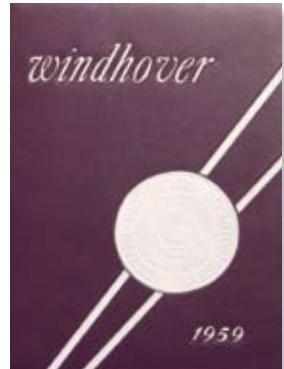


# Decades of Alumni Share Their Scranton Pride

Whether they graduated in 1959 or 2004, Scranton alumni share an affinity for their alma mater. The bonds they forged during their years on campus and the pride they felt as students and, indeed, on the very day of their graduation, withstands the test of time. As alumni from classes ending in "4" and "9" prepare to celebrate their Reunion in June 2009, *The Scranton Journal* is pleased to showcase alumni from Reunion years and the many ways in which they share their Scranton pride.



GERALD WALSH, ESQ. '59



## Successful Trial Attorney Makes a Case for His Jesuit Education

**G**erald R. Walsh '59 was, by his own admission, an "average" student when he enrolled at Scranton in the mid-1950s.

The Jesuits changed that in a hurry.

"I learned some scholastic discipline – more than a little, probably," he says. "I got interested in psychology, and we all minored in philosophy/theology. That combination and the likes of Father John J. Quinn and other professors instilled in me a zeal for learning and doing better than I had done in high school."

Duly inspired, Walsh threw himself into a variety of activities, including winning election to his class presidency his last three years at the University. He played intramural football and spent two years in the Army ROTC program, an experience that intrigued Walsh but convinced him that Army life was not for him. Faulty eyesight set aside his dream of serving as a Navy pilot, but Walsh had another option in mind.

"I got into Navy Officer Candidate School. I'm sure it was because of The University of Scranton's reputation for putting out good, motivated students," he says. "A couple of guys from my class went to Newport, Rhode Island, after graduation. I took a bus to Newport in July of '59 with Eppie Harding, went to OCS, got commissioned, and spent three years on active duty."



Gerald Walsh, Esq. is chairing his Class Reunion Committee, as members of the Class of 1959 prepare to celebrate their 50th reunion in June 2009.

"I don't think any of that would have happened had I not had the benefit of the University's work scholarship program and its inculcation into young people of the sense of duty and responsibility," Walsh adds.

After three years of sea duty aboard the U.S.S. Northampton, CLC-1, it was on to law school at George Washington University and a successful, lengthy practice as a trial and appellate lawyer, concentrating in the medical malpractice area, in suburban Washington, D.C. Over the years Walsh, who continues to practice, stayed active in the alumni association's Washington chapter until family and professional responsibilities intervened, and he attended most of his class's reunions back on campus.

Five years ago, at his 45-year reunion, Walsh was chatting with classmates about their upcoming 50th. They vowed to "make it something special" and began having some informal chats to determine how they could recruit as many fellow graduates as possible. That effort really took off last year, though, when Walsh sat down with a Scranton development officer.

"Maybe a year ago I was having lunch with Alan Mazzei from the University, and I mentioned offhandedly that I was looking forward to the 50th and looking to put together a team of classmates and make it one of the best," he recalls.

Asked if he would step up and formalize his commitment by serving as chair of the Class of '59's reunion committee, Walsh said yes right away.

"We're now working on just getting a little better organized and trying to reach out and get tentacles in all parts of the country to see if we can't gather up the gang we had so much fun with over the years," he notes with a laugh.

Class president for three years. Prominence in student activities. Military service. A distinguished career in law. A decades-long commitment to his alma mater.

Not bad for an "average" student.

## FRANK X. HOMER, PH.D. '64

## The “Unofficial” Scranton Historian

**A**sk Professor Frank X. Homer, Ph.D. anything about The University of Scranton’s history and he will be delighted to answer with the detail of a learned historian. Within seconds of his answer, his love for the University - and history - is obvious.

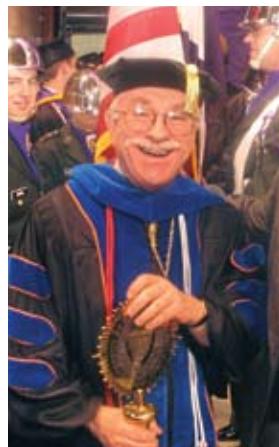
A 1964 graduate of The University of Scranton, Dr. Homer was only briefly away

from the University while he earned his master’s degree and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He returned to Scranton upon graduation in 1968 to join the faculty of the then History/Political Science Department.

“Bernie Williams, my history professor and mentor at Scranton, told me to ‘do for your students what I do for you,’ and I have tried to heed that message everyday since,” says Dr. Homer.

Active in numerous projects on campus, Dr. Homer is best known for one of his most visible roles, that of leading the procession as the Grand Marshal for Scranton commencement. It is something he did from 1974 to 2004, and again in 2008.

