University News

Class of 2009 Accepts “The Scranton Challenge”

The University welcomed the Class of 2009 during Fall Welcome Weekend, Aug. 27-28. A highlight of the weekend was a New Student Assembly held for the 933 full-time freshmen and their families. In his remarks, University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., thanked the students for “accepting the Scranton challenge.”

“Scranton will challenge your certitudes, question your categories and never allow you to settle for the quick fix or the facile answer,” said Fr. Pilarz.

During the Assembly, freshmen participated in a candle-lighting ceremony symbolic of Saint Ignatius’ centuries-old directive to students that they “go forth and set the world on fire.”

Fall Welcome Weekend featured the traditional move-in of freshmen assisted by approximately 500 upperclassmen, faculty and staff volunteers. Other events included a Mass, a lunch and dinner for students and their families, residence hall and commuter student meetings, and “Royal Olympics” on Sunday afternoon.

In addition to the freshmen, the University welcomed 67 transfer students to the undergraduate day colleges, 84 adult students and 216 new graduate school students.

The incoming undergraduate class was drawn from more than 6,315 applicants, which is the largest applicant pool in the University’s history and a 3.1 percent increase over last year’s record of 6,126 applicants. Scranton has seen its undergraduate applicant pool increase by more than 70 percent since 2000.

Scranton has also seen its graduate school numbers increase steadily through new degree offerings such as the doctorate in physical therapy.

The freshman class includes 61 children of University of Scranton alumni.
National Recognition Continues for Scranton

*U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Scranton among the top 10 universities in the north, among the “Great Schools at a Great Price” and among the schools with the best graduation rates in the publication’s 2006 edition of “America’s Best Colleges.”

This marks the 12th consecutive year that the University has ranked in the top 10 in the Universities-Master’s in the north category. Scranton ranked eighth in the 2006 edition.

For the second year in a row, Scranton also ranked 12th among Universities-Master’s in the north in the listing of “Great Schools at a Great Price,” which relates academic quality to the cost of attendance. Also for the second consecutive year, Scranton was listed as one of five schools in the north with the best graduation rate.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Princeton Review has named Scranton one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education. Scranton has been included among the elite colleges listed in the Princeton Review’s “The 361 Best Colleges” released in August. Only about 15% of the four-year colleges in America are in the 2006 edition of the guide book published by Random House/Princeton Review.

The Kania School of Management has for the first time been included among the elite colleges listed in the Princeton Review’s “Best 237 Business Schools.” Scranton is the only school in northeast Pennsylvania to be included among the 19 Pennsylvania universities profiled in the 2006 edition of the guide book, published by Random House/Princeton Review.

Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment Marks 10th Anniversary

Scranton celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment during a reception held on campus on Sept. 28.

The Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment was created in 1995 with a gift from Edward R. Leahy ’68 and Patricia Leahy to honor the life and memory of their son, Edward, whose personal disabilities were attended to with compassion and skill by many health professionals over the course of his life. This founding vision for the Endowment has grown to include a broad-based platform for service learning within the University, and an emerging resource for persons with disabilities and the underserved population of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Edward R. and Patricia Leahy were joined by Leahy Fellows during a reception marking the 10th anniversary of the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment. From left: Ronald Deitrick, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director, Exercise Science; Oliver Morgan, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Counseling and Human Services; Edward R. Leahy ’68, Patricia Leahy, Gary Mattingly, Ph.D., Professor, Physical Therapy; and Thomas Collins, Ph.D., Professor, Counseling and Human Services. Absent from photo is Margarete Lieb Zalon, Ph.D., Professor of Nursing.

Writer of Legal Thrillers Receives Distinguished Author Award

Best-selling legal thriller writer James Grippando received the 2005 Royden B. Davis, S.J., Distinguished Author Award at a dinner sponsored by the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library on Sept. 17. Earlier in the day, Mr. Grippando held a book signing in the University bookstore.

The author of nine best-selling novels, Mr. Grippando’s novels have appeared on bestseller lists in *USA Today* and Knight-Ridder newspapers, as well as the *New York Times* extended list.

