Baccalaureate Mass is a joyful and moving tradition on Commencement weekend.
Into the Summer Season

The seasons of the Holy Cross community move along with a constancy and regularity that provoke thoughts both comforting and bittersweet.

The month of May means the end of the academic year, exams, grades and Commencement. The calendar flips to June, and the campus is quickly redefined with two weekends of reunion celebrations and thousands of alumni visitors. A few short weeks later, the newest members of the Holy Cross family arrive for Summer Gateways Orientation, and participants in Passport and Odyssey follow soon after. By the time August (so quickly!) rolls around, we are preparing for Move-In Day, Mass of the Holy Spirit and the first day of classes.

This year, when I looked out at the crowd on Hart Lawn during Baccalaureate Mass and watched our graduates process onto Fitton Field, I saw exhilaration and happiness on their faces. But I also knew what was on the minds of every member of the Class of 2015 and their families: How is it possible that four years can go by in a blink of an eye?

And one week later, it’s typical for our alumni to catch themselves wondering: Is my 5th year … my 10th year … my 50th year reunion really approaching? And then, when they arrive back on Linden Lane for the picnic, the class dinner and the socializing with friends old and new: Is my Reunion Weekend actually here?

I hear these and similar questions peppering conversations, and I find myself very conscious of the mood on campus during these weeks of summer. Prospective students, incoming students, graduating students and returning alums are all arriving, departing, visiting and revisiting Mount St. James. There's anticipation and excitement as these groups traverse campus—and cross paths with each other.

With all these events and visitors, our grounds and facilities staff members are working round the clock—not only to prepare for major occasions like Commencement, but also to use the “quiet” summer months to prepare for fall. Faculty, too, are preparing for fall; while the rhythm of the academic year and classes has dramatically changed, our professors are continuing their own scholarship, writing, researching, traveling—using the time to dig deeper into their disciplines and discover new perspectives.

While there’s a constancy with our annual calendar and rituals, such as Reunion and Commencement, summer today at Holy Cross is very different from only a few years ago. The number of students and faculty who spend summer on campus engaged in research has grown exponentially in the past decade. This June and July, more than 100 students are participating in science research or engaged in research projects in the humanities, social sciences and the fine arts. Labs, libraries and studios are active with student-faculty research teams and independent projects. The creative and investigative work taking place is astounding—as our community discovers when the eagerly awaited annual Summer Research Symposium is held on campus in early September.

In closing, just as our campus is transformed by our summer research students, so can our greater alumni community and the wider world be enriched by the talent and impact of these students. One example is the work of Mike Dunbar ‘15, a music and English major from New Hampshire, a recipient of a summer research grant. Immediately after graduation, Mike set out on a cross-country “pilgrimage” to the epicenters of American music, including Nashville, New Orleans, the Mississippi Delta, Memphis, Chicago and San Francisco, playing music along the way. When he returns to New Hampshire, he plans to compose a collection of songs based on his experiences. While he’s on the road, Mike has invited fellow Holy Cross alums to collaborate with him and other artists in each locale. You can connect with Mike through his blog suitcaseandguitar.com or via social media to find out where you can see him perform. Or even join him on stage.

With best wishes for a happy, joyful, music-filled summer.

Very truly yours,

Rev. Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., President
The Class of 2015 winding its way across a bright green Fitton Field on Commencement Day signaled the end of one chapter—and the beginning of another. As spring rolled into summer on “fair Pakachoag,” alumni returned for warm, laughter-filled reunions, followed by eager new students attending Summer Gateways Orientation with their parents. PHOTO BY TOM RETTIG
DEAR HCM,

Fr. Joe’s Influence
I enjoyed greatly the article regarding Rev. Joe Bruce, S.J., ’73, who is a friend and a classmate of mine (Spring 2015, “Meet Fr. Joe,” Page 36). As I have a sister who is Deaf, Fr. Joe’s determination and spirituality have been an inspiration to me. It is hard to comprehend what he accomplished at a time when sign language was not widely utilized and interpreters for the Deaf were not the norm. Technological advances, including email, texting, closed captioning and cochlear implants have been life changers for many people who are Deaf. These were not available when Fr. Joe was at Holy Cross. It is particularly amazing that he majored in English, as verbal skills are often difficult for many people who are Deaf, and I can attest that English at Holy Cross was a difficult major in the 1970s.

Although Fr. Joe is humble in not taking credit for starting the Deaf studies program, I know that he had a great influence in its inception. The program influenced two of my children, Christine ’05 and Ray ’08 in wishing to attend Holy Cross. Both of them enjoyed and benefitted from the program. Besides developing a better understanding of their Deaf family, they both benefitted professionally, becoming a social worker for the Deaf and an attorney.

Robert Klein, M.D., ’73
Garden City, N.Y.

A Great Reflector
I picked up my Holy Cross Magazine from the mailbox and was pleasantly surprised to see a very familiar face on the cover, “Fr. Joe!” What a great photo. I have not known Fr. Joe Bruce as long as many of his friends in the article. I don’t recall ever encountering him on campus when he was a freshman and I was a senior. But I wanted to share how I have come to know and greatly respect him.

My first encounter with Fr. Joe was many years after graduation, in Dinand Library, when I went to research some family history, and Joe’s roommate at St. Charles Borromeo Church in R.I., Rev. Gerry Finnegan, S.J., introduced us.

Later, after completing my first year with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC), I decided that my spiritual reflector needed to be someone closer to me than Boston. I mentioned this to the IVC director, Dave Hinchen ’65, who suggested that I consider Fr. Joe, but he wanted me to know that Fr. Joe was Deaf. I told Dave that I had already met Fr. Joe and, as far as his deafness was concerned, I am very hard of hearing myself. So if he was willing to try, I was game. It could not have worked out better. He may be Deaf, but Joe is a great listener. He is sympathetic and empathetic as appropriate. He asks insightful questions about my IVC experiences and always gives great advice.

One of our IVC regional meetings was scheduled at St. Charles, and I had time to catch the early morning Mass, and Fr. Joe was the celebrant. When I meet him for our reflector meetings, I usually make a list of things to make sure to cover with him. This was what I wrote for our meeting after that Mass: “I must say that the Mass I attended at St. Charles before the IVC meeting was especially deep and spiritual. With Fr. Joe signing, it just added so much emphasis to the words and gave more time to digest the meaning of the prayers that so often just flash by during a non-signed Mass. Kudos, Fr. Joe!”

Fr. Joe Bruce, S.J., ’73 is indeed a very special person and most worthy of this cover story.

Thomas J. Neagle ’70
Cranston, R.I.

Valuing the Deaf Studies Program
I just had a few moments to read the recent Holy Cross Magazine, and LOVED the article on Fr. Joe and the Deaf studies program. It is so wonderful to learn of the progress the program has made and the much-deserved attention it is getting. I graduated in 2012 as a biology major in the prehealth program with a minor in Deaf studies. After graduation, I worked in the deaf-blind program with students at Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Mass., and though

“When it was time for the Consecration of the Eucharist, Fr. Joe looked intently toward the ceiling as he spoke and signed the sacred words. His gaze was so focused and sincere that I turned to follow his eyes into the rafters, and was almost surprised not to see Jesus himself among us.”

— Edward “Ed” Meyers ’73, P04 Ridgewood, N.J.
I have changed full-time jobs, I still substitute there quite frequently. I even find myself signing to songs on the radio, to my friends who don't even know sign and generally as often as I can to keep up my skills. I can confidently echo the sentiments of MacKenzie Bozel '16 and John Pirone regarding the unique transformation you encounter as a student entering the Deaf studies program. I went into the program excited to learn a new language, and with the mentality of “helping” rather than “supporting” or even more importantly, “immersing” myself in Deaf culture. I also happened to take a medical ethics course during my time at Holy Cross, and was randomly assigned a case study focusing on Deaf culture and whether or not the societal pressure surrounding cochlear implants could actually be termed cultural genocide. I had to facilitate a debate on this case study and could not have been luckier to further my understanding and subsequent perspective of the Deaf world.

Some of my favorite memories at Holy Cross were at silent Masses and dinner, or volunteering with the sports programs at the Learning Center for the Deaf in Framingham, Mass. My experience in the program, without a doubt, helped to shape the person I am today. It taught me even more so to approach the unknown without any judgments, but with an open mind. It taught me about modification, and the importance and meaningfulness of communication. This made for a smoother transition into my work life following graduation, and I carry those values with me today.

Thank you so much for your focus on this piece. It really made my day to see the program receive such attention. I had to design my minor when I was at Holy Cross, and the progress being made here is truly exciting!

Tara Greeley ’12
Foxboro, Mass.

Trinity Sunday
Thank you for the wonderful article about my classmate, Fr. Joe Bruce. We didn’t know each other as students, but I’ll never forget the day Fr. Joe celebrated our Class Mass on the occasion of our 25th Reunion. We were in the Brooks Concert Hall on Trinity Sunday, and our classmates were treated to an engaging and thoughtful homily as Joe recalled humorous stories about his childhood encounters with the reality and impact of sounds that affected him, but that he was unable to hear. He wove those experiences into a call for the faith we must have to accept without fully understanding the mystery of the Holy Trinity. When it was time for the Consecration of the Eucharist, Fr. Joe looked intently toward the ceiling as he spoke and signed the sacred words. His gaze was so focused and sincere that I turned to follow his eyes into the rafters, and was almost surprised not to see Jesus himself among us. I completely understand Fr. William Barry’s statement in the article that Fr. Joe “brings God’s presence in the room.”

I’m glad our students will be able to experience the unique gifts Fr. Joe offers in his ministry at Holy Cross.

Edward “Ed” Meyers ’73, PO4
Ridgewood, N.J.

Professor John E. Reilly
The adage “A great teacher can change your life” is personified for me by English Professor John E. Reilly (Spring 2015, In Memoriam, “Holy Cross Remembers,” Page 81). Transferring to Holy Cross in the fall of 1968, fortuitous circumstances placed me in Prof. Reilly’s English literature class. I was very proud of the first paper submitted to him for grading. The paper was returned to me drowning in a sea of red ink and marked D- for effort. One comment the professor placed in a margin stated, “Not only cannot I see the forest for the trees, I cannot see the trees for the leaves.” Prof. Reilly had a wonderful sense of humor and taught his students that mediocrity was unacceptable.

Coming from a small hick town in Maine, I had no prior exposure to the majesty and beauty of poetry. Every single lecture from this gifted teacher emanated energy and enthusiasm for poetry. Through nuanced readings, Prof. Reilly would mesmerize us with the power and magic of Poe’s words. Now almost 50 years later I still thoroughly enjoy reading aloud Annabel Lee, The Raven and many other Poe classics. Thank you, Prof. Reilly and Holy Cross, for the gift of a lifetime.

Paul Roche ’71
The Woodlands, Texas

New Faith Experience
I enjoyed reading the article about the Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J. Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture, and Tom Landy’s research and work with the Catholics & Cultures initiative (Spring 2015, Campus Notebook, Page 10), and wanted to share one of my recent experiences.

In February, I spent a week on São Miguel, the largest of Portuguese Azorean archipelago islands. In touring around this lush island, my guide enlightened me about the Lenten pilgrimage tradition. Groups of men from each of the island’s major centers walk the perimeter of the island and stop at the various churches in the town centers and the chapels that dot the volcanic landscape. The men carry their food and clothing and wear traditional woven ponchos. Each participant also carries a wooden walking stick. The group spends several weeks preparing for the trek—learning the songs and prayers and building up the physical stamina to complete the weeklong hike. The extended community of the parishes is also involved: creating the colorful ponchos that the men wear (some passed down from father to son) and promising to provide food and lodging for the different groups of pilgrims.

