years of my life will never be forgotten, and I will forever be grateful.”

She was “gratified” to learn she would receive an O’Hara Award in 2002.

“It bestowed upon me recognition from the University I so dearly love. The University has contributed more to my life, career and success than I could ever possibly give back.”

It’s statements like Ms. Santora’s that reflect the spirit of both Frank O’Hara, who gave so much of his life to The University of Scranton without expecting anything in return, and the University itself, which continues to give not only to its students and the community at large, but to all who interact with them in daily life.
When Scranton alumnus John P. Herrling ’60 retired as a Major General from the U.S. Army in 1995, President Clinton appointed him as Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. This would turn out to be a truly historic assignment. He would be responsible for building the National World War II Memorial.

“This project was to take a good deal of time over my nine years, as Secretary, in overseeing the design, construction and fund raising for the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.,” says General Herrling of his post at the federal agency that was primarily responsible for the operation and maintenance of 27 federal monuments and 24 military memorial cemeteries located throughout the world. General Herrling put together a staff and program that raised $180 million to bring the World War II Memorial to fruition. The monument was dedicated on May 29, 2004, at a ceremony attended by President George W. Bush, two former presidents – George H. W. Bush and William J. Clinton – and a gathering of 250,000 people. “The World War II Memorial really was a labor of love,” says General Herrling. “It gave me the chance to meet literally hundreds of World War II veterans and talk to hundreds of others.”

A distinguished veteran himself, General Herrling has been awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), and Purple Heart, among other awards. In his 35 years of active duty he served as the Executive to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe; the Chief of Staff, VII Corps, U.S. Army Europe; the Assistant Division Commander, 3d Armored Division in Germany; and the Commander, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Among his most cherished commands was the two years he served as Battalion Commander of the 509th Airborne Battalion Combat Team, where he was in charge of 1,300 soldiers stationed in Vicenze, Italy.

“It was a unique command. We were a theater reserve - a mobile unit that could be moved where it was needed in a short period of time. It was the only airborne battalion in Europe, and we trained from northern Norway to eastern Turkey. Some of the best people I met in the Army were in that battalion.”

The native of Auburn, N.Y., also fondly remembers his time as the Commanding General, U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Dix, N.J.

“I worked with great people and had a mission that I truly believed in - of training soldiers,” says General Herrling, who was inspired by the physical and mental transformation the recruits underwent during training. “Parents would say to me at graduation that this was not the same son or daughter that had left home three months earlier.”

His Jesuit education and training served him well through out his career. “The values of honesty, integrity, moral courage, and selfless service guide your actions and decisions every day. You apply those things either directly, or indirectly, in whatever you do. The Jesuit philosophy of developing the whole person is the key to living a productive, balanced life,” says General Herrling, noting that ROTC was mandatory for all students for the first two years when he attended the University.

“My Scranton education prepared me well for what I’ve done for the last 45 years. The liberal arts education taught me how to think and how to problem solve. The moral and ethical framework I was taught helped in the decisions that I had to make.”

His Scranton days also taught him the importance of maintaining a balance in life – intellectual, physical, spiritual, professional and personal.

General Herrling continues to live by his Scranton ways.