University News

Scrantastic! Office Convention Puts Scranton in National Spotlight

In many ways, the Office Convention was much like the Emmy-award winning sitcom The Office. No one could have predicted the magnitude of its success.

The three-day Convention, chaired by a triumvirate of Scrantonians and organized by a handful of people who ultimately enlisted the support of hundreds of volunteers, drew throngs of Office fans, not only from Scranton, but as far away as Wyoming, California, Canada and Ireland.

Many of the events were held on the campus of The University of Scranton, which was an organizer of the Convention and host to thousands over the weekend. By all estimates, a total of 10,000 attended the Convention, which included guest appearances from 15 cast members, as well as the executive producers and a dozen writers of the show.

For The University of Scranton, it was an opportunity to showcase its campus to a national audience – a chance for this Jesuit jewel to shine even brighter.

Beginning in the wee hours of the morning of Oct. 26, students lined up in the cold to give a warm welcome to Al Roker of NBC’s Today show in a live broadcast from campus that kicked off The Office Convention. In all, more than 3,000 people, including 2,500 University students, turned out in Scranton style to cheer on Roker and nine cast members of The Office who made special appearances during the morning broadcast. They were greeted like rock stars, with cheers from the Royals cheerleading squad and roaring enthusiasm from the crowd.

The Convention was the brainchild of Scrantonians Michele Dempsey, DX Dempsey Architecture, Tim Holmes ’88 of Times Shamrock Newspapers, and Sara Hailstone of the City of Scranton, who collectively chaired the event. The weekend-long festivities were organized by the City of Scranton, the Lackawanna County Convention & Visitors Bureau, WBRE-TV, Times Shamrock Newspapers, The University of Scranton, The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce and Mohegan Sun.

To view the full text of this story, visit the Web at www.scranton.edu/officeconvention.

“ Iggy” got in the fun (and the photo) with University President Rev. Scott Pilarz, S.J., and NBC’s Al Roker.

The Convention included Dunder Mifflin Infinity’s Office Olympics, held in the Byron Complex.

The Royals Cheerleaders cheer on Office cast members Kate Flannery (Meredith), Creed Bratton (Creed) and Oscar Núñez (Oscar), and NBC’s Al Roker during a live broadcast of the Today show from campus.
Visionary Thinking Brings The Office to Town

Tim Holmes comes from a family that thinks big. When he graduated from the University in 1988, his brother-in-law hired a plane to buzz the campus trailing a congratulatory banner. So when friend Sara Hailstone, a city administrator, asked him what he thought of luring NBC’s Emmy-award-winning series The Office to town, he said, “Let’s do it.”

Tim became “the visionary” of the small group of Scrantonians determined to turn the national spotlight on Scranton. Tim says, “It was important that The Office Convention benefit everybody — we wanted to structure it so it was good for the city and also good for the show itself.” When Tim opened the Philadelphia Inquirer the day after the convention and saw the headline, “From coal to cool,” he knew he’d succeeded.

As the “visionary,” it was Tim’s job to make the pitch to NBC. Scranton architect, Michele Dempsey and some friends initially explored her convention ideas in a 30-page document. Tim was tasked with distilling the ideas into a single page that would win NBC buy-in. “What it boiled down to,” Tim says, “was the idea that ‘Star Trek’ had its conventions and ‘The Office’ fans were every bit as rabid — it would be something for the fans.” The committee was given a glimmer of hope when they heard that Executive Producer Greg Daniels’ reaction was “it will play well with the sensibilities of the show.”

Tim’s degree in marketing served him well in crafting the pitch. Moreover, the wide latitude and support given him by The Scranton Times-Tribune allowed him to reach out to partners (including his alma mater) whom he was sure would place Scranton in the best light possible. “I knew Al Roker had to be at the University. I knew they would make it come alive with 2,500 screaming kids. I visualized that back in August,” Tim says. On Oct. 26, that vision proved eerily accurate — but then again, that’s what visionaries do.

More than 150 reporters, including representatives from the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, USA Today and other national print and broadcast media attended a press conference with cast members held in the Byron Complex.

Scranton Shines for “Stanley”

The Office Convention provided an opportunity for The University of Scranton to showcase its campus to a national audience — a chance for this Jesuit jewel to shine even brighter. It clearly caught the attention of Leslie David Baker, who plays Stanley on the Emmy award-winning sitcom, The Office.