The Distinguished Author Award Series helps the Friends of the Weinberg Library Endowment Fund, which supports special gifts for the Weinberg Library’s collections and services. The award is named for the late Royden B. Davis, S.J., who served as the first president of the Friends of the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Memorial Library.
When the scope of the disaster afflicting Mississippi and Louisiana began to emerge, members of the Scranton family sought ways to help and opportunities to stand in solidarity with those in need. The University was quick to open its doors to accept students who were displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina, and welcomed 12 students from Loyola New Orleans and Tulane universities for the fall semester.

Fundraising initiatives included collection tables around campus and a meal swipe donation in which students could opt to skip dinner and donate the equivalent of their meal swipe toward our community’s contribution to relief efforts. All funds raised were donated to Catholic Charities USA, which is providing help throughout the region hit by Hurricane Katrina.

Collection tables were set up on campus for two days as one of several University initiatives to raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

During a liturgy for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the University community offered prayers for all affected by the storm, particularly the 41 alumni who live in the regions hit hardest by the storm.

In early November, the University learned that Guy T. Valvano ’50, Pass Christian, Miss., died Aug. 29 during the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina.

The University is proud of the work of an alumnus who is playing a leadership role in the U.S. Army’s response to this tragedy. Brigadier General Michael Terry ’79 was deployed to New Orleans to head the Joint Logistics Command for the region, which supports troops and assists FEMA in humanitarian assistance operations.

Nine Receive Presidential Scholarships

Nine freshmen have been awarded full-tuition Presidential Scholarships named in honor of individuals who have made significant contributions to the University and the community. Presidential scholarships are awarded to incoming freshmen with exemplary high school records both inside and outside the classroom. The scholarships cover the full cost of tuition for four years of study as long as the recipient maintains at least a 3.25 grade point average.

The 2005 Presidential Scholars and honorees are: Alexandra Biga, The Hon. Paul Kanjorski Scholarship; Carmella Calabrese, The Mrs. William Scranton Scholarship; Alex Deck, The Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sweeney Scholarship; Christine Giangiulio, The Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fairbanks Scholarship; Allison Greco, The Dr. and Mrs. R. Barrett Noone Scholarship; Natalie Kottke, The James Haggerty, Esq., Scholarship; Melissa Linskey, The Mr. Andrew Wallace Scholarship; Margaret Mathewson, The Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bannon Scholarship; and Daniel Marx, The Mr. Ralph Lomma Scholarship.

University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J. congratulated the 2005 Presidential Scholars. From left: Fr. Pilarz, Alexandra Biga, Allison Greco, Alex Deck, Natalie Kottke, Margaret Mathewson, Christine Giangiulio, Daniel Marx, Melissa Linskey and Carmella Calabrese.
Reception Held in Philadelphia

On April 28, Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., University President, hosted a reception at the historic Union League in Philadelphia. More than 75 alumni and guests attended the event. With Fr. Pilarz (left) are George F. Evans ’82 (center) and Robert J. Bednar, Jr. ’69. Mr. Bednar is a member of the University’s Board of Trustees, and both he and Mr. Evans are members of the President’s Business Council.

U.S. Justice Department Grants Awarded

The University’s Division of Student Affairs has received a $191,052 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to fund a collaborative initiative that will result in a model to help colleges better coordinate and expand response to violence against women on campus.

The grant, announced at an Oct. 20 news conference, is one of two awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice to aid victims of and support initiatives to prevent violence against women. The Women’s Resource Center of Lackawanna and Susquehanna counties received a grant of $330,700.

The grant to the University will fund an initiative to expand the focus of violence against women to include areas of sexual harassment, relationship violence and cyber-stalking; to provide for a comprehensive and coordinated campus-wide approach to victims; to define better campus judiciary procedures for offenders; and to create a faith-based component to the coordinated response.

“The faith-based component is a self-contained and reproducible model that can be used by and will be shared with other religiously affiliated colleges and the 27 other Jesuit institutions in the United States,” said Elizabeth Randol, Ph.D., Project Director of the grant and Director of the University’s Jane Kopas Women’s Center.

Faculty & Staff

Gannon Award Presented to Biology Professor

George R. Gomez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology, has been presented the Edward Gannon, S.J., Award for Teaching for 2005.

The annual award, established in 1978 by the University’s chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu, the national honor society for students in Jesuit colleges and universities, recognizes outstanding teaching among faculty. Dr. Gomez was voted by the University’s Alpha Sigma Nu honor society as the 2005 recipient. Dr. Gomez joined the University’s faculty in 2002. He earned a bachelor of science degree in zoology cum laude from the University of the Philippines, Quezon City, Philippines. He received his Ph.D. in marine biology at Boston University, Boston, Mass. Before joining the faculty, he was a research associate at Monell Chemical Sense Center, Philadelphia.

