University News

Jesuit Community at Scranton Announces $6 Million in Donations

Representing the culmination of 65 years of service in Scranton, the Jesuit Community of Scranton announced on Dec. 14, 2007, a $4 million donation to be shared evenly by The University of Scranton and Scranton Preparatory School. The community is donating an additional $2 million to the health care fund of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus.

“This donation is the accumulation of 65 years of service, simplicity of life and hard work by the hundreds of Jesuits who have served our Scranton community,” said Rev. Bernard McIlhenny, S.J., administrator of the Jesuit Community at Scranton. “It addresses today’s challenges of health care for our aging Jesuits and of fostering our Jesuit and Catholic traditions of education with a declining number of Jesuits.”

“The University owes much of its present-day success to the daring and devotion of my Jesuit brothers who worked to realize the dream of our founder, Bishop O’Hara, to establish an educational institution that would light the valley and, indeed, the world with the fires of learning,” said Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., president of the University. “This gift is magnificent, meaningful and deeply humbling because it is made possible by the sacrificial service of hundreds of Jesuits over these past 65 years.”

“I am happy to be a bearer of such good news for the future of these two Jesuit educational institutions that are so influential in northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond,” said Rev. George A. Aschenbrenner, S.J., rector of the Scranton Jesuit Community.

“A gift of this magnitude is a tremendous source of encouragement to our two Jesuit institutions,” said Rev. Herbert Keller, S.J., president of Scranton Preparatory School. “It is such a privilege for our schools to serve here in northeastern Pennsylvania, and this gift strengthens us to continue our Catholic and Jesuit mission. We are profoundly grateful to the Scranton Jesuit Community for this extraordinarily generous gift.”


Irwin E. Alperin Financial Center Dedicated

The University dedicated the new Irwin E. Alperin Financial Center in Brennan Hall on Jan. 25. The Center simulates a trading floor, complete with an electronic ticker and other news and data displays.

At the dedication, Patrick F. Leahy, vice president for University Relations, announced $250,000 in funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to support future development of the Center. The second phase is expected to include 40 computers, a surround sound system and conference facilities. The third phase will provide a network of specialized software designed to support the Kania School of Management business curriculum with simulation capabilities and faculty-student research on financial and commodity markets.

For information about opportunities to support the second and third phases of the Alperin Financial Center, please contact Marise Garofalo, executive director of Development, at (570) 941-4144.
Leahy Center Dedicated

The University of Scranton and the Lackawanna County Medical Society announced the opening of a free health clinic that will provide non-emergency health care to uninsured Lackawanna county residents who do not have and cannot afford private health insurance and who do not qualify for public health insurance. The announcement was made at a Feb. 19 news conference.

The Edward R. Leahy Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured: A Cooperative Project at The University of Scranton is the only free clinic in Lackawanna County. It provides services usually given by a primary care physician, such as treatment of fevers, influenza or respiratory infections.

The clinic, located in the University’s 4,000-square-foot Leahy Community Health and Family Center in the lower level of McGurrin Hall, is open from 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday afternoons and is capable of seeing between 20 and 24 patients each week.

“The Edward R. Leahy Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured fits well with the University’s Jesuit mission by combining learning with service, and by engaging our resources, faculty and students with professional collaborators to meet a pressing community need,” said Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., president of The University of Scranton. “The clinic will offer new opportunities for faculty and student teaching, learning research and service in the fields of health, human services and education.”

In his remarks at the news conference, Edward Leahy ’68, who, together with his wife, Patricia, established the Edward R. Leahy Jr. Endowment at the University in honor of their late son, said that the clinic benefits all of Lackawanna County. “For, although your hands and your medical expertise will touch only a portion of our residents, that medical care will benefit the entire county by producing more healthy lifestyles, more productive workers, more sustainable families, a more robust economy, and, ultimately, hospital emergency rooms that are freed to perform their intended function – to treat patients who are truly in need of emergency care,” said Leahy.