“The campus is breathtaking,” he said, adding that the grounds are “impeccable” and the staff accommodating. Himself the product of a Jesuit education, Baker said of The University of Scranton, “I would come here to go to school if I had to do it all again.”
Mulberry Street Improvement Project Announced

The City of Scranton, Scranton City Council and The University of Scranton have announced a Mulberry Street improvement project that will beautify and improve safety for a gateway corridor into the city. The University of Scranton will fund the project, which is estimated to cost more than $1 million.

Set to begin in the spring of 2008, the project will provide a welcome sign to The University of Scranton and the historic Hill Section of the city, new sidewalks, period street lights and landscaping along Mulberry Street from Jefferson Avenue to North Webster Avenue. The project will also improve safety by widening the turn lane on the southwest corner of Jefferson Avenue and Mulberry Street.

“This is an example of what happens when you cooperate with each other and work with each other,” said Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty at the news conference on Sept. 20 on the University’s campus. “This (project) is an investment in infrastructure that benefits the city, the neighborhood and the University.”

“It’s not a monetary contribution, but so much more than a monetary contribution. This will last forever,” said Judy Gatelli, president of Scranton’s City Council. “This is needed in the Hill. The University has stepped up to the plate. This will certainly be the most wonderful artery through the city.”

Officials from the City of Scranton and the University unveiled plans for a streetscaping project at a news conference on Sept. 20. From left: Mayor Chris Doherty, Councilman Robert McGoff, Councilwoman Sherry Nealon Fanucci, University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., Council President Judy Gatelli and Hon. Ken Smith, Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

National Rankings Continue for Scranton

During the release of annual fall rankings of American universities, The University of Scranton received three national accolades in just one week.

Scranton was listed as one of the top ten master’s level universities in the north by U.S. News & World Report. This is the 14th consecutive year that U.S. News has ranked Scranton among the top ten schools in the north. The list, published on Aug. 20 in the annual edition of “America’s Best Colleges,” also listed Scranton among the “Great Schools at a Great Price,” which relates academic quality to the cost of attendance. This marks the fourth consecutive year that Scranton has been included among the 15 colleges listed as “Great Schools at a Great Price.” Also, for the fourth consecutive year, Scranton has been named among the five schools in its category listed for having the “Highest Graduation Rates.”

Scranton was the only college in Northeastern Pennsylvania to be among the elite colleges in the nation profiled in the Princeton Review’s The 366 Best Colleges, marking the sixth consecutive year that the University made Princeton Review’s exclusive list. The guide published on Aug. 21.

Scranton was also the only area college to be listed in Kaplan/Newsweek’s 2008 publication How to Get Into College, which listed Scranton among the nation’s “372 Most Interesting Schools” for the second consecutive year. The Kaplan/Newsweek guide published on Aug. 15.

Alumnus Honored for Humanitarian Work

William A. Canny ’77, the country representative for Haiti for Catholic Relief Services, received an honorary degree from the University and addressed the incoming freshman students during a New Student Assembly on Aug. 25.

In the citation, read by classmate Linda D’Andrea Barrass, M.D.’77, Canny was praised for his humanitarian work throughout the world. “Mr. Canny’s work with American and international humanitarian organizations has taken him from Africa and India to Europe, Eurasia and Haiti. In his travels and work across the globe, he has answered the Ignatian call of service to others, ‘to give and not to count the cost,’ ” read Dr. Barrass.

In addition to his work for Catholic Relief Services, Canny previously served as Secretary General of The International Catholic Migration Commission, an appointment that required approval by the Holy See.

William A. Canny ’77 addressed a nearly full-house audience in the Byron Complex following his awarding of an Honorary Degree during a New Student Assembly, Aug. 25.
Nine new members have been elected to three-year terms on the University of Scranton’s Board of Trustees, beginning their terms at the Oct. 4 board meeting.

New trustees are: Thomas J. Davis, CPA ’69, proprietor of a financial advisory and consulting practice; Donna M. Doherty, owner of Heart to Art; Rev. James F. Duffy, S.J., M.D. ’88, chaplain of Georgetown University School of Medicine and internist at the Spanish Catholic Center, Washington, D.C.; Edward Glynn, S.J. H’90, president, Christ the King Preparatory School, Newark, N.J.; Eugene J. Kane Sr. ’54, chairman of Kane is Able, Inc.; James Knipper ’81, president and CEO of J. Knipper and Company; James F. Mullery Jr. ’86, president of the Global Sub-advisory Group at AXA Equitable; Diane Edmunds Murray H’06, co-founder and president of Lavelle Murray, Inc.; and John A. Walsh ’66, senior vice president and executive editor of ESPN and the ESPN Internet Group.