Scranton Professor’s Study Cites Antioxidant Benefits of Coffee

Coffee is the number one source of antioxidants in the diet of Americans, according to a new study by a University of Scranton team of researchers led by Joe Vinson, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry.

Antioxidants help to boost immune systems and have a number of potential health benefits. Antioxidants help to prevent several diseases and illnesses including heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

Findings of the Scranton study were presented Aug. 28 in Washington, D.C., at the 230th national meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world’s largest scientific society.

While coffee is the primary source of antioxidants in the American diet, it is not necessarily the best source.

According to Dr. Vinson, dates, cranberries and red grapes have high concentrations of antioxidants, although Americans don’t consume much of these foods.

Dr. Vinson also explained the findings of his research in an interview on “Good Morning America” on Aug. 28. Since his presentations at the ACS national meeting, Dr. Vinson has conducted interviews with The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, and for numerous broadcast media outlets that include radio stations in Australia, Germany, Great Britain and Canada.
7th Annual Earl Award Presented

Joseph A. Fusaro, Ed.D., Professor of Education, was awarded the seventh annual John L. Earl III Award for service to the University, the faculty, and the wider community. The award was presented to Dr. Fusaro at University Convocation, Sept. 9. The Earl Award is given in the spirit of generosity and dedication that Dr. John Earl, a distinguished Professor of History, exemplified during his years at the University from 1964 to 1996. Dr. Fusaro joined the University in 1974. In addition to serving on the faculty, he has held several administrative positions, including Acting Dean of the Graduate School, Acting Dean of the College of Health, Education and Human Resources (now the Panuska College of Professional Studies), as well as Chair of the Department of Education.

Joseph Fusaro, Ed.D., received the seventh annual Earl Award during University Convocation. From left: University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., Dr. Fusaro, Sandra Fusaro, Pauline Earl, Karen Earl Kolon, M.D., and Jacqueline Earl Hurst.

Eleven Faculty Promoted

University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., has announced eleven faculty promotions, including tenure decisions, which went into effect at the beginning of the 2005-2006 academic year.

The following faculty have been promoted to Professor: Roy P. Domenico, Ph.D., History; Kathleen G. Dwyer, Ph.D., Biology; Ioannis N. Kallianiotis, Ph.D., Economics/Finance; Peter C. Olden, Ph.D., Health Administration and Human Resources.

Timothy D. Foley, Ph.D., Chemistry, has been promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure.

The following have been promoted to Associate Professor: Renee M. Hakim, P.T., Ph.D., N.C.S., Physical Therapy; and Lee M. Penyak, Ph.D., History.

The following have been granted tenure: Marybeth Grant-Beutler, Ph.D., Physical Therapy; Tata Mbugua, Ph.D., Education; Gloria Tansits Wenze, Ph.D., Education; and Peter Leininger, Physical Therapy.

Four Named to Administrative Posts

The University has announced the appointment of four people to administrative posts.

Michael O. Mensah, Ph.D., has been named Dean of the Kania School of Management. Dr. Mensah joined the University in 1987 as Assistant Professor of Accounting and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1992. He was named Chair of the Accounting Department in 2000 and became a Professor of Accounting in 2003. Dr. Mensah received the fourth annual Alperin Teaching Fellow Award from the University in 2002.

Andre Oberle, Ph.D., has joined the University as Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE). Dr. Oberle comes to Scranton from the University of Winnipeg in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Dr. Oberle joined the University of Winnipeg in 1969 and was named an Associate Professor in 1982. He served as Chair, Department of Germanic Studies, Consultant for Learning Technologies, Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Director of the Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

E. Springs Steele, Ph.D., has been named Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs. Dr. Steele, Professor of Theology, has been Chair of the Theology/Religious Studies Department since 2000. He has also served as a member of the Board on Rank and Tenure, the Climate Study Response Committee and the Faculty Affairs Council. Dr. Steele has been a member of the University’s faculty in the Theology/Religious Studies Department since 1979.