Services offered by the Edward R. Leahy Jr. Center Clinic for the Uninsured include diagnosing and treatment of common illnesses and the identification and referral of chronic health problems, like high blood pressure and diabetes. Referrals will be made to community and University resources. The clinic can also provide referrals to pharmaceutical access programs.

Wall Street West Initiative Trains High School Teachers

Northeast Pennsylvania high school teachers took part in a free institute to learn about teaching economics and finance to their students during two seminars on Jan. 22 and 23. The seminars used Internet2 to connect to regional sites in Pennsylvania.

University of Scranton Economics Professor Ed Scahill, Ph.D., led training sessions from the University’s Irwin E. Alperin Financial Center’s simulated trading floor, complete with an electronic ticker and other news and data displays.

Participants received instruction and support materials for teaching financial economics competencies. The training will help them prepare their students for competition in the spring 2008 Stock Market Game. The Stock Market Game is a 10-week simulation, during which students invest an imaginary $100,000 by buying stocks listed on the major securities exchanges. Students who compete in the game learn how financial markets operate, and hone their mathematics and decision-making skills.

The training is supported by a $153,732 grant from Wall Street West that was awarded to The University of Scranton and Misericordia University to support the jointly conducted Financial Literacy Institute for Junior and High School Teachers and Students. Other partner institutions include Northampton Community College, EconomicsPennsylvania (EconPA), Susquehanna Patriot Bank Center for Economic Education and Intermediate Units 14, 19, 20 and 21.

Wall Street West is a federal- and state-funded project for development of a back-up solution for financial institutions in New York City in the event of a disaster such as 9/11.

Ed Scahill, Ph.D., professor of economics, leads a training session in the Irwin E. Alperin Financial Center as part of a Wall Street West initiative to train high school teachers to teach economics.
Brady Named to Board of Trustees

William J. Brady ’83, Wellesley, Mass., has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the University, effective Dec. 12, 2007. Brady is executive vice president and general manager of Cabot Corporation’s Carbon Black business. Cabot is the world’s leading manufacturer of carbon black for use in tires, industrial rubber products, elastomer composites, plastic masterbatch and specialty products, such as inks and coatings. Brady also oversees the company’s Ink Jet Colorants business unit. He joined Cabot in 1986, and has held various positions in the United States and Japan. Prior to joining Cabot, he was a research chemist with Sterling Drug Company.

Brady earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry/business from the University of Scranton and an M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

Scranton Ranked Among Ivy League for “Best Value”

The University of Scranton, Harvard, Princeton, Yale and Penn are among the only 50 universities in the nation listed in Kiplinger’s “Best Values in Private Colleges.” The list, published in the April edition of Kiplinger Personal Finance magazine, ranks only four universities in Pennsylvania: The University of Pennsylvania (10), Villanova (32), Carnegie Mellon (39) and Scranton (46).

Kiplinger’s rankings calculate academic quality, which accounts for two-thirds of the measure, and affordability. Kiplinger reviewed data on more than 1,000 colleges that included the percentage of the 2006/07 freshman class that scored 600 or better in the verbal and math components of the SAT or 24 or higher on ACT; the faculty to student ratio; and graduation rates. Financial measures considered included total cost of attendance (tuition, fees, room and board, and estimated expenses for books); cost after need-based assistance; aid from grants; cost after non-need base assistance; non-need based aid; and average debt after graduation.

Arts Events Enrich Campus Culture

Concerts, plays and art exhibits filled the spring semester at Scranton.

From Feb. 29 – March 2, the University Players presented of “Twelfth Night, or What You Will,” Shakespeare’s madcap comedy of love, deception and mistaken identity.

The Hope Horn Gallery sponsored “Back Track: Paintings by Bruce Lanning” from Feb. 1 – March 14. This project was supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. The exhibit included a lecture by the artist, as well as an Acrylic Painting Workshop based on the paintings of Bruce Lanning. Students from school and community groups experimented with color mixing and brushwork techniques to produce acrylic paintings on gessoed papers.