Biographical sketches of members of the Board of Trustees may be found on the Web site at www.scranton.edu/trustees.

Conference on disAbility Draws Record Crowd

“Autism Across the Lifespan: Allies in Action” was discussed to a capacity crowd gathered for the 6th Annual Northeastern U.S. Conference on disAbility, held Oct. 18 on campus. The Conference included sessions on education, employment and independent living.

Keynote speakers were two leading advocates for autism in Pennsylvania and America. Dennis O’Brien, the 137th Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and founder and co-chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Autism Caucus, opened the conference with his keynote address, “Pennsylvania Legislation and Commitment to Autism Funding.”


The conference also featured a live videoconference with U.S. Senator Robert P. Casey, who discussed the bill he is drafting that will allow parents to create disability educational IRAs, as well as the issue of funding for children with disabilities through the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act.

The Conference was presented by The University of Scranton’s J.A. Panuska, S.J., College of Professional Studies and the Edward R. Leahy Jr. Endowment. Honorary Chairpersons were Edward R. Leahy ’68 and Patricia Leahy.
Faculty and Staff

Faculty Promotions, Tenure Decisions Announced

University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., announced 16 faculty promotions, including tenure decisions, effective at the beginning of the 2007-2008 academic year.

The following faculty members were promoted to professor effective the fall of 2007: Yaodong Bi, Ph.D., computer science; S. Kingsley Gnanendran, Ph.D., operations management; Sharon M. Hudacek, Ed.D., nursing; Robert W. Shaffer, Ph.D., history; Carol S. Sloterback, Ph.D., psychology; and Gary N. Wodder, Ph.D., exercise science and sport.

The following were promoted to associate professor and granted tenure beginning the fall of 2007: Robert F. Waldeck, Ph.D., biology; Antoinette G. Glover, Ph.D., English; Kelli O’Brien, Ph.D., theology/religious studies; Karpiak, Ph.D., math; and Christie P. Karpik, Ph.D., psychology.

The following were promoted to associate professor beginning the fall of 2007: Benjamin J. Bishop, Ph.D., computing science; and William B. Anderson, Ph.D., communication.

The following were promoted to associate professor effective the fall of 2007: Eric A. Plumley, Ed.D., theology/religious studies; Rev. Timothy J. Cadigan, S.J., biology; and Robert J. Spinelli, health administration/human resources.

The University currently employs 267 full-time faculty members, 82 percent of whom hold doctorate or terminal degrees.

Four Named to Posts at Scranton

Rosette Burakari Adera has been named Director of the Office of Equity and Diversity.

Adera comes to the University from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where she served as an ESL program coordinator for the Center for Student Development, as well as a member of the Senior Management Advisory Committee (Office of Human Rights and Equity), where she worked with the university administration to promote diversity and equity at a governance and senior leadership level. She brings more than 15 years of combined experience in community development through advocacy and consultation on gender, race, language and ethnicity, immigration, citizenship, war and genocide. She earned an M.A. degree from McMaster University and an M.Ed. degree from the University of Western Ontario.

Debra A. Pellegrino, Ed.D., has been named dean of the Panuska College of Professional Studies. Before joining the University, Dr. Pellegrino was chair of the Department of Education, director of the master of education programs, and an associate professor of education in the area of literacy and elementary education at Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Mo. Additionally, she served as literacy coordinator for the Central City Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Kansas City, Mo.—St. Joseph, and coordinator of the greater Kansas City area children’s literature conferences and the annual Read the World Literacy Conference in the Midwest. She earned an Ed.D., from Saint Louis University and M.Ed. and B.S. degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

E. Springs Steele, Ph.D., has been named associate provost and vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Steele served as interim associate provost from July 2005 to June 2007 and has been a member of the University’s faculty in the Technology and Religious Studies Department since 1979. Dr. Steele was named to the rank of full professor in 1996 and was chair of the Theology/Religious Studies Department from 2000 until his appointment as interim associate provost. He earned his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Notre Dame. He has served on the Board on Rank and Tenure, the Faculty Affairs Council and the Climate Study Response Committee.