I was fortunate on a couple of occasions to witness the march of pilgrims. I heard them long before I could see them: their prayerful voices intoning the Rosary echoed through the cobbled streets and into my core. Then, at once, a steady stream of men—some school-age youth, others more weathered, all joyful in their journey—crossed through the central plaza resplendent in their multicolored clothes. As they approached the portico of the church, the men laid down their walking sticks and processed into the sanctuary where their voices rose in song. The sights and sounds of faith and tradition in action moved me—imbuing what was originally an escape from the harsh New England winter with
DEAR HCM,

a felt expression of my Catholic faith.

Michael McLaughlin ’06
Methuen, Mass.

What About Bob?
Another fabulous Holy Cross Magazine. I particularly enjoyed the feature story of Rev. Joe Bruce, S.J., ’73.

I noticed one incorrect item in the caption on the photo on Page 2. It reads, *Pat Brekka ’15 plays ‘All Along the Watchtower’ by Jimi Hendrix outside St. Joseph Memorial Chapel.* The error is not surprising, as most people are most familiar with the Jimi Hendrix cover of “All Along the Watchtower.” The song was written by Bob Dylan, whose own version is also worth getting to know. Thanks for another terrific magazine.

David Kennedy ’81, P10
Wellesley, Mass.

EDITOR’S NOTE
Great catch, David! The song first appeared on Dylan’s 1967 album, *John Wesley Harding.* Hendrix released his version less than a year later. Rock on.

Kind Words
I have been meaning to write this for a while. I am Class of 1953 and obviously have been reading the Magazine for a long time, and I say this new format and content are the best ever. Congratulations.

William “Bill” Glavin ’53
P83, 80, 79
Melvin Village, N.H.

Fixing Finance
I am provoked to write, for the first time in the 45 years since my graduation, in response to a recent appeal from Fr. Boroughs. His letter highlights two students whose lives have been “forever changed by their time on the Hill,” as mine was. One plans for a career on Wall Street and affirms that Holy Cross has “strengthened my fortitude, character and faith.” Amen! All three will be needed to practice a Christ-like example in an institution that at a minimum tacitly endorses, and at worst is the principal perpetrator, of massive social injustice. Our financial system, married to a political system that is increasingly corrupt, is the major instrument that facilitates the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the privileged few, who are free to perpetuate their privilege in the name of “liberty.”

So, in the face of such injustice, should Holy Cross students renounce a Wall Street career? No, please don’t. Who else other than young people with the character, strength and sense of social justice imparted by Holy Cross can ever hope to reform such a predatory system? You are needed more than ever, and we all trust and pray that Holy Cross has given you the strength to make a difference.

In the summer of 1966, entering freshmen were given a mandatory reading assignment—The Other America—by Michael Harrington ’47. I invite today’s students to give it a try, or at least to Google it and read about its profound impact on our understanding of poverty, race and social justice in the United States. Maybe it will affect you as deeply as it did me in 1966, and help you gain from your years on the Hill an even stronger commitment to a more just world. God help us.

John R. Morgan ’70
Midlothian, Va.

EDITOR’S NOTE
You will be happy to know that the assigned reading for the new incoming class—the Class of 2019—explores many of the same concerns Harrington raised in his defining work. The book is Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America by Linda Tirado, and it also addresses stereotypes about what it means to live on low-wage jobs without a safety net. Tirado gives a voice to the working poor as the haves and have-nots grow more separate.

Siga, Siga
I have just finished reading the thoughtful and touching essay, “Sit Down, My Child” (Winter 2015, In Your Own Words, Page 68) by Melissa Luttmann ’15, and I find that I couldn’t agree with her more. I have lived in Greece for the past 35 years and am impressed and awed by the humanity and resilience shown by the Greeks during this crisis.

Like Melissa, I studied classics and art history at Holy Cross, which brought me to Athens. Unlike Melissa, I met and married a Greek national in 1983 and have just retired as a dean after a varied and satisfying career at The American College of Greece in Athens.

I lived in Greece during the election of the first leftist prime minister in the 1980s, during the heady times of Greece’s entrance to the EU and the Euro, and the triumph of the Olympic Games of 2004.

I have also been a witness to incessant scandals and mismanagement of funds, to the recent brain drain of Greece’s best and brightest. Throughout it all, I have found that the Greeks keep their cool, keep their sense of humor and keep personal relationships strong.

As Melissa said, *siga, siga* (slowly, slowly), this crisis will end.

Greece is still one of the most beautiful countries in the world. I might be biased, but there is nothing like waking up in the morning to see the Parthenon or a choragic monument or any one of a myriad number of ancient artifacts that dot the city to keep you grounded, to keep you humble and to keep you hopeful.

Paula Kelleher Ryan ’90
New Rochelle, N.Y.

A Passing
EDITOR’S NOTE
Many of you enjoyed the moving essay by Michelle Maynard ’84, “The Place I Go,” in our Fall 2014 issue (In Your Own Words, Page 72). Michelle wrote about how knitting became a form of therapy for her as she helped husband Matt Sunter in his battle with a rare form of cancer. Matt even modeled the first pair of socks Michelle made for him in a photo that accompanied the essay. We are very sad to report that Mr. Sunter died in May at his home in Arlington, Va.

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Letters to the editor are edited for space and content. Letters should not exceed 250 words and must include the writer’s full name, address, phone number, email and class year, if applicable.
A Friend’s Reflections

Since 1997, *Holy Cross Magazine* has benefitted from the passion and expertise of Assistant Editor Pam Reponen (above). You have seen her impressive work in each issue's Syllabus story and in her beautifully rendered Winter 2013 cover feature about the College's Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols. But you've also seen it in places where there are no bylines: in the thoughtful details she weaves into obituaries for the In Memoriam section, in the research she pours into the Class Notes and in the errors she catches before they can reach our pages.

Pam is about to start what we are sure is going to be a very happy (and well-deserved!) retirement, and in this, her last issue as part of the *HCM* team, I am glad to have the space to say thank you to her. Not just for her work, to which she applies the greatest attention to detail, but also for her guidance. Her devotion to the College's mission, and this special place on the Hill, has informed not only her years as a Holy Cross student but her main role with *HCM*, especially as an active member of the Mission and Identity Committee. Pam has also contributed her considerable editorial skills to *Interfaces*, a bilingual illustrated journal focusing on the dividing line between language and the image. (The journal, edited by English Professor Maurice Géracht, received the 2010 Parnassus Award for Significant Editorial Achievement from The Council of Editors of Learned Journals.)

And most of you reading this magazine right now have benefitted directly from Pam's other passion project: the Commencement program. Yes, she is the person who makes sure every graduate's name and every moment of that special day are recorded accurately.

I've asked Pam to share her favorite memories of her Holy Cross years with you, and so I turn the rest of this page over to a wonderful friend and collaborator, Pam Reponen. —*Suzanne Morrissey*, editor

FROM PAM

We on the *HCM* staff thrive on telling the Holy Cross story, and, for almost 20 years, it has been my privilege to work with the team in the exciting and often hectic process of idea gathering; feature creation; editing; fact-checking; revision and polishing; cover selection; layout and design; and looming deadlines that comprises the quarterly production of *Holy Cross Magazine*. And, it's important to note that the cycle also includes joining colleagues in a collective sigh of relief when the final proofs for the issue have been sent to the printer!

Retirement often invites retrospection and, at editor Suzanne Morrissey's invitation, I would like to share with you special moments from my time at Holy Cross.

Joining the staff in fall 1997 as a production assistant, I worked under then public affairs director and executive editor, Katharine Buckley McNamara ’81 and editor, Jack O'Connell ’81, who had recently introduced a new format for the magazine, updating the College's longtime alumni journal, *Crossroads—and, beginning with the fall issue, changing the name to *Holy Cross Magazine*. Chris Matthews ’67 appeared on the cover of the Aug./Sept. 1997 edition. Molly Fang would begin work in 1998 as the magazine's graphic designer.

Under the direction of Ellen Ryder, who joined the team in 2004 as executive editor and Suzanne, who became the editor in 2009, the magazine continued to expand in content and design. Hans Teensma of Impress Inc. served as design consultant during this time, and Karen Shilad, the magazine's graphic designer.

The Syllabus feature first appeared in Spring 2008, with coverage of the course “Growing Up American,” taught by longtime Professor of English Patrick Ireland. As writer for this section, I had the opportunity to interview 29 professors from a cross section of departments, experiencing firsthand the academic rigor of the Holy Cross curriculum and professor-student engagement in the classroom and research endeavors.

Beginning work at Holy Cross in 2011 on the fall issue, graphic designer Stephen Albano was instrumental in creating, testing and implementing the full redesign of the magazine which showcased in the fall 2014 edition. Input from alumni via the readers' survey, focus groups, emails and telephone was invaluable during this process.

I would like to end with an expression of deep gratitude for the opportunity to connect with so many Holy Cross alumni during my work at the College. Viewing this issue's cover of the Class of 2015 processing across Fitton Field, I am filled with admiration for their accomplishments and well wishes for their future endeavors, as they join the ranks of the HCAA as its newest members.

Kindest regards,

Pam Reponen, assistant editor

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Kindest regards,

Pam Reponen, assistant editor
IN LIVING COLOR  Students chased each other with packets of colored powder at the HOLI color festival—celebrating fun, love and spring—sponsored by Developing
Students chased each other with packets of colored powder at the HOLI color festival—celebrating fun, love and spring—sponsored by Developing and Educating South-Asian Ideologies (DESI) during Spring Weekend. Read more about Spring Weekend on Page 20.
The days leading up to the Commencement ceremony are full of fun and reflection, as the community comes together for events including Baccalaureate Mass, the Senior Awards ceremony, the Phi Beta Kappa induction and Last Night on the Hill. For Justin Curto ’15, of Ware, Mass., a special memento walked with him as he received his diploma. Curto wore a tie owned by his late brother, Shane, who died during Justin’s first year at Holy Cross.
In his address at the College’s 169th Commencement Exercises held on May 22, social justice advocate Bryan Stevenson challenged members of the Holy Cross Class of 2015 to change the world by letting the ideals in their minds be fueled by the convictions in their hearts.

Under sunny skies on Fitton Field, 724 men and women were awarded Bachelor of Arts degrees before family and friends of the graduates, Holy Cross faculty, administrators, staff and honored guests.

Stevenson, who also received an honorary degree, is the widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. Founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, he was included among Time magazine’s “100 Most Influential People” of 2015.

Stevenson told the grads that getting “proximate” with people from all walks of life is necessary to help change the world. He shared a transformational moment he had after meeting death row inmates when he was in law school.

“I stood next to people whose lives were being taken, and I realized that there was something tragic in that space. I don’t believe that the death penalty in America is about whether people deserve to die for the crimes they commit. I think that’s the wrong question,” he said. “The question in America of the death penalty is, ‘Do we deserve to kill?’ And the truth is that we have a criminal justice system that treats you better if you’re rich and guilty than if you’re poor and innocent. We have a criminal justice system that doesn’t value people fairly based on their race. We have these problems of inequality and suffering, and, because of that, I feel the need to stand with condemned people. And being proximate with condemned people has taught me something about humanity, and power and beauty.”

Graduates must change the narrative about the problems facing this country, including drug possession and drug dependency, and racial inequality and racial injustice, Stevenson said. They must also stay hopeful, even though a lot of things they will encounter in the future may threaten to make them feel hopeless.

“I want you to protect your hope,” he said. “I am persuaded that justice needs hope. Injustice prevails where hopelessness persists. Hopelessness is the enemy of justice. It is the enemy of progress. And your hope is vital, it’s precious, it’s essential if we’re going to change the world. Your hope will sometimes have to cause you to stand up when other people are sitting. It will cause you to speak when other people are quiet. But in your hope you believe the things that others have not seen, and you begin to change the world.”