Events Celebrate MLK Day, Black History Month

In celebrating Martin Luther King Day and Black History Month, the University community held several events to celebrate and acknowledge the many contributions and accomplishments of African Americans.

On Jan. 21, the University’s Office of Multicultural Affairs team, together with Scranton’s Friends of the Poor, presented a program in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. “Harlem Speaks,” a program honoring important jazz artists, returned to the University of Scranton on Feb. 3, with several special events featuring National Jazz Museum in Harlem executive director Loren Schoenberg, the National Jazz Museum in Harlem All-Stars Big Band, and special guest Jacquie “Tajah” Murdock, dancer/dance historian.

Joe Rogers, Esq. presented a program commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King and the delivery of his historic “Drum Major Instinct” at a Feb. 16 event sponsored by the United Colors Club and the Council for Community Affairs, Inc. On Feb. 29, Performance Music presented the Grammy Award-nominated David Ostwald’s Gully Low Jazz Band, which presented a concert of Louis Armstrong’s music.

The Gully Low Jazz Band presents a concert of Louis Armstrong’s music in the Houlihan-McLean Center as part of the University’s Performance Music Series.
Schemel Forum Continues with Spring Series

Twenty-first century Africa, Jesuit poetry, modern art, James Joyce's Ulysses, and the philosophy of the city were among the topics discussed this spring for the University’s Schemel Forum.

The Schemel Forum is a series of participatory learning experiences whose aim is to cultivate the intellect and the imagination through study and discussion of classical texts and current policies, from the arts, history and philosophy to technology and theology.

The spring series included:

• *Ulysses* by James Joyce, with Stephen Whittaker, Ph.D., professor of English
• *Philosophy and the City: Understanding Citizenship, Urban Policy and City Planning* with Sharon Meagher, Ph.D., professor of philosophy,
• *The Accessible Image* with Josephine Dunn, Ph.D., associate professor of history
• *Continuity and Change in Jesuit Poetry: Robert Southwell, Gerald Manley Hopkins and Daniel Berrigan* with Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., president of the University

The Schemel Forum’s “Insights into Africa” luncheon series, held in April, brought leading experts on Africa to Scranton to discuss the challenges of democratic transition in Africa. The Schemel Forum was founded in 2006 through generous gifts to the Rev. George Schemel, S.J., Fund. The Forum has grown quickly from a handful of informal lectures to a comprehensive collection of study, dialogue, performances and special events.

For additional information on Schemel Forum programs and memberships, contact Sondra Myers at (570) 941-4089 or myerss2@scranton.edu.

County Commissioners Speak at PNC Breakfast

Newly elected Lackawanna County Commissioners Michael Washo and Corey O’Brien spoke at the PNC Breakfast at the University’s Patrick & Margaret DeNaples Center in January. From left are Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., president of The University of Scranton; Patrick Leahy, vice president for university relations; Commissioner O’Brien; Commissioner Washo; Deborah Kolosovsky ’90, senior vice president and managing director of PNC Wealth Management; and Pete Danchak ’84, president of PNC Bank Northeast Pennsylvania, and corporate sponsor of the breakfast series.

Bestselling Author Speaks at Scranton

Be it in business, sports, law or politics, Ronald Shapiro knows what it takes to make it into the “winner’s circle,” and he shares his knowledge in his latest book, *The New York Times* bestseller *Dare to Prepare: How to Win Before You Begin*. He also shared his success tips with northeast Pennsylvania residents at a luncheon lecture and book-signing at the University on Apr. 3 in the Patrick & Margaret DeNaples Center.

A bestselling author, expert negotiator, sports agent and attorney, Shapiro’s latest book, written with Gregory Jordan, made it to *The New York Times* bestseller list in its first week of publication. *Dare to Prepare* weaves Shapiro’s experience with stories of 38 successful individuals to provide a preparedness checklist that can be followed by executives, managers and other professionals.