W. Jeffrey Welsh, Ph.D., has been named dean of the College of Graduate and Continuing Education. Before joining Scranton, Dr. Welsh was vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college at Thiel College, Greenville, Pa. Previously, he was vice president for academic affairs, dean of faculty and professor of history at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, N.C. He has also held academic and administrative positions at Surry Community College, Firelands College, and Bowling Green State University, and was a visiting research fellow with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. An 18th Century American Historian, he has authored a number of scholarly articles, edited a collection of essays on the War of 1812 and presented at numerous conferences. He earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Bowling Green State University, and an A.B. degree from Grove City College.
Achievements and Awards

Jean Wahl Harris, Ph.D., chair of the political science department and associate professor, has been chosen as a Fellow by the American Council on Education (ACE) for the 2007-08 academic year. Dr. Harris is one of only 39 educators in the nation chosen for the prestigious fellowship. Fellows participate in the policies, decision-making processes and culture of other institutions of higher learning. They also form a network with other education leaders, attend weeklong fellowship seminars and attend conferences on a national level. In 1994, she received the CASE Professor of the Year award from the University, and she is past president of the Lackawanna County League of Women Voters.

Daniel Mahoney, Ph.D., professor of accounting, has been chosen as the 2007 Outstanding Educator by the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA). He was recognized at PICPA’s annual Leadership Conference held in Hershey on Sept. 24. Dr. Mahoney has been the recipient of several awards at the University, including the Teacher of the Year award, the Edward Gannon, S.J. Award for Teaching, the CASE Professor of the Year and the Teacher of the Year in the Kania School of Management.

Rose Sebastianelli, Ph.D., professor of operations management, received the Kania School of Management Professor of the Year award from the Business Club for the second time. The award was presented at the annual KSOM dinner on Oct. 11. Dr. Sebastianelli joined the University in 1988, was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1995, and was named a full professor in 2003. She served as interim dean of the Kania School of Management for one year (1996-97) and as interim dean of the Graduate School for two years (2000-02).

Stephen Casey, associate professor of theology, was presented the John L. Earl Distinguished Service Award during the University Convocation on Sept. 7. This award is presented annually to the member of The University of Scranton faculty whose service to the University and the wider community best represents the tradition of generosity and dedication that Dr. Earl, a professor of history, exemplified during his tenure at the university from 1964 - 1996.

English Professor Writes Third Book on Emerson

A newly released book by Len Gougeon, Ph.D., professor of English, is breaking new ground by exploring the heart as well as the mind of one of America’s most important cultural figures. Emerson & Eros: The Making of a Cultural Hero, published this summer by the State University of New York Press, is the product of five years of writing and 30 years of thinking by Dr. Gougeon, an Emerson scholar whose previous published works include two other books on Emerson and numerous articles in scholarly journals.

In this biography, Dr. Gougeon traces the spiritual, psychological and intellectual growth of Ralph Waldo Emerson and his transformation from a Unitarian minister into one of America’s most important cultural figures.

Jay Parini, a well-known poet, biographer, and scholar, who received an honorary degree from The University of Scranton in 2005, gave Dr. Gougeon’s book high praise. “I’ve read this book with immense pleasure; it is a compelling work of scholarship and spiritual exploration.” Dr. Gougeon’s book also has been favorably reviewed by Midwest Book Review, which reviews books for schools and colleges, and by The New York Sun.
Scranton Welcomes Largest-Ever Undergrad Class

During Fall Welcome Weekend, Aug. 25-26, Scranton welcomed 1,600 incoming students, including a record 1,035 full-time undergraduate students, the largest incoming class in the school’s 119-year history. The University also welcomed approximately 60 undergraduate transfer students, 70 non-traditional undergraduate students and 435 new graduate students, which is also a record.

The entering undergraduate students were drawn from 7,608 applicants, marking the sixth consecutive year the University has set a record for undergraduate applications for admission. This represents an increase of 12.5 percent over applications received last year and more than doubles the 2001 totals for applications received. This year’s record marks the first time that Scranton’s applicant pool broke the 7,000 mark. It was only three years ago that applications first surpassed 6,000 and five years ago when applications first broke 5,000.

Applications to graduate programs have increased by 29 percent this year, and new enrollment has increased by approximately 5 percent. The University has also seen its graduate enrollment nearly triple over the past five years through Web-based and off-campus course offerings and new degree offerings such as the doctorate in physical therapy.

Presidential Scholars Awarded to 11

The University has awarded 11 freshmen full-tuition Presidential Scholarships for 2007-2008.