He has also served as The University of Scranton’s unofficial historian in many



Frank Homer, Ph.D. '64 is well-known for his role as the Grand Marshal for Scranton commencements.

ways, such as providing a historical overview to new employees at their orientation and whispering significant historical facts into the President’s ear.

Historians know that more important than dates, names and places, is the relevance of the act - its legacy. This legacy is exactly what inspires Dr. Homer about the University.

“The University of Scranton is an ongoing series of acts of faith,” says Dr. Homer. “It has been from the very start in August of 1888, when Bishop O’Hara laid a cornerstone for the college building when the money needed for its construction had not yet been raised. Then again, when the Jesuits arrived in 1942 to take over a debt-ridden institution at a time when all college-aged men were being drafted into a world war that was expected to continue for a prolonged period of time. The faith our founders had in this University is astounding. And, I might add, it continues to this day.”

When Dr. Homer looks back at his life at Scranton, he is most proud of just being part of the growth of the University and witnessing the ongoing acts of faiths.

“I just enjoy being part of what is happening at this school - seeing Father Pilarz leading an unprecedented \$100 million capital campaign. I feel privileged to have been at Scranton with some of ‘the Greats,’ such as the legendary Frank O’Hara, John Gavigan, Stephen Ryan and Gene McGinnis, as well as those in more recent years, including two of my dearest friends, Jack Earl and Frank Jordan. These are individuals whose contributions have been so significant that we would not be where we are today if it weren’t for them. We are literally standing on their shoulders.”

### Dr. Homer’s Reflections on the Reunion Years

**1964** “Except for the Estate, where the Jesuits resided, all the buildings now used by the University were built during Fr. Long’s presidency. We were in awe of St. Thomas Hall and thrilled that classes would no longer be held in the old army surplus barracks.”

**1969** “This was a time of unrest and student protests, although I have to admit that Scranton’s campus was much calmer than other campuses in the nation.”

**1974** “Women were new on campus, being first admitted into the day college in 1972, and with that, enrollment began growing again.”

**1979** “Fr. Byron was President, enrollment continued to grow, and facilities were beginning to become strained. Linden Street was closed to car traffic, creating The Commons.”

**1984** “Fr. Panuska was the President, and with the building of Redington Hall, an era of new construction on campus began. Enrollment was strong and becoming more broadly regional.”

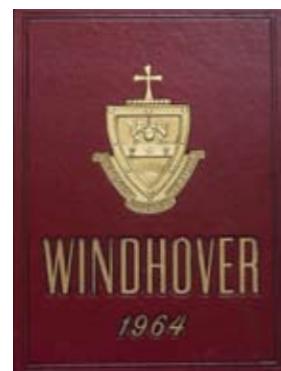
**1989** “New building construction continued, and the campus began to look as it does today.”

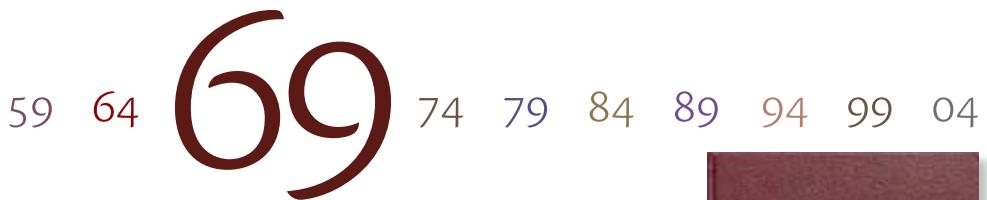
**1994** “Fr. Panuska continued as President, becoming the longest-serving President in the University’s history. He was very popular and endeared by students, faculty, staff and alumni.”

**1999** “Fr. McShane became President. He was a highly energetic leader.”

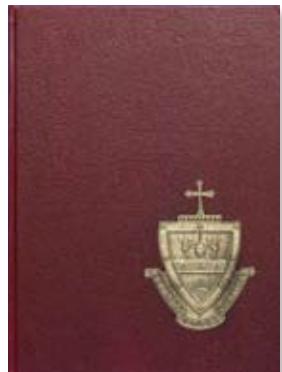
**2004** “We saw Fr. Pilarz begin as President. The University was in such strong shape. It had a sense of confidence – of being established. Fr. Pilarz tried to ensure that we appreciate who and what we are, and know the value of our service.”

**Today** “Once again we are seeing significant change on campus with new construction for the first time replacing facilities built during Fr. Long’s era.”





DAVID J. WENZEL '69, G '74



## From Wounded Warrior to Self-Sufficient Student and Community Leader

**D**avid J. Wenzel says he and his alma mater share a lot of history.

The 27th mayor of the City of Scranton, Wenzel graduated from Scranton in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. During his junior year, Wenzel joined the ROTC, hoping that the training would help him gain additional leadership skills and experience. His future plans included earning a master's degree at the University and pursuing a career with the federal government.