University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., and John Dionne ’86 are profiled in the book *Dare to Prepare*.

University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., is among the 38 successes featured in *Dare to Prepare*, as is John Dionne ’86, former Trustee and senior managing director of the Blackstone Group, New York, N.Y.
Legendary Canadian General Discusses “Lessons from Rwanda”

A Canadian Lieutenant-General whose firsthand experience with Rwandan genocide inspired him to write a best-selling book that is the basis for an award-winning documentary and film spoke at the University on March 26 in the Houlihan-McLean Center.

Lieutenant-General Roméo A. Dallaire, former commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda and Uganda, discussed “Lessons from Rwanda,” a lecture addressing the obligation of the international community amid unspeakable horrors. General Dallaire, who is a Canadian senator, is author of the book, Shake Hands With the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda. The autobiographical book is based on the nearly impossible circumstances faced by the legendary Canadian general, who “watched as the devil took control of paradise on earth and fed on the blood of the people we were supposed to protect.”

Shake Hands With the Devil, which won the Canadian Governor General’s Award for nonfiction in 2004, is the basis of a dramatic feature film of the same title, which won a 2008 Genie Award, as well as the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival.

The lecture at Scranton was sponsored by the Education for Justice Office of The University of Scranton Alumni Society. The University has more than 1,800 medical alumni working as physicians, dentists and veterinarians.

Student Achievements and Service

Students, Alumni and Faculty Participate in Medical Mission Trips

Nine students, three alumni physicians and two nursing professors from the University dedicated a week of their time and years of medical education and expertise during two separate medical mission trips to the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Both trips were held during January intersession. At the invitation of JoAnne Kuehner H’01, founder and president of “Hope for Haiti,” six nursing students and two nursing professors traveled to Les Cayes and Port-au-Prince, Haiti, for a service trip from Jan. 13 – 18.

In a separate trip sponsored by the University’s Medical alumni council, a group of three pre-med students and three alumni physicians traveled to Port-au-Prince for a medical mission trip, held Jan. 20 – 26. It was the sixth such trip to Haiti sponsored by the Council.

Patricia Harrington, Ed.D., associate professor and chair of Nursing, and Sharon Hudacek, Ed.D., professor of Nursing, led the six students in their work with “Hope for Haiti.” They were accompanied on the trip by Kuehner, whose organization supports more than 30 schools throughout Haiti. Working with Haitian nurses, as well as a doctor and dentist from Florida, who also volunteered their time, the Scranton students and faculty provided healthcare to the communities served by these schools. The six seniors who went on the trip are Kaitlin Baker, Josh Braddell, Kerry Gallagher, Laura Gibbons, Jessica Hodovanec and Mary Beth Vogel.

The Medical Alumni Council team, led by Scranton alumnus Richard Bevilacqua, M.D., D.M.D. ’83, also included alumni Gregory Lynch, D.O., ’79 Chris Jones, M.D. ’02, and pre-med students Mary Elise Lynch ’10, Cassandra Zagorski ’08 and Ed DeSole ’08, president of the Health Professions Organization at Scranton.

While in Haiti, the group stayed at an orphanage and clinic-hospice for orphaned and abandoned children in Haiti established by Rev. Leo Richard Frechette, C.P., D.O., H’07. Established in 1994, the Medical Alumni Council is an affiliate of The University of Scranton Alumni Society.

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Cassandra Zagorski ’08 (second from right) and Ed DeSole ’08 (right) are among a group of students and alumni who participated in a medical mission trip to Haiti sponsored by the Medical Alumni Council.
Students Recognized for Academic Achievement

Scranton students were recognized for outstanding academic achievement at the Frank O’Hara Awards and Rose Kelly Awards ceremony held recently on campus.