Presidential Scholarships are awarded to incoming freshmen with exemplary high records in both their schools and community involvement. 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 following students were awarded Presidential Scholarships:

Edward K. Besse, Laurel, Md.
Kristen C. Fenocchi, Jessup
Maria A. Gubbiotti, Falls
Daniel J. Herr, Lake Hopatcong, N.J.
John R. Layton, Hazleton
Victoria A. Lombardo, Wyoming
Caitlin R. Mancuso, Piscataway, N.J.
Caitlin McCarthy, Scranton
Elizabeth J. Reedy, Camillus, N.Y.
Anthony J. Stefanelli, Thornhurst
Rose M. Trotiner, Baldwin, N.Y.

Family Weekend Brings Hundreds to Campus

It was a weekend for families – about 500 of them, in fact. Hundreds of Scranton students were joined by their families Sept. 28-30 for Family Weekend on campus. The annual carnival (pictured above), sponsored by the University Student Programming Board, was one of an entire weekend of events that also included a book discussion, a lecture by an award-winning Jesuit author, a luncheon and a family Mass.
Speakers and Lectures

Nobel Laureate Discusses Genetic Code Research

The researcher whose pioneering work on the genetic code paved the way for decades of biomedical discoveries that have advanced the human condition presented this year’s annual Harry Mullin, M.D., Memorial Lecture.


The Mullin Lecture series, which has brought to campus more than a dozen of Dr. Nirenberg’s fellow Nobel laureates, honors the late Dr. Harry Mullin, who earned his bachelor’s degree from the University, then St. Thomas College, in 1931. He dedicated a lifetime of service to his profession and the Scranton community. The series is sponsored by his wife, Ethel Mullin, his son, Brian Mullin, M.D., ’66 and Robbin Mullin.

Renowned Economist Discusses Financial Strategies

“Avoiding Fiscal Ruin: Failed Strategies and New Approaches to U.S. Budget Policies” was the topic discussed by David H. Romer, Ph.D., at the University’s 22nd annual Henry George Lecture on Oct. 25. Dr. Romer, the Herman Royer Professor of Political Economy at The University of California, Berkeley, is a renowned economist who combines macroeconomic theory with extensive empirical analysis to provide deep insight into the working of the U.S. and global economy. The Economics and Finance Department at The University of Scranton and the campus chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon host the Henry George Lecture, which honors the 19th century American economist and social reformer. The lecture series is funded by a grant from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.

Lecture Series Features Jesuit Author

Christopher Award-winning author James Martin, S.J., discussed “Humor in the Catholic Church” at the University’s J.J. Quinn Memorial Lecture on Sept. 28 in the Houlihan-McLean Center on campus. Fr. Martin’s hallmark wit and spiritual insights were enthusiastically received by an audience that included many parents and families who were on campus for Family Weekend. Fr. Martin, associate editor of America magazine, is author of the bestselling book, My Life with the Saints (Loyola Press), as well as his newest book, A Jesuit Off-Broadway (Loyola Press). The J.J. Quinn lecture series honors the late J.J. Quinn, S.J., a professor of English at Scranton for more than four decades.

Genocide Survivor Speaks on Campus

As part of the commemoration of Interdependence Day on Sept. 12, the University hosted a panel discussion entitled “Why Don’t We Know More About Rwanda?,” featuring Jacqueline Murekatete, a young Rwandan who survived a 1994 genocide. Ms. Murekatete has made more than 300 presentations nationwide at venues ranging from schools and universities to the United Nations General Assembly, in an effort to raise awareness of victims and survivors of genocide. The panel discussion took place in Brennan Hall on campus and included Internet2 video conferencing participation from schools in Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

Alpha Sigma Nu Club Hosts Annual Lecture

Northeastern Pennsylvania’s Alpha Sigma Nu Alumni Club of the National Jesuit Honor Society sponsored its third annual lecture featuring Gerald P. Fogarty, S.J., the William Kenan Jr. Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. Fr. Fogarty, a former Trustee of the University, spoke on “The Pope and the U.S. on the Eve of World War II” on Oct. 6 in Brennan Hall. An expert on American Catholic history and Vatican-American relations, Fr. Fogarty is the author of several books and is past president of the American Catholic Historical Association. Alpha Sigma Nu is the National Jesuit Honor Society, inducting students who have distinguished themselves in scholarship, loyalty, and service. The Alpha Sigma Nu Alumni Club includes members who have graduated from any Jesuit college or university, including The University of Scranton.