He also encouraged the Class of 2015 to do uncomfortable things.

“I want to ask you to consider doing uncomfortable things in service of justice, uncomfortable things that lift up the poor, uncomfortable things that lift up the marginalized, uncomfortable things that confront poverty and bias and discrimination. It is only when we do the uncomfortable things that we actually begin to understand the power that this degree opens up for us,” he said.

Stevenson offered graduates a metric system that will allow them to see if they’re living up to these lofty goals.

“It is a metric system that will evaluate your progress leaving here not by how much money you make, not by what kind of job you get, not by how many more degrees you obtain. It’s a metric system
that looks at how much those ideas in your mind are being fueled by the conviction in your heart,” he said.

In his valedictory address, graduating senior Nicholas Cormier of Feeding Hills, Mass., told his classmates that, in a culture that demands moving at the speed of light, there is benefit to slowing down and being present to the people in their lives.

“If you are willing to stop regardless of where you are on your journey, you may discover that the people you meet and the experiences you have are even more important than where you are going in the first place.”

A biology and sociology double major with a premedical concentration, Cormier received the prestigious four-year Sheehan Scholarship. He was also a Fenwick Scholar, one of the highest academic honors the College bestows. The award allowed him to spend the 2014-15 academic year conducting independent research exploring transplant medicine.

In addition to Stevenson, Holy Cross awarded honorary degrees to Ella Baff, executive and artistic director of Jacob’s Pillow, an international dance festival in the Berkshires; P. Kevin Condron ’67, former chair of the Holy Cross Board of Trustees and chairman and CEO of The Granite Group; Richard Sacra, M.D., assistant professor of family medicine and community health at UMass Medical School with a practice at the Family Health Center of Worcester, who contracted Ebola while caring for those stricken with the disease in Liberia.

As is tradition at the College, on the morning of Commencement, the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps unit held its commissioning ceremony. Capt. Vernon P. Kemper, Commanding Officer of the NROTC Unit, welcomed Capt. Francis X. Martin, USN-Ret as the guest of honor and commissioning officer for the nine prospective ensigns and two prospective 2nd lieutenants about to join the fleet. Capt. Martin also had the distinct privilege of commissioning his son, Ensign Francis D. Martin ’15.

ONLINE ONLY For more Commencement coverage, including extensive photo galleries, video and audio, visit offices.holycross.edu/commencement.
Mischief and Hyperbole: Unlocking the Mind of Kevin Barry

Kevin Barry is an internationally acclaimed novelist and short story writer. His debut novel, Streets of Bohane, won the 2013 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, while his first collection of short stories, There Are Little Kingdoms, was awarded the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature in 2007. In March, Barry was invited to Mount St. James as part of the Edward Callahan Irish Studies Support Fund to dispense writing advice to a group of senior English majors, and to read excerpts from his prizewinning works. HCM sent freelance contributor, Amadeus Finlay, a recent transplant from Ireland himself, to give us his take on the Barry visit.

The storytelling landscape of Ireland is once again tended by a fine wit and a razor-sharp pen, her literary fields cultivated by rich descriptions and hilarious discourse. Working from a renovated police station in County Sligo, Kevin Barry has found himself a niche that many other writers, this one included, would envy. It all began back in August 1977, when, as a scruffy-haired 8 year old, Barry imagined that Elvis Presley had not in fact died, but that the soul of the King had entered that soggy rock I call home, there is room of Dinand Library, “out there, on the windswept shores of Munster...” and “stoats peeping shyly from the little gaps in the dry stone walls” like “a mouth of teeth like a vandalized graveyard...” and “the Irish Studies Fund is quite a bit of notions direct from his distinctive brand of word craft.

Barry exudes enthusiasm, a master of absurdity fussed by neither fashion nor pretence. He sits with his left leg tucked beneath his corduroy pants, effortlessly spellbinding his audience with literary notions direct from his distinctive brand of word craft.

Paige Reynolds, professor of English, issued the invitation to bring Barry to Worcester. A specialist in contemporary Irish literature, Reynolds manages the Edward Callahan Irish Studies Support Fund that supported Barry’s visit.

“The Irish Studies Fund is quite a bit of work,” she explains, “but it seems to me the ideal manifestation of our ambition at Holy Cross to support the ‘teacher/scholar’ ideal for our faculty, and to draw our students into the thrilling ambit of word craft.”

Reynolds describes Barry as, “warm, hilarious and exceedingly generous,” and when she introduces her guest at his public reading in Rehm Library later that evening, she details Barry’s impressive resume, promising the audience a breathless performance from a modern master. It is a brave assurance, but Kevin Barry doesn’t fail to deliver. Beginning with an excerpt from short story collection, Dark Lies the Island, he drags his audience over a rugged literary terrain littered with eccentric characters and wondrous hyperbole. He only pauses to accentuate a particularly vivid description, and even then it comes with a mesmerizing urgency. Phrases like “a mouth of teeth like a vandalized graveyard...” and “stoats peeping shyly from the little gaps in the dry stone walls” are part of his flamboyant, theatrical performance. When he eventually finishes his rollicking rendition, the room hangs for a moment in the silence of expectation, before erupting into applause.

One of the most enthusiastic spectators is Peter Merrigan ’88, who established the Edward Callahan Irish Studies Support Fund in 2007. “The crowd seemed fully engaged in his reading and teaching,” he says. “Kevin Barry is a both gifted writer and performance artist, and I, for one, took great joy from the experience.”

The grandson of four immigrants of the Emerald Isle, Merrigan was submerged in Irish literature from an early age. When he was accepted to Holy Cross, it was to study the works of James Joyce under the tutelage of the great Professor
Edward Callahan. “Professor Callahan had a wonderful way with language,” he remembers, “almost musical in delivery. His classroom presence, command of his material and insight was as good as any I experienced during my years in all levels of school.”

After graduating, Merrigan founded a successful real estate investment firm, and recalls alma mater with fondness. “I had a wonderful life experience at Holy Cross,” he explains, “and in the Edward Callahan Irish Studies Support Fund, I made a commitment to the College in the hope that it would continue in perpetuity.”

The signs are encouraging. English major Mary O’Brien ’15 was just one individual in a large group of students who attended the Barry talks: “Holy Cross is a place for the multi-faceted person,” she explains, “and readings and workshops such as these provide opportunities to enrich one’s experimental methodological relationship to writing. I find them very useful.”

It is in students such as O’Brien that Kevin Barry, Paige Reynolds, Peter Merrigan and Edward Callahan find purpose. Only with the interest of the younger generation can a literary tradition that stretches back to the Irish ogham inscriptions of the 4th century be ensured a fertile future.

—Amadeus Finlay

ONLINE ONLY Learn more about The Professor Edward Callahan Irish Studies Support Fund and why it is so personal to Peter Merrigan ’88 in this issue’s Web Exclusive. Visit magazine.holycross.edu.

STAFF AWARD Roger Hankins, director of the Cantor Art Gallery, received a “Community Works” award from the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services Central Region Advisory Board. The award recognizes those who show a commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities so that they can become fully participating members of their communities. Hankins also received a legislative citation from the Commonwealth.

KICKING CANCER On Friday, April 24, 341 members of the College community raised more than $36,500 in the Relay for Life. “Relay For Life is a truly inspiring event that fosters love and support within the unfortunately large community of people affected by cancer,” says Matthew Regan ’15, co-chair of the event.
Athletes Score Big

Twenty Holy Cross varsity teams achieved a perfect score of 1,000 in the NCAA’s Academic Progress Rate (APR), which measures academic performance among Division I programs.

Nine of those Crusader teams had a perfect multi-year APR score (based on data from the 2010-2011 through 2013-2014 school years), which tied the College for 16th in the nation out of 357 Division I schools.

“We take great pride in our student-athletes’ achievements in the classroom,” says Nathan Pine, director of athletics. “Our young men and women put exceptional effort into their academic endeavors, and I am thrilled to see them recognized for their success.”

The APR uses a series of formulas related to student-athlete retention and eligibility to measure the academic performance of all participants on teams at every Division I college and university. ■—Cristal Steuer

Ascension: Bear Hugs and Books

Upon arrival on campus this past fall, I joined the Ascension After School Program, whose mission is “to provide a safe, welcoming environment for the students of Union Hill, where they can receive assistance with their homework and interact on a social basis.”

Fr. John Madden of Saint John’s Parish recruited Sister Pat Murphy of the Sisters of St. Joseph, to kick off the program, located on Vernon Street just 10 minutes from campus. Staffed completely by volunteers, the program runs Monday through Friday, where 40 students, in grades kindergarten through 4, can have a snack, learn basic mathematical concepts and practice reading through one-on-one homework help. The after school program takes place in a former Catholic Church hall. Fifteen Holy Cross students make up the bulk of the volunteers on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Sr. Murphy explains, “The group of young men and women from the SPUD program that volunteer their time to work and play with the children are the greatest. The children have built lasting relationships with them. During playtime they actively engage in all activities and are professional and caring tutors. They thank me for having them—I am most grateful for them.”

On a recent Thursday afternoon, the children’s bear hugs enveloped me with love and excitement when they greeted me. I sat cross-legged on the stage in the hall, asking four little girls if they’d like to read Green Eggs and Ham with me. Selfishly, volunteering at Ascension brings me a lot of joy. If I’m having a tough, stressful day, it allows me to take a break and forget about everything other than playing with little kids and attempting to help with second grade math. I get a sense of fulfillment from spending my time helping others.

My fellow volunteer Maggie Sheehan ’18 of Glen Rock, N.J., explains, “I love working with Ascension’s After School Program because it gives me a chance to get off what can be a stressful campus and create meaningful bonds. Plus, alphabetizing and addition is a nice break from my Holy Cross workload!”

SPUD is all about giving back to the community that has fostered our growth, so being able to do that means a lot to students here, while also allowing us to make a positive impact in Worcester. ■—Colleen Naber ’18

Students Programs for Urban Development (SPUD) is the largest student organization on campus, and, since 1968, has been the channel for thousands of Holy Cross students to participate in service projects that benefit the Worcester community. Currently, SPUD encompasses 46 different sites, from social service agencies to shelters to schools. In a new series, HCM will invite student writers to describe their SPUD experience in one of these programs. Here, Colleen Naber ’18 of Shrewsbury, Mass., describes the work being done at the Ascension After School Program.

Gonzalo Grau and his Plural Combo brought their mix of Afro-Cuban jazz, salsa and timba to Hogan Ballroom April 22 to kick off the 2015 Academic Conference.

During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Sexual Assault Facts, Education and Response (SAFER) group sponsored several events, including bystander intervention training sessions. SAFER also encouraged all students, faculty and staff to donate money to local sexual assault causes in exchange for wearing jeans on Denim Day, April 29.
Holy Cross Tops Georgetown in New Ranking

USA Today announced in May that Holy Cross ranks No. 2 on its list of the 10 best Roman Catholic colleges in the country. The University of Notre Dame ranks No. 1, Georgetown University is No. 3 and Boston College places No. 4. The article lauds Holy Cross for its “devotion to providing an undergraduate liberal arts education” and “giving students the opportunity to work closely with faculty members in order to promote innovative thinking across numerous disciplines.”

The article continues: “Holy Cross also offers its diverse student population the opportunity to become involved in numerous campus activities, including student government and campus ministry. The chaplains’ office provides service opportunities, retreats and immersion programs in addition to chapel services.”

The ranking also highlights that the College gives “students the knowledge and skills needed to make a difference in the world” and notes that Holy Cross is “highly selective and accepts only a handful of applicants so if you want to attend this school, it’s important to hit those books.”