Frank O’Hara medals were given to first-, second- and third-year students with the highest grade point average in the Panuska College of Professional Studies, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Kania School of Management and the College of Graduate and Continuing Education. The award is named in honor of the late Frank O’Hara, who served the university for 53 years in various administrative positions.

Recipients of Frank O’Hara medals from each of the University’s undergraduate schools are as follows.

From the Kania School of Management: first-year student William Pugh received a bronze medal; second-year student Frank S. Phillips received a silver medal; and Joseph P. O’Connell III, third-year student, received a silver medal.

From the Panuska College of Professional Studies: first-year student Nicole M. Zullo received a bronze medal; second-year student Lauren E. Godek received a silver medal; and Brian J. Patchcoski, third-year student, received a silver medal.

From the College of Arts and Sciences: first-year student Douglas A. Jones received a bronze medal; second-year student Coral Stredny received a silver medal; third-year student Christina M. Drogalis received a silver medal.

From the College of Graduate and Continuing Education: first-year student Mary Ann Wiggins received a bronze medal; second-year student Alexandra Cronk received a silver medal; Judith Gunshannon, third-year student, received a silver medal.

The following graduate-level students in the College of Graduate and Continuing Education received pewter medals: Anne M. Blaum, Jennifer M. Wagner, Emil C. Bontempo, Elizabeth J. McDonald, Sean R. Egan, Andrea C. Stellatella and Jill L. Crompton.

The Rose Kelly Award was established by a University of Scranton alumnus, Joseph Wineburgh, Ph.D., ’36 to link the efforts of educators to the achievements of college students. The award is presented jointly to a student in each of the four colleges who has completed two years at the University and to the teacher whom he or she recognizes as having a great impact on his or her life. Students are selected based on exemplary achievement in both academics and general campus involvement.

From the Kania School of Management, Colleen L. Tuohy nominated her teacher from Immaculate Heart Academy, Rosemary C. Fuhrman.

From the Panuska College of Professional Studies, Megan E. Conley nominated Sister Lucy Marie Schluth, her teacher from Cardinal O’Hara High School.

From the College of Arts and Sciences, Douglas A. Jones nominated his teacher from Holy Redeemer High School, Michael Milz.

From the College of Graduate and Continuing Education, Mary W. Purcell nominated James Kilker, her teacher from Scranton Preparatory School.
Education Professor Receives Rotary Grant

Tata Mbugua, Ph.D., associate professor of education at the University, received one of only 20 Rotary Grants for University Teachers awarded in the nation. A native of Kenya, Dr. Mbugua planned to teach at the Catholic University of East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, during the spring 2008 semester while on sabbatical. Her trip, however, was delayed due to unrest in the country.

Awarded through a national competition, the Rotary Grant for University Teachers program seeks to build international understanding and development by strengthening higher education in low-income countries. Grant recipients must teach subjects that are relevant to the local population’s needs and contribute to the area’s socioeconomic development.

Five Receive Intersession Grants

Harold W. Baillie, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs, announced that five faculty members received intersession grants for January 2008.


Anthony P. Ferzola, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics, spent intersession researching materials for a new general education course on “Mathematics and Art.”

Susan F. Mathews, Ph.D., professor of theology/religious studies, received a grant to complete three academic essays on “Understanding John’s Theology: A Student’s Companion.”

Oliver J. Morgan, Ph.D., professor and chair of counseling/human services, received a grant to develop “Counseling Competencies for Integration of Spirituality.”

Ling Xue, Ph.D., assistant professor of operations management, received a grant to study the “Impact of Information Technology Governance on Business Performance.”

Three Named to Posts at Scranton

Robert Farrell, Esq., has been named director of Community Relations. Most recently, he served as the City Solicitor for the City of Scranton, responsible for all of the City’s legal affairs. He has also managed numerous community projects, including the Wenzel Treehouse and the volunteer-built and organized community playground at Nay Aug Park.