Constance Wisdo has been named Director of Technology Development and Innovation. Ms. Wisdo was previously Assistant Director and Director of the University’s Royal Technology Group. From 1991 – 2000, she served as a Project Engineer, Technical Support Manager and Deputy Program Manager of the Scranton Electronic Commerce Resource Center based at the University.
Speakers and Lecturers

Discoverer of DNA Structure Presents Mullin Lecture

James D. Watson, Ph.D., who in 1953 together with Francis Crick, Ph.D., discovered the double helix structure of DNA, presented the Harry Mullin, M.D., Memorial Lecture on Nov. 17 at the University. Dr. Watson presented “Living with DNA” at the lecture, which was held on campus and open to the public.

Dr. Watson is the only living member of the team that shared the 1962 Nobel Prize in Medicine for their work on the DNA discovery, which has been described by Nobel laureate Sir Peter Medawar as “…the greatest achievement of science in the twentieth century.”

Dr. Watson is the 13th Nobel laureate to speak at the Harry Mullin, M.D., Memorial Lecture series, which began in 1985 and has brought some of the world’s most distinguished scientists to Scranton.

Dr. Watson is the Chancellor of the Watson School of Biological Sciences at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, N.Y. His distinguished career included serving as Director and President of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, as Associate Director and Director of the Human Genome Project from 1988 to 1992, and as a professor at Harvard University for two decades.

The Mullin lecture series honors the late Dr. Harry Mullin, who was born in Olyphant and earned his bachelor’s degree from The University of Scranton, then St. Thomas College, in 1931. He dedicated a lifetime of service to his profession and community.

The lecture series is sponsored by Mrs. Harry Mullin, Robbin Mullin and Dr. Brian Mullin ’66.

Renowned Economist Discusses “Saving Social Security”

Peter A. Diamond, Ph.D., Institute Professor and Professor of Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, presented the University’s 20th annual Henry George Lecture. In his Oct. 13 lecture, Dr. Diamond discussed “Saving Social Security.” Dr. Diamond also spoke at the President’s Breakfast on Oct. 14.

Dr. Diamond has been a member of the MIT faculty since 1966. His area of expertise is social insurance, particularly U.S. Social Security, and the interface between psychology and economics. In the area of social security, he has been a member of a number of panels for the United States government since 1974. He was chair of the Panel on Privatization of Social Security of the National Academy of Social Insurance from 1996 to 1998.

Scranton’s Henry George Lecture Series, funded by a grant from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, is the preeminent public lecture series in economics in northeastern Pennsylvania. Five of the previous lecturers have won the Nobel Prize in Economics.

Peter A. Diamond, Ph.D., discussed “Saving Social Security” at the 20th annual Henry George Lecture, Oct. 13.

DisAbility Conference Explores “From Disabilities to Possibilities”

The University’s fourth annual Conference on disAbility, held Sept. 29-30, featured presentations from three diverse and distinguished keynote speakers.

Edward Hallowell, M.D., an expert on the topic of attention deficit disorder, discussed “Believing in Possibilities: Discovering the Individuality in Children with ADD and Learning Disabilities.” Jerry Lynch, Ph.D., a sports psychologist who has worked with many Olympic teams, presented “From Disability to Possibility: Getting to the Heart of the Matter.” The conference closed with a presentation by Jay Blake, Founder and President of Follow a Dream, a non-profit organization that seeks to demonstrate how the power of positive thinking and self-determination can overcome adversity. His presentation included a race car display of a carbon fiber 3000 horsepower Dodge Avenger.

The Conference was presented by the Panuska College of Professional Studies, the Edward R. Leahy, Jr. Endowment and the Office of Equity and Diversity at the University. Conference sponsors were Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19, Project A.B.L.E., DeNaples Auto Parts and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Honorary Chairpersons of the Conference were Edward R. and Patricia Leahy, who established the Leahy Endowment at Scranton.

Jay Blake, Founder and President of Follow a Dream, (left) displayed his race car—a carbon fiber 3000 horsepower Dodge Avenger—as part of his presentation at the disAbility Conference. Joining Mr. Blake was Edward R. Leahy, ’68, Honorary Co-chair of the Conference.
The Arts

The University of Scranton’s Hope Horn Gallery is presenting an exhibit that traces Scranton’s early settlement, industrial development and community life. The exhibit, entitled “A History of Scranton: Selections from the Collection of the Lackawanna Historical Society” is being presented in conjunction with the Lackawanna Historical Society and is on display through December 16.