What Is ... a Great Experience

Eric Fleury ’08, visiting assistant professor of political science, made an impressive showing in April as a contestant on Jeopardy. Fleury only had a few weeks to prepare before the taping, so his strategy was to keep the pressure off and not try to cram. “Hopefully the categories break my way,” he told HCM in January. (His dream category, The Civil War, didn’t pop up, but neither did his nightmare category, Opera). Ultimately, another contestant put himself out of Fleury’s reach with an $11,000 double jeopardy gamble that paid off. But until that moment, it was anyone’s game.

ONLINE ONLY Read our full interview with Eric in this issue’s Web Exclusives at magazine.holycross.edu

Hidden Gem

OnStage, a popular theatre blog, highlighted the College’s theatre department as one of the “10 Most Underrated Theater Colleges in New England,” based on curriculum, facilities, productions, faculty, alumni and cost. The story noted, “This tight-knit program has some fantastic facilities to offer students as well as a well-versed curriculum taught by faculty with terminal degrees from some of the best programs in the country.”

BIO Symposium

The biology department held its 34th Annual Biology Undergraduate Research Symposium on May 5, providing an opportunity for the campus community to view and celebrate the many student research accomplishments made in the 2014-15 academic year.
CAMPUS NOTEBOOK

Purple Pride Day

Purple Pride Day 2015, sponsored by the Purple Key Society, included campus decorations, plenty of purple giveaways and a sweet 20 percent discount on all purple apparel in the Bookstore. Live music and food trucks on the Hogan Courtyard topped it all off. Tyson Youngs '17 helped promote the day of celebrating Holy Cross spirit with a whirlwind video tour of campus, boldly going where few videographers have gone before. See his masterpiece by visiting holycross.edu/hcm/purplevideo.

Student Success Stories

This year, a number of Holy Cross students received highly competitive national awards, recognizing their academic achievements and supporting their goals—both at Holy Cross and beyond.

The prestigious Fulbright program will help two Holy Cross students pursue their passions abroad. Classics major Nikolas Churik '15 received a Fulbright Research Grant to the Netherlands where he will be studying Greek literature and paleography. “Being able to go to the Netherlands is a great opportunity for me as the Dutch have an excellent tradition in the classics. I will also be studying antiquities and I hope that will provide me with a wider view of the human experience.”

Raven Tukes '15, a Chinese language major with a minor in education, will be traveling to Taiwan to teach English with a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship. Tukes, who participated in language programs and internships in China and South Africa during her time at Holy Cross, will continue her education by pursuing her Ed.M. in international education policy at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education after completing her Fulbright.

A number of other distinguished awards have been awarded to our students:

Through a Princeton in Africa Fellowship, Meghan Casey ’15 will carry out a yearlong service project in Tanzania. Casey, who had a self-designed global health studies major with premedical and Africana Studies concentrations, will combine her backgrounds in language, political science and hard science to work toward greater justice in basic health.

Biology major Erin Emmons ’15 was awarded a School for Field Studies Distinguished Student Research Award for her work at SFS Center for Rainforest Studies while studying abroad in Australia—an experience, she says, that has shaped her desire to continue to be involved in research.

A Critical Language Scholarship will bring Alexander Kochenburger '17 to Morocco where he will participate in an accelerated language program for two months this summer. With hopes to pursue a career in international affairs in the Arab world, the international studies major aims to better understand the cultures, politics and history of the area by better understanding the language.

Jeff Bourgeois '16, a biology major spending his summer working as an intern at the National Institutes of Health, received a Goldwater Scholarship, aimed to support students interested in pursuing a career in research.

—Evangelia Stefanakos ’14

PASS THE BACON  On May 6, the Class Deans—John Anderson, M. Estrella Cibreiro-Couce, Francisco Gago-Jover (left) and Patricia Kramer—kicked off the tradition of serving midnight breakfast to students studying for finals. The Belgian waffles and toppings bar were quite a hit.

ATB NEWS  Troika Ranch, an internationally renowned ensemble that fuses dance, theatre and technology, has been named visiting artists-in-residence by Arts Transcending Borders (ATB), the College’s initiative to infuse the fine and performing arts in students’ academic lives. ATB also revealed its theme for the 2015-16 academic year: “Gravity and Grace: The Intersection of Art and Science.”
A attorney Jamie D. Hoag ’98 has been hired as the College’s director of government and community relations, replacing interim director John B. Anderson ’57, associate professor emeritus of history and former mayor of the city of Worcester.

Hoag served for six years in the administration of former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, most recently as director of the Governor’s Office of Federal-State Relations in Washington D.C. Prior to his work in the Patrick administration, Hoag’s resume includes work as a litigation associate at DLA Piper LLP, a law clerk to the Honorable David Mills of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, a legislative aide for Congressman Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) and LGBTQ Community Liaison/Neighborhood Coordinator in the office of the late Boston mayor, Thomas Menino.

As a student, Hoag was president of both his class and the College chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit honor society. After graduation, Hoag received an M.A. in international affairs from American University’s School of International Service and a J.D. from its Washington College of Law.

“It is an honor to return to alma mater and give back to a community that gave me so much,” Hoag says. “I look forward to working closely with government and community leaders in Worcester to advance our common interests.”

Class of ’98 Alum Returns to Campus Post

In late May, Rev. Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., president of Holy Cross and Margaret N. Freije, vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the College, announced the appointment of Amit Taneja as the new associate dean for diversity and inclusion/chief diversity officer.

Taneja comes to the Hill from Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., where, as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion, he coordinated the Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Team and directed the Days-Massolo Cultural Education Center.

Taneja begins his new role at Holy Cross in July, working with Associate Director Greta Kenney to support diversity and inclusion in the curriculum and in the recruitment, hiring and retention of faculty. He will chair the Diversity Leadership Team, be a resource for other divisions and programs to support college-wide diversity efforts and facilitate wide-ranging conversations on the same at the College.

In their announcement, Fr. Boroughs and Dean Freije thanked the members of the search committee, led by professors M. Estrella Cibreiro-Couce and David Damiano, who served as co-chairs.

College Announces Leader for Diversity Efforts

SCREEN PLAY The film adaptation of Distinguished Writer in Residence Leah Hager Cohen’s The Grief of Others made its international premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May after receiving glowing reviews in March at the South By Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival. The film was one of only nine worldwide to be invited to Cannes by France’s Association for the Diffusion of Independent Cinema (ACID), and the first time in 15 years that ACID has selected an American film.

SENIOR FUN This year’s Senior Week—four full days of school-sponsored activities, both on and off campus, selected by the senior class officers—included a Boston Harbor Cruise, a golf outing, trivia night and a clam bake in Newport, R.I.
Spring Weekend

From April 30 to May 4, the Campus Activities Board (CAB) hosted Spring Weekend with an ancient Greece theme. Students enjoyed a performance by hip hop/R&B artist Luke Christopher, the Easy Street Fair, carnival rides, fireworks on the Hart Lawn and a dance party featuring music from Chris Stathopoulous '15 and Diego Quintanar '15. And what’s a Spring Weekend without some free grub? Students chowed down on everything from BBQ and chicken wings to whoopie pies and frozen lemonade. The most colorful event was the HOLI color festival celebration behind Figge Hall, sponsored by Developing and Educating South-Asian Ideologies (DESI).

British pop star Jessie J (opposite top) was the headliner at the 2015 Spring Concert on May 4. Her single, “Bang Bang,” featuring Nicki Minaj and Ariana Grande, debuted at No. 1 in the U.K. and became a top 10 hit in the States. Opening act DJ Pup Dawg (opposite far right) got the crowd warmed up, as did the winners of the student Battle of the Bands, Sexual Chocolate. Jimmy Polewaczyk '16 (opposite middle left) is lead singer for the band, which took its name from Eddie Murphy’s 1988 comedy, Coming to America. The group played a few tunes from its repertoire, including Metallica’s “Enter Sandman” and Blink 182’s “All The Small Things.”

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WELL EARNED The Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, titled “Beyond College Rankings, a Value-Added Approach to Assessing Two- and Four-Year Schools,” revealed that graduating from Holy Cross added nearly 27 percent to an alum’s average mid-career earnings, which Brooking puts at $99,600.

WE’RE SO PRETTY Holy Cross ranks No. 8 in the country on Best Choice Schools’ list of “The 50 Most Beautiful Urban College Campuses.” The list noted that the “exceptionally beautiful” 174-acre campus is “a registered arboretum, boasting more than 6,000 trees, plants, and shrubs that add unique color and elegance to any part of campus.”
FR. BOROUGHS GETS THE NOD  The Patriot League announced that Rev. Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., Holy Cross president, will take over as chair of the League’s Council of Presidents in place of Neil Kerwin, president of American University. John Bravman, president of Bucknell University, becomes the chair-elect.

WELCOME 2019  Gateways Orientation for the Class of 2019 kicked off just after Reunion with sessions aimed at helping incoming students develop a preliminary academic plan and introducing them to people, resources and opportunities at Holy Cross.
Proud Families Enjoy Academic Conference

From April 22 to 25, Holy Cross hosted its annual Academic Conference, a four-day event that provides students an opportunity to present the results of their independent work, and for the entire community to celebrate the College's liberal arts curriculum. This year’s conference showcased the creativity and intellectual discipline of about 300 students from all classes. The conference was also a chance for parents (and sometimes siblings and grandparents) to visit campus and see the academic projects their sons and daughters had completed.

Lorena Sferlazza ’15 of Norwalk, Conn., got to show her parents, Rose and Steve Sferlazza, M.D., her composite painting called “The Passion,” created in conjunction with her honors thesis, “Addressing the Wound: An Artistic Exploration of Human Pain” (above left). “The experience was not only intellectually appealing but also evoked much emotion,” Rose says. “We were in awe of what we heard at the symposium. The depth and scope of the subject matter of Lorena’s work as well as that of her student colleagues (some of whom we also had the opportunity to hear) was wonderful ... It was a testament to our daughter’s transformation from novice young scholar to mature learned adult graduate of Holy Cross. It was a particularly proud and happy moment.”

ONLINE ONLY Learn about other families’ proud and happy moments, including those for Rick Guerra ’15, his parents, Rose and Richard, and his brother, Mark (above top); Sophia Jin ’15 with sister Michelle ’17 (above middle); Mike Dunbar ’15, his parents, Susanna and Mike, and his uncle, James McDonald (above bottom). —with Evangelia Stefanakos ’14

BATTER UP The Worcester Bravehearts bested the Wachusett Dirt Dawgs 5-1 in their June 5 season opener on Fitton Field. The Bravehearts, members of the 10-team Futures Collegiate Baseball League, include two Holy Cross varsity baseball members, pitcher Austin Cave ’18 and outfielder Bobby Indeglia ’16. This is the second year of the partnership among Holy Cross, the city of Worcester, the Futures League and local business owner John W.S. Creedon Jr., in their collective efforts to keep the tradition of baseball alive in Worcester.
Students and coaches donned their fanciest duds for the inaugural Crusader Awards at the Hart Center, a fun evening of friendship and music that celebrated all the athletics achievements of the past year. Best Women’s Team honors went to Ice Hockey (18-7-3 overall, ECAC Open Champions) and Best Men’s Team went to Baseball (12-8 in Patriot League/Tied for 2nd Place). The Game of the Year award went to Men’s Basketball vs. Harvard, when Holy Cross beat a ranked opponent for the first time in 37 years.

In a different awards event, lacrosse player Terry McKenna ’15 (top right), from Summit, N.J., was named the 2014-2015 Crusader of the Year, the most prestigious student-athlete award at Holy Cross. Read more about McKenna on and off the field at holycross.edu/hcm/mckenna

Participants in the Chamber Music Institute will present music by Brahms, Schumann, Mozart, Dvorak, Beethoven and Ravel on June 26 in Brooks Concert Hall. The Chamber Music Institute is an intensive immersion program for talented, high school and college-aged violinists, violists, cellists, and pianists, focused on the art of chamber music as well as individual musical development.