Previously, Farrell was an associate/partner with the law firm of Kreder Brooks Hailstone & Ludwig, a role that included work with municipal governments throughout the region. He also served as a law clerk to Hon. Chester T. Harhut, who is now president judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Farrell earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of the Holy Cross and a law degree from Dickinson School of Law.

Marise Garofalo ’00 has been named executive director of Development in the Division of Institutional Advancement. She joined the University in 1998 and, since 2000, has assumed increasing responsibilities in the Advancement Division. She has served as assistant director of Alumni Relations, associate director of Operations & Research, director of IT for Development, senior development officer, and, most recently, director of Planned Giving & Special Programs. Prior to joining the University, Garofalo served in various management and marketing roles in the local business community. She is a summa cum laude graduate of The University of Scranton, where she received the Frank O’Hara Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

Shannon Murphy ’99 has been named director of Student Activities and Orientation. She was previously assistant director of Student Activities and Orientation. Before joining the University, Murphy served as the assistant director of Campus Programs at St. Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, and as the assistant director of Student Activities at Canisius College, Buffalo, N.Y. Murphy earned a bachelor’s degree in History from The University of Scranton and a master’s degree in College Student Personnel Administration from Canisius College.

Professors Receive National Science Foundation Grant

John R. Kalafut ’60, professor of physics and electrical engineering, and Anthony P. Pamela ’67, primary lab instructor for physics and electrical engineering, have been awarded a $46,881 grant from the National Science Foundation through its Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement Program.

Kalafut and Pamela will use the monies to purchase equipment and computers to restructure the department’s laboratory used for general physics and elements of physics courses. These courses are taken by all freshman physics, engineering and biophysics majors as well as upperclass students in chemistry, biology, neuroscience, exercise science, mathematics, computer science and physical therapy.

The new laboratory items by PASCO Scientific of Roseville, Calif., include computer interfaces and software that will assist students conducting experiments in electricity, magnetism and optics. The apparatus includes a PASCO Human Eye Model that will enable students to learn about sight, and a PASCO Science Workshop on Interference and Diffraction of Light, which will help students more fully understand the wave nature of light.
2008 President’s Business Council Honoree Announced

Eugene J. Kane Sr. ’54, chairman of Kane Is Able, Inc., will be presented with the University’s President’s Medal at the President’s Business Council Seventh Annual Award Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008, at The Pierre in New York City.

A current member of the University’s Board of Trustees, Kane has been at the helm of the Scranton-based, family-owned and operated Kane Is Able, Inc., for the past 53 years. Rev. Scott R. Pilars, S.J., University president, noted, “Gene Kane’s business leadership and success alone are deserving of this recognition. His commitment to family values and integrity and his over half-century of service to the greater northeastern Pennsylvania community only augment his selection.”

Kane is a parent of eight children, four of whom are University alumni. The company has grown to include 200 tractors, more than 800 trailers and a constellation of 17 logistics operations in the Northeast, Ohio, Georgia, Kansas and California. Today, Kane Is Able, Inc., provides transportation, distribution, packaging, cross-docking, load consolidation and real estate development services to a virtual who’s-who of Fortune 500 companies. All of his children are active participants and key players in the organization. Kane has been actively involved in numerous community affiliations and organizations, including serving as an executive board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Scranton, the Boy Scouts of America-Forest Lakes Council, the Pennsylvania Regional Tissue and Transplant Bank, Scranton Area Foundation, the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce and the Scranton Club. He is also a past president of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council Boy Scouts of America, and a former trustee of Marywood University and Scranton Preparatory School.

The President’s Business Council (PBC) was formed in January 2001 by the University and a prominent group of alumni and friends whose purpose is to advance the mission of the University. Its existence fulfills the interests of the University and of these alumni and friends in the business community to form an organized, national affiliation that strengthens the Scranton network in the business sectors. The Council’s objectives are: to provide networking opportunities for alumni and friends; to provide mentorship, internship, educational and career opportunities for current students; and to provide a fundraising source for the Presidential Scholarship Endowment Fund. In its first six dinners, the Council has raised over $6.25 million in support of the Presidential Scholarships, which are full-tuition, merit-based scholarships awarded to the top students entering the University’s freshman class each year.