PNC Breakfast Series Continues

Lauri Kavulich, Esq., ’86, former chairwoman of the Pennsylvania Inter-governmental Cooperation Authority, discussed “Public-Private Partnerships: A Win-Win for Everyone” at the PNC Breakfast on Sept. 21. The breakfast series continued on Oct. 25 with guest speaker David H. Romer, Ph.D., the Herman Royer Professor of Political Economy at The University of California, Berkeley, who, later that day, presented the Henry George Lecture on campus. The PNC Breakfast series brings together members of the civic and business community to hear guest speakers address topics of regional, national and international interest. PNC Bank is the corporate sponsor.
Condon Hall Will Provide Improved Sophomore Housing

The University broke ground on Sept. 6 for a new 386-bed sophomore residence hall. On the same day, the University officially named the building Christopher “Kip” and Margaret Condon Hall in honor of Scranton benefactors Christopher M. “Kip” Condon ’70, president and chief executive officer of AXA Financial, Inc., and his wife, Margaret Condon, Ph.D., a trustee of the University.

“The University of Scranton is grateful for the vision, dedication, uncompromising motivation and passionate leadership provided by Kip and Peggy Condon through their work as trustees and through Kip’s stewardship of the President’s Business Council,” said University of Scranton President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J. “The University of Scranton is proud to celebrate their continuous and generous support by naming this building Christopher ‘Kip’ and Margaret Condon Hall.”

A longtime friend and supporter of Scranton, Mr. Condon received a bachelor’s degree in business from Scranton in 1970. He served as a trustee for two terms, holding the position of vice chair. He is also the founder and chair of the University’s President’s Business Council, a prominent group of alumni and friends whose purpose is to advance the mission of the University. In 2006, the University awarded its President’s Medal to Mr. Condon at the President’s Business Council’s annual award.

Dr. Condon is an adjunct faculty member at Marymount Manhattan College and serves as an associate director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. She earned a doctorate in environmental studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and has served as a member of the Science Advisory Board for the state of Massachusetts and the Allegheny County Air Pollution Advisory Board.

Construction of Condon Hall began in September and is expected to be completed by the fall of 2008. Several University properties on North Webster Avenue were razed to establish a site for the new 108,000 sq. ft, seven-story facility.

“The project will improve the quality and consistency of sophomore housing, and will replace older, less desirable facilities,” said Fr. Pilarz. “It also anticipates external forces that are shaping the availability of rental housing in the Hill section, such as the city’s welcome enforcement of zoning restrictions, and creates housing opportunities for juniors and seniors by freeing up existing apartment-style options that upperclassmen find more attractive.”

For additional information about the project and a photo gallery of the groundbreaking, visit the Web at www.scranton.edu/condron-hall.

Participants in the groundbreaking ceremony of Condon Hall, from left: Martin Langan, associate vice president for administrative services; Carolyne King, student representative; Vince Carilli, Ph.D., vice president for student affairs; Margaret Condon, Ph.D.; Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., president; Christopher “Kip” Condon; Phil Condon Sr.; Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty; Nobel C. Quandel, president of The Quandel Group, Inc.; Don Flynn, vice president, Burkavage Design Associates; Bill Burkavage, president, Burkavage Design Associates.
DeNaples Honored, New Record Reached at Annual Award Dinner

The University’s President’s Business Council achieved another record-breaking milestone at its Sixth Annual Award Dinner on October 4 at The Pierre in New York City. Louis A. DeNaples Sr. H’05, president of DeNaples Auto Parts, Keystone Sanitary Landfill, and Mount Airy Casino Resort, received the University’s President’s Medal before an over-capacity crowd of 760 alumni and friends.

Dinner co-chair Andrew B. Dinnhaupt ’89, portfolio manager in the Global Financial Services of RBC Capital Markets, announced that this year’s dinner raised a record $1.56 million. This year’s total surpassed the $1.54 million achieved at the 2006 Annual Award Dinner. Mr. Dinnhaupt also noted that in the six-year history of this event, more than $6.25 million has been raised. Proceeds from the annual dinner go directly to Scranton’s Presidential Scholarship Endowment Fund, which supports full-tuition scholarships awarded annually by the University to its most academically qualified students.

Kaci E. Haines, a senior majoring in biology with a minor in philosophy from Spring Brook, spoke on behalf of the Presidential Scholars. She thanked the attendees for their generosity and, on behalf of her fellow scholarship recipients, for providing the encouragement needed to grow.