Renée Beard, associate professor of sociology and anthropology, discussed the stigma of Alzheimer’s disease on The Academic Minute (broadcast on WAMC Northeast Public Radio). “American cultural willingness to persecute our most deeply forgetful members reflects and reinforces deep seated ageism and fear of death,” explained Beard.
Chem Professor Earns Leadership and Innovation Award

The Research Corporation for Science Advancement has named Kenneth Mills, professor of chemistry, a Cottrell Scholar. The award recognizes the best early career teacher-scholars in chemistry, physics and astronomy who have shown excellence and innovation in their research program and academic leadership skills.

“It is an honor to be recognized alongside many great colleagues at leading liberal arts colleges,” offers Mills. The Cottrell Scholar Program welcomes members from both research and primary undergraduate institutions into a highly diverse and interdisciplinary community of the nation’s best teacher-scholars, and aims to further develop and nurture the efforts of its members through various opportunities, including an invitation to the annual Cottrell Scholars Conference, where new ideas for collaborative projects often emerge.

“My research students over the past 14 years have shown excellence and innovation in their work, and this network will augment those opportunities.”

Mills further explains that this award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of his research students over the past 14 years, and holds as much value for them as it does for him. “It is important that students see their faculty as active scholars alongside them, such that what we are asking them to do in the teaching and research labs is an authentic experience,” says Mills.

“Having faculty members (and students) who are active scholars, presenting the results of their work at national meetings and in the peer review literature of professional societies, encourages students to be participants in science, and to be engaged in what is ‘now’ and ‘tomorrow,’ not just what has already made the textbooks.”

Mills, a member of the chemistry faculty since 2001, served as chair of the chemistry department from 2010 to 2014. In 2011, he was honored with the Mary Louise Marfuggi Faculty Award for Outstanding Scholarship, which is given to a faculty member with an exemplary record of scholarship and distinguished achievement in the creation of an original work in the arts and sciences.

—Evangelia Stefanakos ’14

From the Journals

T omber Hupp, assistant professor of chemistry, Mariel Flood ’14, Julian Goding ’14, John O’Connor ’13, and Dorisanne Ragon ’13 co-authored “Analysis of Biodiesel Feedstock Using GCMS and Unsupervised Chemometric Methods,” which was published in the Journal of the American Oil Chemists’ Society (vol. 91, issue 8).

“We explored the use of mathematical tools (chemometric methods) to analyze biodiesel fuels prepared from different feedstocks (plant and animal sources),” explains Hupp, who views Holy Cross students as vital to her research. “The biodiesels contain a series of compounds called fatty acid methyl esters (FAMEs), which are chemically similar to one another, yet provide a distinct difference in the physical properties of the biodiesels.”

“We isolated these chemical components using gas chromatography,” she continues. “We were [then] able to classify the biodiesels based on their FAME profile using a chemometric tool called Principal Component Analysis.”

The team found that as the separation and isolation of individual FAME components improves, the ability to cluster the biodiesels based on feedstock [type] also improves. “These findings could be used to further our understanding of the energy contained in renewable fuels or in environmental or forensic labs to determine an unknown fuel,” Hupp says. —Kim Staley ’99
Educating the Urban Race: The Evolution of an American High School, the latest book by Ericka Fisher ’96, associate professor and chair of the education department, focuses on multicultural education, educational psychology and academic achievement. A scholar in racial and economic equity in American education, Fisher, in her published works, examines the experiences of vulnerable populations in American secondary schools.

Educating the Urban Race is based on Fisher’s 10 years of research at urban schools. Through the use of historical and quantitative data, interviews and observations, she provides a comprehensive view of the many factors at play that merge to create an urban high school.

“As adults, we accept on a cognitive level that the constructs of race, socioeconomic status and relationships are complex and convoluted,” says Fisher. “Nevertheless, educational professionals within a school are expected to balance these complex constructs while educating the masses. Better yet, they are expected to do what our society as a whole has failed to accomplish: process, then transcend these factors so that all students become citizens of a truly post-racial institution.”

While the central case study focuses on Burncoat Senior High School in Worcester, Mass., the book takes a serious look at policy issues and urban education at a national level— and includes a broad survey of American public education dating back to the 17th century.

Deborah Meier, founder of New York City’s Central Park East public schools and Boston’s Mission Hill School, says: “Fisher has put together a moving account of why being ‘at risk’ will require many difficult decisions. Building trustful relationships between schools and young people cannot happen without rethinking high schools from the bottom up.”

—Cristal Steuer

Educating the Urban Race

Educating the Urban Race

Religious studies

Professor Todd Lewis has been visiting Nepal since 1978. After the devastating earthquake hit the area in April, numerous regional and national media outlets—including WBZ Radio, Yahoo! News Canada and CNN—called upon Lewis for his expertise as a leading scholar in Hinduism and Buddhism, which are practiced in Nepal.

Lewis offered insight into the earthquake from the perspective of those affected, explaining that many believe it had little to do with karma: “Buddhist and Hindu texts make it clear that there are all kinds of causal contingencies that just happen,” he told CNN.

Lewis, who had been on a research trip to Nepal with his daughter just seven weeks before the earthquake, continued to shed light on lesser known aspects of Buddhism, such as the colorful prayer flags seen in the recent images of Nepal— particularly those at the base camp of Mount Everest, which was hit with the aftershocks of the earthquake.

“The parts of Buddhism that everyone knows about are meditation and karma, and trying to reach nirvana ... through good karma,” Lewis explained to Yahoo! News Canada. “What is less known are the Buddhist words that were taught by [Buddha] to make the world safer, healthier and more auspicious.” These words, he said, are what we see written on the prayer flags today.

Lewis’ special research focuses on Buddhism in the Kathmandu Valley, where he lived while conducting his dissertation research and as a postdoctoral fellow.

Considered one of the world’s leading authorities on the religions of the mid-montane Himalayan region and the social history of Buddhism, he has received many awards that recognize and support his efforts, including the Guggenheim Fellowship in 2011.

—Evangelia Stefanakos ’14
Carol Lieberman is a longtime member of the College music faculty and director of the Holy Cross Chamber Players. Her specialties include Baroque and classical music history, opera and chamber music.
From Opera to Broadway

with Carol Lieberman, Associate Professor of Music  

BY PAMELA REPONEN

DESCRIPTION
Beginning with the 17th-century Italian composer Claudio Monteverdi, the course traces the development of opera to the 20th century. Students subsequently explore ballet, American Broadway musical theatre, various films and Walt Disney cartoons. With focus on the relationship between drama and music, a brief historical survey of each category is provided, involving the examination of representative scenes and complete works.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
Students gain familiarity with selected works and the social contexts in which they were created. Topics for discussion include “the music and drama, political and social conditions in Europe and the United States, as well as ideas about race and social class,” explains Lieberman.

REQUIREMENTS
Three examinations and two research papers

REQUIRED TEXTS
Joseph Kerman, Opera as Drama; Claude Debussy, libretto to his opera, Pelléas et Mélisande.

SAMPLE LISTENING AND VIEWING ASSIGNMENTS
The Marriage of Figaro, The Magic Flute and Don Giovanni by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun by Claude Debussy, The Rite of Spring by Igor Stravinsky, Show Boat by Jerome Kern (music) and Oscar Hammerstein II (lyrics), West Side Story by Leonard Bernstein (music) and Stephen Sondheim (lyrics), Rent by Jonathan Larson (music and lyrics), Psycho and The Birds by Alfred Hitchcock (director) and Jaws by Steven Spielberg (director) and John Williams (music).

ON THE DAY HCM VISITED CLASS
Topic: Debussy's Pelléas et Mélisande. Lecture on Debussy's musical background—the influence of German composer Richard Wagner and the symbolist and impressionist movements on his work; the emergence of Debussy's style and technique; his choice of Belgian writer Maurice Maeterlinck's play Pelléas et Mélisande, for the creation of his opera. Viewing several video clips of the work, students noted the various symbolic elements woven into the story and the ways in which Debussy's music, in subordination to language, supports the drama's portrayal of character, human emotion, atmosphere and theme.

PROFESSOR BIO
A 1974 doctor of musical arts (DMA) degree recipient from the Yale School of Music in New Haven, Conn., Lieberman joined the Holy Cross music faculty in 1985; her specialties include Baroque and classical music history, opera and chamber music. Acting department chair for several semesters and a member of various College committees, Lieberman has served as director of the Holy Cross Chamber Players since 1985; the group performs a series of concerts annually in the College's Brooks Concert Hall.

The recipient of numerous grants, Lieberman served as a lecturer and chamber music ensemble coach in 2014 at the Jezreel Valley Arts Center in Israel. Performing internationally as a violinist in concerto and chamber music, she has joined her husband, harpsichordist Mark Kroll, for the past 40 years as a member of the Lieberman-Kroll Duo. A history major at City College, Lieberman comments that she played “in the pit” for several Broadway musicals while an undergraduate in New York—and, also, “in professional orchestras for most of the operas that we study.”

PROFESSOR QUOTE
Creating this course early in her career at Holy Cross and teaching it at the College annually for more than 20 years, Lieberman observes that she originally titled it “Music and Theatre” and then revised the name “to shift the emphasis to a larger consideration of Broadway musicals, films and cartoons—although,” she says, “the course remains heavily centered on the history of opera.”

Reflecting on what she finds most satisfying about teaching “From Opera to Broadway,” Lieberman remarks: “The course allows me to interact with students from various majors in the College. There are often theater, visual arts, philosophy, history and other areas in which students can contribute and bring their own ideas to what is studied.”

Among her expectations for the students enrolled in the class: “To learn about opera, ballet, musical theater and film as they reflect societal conditions in the 17th through 21st centuries.”

STUDENT QUOTE
“For me, this course has opened my eyes to the various techniques composers use to convey emotions,” says Jordan J. Avelino-Matos ’15, of Holyoke, Mass. “It has taught me that there are no accidents in music composition, everything is deliberate. The music of opera, theater and film not only reinforces human emotion with its presence but also through its internal structure. I have learned not only to appreciate the music for itself, but also how it is conveying what it wants to accomplish.”

SYLLABUS / CAMPUS NOTEBOOK / 27
Marion and George Merritt ’43, dancing as they did when they first met in the 1930s. Marion passed away in 2008, and the care she received at the end of her life started George down a new path.
SERVING WITH GRACE

At 93, Holy Cross alum George Merritt ’43 comforts the terminally ill, after being comforted himself.  

BY PAUL CATALA

It could be a few moments of intimate reflection from a personal memory pool evaporated by the waves of time. Maybe it’s a smile tugged upwards from the creases of lips long-ago silenced by the rigors of loneliness. It might just be a few words of insightful wisdom from someone resting in the twilight of this earthly time.

Whatever the circumstances, George Merritt ’43, a volunteer at Avow Hospice Center in Naples, Fla., always seems ready to listen and accept what he hears from his clients when he visits with them at life’s most fragile time.

Merritt recently gave William, a veteran U.S. Army World War II paratrooper in room 121, that simple gift of listening—just being there. For Sarah, a retired teacher just down the hallway, he usually shares a moment of prayer and a few minutes of scripture, maybe some time telling jokes or reminiscing about home in New York. And visits with Earl, a once-active mechanic, generally means some silent time and patient listening to often long-winded statements that struggle to find a cohesive foothold.