The Council remains committed to regional receptions to promote local networking and to inform the attendees of the Council’s objectives in an effort to strengthen and promote membership. In April and May, receptions will be held in Boston, New York City, Philadelphia and Scranton. In cooperation with the Kania School of Management, the Council held its annual “President’s Business Council Day” on campus on March 26.

For more information regarding the PBC or the Oct. 9 dinner, please contact Timothy J. Pytle 89, director of the President’s Business Council, at (570) 941-5837 or pylet2@scranton.edu. Please refer to the inside back cover of this issue of The Scranton Journal for ticket reservation information.

New PBC Leadership Appointments Made

Mary Beth Farrell ’79, executive vice president for Service Delivery and AXA Way at AXA Equitable, has accepted the invitation to become Chair of the President’s Business Council. The current Vice Chair of the University’s Board of Trustees and a Vice Chair of the PBC since its inception in 2001, Farrell replaces Christopher M. “Kip” Condon ’70, who will become founding chair.

John D. Dionne ’86, senior managing director of The Blackstone Group, will remain in his current role as vice chair and will be joined by Thomas P. Lynch ’86, managing director of Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., and Thomas P. O’Brien ’86, managing director of Morgan Stanley. Among the new leadership team’s agenda items are: sustainability and growth of the Annual Award Dinner; new initiatives for networking opportunities among membership; and internship connections for students.
President’s Circle Christmas Celebration

The annual President’s Circle Celebration was held Dec. 15, 2007. The event included the President’s Advent Mass, held in Madonna della Strada Chapel, and a holiday reception held in The Estate on campus.

Gift of Life Insurance Helps Future Generations of Students

Melinda C. Ghilardi, Esq., ’80, now a Federal Public Defender, grew up in Peckville, the eldest of three girls. Her two sisters also graduated from The University of Scranton in 1981 and 1986, respectively. Flipping through a University Alumni Directory found at arm’s length in her downtown Scranton office, she confirms that her late father, Joseph Ghilardi, graduated in 1949. She proudly exclaims that they have a true “University of Scranton family.”

Ghilardi’s father came from a poor family, but always had the desire to go to college. Unfortunately, at the time he graduated from high school, the United States was embroiled in World War II, and he was drafted into this conflict. Still, he was determined to attend college, and he used his GI Bill afterwards to go to The University of Scranton.

Following her high school graduation from Scranton Prep, Ghilardi’s father presented her with two choices for college, one being The University of Scranton. Ghilardi firmly believes that she made the right choice to continue her Jesuit education at Scranton.

Ghilardi has reaffirmed her commitment to Scranton through a gift of life insurance to the University. Through this gift, she says, “I was able to do something significant to help students have the same wonderful education that I had. Most importantly, I was able to accomplish this within my financial means.”

“More people need to realize that they can make a significant gift with a very reasonable contribution,” she adds. “It is a popular misconception that planned giving is only for the wealthy or reserved for one’s estate plans in their will.”

When asked about the process, Ghilardi says, “It was very easy – not a very involved process. Just complete the documentation. It couldn’t have been easier. You just pay the annual premiums.”

It gives Ghilardi a good feeling that she is doing something that will provide an education for young people. As her father used to say, “Education is so critical. It is something that nobody can take away from you.”

“Education is so critical,” says Melinda C. Ghilardi, Esq., ’80, who, along with her husband, Sidney Prejean, Esq., ’72, attended Reunion 2007.