The exhibit features highlighted materials from the Historical Society’s rarely seen archival materials that include paintings, artifacts, photographs and postcards.

The book Scranton, released as part of Arcadia Publishing’s “Images of America” series, accompanies the exhibit. Darlene Miller-Lanning, Ph.D., Director of the Hope Horn Gallery, co-authored the text along with Cheryl Kashuba, guest Curator of the exhibit, and Alan Sweeney, President of the Lackawanna Historical Society.

The University Players opened their 2005-2006 season with the performance of Noel Coward’s “Blithe Spirit.” The season continued with Arthur Miller’s “The Crucible,” a masterpiece of the American Theatre and winner of the 1953 Tony Award for Best Play.

The fall concert series for Performance Music included performances by renowned cornetist/trumpeter Warren Vache, organist Frederick Hohman, tenor Peter Buchi, and guest trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, who was joined by the University’s Jazz Ensemble.

Tenor Peter Buchi performed for students and their families during Family Weekend, Sept. 30 – Oct. 2.

The plan includes four themes, all of which are linked directly to the University’s mission and its unwavering commitment to the ideals of Catholic, Jesuit higher education. The themes are as follows:

- **EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE** – Demonstrate the value of a Jesuit education in learning experiences inside and outside of the classroom

- **ECONOMIC STRENGTH** – Strengthen our economic viability through active development and stewardship of resources

- **CAMPUS COMMUNITY** – Foster a caring, collegial and diverse campus community compelled by Catholic, Jesuit ideals of justice and concern for each person

- **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT** – Develop responsive relationships and sustainable partnerships with our local community consistent with the Jesuit principle of educating men and women for others

The four themes of the plan will be explored through a series of focused strategies. Many areas of the campus community will contribute to the accomplishment of these strategies, with particular support provided by the University’s tactical plans.

University President, Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., noted, “The themes and goals of our plan are now the object of considerable attention as tactical plans are developed in such areas as Enrollment Management, Student Life, Finance and Administrative Services.”

These plans are designed to guide the work of each division of the University in fulfilling the Strategic Plan and addressing their specific needs and activities throughout the planning cycle. Many important University initiatives will make their way into these plans, which will be shared with the University community as they are completed.

To view the University’s Strategic Plan, visit: www.scranton.edu/strategicplan

To request a copy of the Strategic Plan, contact the Planning, Assessment & Institutional Research Office at (570) 941-6344 or planning@scranton.edu.
Finding God Today: One Catholic’s Way
E. Springs Steele, Ph.D.
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PROVOST & PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY
PAULIST PRESS, 2005
Dr. Steele’s book is a contemporary guide to spiritual growth that presents the basic forms of Roman Catholic spiritual practice. His book provides a hands-on guide to spiritual growth that revisits many of Catholicism’s traditional prayers and devotions. Using stories from his own life, Dr. Steele walks readers through the practices of spiritual reading, lectio divina and Ignatian mental prayer. Then he turns his attention to the Rosary (especially the new Luminous Mysteries), the Mass (and why our actions there are significant), the model of Jesuit prayer, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Comparative Criminal Justice
Harry Dammer, Ph.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, SOCIOLOGY/CRIMINAL JUSTICE, WITH E. FAIRCHILD AND J. ALBANESE
3rd EDITION, WADSWORTH-THOMSON PRESS, 2006
The revision of this best-selling book presents a comprehensive analysis and comparison of various criminal justice systems throughout the world. Dr. Dammer has extensively revised the text to reflect the latest trends and most up-to-date information on international juvenile justice, policing and terrorism. By using a topical approach (examining various aspects of each system, such as policing, drugs, sentencing and juvenile justice) rather than a country-by-country approach, the book gives students a more realistic understanding of the similarities and differences of each system. The authors use six “model” countries (China, England, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia and France) to provide specific examples and explore historical, political, economic, social and cultural influences on each system.