Things, however, didn't go as planned. After graduating and being commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, he and his wife, Janet, moved to Kansas and then Panama, where Wenzel underwent further military training. Eventually, he was sent to Vietnam. In January 1971, Wenzel and three fellow soldiers were searching out a location for setting up mortars. Wenzel stepped on a land mine, which resulted in the loss of his left hand, both legs and the use of one eye.

Thousands of miles away from Vietnam, The University of Scranton was there to help. "It was the University ROTC personnel who visited my wife," Wenzel says. "They were very caring in the way they broke the news."

He spent the next year at Valley Forge Army Hospital before returning to Scranton as a student, this time in the Graduate School.

"The University was familiar ground," he says. "Walking around on artificial legs with crutches and a metal hook for a left hand was disconcerting. By going to graduate school, I eased back into society in a comfortable atmosphere."

Wenzel completed his master of business administration degree in 1974.

"I wasn't prepared to take on a full-time job; yet I needed something to challenge me intellectually. Getting the MBA was just the ticket."

Wenzel then took a job with City Hall as the American Bicentennial Coordinator of Scranton, later serving as executive assistant to Mayor Gene Peters and tax collector. He also worked as selective service director of Pennsylvania. In 1986, he ran for the office of Scranton mayor, winning against incumbent James Barrett McNulty and independent candidate Bob Bolus.

While in office, he helped his alma mater by deeding part of Quincy Avenue to the University, adding to the campus what

became The Royal Way. Also in 1989, he received the Frank O'Hara Award for public service. The O'Hara Awards, the highest honor bestowed jointly by the University and the Alumni Society, recognize Scranton graduates and others who have achieved distinction in their professional or personal endeavors.

Wenzel's term as mayor ended in 1990. He hadn't been looking for a job, but was contacted by Frank Paris, a former ROTC instructor. "Frank was teaching a course at the University called 'The Vietnam Experience.' He asked me to teach the course with him, and for the next 15 years, we taught it as an elective with a waiting list of students."

Wenzel's involvement with Scranton continues. He's currently a member of the Board of Regents and recently signed a contract to sponsor a yearly jazz concert at the University to be produced through Cheryl Boga, director of Performance Music at the University. The concert will be dedicated to Boga's late father, Eugene Yevich, who was Scranton Fire Chief during Wenzel's administration, and will take place early each year, near the anniversary date of Yevich's and Wenzel's inaugurations.

Wenzel also received a Leahy Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation Leadership at the 7th Annual Northeastern U.S. Conference on disAbility, held on campus Oct. 8. The Leahy Awards are given annually to individuals who exemplify excellence in leadership and advocacy for persons with disabilities.

Wenzel is quick to credit the positive influence Scranton has made on his life, especially after his life changed permanently in 1971.

"I want to emphasize how important a role the University played in helping me to adjust to everyday life as a disabled person," he says. "The fact that the University was so accessible made my transition from wounded warrior to self-sufficient student very easy."

David J. Wenzel '69, G '74 (right) returned to his alma mater on Oct. 8 to participate in the University's annual Conference on disAbility. At the Conference, he received a Leahy Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation Leadership. At left and center are Patricia Leahy and Edward Leahy '68, honorary co-chairs of the Conference.



TED WOLFF '74

## One of the “Three Musketeers” of the Lehigh Valley Club

**A**sk Ted Wolff what has inspired him to take on leadership roles in the Scranton Club of the Lehigh Valley for almost 20 years, and he'll freely admit that there's a part of him "that bleeds purple and white."

"Any time you volunteer, you do it out of love for a cause," says Wolff, who estimates that he's helped to organize almost 200 events for the Lehigh Valley Club since 1992.

While the Lehigh Valley Club is today one of the most active of the 21 alumni clubs of the University, it wasn't always that way. The Club was inactive for a period of time in the mid 1980's. But a recruitment session held in Allentown in

1988 changed all of that. Wolff wasn't at that particular session, but one of his classmates was. It didn't take long for Lawrence Johnson '74 to get involved, and, in short order, he recruited classmates Bill Fries, Esq. '74 and, of course, Wolff.

"I guess you could say I was drafted," quips Wolff, now the longest-standing Club President in the Scranton network.

Ironically, Johnson, Wolff and Fries were barely more than acquaintances during their years on campus. But, as Wolff points out, "We grew close as alumni." He sought financial advice from Johnson, who is now vice president and senior relationship manager at Wachovia. And Fries became Wolff's attorney.

Over the years, the "Three Musketeers," as Wolff describes the trio, have originated, organized and attended an array of alumni events, from presidential receptions, networking socials and comedy shows to minor league baseball events and fundraising initiatives.