Hour by hour, day by day, Merritt carries a passionate and undeniably carefree outlook on life. And that’s why at 93 years old, Merritt continues his work to be a face of comfort, a touch of tenderness, a voice of tranquility for the terminally ill looking for a soothing word of support, a beacon of promise of a better place ahead.

The Avow Hospice complex overlooks a lake just a few miles west of bustling Interstate 75 in Naples, near walled home communities, strip malls and marshland.

And it is the place that played an important role for the Merritt family, especially on Nov. 9, 2008, the day that Merritt’s wife, Marion, died. He says his life was transformed that day, transfigured into even more of a giving existence under the guidance of God and divine direction.

High schoolers in Pittsfield, Mass., George Merritt and Marion Loftus met while performing in a show—he was a singer, she, a dancer. “That led to dates, and we dated for seven years,” says Merritt, smiling at the memory.
Sitting at the kitchen table of his Naples home on a humid May morning, Merritt, who retired in 1992 as vice president of advertising and public relations for the Milton Bradley Co., exudes that radiant smile even when discussing more dark, melancholy subjects.

Merritt says it was the detailed and omnipresent care for his wife by Avow administration, staff, doctors and medical assistants that prompted him to return not to the workforce, but into the realm of volunteering.

For two years after Marion’s death at home—where she had hospice access—Merritt says he was “lost” and needed direction in his life.

“Finally, I said, ‘I’ve got to do something.’ I decided to help out at Avow because the attitude of gratitude took over,” he recalls during a quick sub sandwich lunch in his kitchen. “They were so wonderful to my wife before she died; I wanted to show my gratitude.”

Avow’s communications manager, Deborah Jonsson, says when Merritt approached her about volunteering, she could sense the sincerity in his desire to help and knew of his advertising background—so she initially got him to assist with a major fundraising campaign.

Jonsson says a phrase written by Merritt and used in an appeal letter he wrote, “Someday you’ll find Avow Hospice is the best friend you never knew you had,” inspired Avow’s 2011-12 television PSA campaign. It made an impression on Avow staff and even new patients, who referred to it when meeting with the admissions team.

In 2013, Merritt was recognized with the Avow Butterfly Award, which Jonsson says “reflects a steadfast belief that, out of personal difficulties, come new strengths to help others.” She explains the award honors a person who has taken the personal experience of losing a loved one and “channeled the loss into making end-of-life care in Collier County (Naples) better for others.”

Today, Merritt—who has 10 children, 17 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren—volunteers each Friday in four- to six-hour shifts, though he often returns during the week to check in on the patients.

“When he wanted to become a patient volunteer, some were concerned that his advanced age or his personal loss might make it too challenging, but he has become a steadfast, committed, scheduled volunteer, a friend to patients and staff as well as a great companion to families and other volunteers,” says Jonsson.

After majoring in economics, Merritt graduated from Holy Cross in 1943 and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He served from 1943 to 1945 before beginning his career in advertising, marketing and public relations.

The son of Ethel and Laurence, an engineer with General Electric, Merritt says the spirit of volunteering was modeled for him as a youth—his mother was a lifelong volunteer with the Red Cross Gray Ladies at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Pittsfield. He says he developed his altruistic nature early, helping out at The Boys’ Home in Pittsfield when he was just 12.
As he paces a hallway of Avow during a recent visit, Merritt's years of volunteer expertise are evident in the way staff and familiar residents greet him. With a steady gait and comforting smile, he pauses at room doors to offer a “hello” or a quick update on his hobby—stained-glass window-making.

A spiritual and introspective man, Merritt, the father of five daughters and five sons, says when talking to or comforting a resident patient, his focus is one of compassionate listening; he knows many of his “conversations” flow one way.

“A lot of people I talk to can’t communicate due to dementia,” he says, standing not far from the facility’s front desk. “But I know they can hear me, so I’ll touch their hand or arm and tell them, ‘Don’t worry. I’m with you. I won’t leave you alone; Avow won’t leave you alone. We’ll take care of you.’”

Those with whom Merritt works and volunteers say they have become transfixed with Merritt’s abilities to reach residents on physical and emotional levels, and they admire his penchant for prayer and support in faith on a spiritual level. They’ve seen Merritt hold personal vigils for patients whose paces to the afterlife have quickened.

Penny Estes, the Avow after-hours manager who has worked in hospice since 1998, says Merritt’s volunteer hours are spent mostly with focused faith and God-guided compassion. She says even after he has left a shift, he often returns to check in on residents he recently consoled.

“When a patient is dying and there is no one to sit with them, George sits in the room, just to have a presence. It’s not a pleasant experience, but he comes back to see how they’re doing,” she says. “He’s just very compassionate. He’s really here not just for the patients, but for their families, too.”

As he completes some mid-afternoon rounds, Merritt, walking with a brisk directness in his step, speaks of his life experiences helping him in his efforts with hospice patients. In addition to his Milton Bradley career, he spent 30 years teaching the Dale Carnegie self-improvement course around New England; taught advertising and marketing at six colleges—and was a member of the Public Relations Society of America and the Holy Cross Alumni Association, as well as director of the Connecticut Red Cross blood program.

Merritt—who spends May to October at his home in Old Lyme, Conn.—says he derives much of his will to console patients through the theological and spiritual focus he gained at Holy Cross. He served as a lector at St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford, Conn., and at St. William Catholic Church in Naples. He also finds time to play a pretty good round of golf at several Naples courses.

In Naples, Merritt shares a home with his daughter Kathy Amenta, a registered nurse who works near the Avow Center. Amenta supports her father’s quest to make a difference, adding that each time he visits the center, his desire to serve seems to increase. “It’s what he really wants to do,” she says. “This has been a journey in spirituality for him, and it has definitely made an impression on him over the last several years. It has opened up the after-death possibilities for him.”

Merritt recognizes his own mortality, and says he’s happy with his continued ability to serve those in their end times. “A lot of people think of hospice as a place where you go to die,” he says. “I like to think what it really is: It is where you go to live the last phase of your life before you enter into the afterlife.”

OPPOSITE Merritt served in WWII as a paratrooper, later enjoying a career in advertising. Marion and he raised five boys and five girls. ABOVE Today, Merritt likes to golf (with son Chip, left), and volunteer at the Avow Hospice Center in Naples, Fla., which gave him its Butterfly Award for service in 2013.
George Merritt ’43 in the middle of his classmates on campus (this page), with wife Marion (top left), and with his buddies before “lights out” in the residence hall (top right).
George Merritt ’43 didn’t end up at the College of the Holy Cross by choice; his parents chose it for him.

But as a freshman in 1939, Merritt, now 93, says once he got to the campus, he was awestruck with its beautiful solemnity and classical architecture.

It was the fall semester, and as his parents drove away from Mount St. James, heading back to the family home in Pittsfield, Mass., their farewell, “We’ll see you at Thanksgiving” resonated with the 18-year-old man on his own for the first time. Laurence and Ethel Merritt had sought a “challenging Catholic foundation and … a liberal arts education,” where young George could prepare himself for law school.

“One hundred miles east (of Pittsfield) was Worcester, Mass., and Holy Cross. It was just what they wanted, a Jesuit school that taught critical analysis and clear thinking that led to logical conclusions,” he says.

“I stood there and saw these huge dormitories with buildings around them that just amazed me,” says Merritt, who was one of 410 men in the incoming Class of 1943. “I was impressed to the point that I couldn’t believe I was there.”

The Class of 1943 reveled in being the Centennial Class, and often referred to the College’s 1843 founding in its publications and at events. As for campus life, the class saw the ribbon-cutting on the newly constructed Wheeler Hall. Merritt remembers every dormitory floor on campus had its own resident Jesuit, and attendance at daily Mass was monitored. Every night, it was “lights out” by 11 p.m.

To get time off campus wasn’t as easy as getting in a car and driving away. Merritt says it was necessary to get College permission just to go downtown, and once there, a code of behavior needed to be followed.

“Being caught drinking was a one-way ticket home,” he says. “God forbid, my father would have killed me! My parents had not included discipline in their college search, but I am sure they knew it was present at Holy Cross.”

In those years, Merritt, who enjoyed football and debating as a student, says free time was spent playing Ping-Pong or getting to the theater downtown for a Friday night movie and an ice cream cone.

“But I couldn’t even afford a quarter. This wasn’t long after the Depression, so money wasn’t an object because I really didn’t have any. School was for studying then, not for partying or going out to eat,” he says.

Merritt recalls a major milestone in 1942 that is still talked about today. Holy Cross football fans welled with purple pride on Nov. 28 that year as the Crusaders bested Boston College 55-12, one of the biggest college sports upsets in history. The Boston College Eagles, deflated by the loss, did not attend a victory party at Boston’s Cocoanut Grove nightclub as planned. That evening, a raging fire at the club claimed 492 souls. BC players have said the loss probably saved their lives. It is another unique—if not grim—distinction for the Class of 1943.

The Class also had its Commencement moved up to ensure that the able-bodied graduates of ’43 would be available to serve in WWII. Whispers of conflict in Europe had grown to rumblings by the close of their freshman year, and during their junior year Christmas break, war had been declared. Vacation was cut short, and students were called back to classes. “I graduated on Feb. 13, 1943, and by the end of that month, I was in the Air Force,” Merritt says. The senior history essay in the 1943 Purple Patcher reads: “We leave quickly, but soberly and sadly, to lay down the pen and take up the sword … hoping we will be worthy of our God, our country and our College.”

In the many years since his accelerated graduation, Merritt has visited alma mater a few times, and he says, like everything, time has a way of altering what was.

“You wouldn’t recognize much of it today. Much looks different and, of course, some of the attitudes have changed,” he says. “I’m glad I ended up there. Given my choice, I would have selected Holy Cross: Once a Crusader, always a Crusader.”
The century-old Ayer Mill Clock Tower in Lawrence, Mass., rises 267 feet above the Merrimack River like a beacon, a vestige of an era when Lawrence helped power the Industrial Revolution, and generations of workers from around the world sought opportunity in the city's woolen mills.

A mile from the world's largest mill clock, at her family home on Durso Ave., a modern-day newcomer to this city of immigrants uses 21st-century machinery to pursue her own American dream—as an artist.

Instead of paintbrushes, Bang Luu ’14 uses a stylus, tablet computer and Adobe Illustrator to create her digital art.

"Today so much technology surrounds us," says Luu, daughter of a welder and a textile worker, who was 8 when her family came to Lawrence from Vietnam. Her contemporary art, born of that technology, invites viewers out of the physical world and into a virtual one.

A studio art major and art history minor, she created "Restless" for her senior show at Holy Cross. The piece consisted of five iPads hanging on a wall, each tablet programmed with a gallery of animated images, with viewers invited to fast-forward or rewind in an interactive, "create-your-own" experience.
THE ARTIST'S PATH

BY MARK SULLIVAN
Bang Luu’s full-motion video display, “Shoals,” was one of nine works selected last year for display on the marquee at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center—the largest urban screen in New England.
Some of her other pieces, animated images that incorporate movement, might be described as “ectoplasmic”—living things conveyed via digital technology. “You, the audience, can control the movement,” Luu says. “You’re the creator.”

Her art, for the most part, lives online. (See bangluu.tumblr.com.) “What’s convenient about my work is it’s portable,” she says, gesturing to her laptop. “You can save every piece.”

“I like the idea of it being in a virtual world, a space you can’t touch or grab,” Luu explains. “It’s a stepping away from the physical world. I’m creating a space you can enter that’s not reality, but spiritual.”

Susan Schmidt, associate professor of visual arts at Holy Cross, says Luu’s work “deals inventively with important questions, including the complexities of the natural world, our relationship with the intangible, the allure of water, beauty, interactivity and community.” Schmidt continues, “Her work merges new technologies, such as QR codes and digital animation, with more traditional forms of art.”