Louis DeNaples Sr. H’05 (center) gratefully accepted the President’s Medal from University President Rev. Scott Pilarz, S.J. and Chair of the President’s Business Council Christopher “Kip” Condron ’70.

Christopher M. “Kip” Condron ’70, president & CEO of AXA Financial, Inc., and chair of the President’s Business Council, returned to the role as Master of Ceremonies for the evening after being honored at last year’s dinner. Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn ’72, pastor of the Church of St. Rose of Lima in Carbondale, provided the Invocation.

University President Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., provided an update on the recent activities of the University, as well as its continued successes as recognized by numerous national publications. Fr. Pilarz referred to a recent meeting with a current parent of two University students in describing the ethos of the campus, “At Scranton, when somebody trips, everybody stops to help them up.” Fr. Pilarz noted that Louis DeNaples exemplifies this Scranton ethos. Fr. Pilarz went on to offer his gratitude to Louis’ wife, Bettyann, and their family for “generously sharing your husband, father and grandfather with the University.”

A native and resident of Dunmore, Mr. DeNaples is a self-made businessman. His career began with the founding of DeNaples Auto Parts and has grown into a conglomerate of more than 200 companies in which he has business interests including towing, heavy equipment sales and rentals, landfills, waste hauling, transportation, banking and real estate. In December of 2006, Mr. DeNaples’ business interests expanded when the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board selected his application for one of the slot machine licenses that the state was awarding. The Mount Airy Casino Resort in the Poconos opened its doors in October.

An active community volunteer and philanthropist, Mr. DeNaples also established the Mount Airy Foundation, which will manage charitable giving to programs that target youth, low-income families, and the at-risk and disadvantaged. He has served on the boards of numerous organizations throughout northeastern Pennsylvania.

A longtime friend of the University, Mr. DeNaples served two terms as a trustee, including two years as chair of the board. He received an honorary degree from the University in 2005. In July, as recognition of his lifetime of commitment to the University, a new campus center was named in honor of his late parents, Patrick and Margaret DeNaples. The building will open in January 2008.

Enjoying the pre-dinner reception are Board of Trustees Chair Carl Kuehner ’62, (right), his wife, JoAnne, and Frank McDonnell, Esq., ’60.
In his acceptance remarks, Mr. DeNaples humbly offered his gratitude for this recognition and stated, “Aside from my marriage to my wife, Bettyann, and the birth of our seven children, this is the greatest night of my life.” In explaining his family’s commitment to support Catholic and Jesuit education, Mr. DeNaples encouraged those present to continue the tradition of generosity. “We are called to the cause of Catholic education in the Jesuit tradition because it offers us a meaningful way to leave a lasting tradition for future generations,” he said.

Immediately prior to the President’s Medal presentation, two close friends of Mr. DeNaples offered an introduction of this year’s honoree. Rev. Joseph F. Sica ’77, chaplain of Mercy Hospital in Scranton and a longtime friend of the honoree, described “the style, the vision and the person” of Mr. DeNaples. Fr. Sica described Mr. DeNaples as someone who “sees the finish line long before people know there’s even a race” and who combines “personal humility with a firm determination to move forward.” John D. Dionne ’86, dinner co-chair, immediate past chair of the University’s Board of Trustees, and senior managing director of The Blackstone Group, provided a glimpse into the entrepreneurial success of Mr. DeNaples. “Nothing takes Louis DeNaples off his game,” Mr. Dionne said.

The President’s Business Council was formed in 2001 by the University and a prominent group of alumni and friends with the purpose of advancing the mission of the University. In addition to its annual dinner, the Council provides mentoring, internship, educational and career opportunities for current students and networking opportunities for alumni and friends.

In her remarks, Presidential Scholar Kaci Haines ’08 told the audience, “I can only hope to be in your seat some day giving back to an ideal and an institution such as this.”

Rev. Joseph F. Sica ’77, chaplain of Mercy Hospital in Scranton, introduced his longtime friend, Louis DeNaples. “You possess a strong will and well-informed opinions that are often based on good old common sense. You place character and integrity well above success,” he said of Mr. DeNaples.

Past and present recipients of the President’s Medal share in the evening’s celebrations.

From left: Paul Montrone, Ph.D., ’62 (2003 award recipient), University President Rev. Scott Pilarz, S.J., Louis DeNaples (2007 award recipient), Christopher “Kip” Condron ’70 (2006 award recipient), and John Dionne ’86, immediate past chair of the Board of Trustees.