The "Three Musketeers" of the Scranton Club of Lehigh Valley gather at a recent business meeting. From left: Larry Johnson '74, Ted Wolff '74 and Bill Fries '74.

*Photo by Mark Prestifilippo '04*

"All these events were targeted to bring University alums together to network for social and business reasons," says Johnson. "We also wanted to share our love and appreciation for what the University gave to us," he adds.

"We've collaborated on a number of things, and we've had a blast," says Wolff of the camaraderie. "We're proud that we've stayed together this long."

Some events, like the highly successful Iron Pigs baseball outing, or a comedy night with acts from Philadelphia, draw crowds of up to 90. Others, like an Atlantic City bus trip, had only two registered alumni: Johnson and Fries.

And then there was the legendary "Concorde" event.

"Ted and I cooked up the idea to fly to England on the Concorde and return on the QE2 for \$6,800 at the time," recalls Johnson of the elaborate fundraising scheme that never got off the ground.

Through successful and, well, not-so-successful events, as well as growth and changes in their careers and personal lives, the "Three Musketeers" have stuck together.

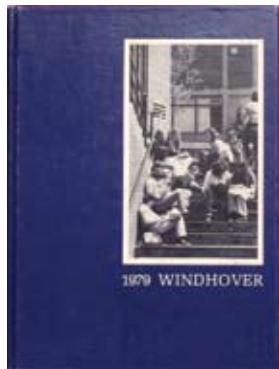
"Over the past 35 years, we've all taken different turns," says Wolff, whose career has spanned everything from journalism and sales to sports administration and his current position as a financial advisor with Primerica Financial Services. "No matter what our paths, the University has been a spawning ground."

For all they've given to the Lehigh Valley Club and the University, these alumni will tell you that you get back whatever you give in service.

"I benefit from the association with the Lehigh Valley alumni by meeting people with the same respect and appreciation for the University," says Johnson. "Our experience there helped each of us become better people, intellectually and spiritually. Seeing alums at events reflect and tell their personal stories reinforces the value of these gatherings to me."

MARK CRUCIANI, M.D. '79 & JACQUELINE (BOVE) CRUCIANI '79

## Alumni Couple's Family Spans Three Generations... and Many Fond Memories



**S**he was a "dormie" majoring in law enforcement. He was a "townie" majoring in biology en route to medical school. Her dad graduated from the University in 1941, his dad in 1954.

Their similar yet unique backgrounds converged when they were introduced by a mutual friend during their sophomore year at Scranton. Now a couple celebrating 26 years of marriage, Jacqueline (Bove)

Cruciani and Mark Cruciani are parents of four children who share their affinity for Scranton. Their son, Vince (Mark Vincent), graduated in 2005, daughter Amy graduated in 2007, and Nicole and Kara (a transfer student) are in their junior and sophomore years, respectively.

The decision to attend a University in "their own back yard" has come naturally to the Crucianis, of Clarks Summit.

"I don't think we were any different than any of the other local people who wanted to come to Scranton," says Mark. "The University offers a great education with the opportunity to be away from home yet still close to family and friends."

"Our kids have the best of both worlds, and they know it," quips Jackie, noting how their children can come home to do laundry or have a home-cooked meal.

But there's more to a Scranton education than that, as Mark points out.

"It's the kind of place where professors get to know you on a first name basis," he says. "You don't find that everywhere."

William Parente, Ph.D., for example, was "extremely influential" as a professor of Vince's. The late Fr. Robert Barone, a mentor of Mark's while a student, married the Crucianis and, years later, taught their son, Vince.

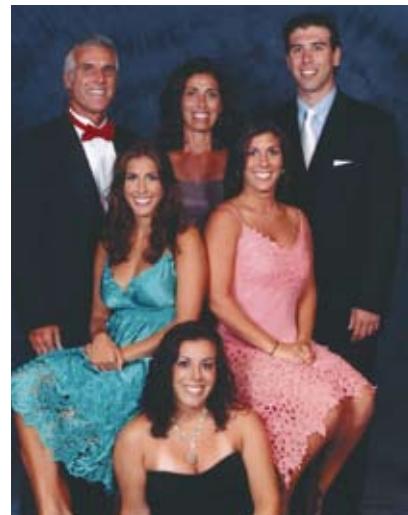
After graduating from Scranton, both Mark and Jackie moved to Washington, D.C., where Jackie worked for Coopers & Lybrand, while Mark attended Georgetown Medical School. During Mark's residency in rheumatology, the couple traveled about, also spending two years in Philadelphia during Mark's fellowship in rheumatology. With four small children in tow, the couple moved back to Pennsylvania to raise a family and establish Mark's medical practice in rheumatology, at the time one of just two such specialists in the area and today one of only four. Mark is also active in the local medical community, serving on the boards of the Arthritis Foundation and Lupus Foundation.