Luu is considered a rising talent. In 2014 she was awarded first place in the 10th annual College Show, a juried exhibit sponsored by ARTSWorcester, of the best student art from Worcester-area colleges and universities. She won for a 23-by-20-inch laser engraving on plywood titled “Stardust” (see next page) that depicts the interconnectedness of all human beings.

In December 2014, her digital piece, “Shoals,” was among nine works by Massachusetts artists selected for display on the 80-foot-tall LED marquee outside the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in South Boston, a unique digital canvas that is the largest urban screen in New England. Her work, with its moving swirls and bursts of pixelated color, was meant to promote environmental awareness by encouraging viewers to contemplate their place in a changing physical landscape. The
full-motion video display, visible to the heavy city traffic on Summer, D and Congress streets, could be seen for a half-mile.

“Her work is interesting because she expands on traditional subject matter by transforming it with digital media,” says Michael Beatty, associate professor of visual arts at Holy Cross. “This use of the digital landscape makes her work very compelling within a contemporary context.

“Bang worked hard at Holy Cross developing her skills in drawing and printmaking classes, took ideas drawn from a wide range of interests—art history and Asian studies—and then merged all of these with digital media courses taught out of the Millard Media Lab,” Beatty says.

“Her dedication and creative drive forged a unique artistic voice that has brought her well-deserved recognition,” he adds.

After graduation in May 2014, Luu’s art star continued its ascent. Her digital paintings were displayed at Brown University’s Granoff Center for the Creative Arts as part of an exhibit, titled “Encountering the Art of Invisibility: Religion and the Secular in Contemporary Art.”

She recently completed a Fifth Year Fellowship at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., curating gallery shows and serving as a teaching assistant in the studio arts program. Her pieces were on display there at the Broad Street Gallery.

But Luu has now put graduate school plans on hold and moved home to Lawrence to help her mother, Muoi Nham, who was diagnosed with cancer last year and recently finished chemotherapy. Her mother’s illness inspired Luu’s work “Na-Ja,” exhibited at Trinity College, which incorporates images of cancer cells. It takes its name from the protection deity in Chinese folk religion. Sharing her life experience through her art is her goal as an artist, Luu says, adding that Mount St. James is where she discovered her passion. She credits the inspiration and support of her professors at Holy Cross. “It was a community where I felt more myself than anywhere else,” she says. “I was able to do what I love.”

Her calling “is not something I can describe,” Luu says. “It just feels right.” She came to Holy Cross intending to study science, with a view toward medical school. When she switched her major to art her junior year, she recalls having a “challenging conversation” with her mother.

“It was tough,” Luu says. Her mother did not know what to make of contemporary art as a career aspiration. Asked if her mother is coming around, Luu exclaims, “Not really!” But she added she is “warming up to it.”

“I hope to be able to inspire others to be able to have a dream, to know that if you work hard for something it’s certainly attainable,” says Luu, whose younger sister, Tran, starts at Holy Cross this fall.

For her next endeavor, she would like to explore “projection mapping,” which uses a building or another three-dimensional structure as a surface for video projection. “It’s the coolest thing,” Luu says.

Perhaps the Ayer Mill Clock Tower as video canvas? “I would love that,” she says, smiling.
Luu with a prototype of a new work entitled "Na-Ja," inspired by cancer cells. Na-Ja is a protection deity in Chinese folk religion.

This series of pieces (below), collectively titled "Psychosis," was Luu’s contribution to Alter-Ego, the 2014 senior exhibition in Cantor Art Gallery.
In 1990, I was all dressed up for a party and had nowhere to go,” begins Barry Loffredo, D.D.S., ’68. “What I mean is, I had a week off, and I had nothing to do.”

Inspired by a childhood role model who went on medical missionary trips to Africa, Loffredo, who lives in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., decided to donate his dental services to those in need. He ultimately connected with a Christian dental society that sent him on his first mission to Haiti. “It was an incredible week and an incredible education,” Loffredo reflects. “It just blew my senses away to the extent that I thought, I want to do this again.” And he did. For 18 years, he volunteered in locations including Jamaica, Guatemala, Honduras and Cuba—until seven years ago, when Loffredo’s plans fell apart while preparing for one of his annual missions.

That’s when his brother, Al Loffredo, M.D., entered the story. Serendipitously, Al’s church, The Catholic Community of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in Schenectady, N.Y., was looking to extend its missionary work at its sister parish, San Agustín in Cuanacaxtitlán, Guerrero, Mexico.

Although overwhelmed by the prospect of organizing his own dental missionary trip, Loffredo took on the challenge with help from a childhood friend and fellow dentist Donald “Don” R. DeLuke, D.D.S., who had read about the mission in the church bulletin. The two partnered up to raise funds, gather a team, make arrangements with their Mexican hosts and procure supplies—no easy tasks.

“We literally begged, borrowed and stole instruments,” recalls Loffredo, who not only used instruments from his own practice but also worked tirelessly to obtain donations.

“[Holy Cross] gave me a work ethic that I’ve found not everyone has,” he explains. Throughout the planning process, Loffredo drew on the lessons in perseverance he learned at the College. “Life isn’t always easy, and you’ve got to be able to put your nose to the grindstone from time to time.”

Each January for the past seven years, Loffredo and DeLuke have traveled to Cuanacaxtitlán for a week, taking along

“One of my main motivations in going into dentistry was to help people, to make a difference in people’s lives. Barry and I and Don and Jay—we grew up when that was an important part of life, and it certainly was part of our days at Holy Cross. We were a group of people who wanted to change the world!” — Richard “Dick” Simitis, D.M.D., ’68
ABOVE  No fancy reclining chairs here—the team often works outdoors with patients on picnic tables. RIGHT  Except for its coastline, which includes Acapulco, Guerrero is a rugged, mountainous state. Other than the tourism trade, sources of employment are scarce. FAR RIGHT  Don DeLuke, D.D.S., and Loffredo know that sometimes a long day’s work includes a bit of clowning with the local children. BELOW LEFT  The kids in the waiting area are enthralled by Jay Howard ’68 and his juggling. BELOW RIGHT  Loffredo (in green) posing with his team of local hosts and volunteers on last year’s trip.
a different group of volunteers, including dentists, pre-dental college students and dental hygienists.

Finding volunteers is an integral—and challenging—part of the process. Fortunately, the pair have connections in the Schenectady dental community, from which they recruit many participants. They also rely on personal connections, as was the case with the dentists who volunteered the past two years: Richard “Dick” Simitis, D.M.D., ’68 and Rory Ogden, D.D.S., ’08.

Simitis, a classmate and longtime friend of Loffredo’s, didn’t think twice about joining the mission that he had heard about for so many years. “I had wanted to help him on this project for a while, but something always came up,” he explains. “This time I thought, If not now, when? So I did it.” Simitis, who has his own practice in Worcester, made the trip in 2014.

Ogden had a similar response when the request came from Loffredo. The two met at the community health center in Schenectady where she is employed, and where Loffredo—although officially “retired”—works one day a week. “The first time I was free, I jumped on it,” recalls Ogden, who volunteered this year.

In addition to Loffredo and Ogden, another Holy Cross alumnus, Joseph E. “Jay” Howard Jr. ’68, joined the group in January. Howard, also a friend of Loffredo’s, is not a dentist, but a professor in the Learning Lab at the Community College of Philadelphia, and his lack of dental training did not hold him back on the mission. Instead, Howard was the team’s self-described “sorcerer’s apprentice”: He sterilized instruments, cleaned up and even did some “crowd control,” juggling for the local children waiting to see the dentists.

Finding the right job for each person so that the group is as efficient as possible during the weeklong trips is just one of the aspects of the mission that has been fine-tuned over the years.

“I’m very impressed with the way Barry has assembled this unit 3,000 miles away,” says Howard. “He has gotten all the state and federal agency approvals, gathered thousands of dollars of equipment and created this site that he can go back to year after year.”

In general, each mission follows the same schedule. After a three-hour drive from the Acapulco airport into the mountains, the group arrives at the San Agustín church, a rustic yet comfortable setting where they are fed and housed for the week.

Each day after breakfast, the group departs for a long day of service. They travel by truck with their equipment—sometimes three hours at a stretch—through military checkpoints to rural villages, where they care for adults and children at church facilities and on outdoor verandas—occasionally treating patients on picnic tables. Some days they travel to two different villages, unpacking and packing up their mobile unit each time.

In almost every case, the dentists perform extractions of broken, badly decayed, abscessed teeth. This past January, they saw more than 125 patients and pulled 218 teeth over four days.

“The craziest thing to me is how long patients had been in pain, and they’re just dealing with it until we come along,” reflects Ogden. “Helping just one person is life changing.”

After showers and a family-style dinner, prepared by the church and shared with the local priest and driver, the team enjoys a beer and falls asleep most nights by 9 p.m.—earplugs in place to keep out the constant din of dogs, donkeys and roosters in the village.

“People ask me, ‘With all the aggravation and stress, the six months of planning, why do you do this?’” says Loffredo, adding, “And every year something makes me ask, ‘Do I want to do this again?’”

No matter the challenge, the answer is always “yes.” And the reason why goes beyond the desire to serve others. For Loffredo, it’s also about being “ambassadors of goodwill” for the United States. It’s about mentoring the dental students they take along. And, above all, it’s about gratitude.

“I read somewhere a long time ago that the key to a happy life is gratitude,” he reflects. “When I get home from every one of these trips, I kiss the kitchen floor.

“You have to appreciate what you have,” he continues. “I am so blessed to have been born in the U.S., for the opportunity to have an education, for my family. Gratitude keeps me going—and makes me want to go again next year.”

Adds Simitis: “One of my main motivations in going into dentistry was to help people, to make a difference in people’s lives. Barry and I and Don and Jay—we grew up when that was an important part of life, and it certainly was part of our days at Holy Cross. We were a group of people who wanted to change the world!”

“Our mission is to emulate Mother Theresa: We don’t do great things, we just do small things greatly,” says Loffredo. “We take a lot of time with every patient, and we treat them well and gently. That’s all.”

W I T H  A  S M I L E  /  4 3
Bob Cousy ’50, whose dazzling play and masterful command of the basketball court on Mount St. James and later as a star player for the Boston Celtics, was in the headlines again this spring.

The Hall of Famer’s name was invoked repeatedly and prominently as the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame released the watch list of finalists and then presented the 2015 Bob Cousy Point Guard of the Year Award sponsored by the College of the Holy Cross.

The Cousy Award was presented in Los Angeles during ESPN’s inaugural College Basketball Awards show on April 10 to Delon Wright from the University of Utah. The point guard award was presented along with the Wooden Award and the Hall of Fame’s four other position awards during the broadcast.

Hosted by ESPN’s Rece Davis and his College GameDay colleagues Jay Bilas and Jay Williams, the event was broadcast live during primetime on ESPN2.

In addition to Cousy and Holy Cross mentions during the awards show, more than 70 outlets, including Sports Illustrated, USA Today, Fox News, The Washington Post and the Miami Herald featured the Cousy Award sponsored by Holy Cross.

Cousy was in Florida and didn’t make the trip West for the awards presentation, but his video interview was well-received during the show.

Commenting on the Holy Cross sponsorship of the collegiate distinction, Cousy said, “I believe the award has been very meaningful to the talented young men who have received it over the years, and I am thrilled to know that my connection to Holy Cross will be so strongly represented in this way.”

This is the first year of a three-year partnership in which Holy Cross joined with the Basketball Hall of Fame, located in Springfield, Mass., to sponsor the Cousy Award, now in its 12th year.