If you are looking for a way to help yourself with possible increased cash flow and tax savings while also helping a charitable organization, please consider a gift of life insurance. You can donate a life insurance policy to the University or simply name the University as the beneficiary. For additional information, contact Marise Garofalo, executive director of development, (570) 941-4144.
Alumni Club Establishes Scholarship

Marise Garofalo, executive director of Development (left), accepts a check for $13,500 from officers of the Scranton Alumni Club of Northeastern Pennsylvania to establish an endowed scholarship at The University of Scranton. The Scranton Alumni Club of Northeastern Pennsylvania Scholarship will be a need-based scholarship awarded to a Scranton student within the geographic boundaries of the Club. Pictured, from left: Garofalo, Club President Charles Cleveland ’84, Denise Michini ’91 and Paul Suche ’63.

The Royal Fund

When you give to The Royal Fund, you give more than a donation of money. Your gift, no matter what size, is an investment in Jesuit education. Gifts to The Royal Fund make a statement about the value you place on your Scranton education and your desire to provide the same opportunities for future generations of students.

Reunion 2008 is right around the corner, and I invite classes ending in “3” and “8” to take this special opportunity to support Scranton. As you prepare to come back to campus, I hope you will also give back to your alma mater through a special Reunion gift. During Reunion weekend, June 6-8, classes with the highest percentage of class giving participation and the greatest total giving during Reunion year will be recognized with special awards.

Of course, you don't have to celebrate your Reunion to celebrate a Scranton education! I encourage all alumni to give back to their alma mater as best you can, and I assure you that your gifts are greatly appreciated by students.

As a volunteer and Chair of The Royal Fund, I have experienced firsthand the expressions of joy, appreciation and opportunity that our students receive due to your continued financial support. Tuition alone does not cover the cost of a Scranton education. Funds raised through the Royal Fund help bridge the gap between the cost of tuition and the cost of education.

Thank you for continuing the Pride, Passion and Promise of a Scranton education with your participation in The Royal Fund.

McNeill Family Makes Gift to Retreat Fund

When MaryKatherine Holland McNeill ’92 was seeking answers to large questions in life, she attended Search Retreats offered by Rev. Joseph Simmons, S.J. Last year, when her father-in-law and mother-in-law were seeking a worthwhile cause for a charitable donation, she and her husband, Kevin, suggested a gift in honor of the Father Simmons Student Retreat Fund at the University.

“I want to make sure that Scranton students can continue going on retreats to get away from the stresses of student life and reflect for awhile … to obtain the same positive experiences that I had,” says McNeill.

McNeill’s affinity for the Retreat Fund and Fr. Simmons was supported wholeheartedly by the rest of the family, which includes several other Scranton alumni: her brother, Raymond Holland ’97, sister, Lorraine Holland McNeill ’95, and brother-in-law Tim McNeill ’95.

“It was a family effort, and we collectively agreed on this decision,” she says.

A transfer student to Scranton, it wasn’t until she became a Residence Assistant in Fitch Hall in 1990 that she became acquainted with Fr. Simmons, or Fr. Joe, as she came to know him. During her junior year, she participated in the XIX Search Retreat at Chapman Lake, where Fr. Joe was the moderator. It was during these retreats that she and other students explored answers to questions such as, “Who am I?,” “What does it mean to be a Christian?,” and “How do I deal with conflict?”

During her senior year as an RA in Gavigan Hall, McNeill lived next door to Fr. Joe. Even though he was not well at the time, “he was an integral presence in Gavigan College, as we called it,” giving masses and hosting meetings and other gatherings.

McNeill says she graduated from Scranton “with strong ties” that have continued over the past 15 years. She stays in touch with classmates and has attended her five, ten and 15-year reunions, all “great alumni events.”

While she has not had the opportunity to return to the Retreat Center at Chapman Lake – a place with many happy memories – she has many fond memories of Fr. Simmons.

“It was an honor and privilege to know him,” she says.

To support the Father Simmons Student Retreat Fund at the University, contact Marise Garofalo, executive director of development, (570) 941-4144.