Working alongside her husband, handling medical billing for the practice, Jackie has devoted herself to family and community, with a particular dedication to the Children's Advocacy Center and Lackawanna County Children and Youth. Five years ago, Mark and Jackie became foster parents. Since that time, they have provided foster care for almost a dozen babies, some for as short as a week and others for as long as a year.

"It's fun to watch them grow," says Jackie of the babies, "but heartbreaking when they leave."

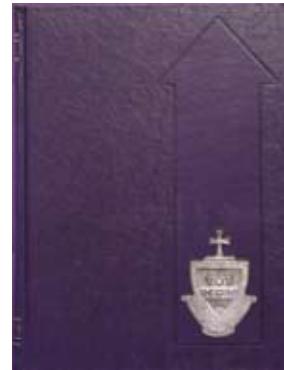
Mark and Jackie will celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion in June 2009 and have every intention of attending the weekend celebrations. It's not the first Reunion they've attended, and it's not likely to be the last.

"I had four great years at the University, and I have a lot of fond memories," says Jackie. "Our kids have also made great friends at Scranton. It's the kind of place where you seem to make friends for life."



Mark and Jacqueline Cruciani '79 and their four children are the second and third generations of their family to attend Scranton. Counterclockwise, from bottom center: Nicole '10, Kara '11, Mark '79, Jackie '79, Amy '07 and Vincent '05.

JOHN LANAHAN, ESQ. '84  
KEVIN LANAHAN '84



## Two in a Million: Alumni Twins Share an Affinity for Scranton

If the odds of being identical twins are less than half of one percent, then the odds of identical twins graduating from the same university, taking on leadership roles with their alumni society and both serving on the Alumni Board are even smaller.

In this respect, Kevin and John Lanahan are one (well, two) in a million.

It was not by chance that John and Kevin came to Scranton from their hometown of Lloyd Harbor, N.Y. John McCole, a close friend of their father's, insisted, "Scranton was the only place to go," says Kevin.

So off they went, Kevin majoring in marketing and John in accounting. Despite assurances that they would be living in separate residence halls, their freshman dorms were two doors apart in Casey Hall. Still, they set out to make their mark, striking a balance between their similarities and differences.

Kevin was involved with Student Government and band; John served as a resident assistant and was involved with bands and singers and Fall Review, and acted in the University Players' production of *South Pacific*. Despite their unique interests, their identities were often confused.

"Right up until our senior year, there were people who couldn't tell us apart," quips John, citing the benefits of being identical twins.

"In many ways, being twins opened doors," says John. "When people met me and already knew Kevin, there was a foundation. I was one step ahead of the introduction."

For both John and Kevin, Jesuits figured prominently in their years at Scranton. The late Edward Gannon, S.J., for example, was a positive, if challenging, influence.

"Fr. Gannon was always challenging you," explains Kevin.

Also significant in their college careers was the late J.J. Quinn, S.J., professor of English.



Kevin Lanahan '84 (left) and John Lanahan '84 (right), who hold leadership roles in the Alumni Society, attended the seventh annual President's Business Council Award Dinner in New York on Oct. 9.

"He knew that our college education was as much about our formation outside of the classroom as what we learned in it," says Kevin

It was through the late William Tome, S.J., that Kevin became involved with Student Government, and, over time, Kevin became his golf partner.

While a resident assistant in Martin Hall, John became friends with dorm counselor John Ciani, S.J., remaining friends with him until his death in 1994.

In Fr. Ciani, and in Cheryl Boga, director of Performance Music, John witnessed people who "were often going against convention" and learned that "going against convention isn't always a negative thing."

The influence of the Jesuits, the friendships formed and the commitment to Scranton continued long after their days as students. "That sense of community didn't end after four years," says John, who is now associate general counsel of the Weichert Family of Companies.

In the years since their graduation, both John and Kevin have been involved in a host of alumni activities, from planning local club events, to leadership roles at the club level and on the Alumni Board of Governors. Kevin, a founding partner of Headquarters Financial Group, served as president of the Alumni Society from 2002-2004, and John is currently president-elect of the Society.

Reflecting back on recent accomplishments of the Alumni Society, Kevin says he's most proud of its "ability to be self-sustaining." This, he says, is due directly to the establishment of the alumni credit card that has generated significant funds over the years for a range of alumni activities, from club events to student scholarships, and contributions to capital campaigns at the University.

Similarly, John is proud to serve with the current leadership of the Society. He will take the helm as president in 2010. He'd like to see the Society continue to grow, not just in size, but in its impact on the University.

"In addition to providing financial support to the University, I'd like to see the Alumni Society create endowments for student scholarships," he says.