“ASIDE FROM MY MARRIAGE TO MY WIFE, BETTYANN, AND THE BIRTH OF OUR SEVEN CHILDREN, THIS IS THE GREATEST NIGHT OF MY LIFE.”

Louis A. DeNaples Sr. H’05, President’s Medal Recipient

“Unseen kindnesses on behalf of students and our mission have been a consistent quality of Louis’ service to the University throughout the decades.”

Rev. Scott Pilarz, S.J., University president

“On this wondrous night for our beloved University of Scranton … we celebrate the Gospel virtues of real wisdom of heart, selfless generosity and genuine humility as seen so clearly and strongly in the life and works of Louis DeNaples…”

Msgr. Joseph Quinn ’72, Pastor, Church of St. Rose of Lima

“If there is one truly unique business attribute of Louis’ no-nonsense approach, it’s his ability to make something difficult into something simple.”

John D. Dionne ’86, dinner co-chair and past chair of the University’s Board of Trustees

The President’s Business Council’s seal illuminates the dance floor at the reception following the Award Dinner.
Paul Brown ‘02 Memorial Garden Dedicated

A memorial garden honoring the life and memory of University of Scranton student Paul T. Brown was dedicated on Sept. 22.

The dedication ceremony of “Paul’s Place” was attended by members of Paul’s family and closest friends from the class of 2002, as well as friends of his sister, Jenna Brown ‘06. Paul’s memorial plaque was blessed by Rev. Terrence P. Devino, S.J., assistant vice president of University Ministries. The dedication concluded with the presentation of individual white roses, which each guest placed on the stone where the plaque is located.

Born on March 30, 1980, Paul passed away from cancer during his senior year at the University. The University of Scranton posthumously awarded his bachelor of the arts degree in 2002.

Following his death in 2001, Paul’s mother, Lennea Brown, and sister, Jenna Brown ‘06, wanted to celebrate their son and brother by creating a place of meditation and beauty dedicated to Paul’s memory. Paul’s Place is now a physical study space for all members of the University community to enjoy.

Paul’s Place is located in Mulberry Plaza within the atrium space between the Mulberry Plaza Apartments, outside of Paul’s last place of residence as a student. This memorial garden is funded entirely by the Brown family, who intend to continue their generosity to the University through future gifts directed to Paul’s memory at Scranton. Lennea and Jenna also plan to make future visits to the garden and to provide additional funding to maintain the garden while preserving Paul’s legacy at Scranton.

Discover the Benefits of Giving ... and Create a Legacy

With just a few clicks of your mouse, you can create a legacy with The University of Scranton that will endure through time. Visit us on our new gift planning Web site www.scranton.edu/plannedgiving.

Access a virtual encyclopedia of information on estate planning and charitable giving, including access to hundreds of up-to-date articles on making the most of your giving.

Discover how charitable donations can provide payments for you and your loved ones. Calculate your benefits with our online gift calculator. Learn how new tax laws will change the way your IRA pays you and your beneficiaries.

You can create a legacy that endures. We are happy to provide you with additional information. For a confidential conversation, feel free to contact Marise Garofalo at (570) 941-4444 or marise.garofoalo@scranton.edu with any questions – specific or general – about gift options that best fit your philanthropic and financial goals.

From left: Jaime Giblin, Linda Howell and Lindsey Mitchell ‘08 helped organize the inaugural Brendan J. Giblin ‘06 Memorial Golf Outing.

Golf Outing Celebrates the Memory of Brendan Giblin ’06

The Brendan J. Giblin ‘06 Memorial Golf Outing was held on July 27, to celebrate the memory of Brendan J. Giblin, who passed away during his senior year at Scranton. In its inaugural year, this special golf outing received an outpouring of support from friends, family, sponsors and former classmates of Brendan. There were more than 100 golfers and 200 dinner guests in attendance who gave generously of their time and resources to show their loyalty to the Giblin family and to support the charities that were close to Brendan’s heart. Among these causes is The University of Scranton, where the Giblins are hoping to establish an endowed scholarship in their son’s name - The Brendan J. Giblin ‘06 Memorial Scholarship. A portion of the proceeds from this event will go toward funding this scholarship, honoring Brendan’s memory for years to come.

Paul’s Place, a memorial to former student Paul T. Brown ‘02, was dedicated on Sept. 22.