Law in Our Lives: An Introduction
David O. Friedrichs
PROFESSOR, SOCIOLOGY/CRIMINAL JUSTICE
2nd EDITION, ROXBURY PUBLISHING COMPANY, 2006
This text provides an interdisciplinary “mapping” of the nature of law in contemporary society and covers a broad range of issues relevant to the understanding of law and society, providing a broad-based exploration of law as a social institution. The new edition also features coverage of recent law-related development issues. Under post-9/11 developments, it addresses the U.S.A. Patriot Act, Guantanamo Bay detentions, the Abu Ghraib scandal, and the preemptive invasion of Iraq. In the realm of contentious legal issues, the new edition covers the most recent developments pertaining to a wide array of such topics as file sharing, stem-cell research, medical malpractice, gay marriage, affirmative action, the impact of increasing globalization on law, and international law.

Is Human Nature Obsolete? Genetics, Bioengineering, and the Future of the Human Condition
EDITED BY
Harold W. Baillie, Ph.D.
INTERIM PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Timothy K. Casey, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY
MIT PRESS, 2005
This newly released book explores the philosophical issues of genetics and bioengineering. Chapters of the book are written by 11 scholars, including authors of books and journal articles, an advisor to the President on stem cell research, a professor who has testified before Congress on animal rights issues, and a contributing editor of The New Republic magazine. The book is unique in that the authors cover an array of disciplines, including philosophy, theology, political science, history of science, and anthropology. As well, the book’s perspective is philosophical rather than technical. Rather than making a case for any single line of thinking, the book explores the variety of opinions shared by the authors.
A record crowd of 550 Scranton alumni and friends gathered at The Pierre in New York City for the President’s Business Council’s Fourth Annual Award Dinner. Arthur J. Kania, Esq., ’53, was awarded the President’s Medal, recognizing excellence in his field and extraordinary compassion for others. Mr. Kania’s wife, Angela, several members of their family, and many friends and colleagues were also on hand to join in the celebration.

Dinner co-chairs, Robert J. Bednar, Jr., ’69, University Trustee and CEO of Naples Bank Note Company, and S. Eric Marcheski ’95, Executive Director of TEKsystems, announced proceeds of $900,000 from the event, which supports the Presidential Scholarship Endowment Fund. Presidential Scholars are chosen from among the top students accepted to the University each year and are selected for their academic excellence, leadership ability and character. A Presidential Scholarship provides full-tuition coverage for its recipient from freshman through senior year. Each year, the University typically disburses nearly 40 Presidential Scholarships. The Award Dinner has raised over $3.1 million since its inaugural event in 2002.

Dinner Co-chair and University Trustee Robert J. Bednar, Jr., ’69, addressed the crowd at the Award Dinner on Oct. 6.
The President's Business Council was formed in January 2001 by a prominent group of alumni and friends whose purpose is to advance the mission of the University. The Council is chaired by Christopher M. “Kip” Condron ’70, President and Chief Executive Officer, AXA Financial, Inc., John Dionne ’86, Senior Managing Director, The Blackstone Group and Chair of the University’s Board of Trustees, and Mary Beth Farrell ’79, Executive Vice President, Service Delivery, AXA Financial, Inc. and University Trustee, serve as the Council’s Vice Chairs. In addition to its annual dinner, the Council provides mentoring and internship opportunities for current students and networking opportunities for alumni and friends.

Art Kania is a Senior Partner in the Bala Cynwyd-based law firm of Kania, Lindner, Lasak & Feeney. He received his J.D. from Villanova University School of Law in 1956. An accountant and attorney by professional background and training, a major portion of his career has been devoted to entrepreneurial corporate formation and development. His numerous entrepreneurial accomplishments are also equally diverse. In 1964, he co-founded AID, Inc. (previously known as American Institutional Developers Inc.) and served as its Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer from 1970 through 1974. The company went on to become one of the nation’s largest and leading health care providers of its time. Mr. Kania also co-founded the Greate Bay Country Club and the Brighton Hotel (now Sands Hotel & Casino, Atlantic City, N.J.), which at the time was the third casino founded in Atlantic City.

Arthur J. Kania, Esq., ’53 received the President’s Medal at the President’s Business Council’s fourth Annual Award Dinner in New York. Standing, from left, are: Christopher M. “Kip” Condron ’70, President and CEO, AXA Financial, Inc., and Chair of the President’s Business Council; previous medal recipient, Gerard R. Roche ’53, Senior Chairman of Heidrick and Struggles, Inc.; Mr. Kania; Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J. University President; and previous medal recipient Paul M. Montrone, Ph.D., ’62, Chairman and CEO of Fisher Scientific International, Inc.