After all, as anyone who has passed through the corridors of learning at Scranton well knows, it all comes down to the students. With people like John and Kevin Lanahan supporting Scranton, the odds are very good that Scranton and its students will have a very bright future.

VIRGINIA McDANIEL SWIATEK '89

## Scranton Education Prepares Alumna for Varying Destinations on Life's Journey

Ginny McDaniel Swiatek's journey has taken her to varied places in the two decades since she left the University: first to law school, then into practice, and then into motherhood, including raising a child with special needs. Yet wherever she has gone, despite all the challenges, the lessons she took with her from Scranton have been invaluable.

"Going to The University of Scranton gave me that sense of God being everywhere, that all things have purpose, and that He works for the good of all of us," Swiatek says. "Even though I



couple moved to Baltimore, where Ginny continued to practice, then to the Philadelphia suburbs, where she delivered their first child, Caroline, in 1997.

Caroline was born with Down Syndrome. Swiatek co-founded a parents' support group and used her legal experience to help turn it into a nonprofit advocacy organization. She served on its board for five years and continues to sit on committees, reaching out to parents, doctors, nurses and hospitals to educate people on the reality of the condition. "It's not a death sentence, like so many people were being told," she says, adding that she encourages other parents "to see the positive side of an unexpected change in their life plan."

might not understand the destination He has for me, if I trust Him and know I'm where He wants me to be, it provides me peace of mind and the courage to face the different things we face."

After graduating from the University, Swiatek earned a J.D. from Fordham Law School. She moved to Boston, married a classmate, Matthew Swiatek '89, and began practicing product liability law. The

Indeed, Swiatek considers herself blessed by Caroline's presence in her own life.

"She has taught me to slow down and just enjoy life," Swiatek says. "She moves much slower; she walks slower than other people. By walking slower I'm able to see more of what others rush right past. She's taught me a lot about patience – not just with her, but also with other people and their outdated thinking. She can be so much more than you give her credit for."

The Swiateks went on to have two other children, Luke, 9, and Sophia, 7, and Ginny is actively involved in all three's respective school lives. She credits Caroline's condition with teaching Luke and Sophia compassion for all who are different.

"Because of what they're raised with, they're leaders in their classes and really compassionate kids," she says. "That's a proud moment for me as a mom. It's one of those unexpected benefits."

Swiatek has remained connected to the University, serving as the chair of the Class of 1989's reunion committee. She credits her faith, nurtured at Scranton, for preparing her for those varying destinations on her life's journey.

"If I didn't have that reinforced in my time at the University, when I was stepping out on my own as an adult in my own faith formation, I might not have had such a strong faith and the ability to rise to the challenge," she says.



Since graduating from Scranton, Ginny McDaniel Swiatek '89 has remained committed to her alma mater and her family, including husband, Matthew Swiatek '89, and children (from left) Caroline, Luke and Sophia.

BETSY McPARTLAND '89

## Amid a World of Numbers, Alumna Reflects on Benefits of a Liberal Arts Education

For her entire, 20-year career, Betsy McPartland '89 has lived in a world of numbers, of dollars and cents, of balance sheets and income statements.

From corporate finance and accounting work for insurance companies to back-office support for securities traders to financial planning and analysis and marketing in the publishing industry, McPartland has parlayed her bachelor's in economics and finance into positions of increasing responsibility within the commercial sector. Today, she heads up the finance arm of the Nielsen Company's digital media operation.

Ask her about her success, though, and she does not mention her business classes at Scranton or even the M.B.A. she earned elsewhere. She talks instead of the strong liberal arts education she received at the University, an experience exemplified by the Scranton philosophy professor who challenged his students to back up their faith with critical thinking.

"You need to be able to think for yourself and understand why you are following a belief rather than just following the pack because someone told you it's your tradition or belief," McPartland recalls him saying. "I think Scranton did a really good job making you understand the whys behind what you're doing. That's been one of the keys to my success in the business world."

"Scranton prepared me by providing a really good liberal arts education with specialty in some of the critical business skills, such as statistics, finance and accounting," she continues, adding that she uses that education and those skills "constantly, every day."

Previously the general manager of Time Inc.'s direct marketing business, McPartland shifted to the digital side of the media house because she considers it to be media's "wave of the future." She was recently promoted into her current role as a director of productivity and continuity and was one of only 80 Nielsen employees out of 40,000 to be selected to participate in the company's Six Sigma Process-Management Program.

"It's an honor to be part of this program," McPartland says. "I was selected based on my current performance and future potential. I've been with Nielsen for a little over two years, and every single day here has been spent working to streamline business processes to bring a higher-quality product to our customers, internally and externally, and drive operational excellence."

McPartland was a sophomore-year transfer, yet she quickly formed friendships that have lasted to this day and enrich her not only personally, but also professionally.

"The relationships I have with my classmates continue to grow. It's amazing that it's been almost 20 years since we left Scranton and we still get together on a frequent basis and really enjoy one another's company. This network of friends is something that Scranton fosters," she says.

"These people are also great resources in different areas of my life," she continues. "Some of my friends went through the science program and are physical therapists and pharmaceutical professionals. Others are business people, and still others have retired from the

business world and have become teachers, guidance counselors and full time parents developing the next generation. We are in all different stages of our lives and are very active, but always make time for our Scranton Family."

An active member of the Scranton Club of New York and a member of her Reunion Class Committee, McPartland enjoys staying in touch with the University and believes in the importance of giving back.

"We were given great opportunities and a good education, and it's a good idea to foster that for the next generation of Scranton folks," she says.



Betsy McPartland '89 is surrounded by classmates and friends at a tree viewing at Rockefeller Center following the group's annual Christmas dinner. Back row, from left: Willie Waytowich, Kathleen (Cardinale) Waytowich '89, Matthew Brown '89, Kara (Ferguson) Brown '89, Maura Garrity, Michael Guarnuccio '89, Erin Garrity '89 and Rob Colonna. Front row, from left: Marie (Gentile) Guarnuccio '89, Betsy McPartland '89, Carolyn (Gilmartin) Colonna '89 and Maryellen Monahan '88.



LAURA (DAILEY) ZETTLER '94

## Involved Student, Connected Alumna Shares Her Enthusiasm for Scranton

**T**here's a simple explanation for the incredible enthusiasm with which Laura (Dailey) Zettler threw herself into campus life while a student at Scranton.

"It's just my nature to get involved in things," she says. "My whole life, I have been involved in a lot of activities. It's just one of those things that charges me."

At the University, that desire for involvement manifested itself in serving as first vice president in the student government as a senior and as a resident assistant. Zettler also played oboe in the band, was a member of club lacrosse and intramural volleyball teams, and was an admissions tour guide.

Of course, it was not merely Zettler's own internal make-up that drove her immersion at the University.

"The student body, and the faculty and staff were all people with whom you wanted to spend time," she says. "They shared similar thoughts and values. When you share that sort of background with others, you want to spend time and do things with them."

"It was a sense of community: People were there for each other and supported each other. It didn't have the same kind of competitive feel, even in the academic setting, that you see in other universities. When I'm around people like that on the social side of things, I like to get involved. I want to try to better the University so that other people who share the same kind of values want to become part of the school."

The power of those shared values has resonated since her graduation from Scranton. Zettler was the University Board

of Trustees' recent graduate representative from 1995 to 1998, a time that coincided with her last two years at law school and her first year as an attorney.

Laura (Daily) Zettler '94, pictured with daughter, Regan, has a contagious enthusiasm for her alma mater.



The board experience, she notes, "truly taught me how to function in a professional environment because you're surrounded by all these outstanding professionals. I learned how to interact in a professional setting."

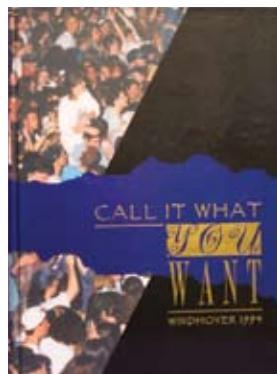
After earning her law degree, Zettler joined the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. As a trial attorney in the juvenile section, she enjoyed the combination of keeping her community safe and helping wayward youth find a better path in life. She worked her way up through the management ranks, eventually reaching section chief, a post that saw her take on budget and policy responsibilities.

"Who knew that Dr. Harris' Politics of the Budgetary Process course would come in handy?" she jokes. "But it did."

Two years ago Zettler gave birth to a daughter, Regan, and left the Attorney General's office to stay home and instill in her daughter the values she remembers from the University: "Religious values, family values, your sense of right and wrong – moral values, your general principles to live by," she says. "These values are all present at the University, and I learned to appreciate that about Scranton after I left."

Zettler is due to deliver a second daughter in December. Her involvement with Scranton continues today through serving on the committee planning the upcoming reunion for her class in June 2009.

"Scranton prepared me in every way possible to move into adulthood, from the academic setting to the leadership skills honed during extracurricular activities to the friendships you need to get through the good times and bad times in life," she says. "My experience at Scranton was so important in creating who I have become. You have to keep in touch with that influence."



MERIDITH (MURPHY) GRASSO '99

## A "PERSON FOR OTHERS" AT WORK AND AT HOME

With a pair of toddlers at home and a husband whose job as a pilot often has him on the go, Meridith Murphy Grasso needed flexibility when it came to work. At the same time, the values inculcated at Scranton remained at the forefront of her mind as she considered job options.

With a trio of part-time physical therapy positions, Grasso has found just what she was looking for.

Even before having children, Grasso was doing PT at Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, work that recalls the Ignatian ideal of being a person for others.

"Working there goes along with the mission and the philosophy coming from The University of Scranton as far as serving others and being more community-minded," she says. "Shriners Hospital provides care to children free of charge, regardless of economic status, race, or religion. As long as you have a condition they're able to treat, they provide care free of charge. It's a neat environment to work in."

Grasso supplements that work by doing outpatient orthopedics for teenagers, geriatric patients and everyone in between at Doylestown Hospital in Bucks County, and by providing home care for children up to three years old who have developmental problems.



Meridith Grasso '99 has found just what she was looking for with three part-time Physical Therapy jobs that allow her flexibility to be with her children, Francis (held by Grasso) and Annika, and husband, Christopher Grasso '97.

"Much of what I learned going to Scranton, from the education and the Jesuits, about serving others, I get to put into my work every day," she says.

Mission-oriented work has been important to Grasso since her days at the University. She attended and led numerous retreats, including freshman, senior, Ignatian and Search retreats, was a freshman orientation leader, and twice traveled to Ecuador on service immersion trips. Grasso also participated in student government and Campus Ministry.

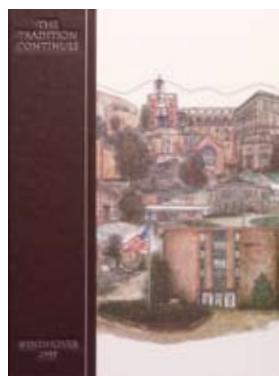
"That faith community was important to me, and really helped me grow in my faith," she says.

As an alumna, Grasso has continued to stay involved, attending reunions and other alumni events and sailing with fellow graduates on a cruise around Manhattan. The relationships she formed with other physical therapy students remain close ones a decade later.

"The friends you meet at Scranton become almost like brothers and sisters – the bond is that tight," she says. "I know the friends I met at Scranton will be with me for life."

As one can imagine, Grasso's circumstances keep her busy. Yet she remains remarkably grounded. The nurturing influence of the Jesuits she encountered at the University is something she falls back on often as a bedrock of faith and self-identity.

"It helped me through a lot," she notes. "Going on different retreats and service trips helped me figure out who I am as a person and what I can contribute to those around me and to my community. It gave me a sense of being and purpose I feel like I've been able to continue with."



## Financial Analyst Credits Search Retreats for Leadership Skills

Ask Robin Raju about his participation in campus activities while at Scranton, and he will go into detail about his involvement with the Finance Group and PRISM (Portfolio of Responsible Investments under Student Management Group), a faculty-moderated effort that gives students the opportunity to be a part of the University's endowment in socially responsible investing. It's hardly surprising; Raju, after all, was a finance major and is now with AXA Equitable's Funds Management Group as a Senior Financial Analyst.

What Raju recalls most passionately is not those business-related activities but his initial participation in and eventual leadership of several of the Scranton's Search Retreats.

"It was one of the best experiences I had at the University," Raju says. "It gave me the opportunity to develop new relationships. One of the drawbacks of school is you become close with a group of friends and don't get the chance to meet other people of various backgrounds. Through Search I met some great people and discovered more about the person I was."

He would go on to serve as a retreat leader twice. Raju and his close friends, who had originally persuaded him to try Search, eventually recruited all of their housemates to participate.

"It was an eye-opening experience for me and one I wouldn't expect coming from a retreat," he says. "It wasn't something I envisioned myself doing in college. It was great."



Robin Raju '04, a senior financial analyst with AXA Equitable's Funds Management, credits Scranton with giving him the tools he needs to succeed.

Since leaving Scranton, Raju has maintained his link to the University through alumni events and involvement with the President's Business Council, a group of prominent Scranton alumni and friends whose purpose is to advance the mission of the University. The founding chair of the PBC is Christopher M. "Kip" Condrone '70, president and chief executive officer of AXA Financial, Inc., and a current member of the University's Board of Trustees. As he did with his fellow Search participants during retreats years ago, Raju knows he can always ask Condrone and other Scranton alums at AXA for guidance and counsel.

"The Scranton business alumni community is extremely open to mentoring individuals like me," he says. "Kip is an extremely insightful person and always willing to help you."

Raju credits his own success to luck and hard work. Still, rising to a supervisory role within a group charged with managing \$80 billion in variable annuity assets speaks to something more: something like inherent talent and a rigorous education.

"Scranton has definitely given me the tools I need to succeed," he says. "Scranton is underrated as a business school. I've worked with people from what's considered the top undergraduate schools out there, and I see that Scranton graduates are just as, if not more, talented."

In fact, Raju credits the University's openness, its ability to foster relationships with a wide variety of people, as helping him to develop the interactive skills that serve him today. "Most of my friends from school work in the business field. Now we all try to help each other out and give each other advice. It's great to get honest advice from your peers."