To celebrate the occasion, the College hosted a reception across the street from the theatre where ESPN broadcast the awards show, and invited Los Angeles-area alumni, members of the
Class of 2019 and their families and local guidance counselors. Guests had a bird’s-eye view of the red carpet arrivals, and seven won tickets to attend the event. Athletics Director Nathan Pine and Admissions Director Ann McDermott ’79 addressed the gathering.

Back on campus, students watched the ESPN action unfold and participated in a scavenger hunt via social media in the hours leading up to the event. Students scrambled to find mini-basketballs scattered around campus. Winners were eligible for athletics prize packs.

Wright, a senior guard, had a career at Utah that would make Cousy proud: a total of 1,022 points, 397 rebounds, 352 assists, 155 steals and 77 blocks. Wright was selected from an original watch list of 35 candidates. Other finalists for the award included T.J. McConnell, University of Arizona; Kevin Pangos, Gonzaga University; Tyus Jones, Duke University; and Fred VanVleet, Wichita State University.

Cousy, of course, had an All-America career (1946-1950) at Holy Cross, leading the Crusaders to three NCAA tournaments and the 1947 title. He was named a Consensus First-Team All-American in 1950. His success continued at the professional level as a six-time NBA Champion (1957, 1959-1963), NBA Most Valuable Player (1957) and 13-time NBA All-Star (1951-63). In 1996, he was named a member of the NBA’s 50th Anniversary All-Time Team.

“We are proud to honor one of Holy Cross’ best-known and beloved student-athletes and at the same time honor outstanding student-athletes around the country,” says Rev. Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., president of Holy Cross. “Mr. Cousy has been a leader on and off the basketball court—held in high esteem for a career also marked by integrity and an unwavering commitment to social justice and civil rights. Our sponsorship of this award celebrates the excellence and athletic achievement that he personifies.”


For more information on the 2015 Bob Cousy Award presented by College of the Holy Cross, visit hoophallawards.com/cousy.php. And stay tuned for information on the 2016 Cousy Award plans.
Off the Court
with Jimmy Ye ’17
Physics major Jimmy Ye '17 of Boston was a top tennis player at Boston Latin Academy, and has continued to shine on the court for the Crusaders. As his second year at Holy Cross wound down, we asked Ye to reflect on being a student-athlete and his plans for the summer.

**HOLY CROSS MAGAZINE** You are on the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll, like many Holy Cross student-athletes. How does being a tennis player at Holy Cross affect your academic life? Is it hard to keep the balance?

**JIMMY YE** It’s definitely tough trying to balance the two, especially during the season. The toughest part for me is finding the energy, physically and mentally, to get school work done after practice and matches.

**HCM** How did you select physics as your major? What attracts you to that field?

**YE** I took physics my first year for the 3-2 engineering program I am doing and ended up liking the subject a lot. I guess I enjoy the excitement of always learning something new.

**NOTE FOR READERS**

The 3-2 engineering program at Holy Cross allows students to combine the liberal arts and sciences with engineering.

In this cooperative program, they spend three years as full-time students at Holy Cross and two years as full-time students at the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science at Columbia University in New York City. At the conclusion of the program, they receive both a bachelor of arts degree from Holy Cross in mathematics or physics, and a bachelor of science degree in a specific engineering major from Columbia University.

**HCM** Jimmy, why did the 3-2 option appeal to you?

**YE** Primarily because my goal is to work in the engineering field, and this program allows me to do that while also getting a liberal arts education. As a bonus, I get to go to school in New York City. I grew up in Boston, so I’m used to the city life, but I think New York is at a whole new level in terms of atmosphere and things to do.

**HCM** What did you think of the super-snowy winter we had this year in Worcester?

**YE** Awful. Not a fan at all.

**HCM** What is your favorite spot to eat on campus?

**YE** The Science Café has a lot of really good sandwiches.

**HCM** And the best place to study on campus?

**YE** There are a lot of good places. For me, it’s probably the Science Library, since I’m in the science building all the time.

**HCM** You’ve been on the Hill for two years. What advice do you have for incoming first-year students?

**YE** Be humble, everyone is really smart at Holy Cross.

**HCM** Has a professor made a particular impact on you, or helped you in some way in the past two years?

**YE** That would probably be Professor De-Ping Yang. Besides teaching me physics, Prof. Yang has been really helpful in figuring out what I want to do in my future, especially with the 3-2 engineering program. He has been a great resource. In fact, he even offered to tutor me in math over the summer when I told him I was struggling in one of my classes.

**HCM** What will you be doing this summer over the break?

**YE** I am doing research at Boston University, where I will have the opportunity to work on the mechanical designs of a high-resolution infrared spectrometer for the Discovery Channel telescope.

**HCM** Wow! How did you land that gig?

**YE** During the school year, I was looking for opportunities to work in a scientific environment, and my physics professor recommended that I apply for some REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) programs. So I did and was fortunate to be accepted by the Astronomy REU program at Boston University. Since my assigned mentor is involved in this project and needed someone to work on the mechanical designs, he thought it would be suitable for me, since I was looking to get some engineering experience.

**HCM** Finish this sentence: “I am a tennis player because …”

**YE** … it was the only thing I was good at when I was a kid.

**HCM** Who are your favorite tennis players? Do you try to emulate any of them?

**YE** Kei Nishikori from Japan and Novak Djokovic from Serbia. I don’t try to emulate them specifically, but I do try to take things from what they do well.

**HCM** OK, now finish this sentence: “The moment I’ll never forget from my sophomore year was …”

**YE** … when I beat Coast Guard’s top player after being defeated easily by him my freshman year.

**HCM** Final question: Do you relate to any of the characters on “The Big Bang Theory”?

**YE** I would say Howard Wolowitz, since I’m aspiring to be an engineer. I can be quirky at times, too.
It’s a safe guess that this image was snapped after the first class of women entered Holy Cross in 1972. But beyond that, we hope readers’ eagle eyes will tell us more about this pair under the trees. Have any ideas? Reach us at hcmag@holycross.edu.
A Message from Colleen

On May 22, the Holy Cross Alumni Association welcomed its newest members—the men and women of the Class of 2015! During the week leading up to that Friday, there were events big and small to celebrate their four years at Holy Cross and to mark the occasion of graduating and moving away from their time on the Hill. One of those events was the distribution of a book of wisdom and advice that the 50th-Reunion Class wrote for them. It contained the knowledge and insight that these men from the Class of 1965 gained both during their time at Holy Cross and in the 50 years since.

I would like to share with you the last quote in that book: “Your years at Holy Cross are a gift, an opportunity to discover who you are, what you believe and how best to accomplish your goals in life. Have confidence and faith in yourself. God willing, these will last more than 50 years.”

That is so true—our years at Holy Cross are a gift. One that we continuously return to—when reading this magazine; returning to Worcester for Reunion, Homecomings or sporting events; attending a local Holy Cross event or just connecting and catching up with classmates and fellow alumni throughout the year.

I thank you for the honor and privilege of serving this past year as president of the Holy Cross Alumni Association, and I encourage you to consider becoming a director of the HCAA when the call for nominations goes out this fall.

Colleen M. Doern '89
President, HCAA
coldoern@yahoo.com

Supreme Company

On May 4, 27 alumni of the College were admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States at a proceeding arranged by the Holy Cross Lawyers Association (HCLA), an affinity group operating under the auspices of the Holy Cross Alumni Association. Lead organizers of the event included Lu Racco ’04 and HCLA founding members Brian Landy ’75, Paul May ’75 and Larry Rutkowski ’75. The ceremony, aside from the formal grant of the motion admitting the group to the Bar, included a lecture about the history of the Supreme Court and a private visit from Chief Justice John Roberts (courtesy of Jane Sullivan Roberts ’76, with whom several of the group dined on the eve of the proceedings). Chris LoConto of Worcester, who is an associate justice of Fitchburg District Court, was also on hand for a special post-ceremony surprise: Kassia Smith ’02 accepted LoConto’s marriage proposal on the steps of the Supreme Court!

Front row (from left) Susan Ashley ’76, Mary Beimler ’94, Brian Landy ’75, Jennifer Greaney ’92, Pat Sheehan ’93, Tony Nuland (sponsor), Larry Rutkowski ’75, Katie Bagdis Wally ’04, Elizabeth Trottier ’00 Second row Judge Chris LoConto, Kassia Smith ’02, Bryan LeBlanc ’99, Lauren Brown ’07, Elyse Boyle ’07, Paul May ’75, Wendy Jean-Bart ’04 Third row Christine Kingston ’08, Katherine Guarino ’02, Dan Cronin ’82, Stan Evans ’78, Joe Metzger ’85, Ann McEvily ’79 Back row James Rosseel ’70, Dave Heller ’81, Bob Fitzsimmons ’77, Rodger Traynor ’74, Jack Denney ’67 Not pictured Nicole Colby Longton ’00 (She was chasing her 4-year-old.)

“WELCOME TO YOUR CITY DAY” 2015 IS COMING!

Socialize, network and connect with fellow Crusaders all across the country (and the world). Be on the lookout for more details later this summer.

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, Sept. 17
Are You One of the 7,500?

Connecting young alumni with each other, the campus, other alumni and their communities offers them greater input and influence over how, when and where they join in. The formation of active alumni begins long before graduation. Christina Richardson ’14, the Brooks Alumni Fellow in Alumni Relations, serves as a liaison between young alumni and their fellow graduates, while also helping them to engage more fully with the College. Richardson knows well the challenges of transitioning from active student to engaged alumna. She also works with soon-to-be graduates, as well as young alumni, to make them aware of the many ways they can maintain their strong relationships with the College, play valuable new roles within the Holy Cross community—as volunteers, mentors and advisers—and take advantage of the many services available to them once they achieve alumni status.

“I try to bridge the gap between alumni and students by creating events that meet their needs and bring them together,” Richardson says. “This year we invited alumni to the Multicultural Student Organization’s spring events on campus, including Explorasia, Noche Latina and Culture Night. We filled every table. We also hold a Senior Leader Reception to encourage students to get involved after graduation. In addition, we’re working with the Young Alumni Committee to launch an alumni book club that I hope will be up and running this fall—both on campus and online. The first discussion might be on the first-year book for the Class of 2019. We want to connect young alumni with our seniors and faculty through programs like these.”

Making young alumni aware of how to connect with the College community, regardless of where their lives and new careers have taken them, means first getting them to respond, says Che Anderson ’11, secretary of the HCAA’s Young Alumni Committee. Instagram and Facebook have been the most effective tools, followed by Twitter and email, for Anderson and the other YAC members. “We want to tap into what young alums have to offer—a lot of time, energy and interests,” he says. “We want everyone to get involved in any way they can.”

Events like “Welcome to Your City” and Holy Cross Cares Day have attracted strong participation among young alumni. “After they graduate, some alums return to their hometowns, but many take jobs that land them in places where they don’t know anyone,” Anderson says. “Welcome to Your City is a big social event that happens in more than two dozen cities, including London, and it’s growing. It’s a great way to meet other alums in your city, build a strong network and keep that Holy Cross camaraderie going. Holy Cross Cares Day offers the same opportunities, but is focused on service, which is important to all of us.”

This summer Alumni Relations plans to survey young alumni online to finetune and target its services and programming for them, Richardson says. “Their responses will help us to identify the most effective ways to communicate with them and to learn more about their particular needs and interests. We want to know what’s on our young alumni’s minds, what they want from the alumni office and how they want to engage with the College and each other.”

For more information about ways to get involved, connect with Christina Richardson ’14 in Alumni Relations at ccrichar@holycross.edu.
The Holy Cross Alumni Association has announced the 2015 recipients of its highest alumni honor, the *In Hoc Signo* Award. Lawrence W. Doyle ’83, John P. Hamill ’61, Ronald R. Lawson ’75, and Elizabeth Stevens Murdy ’81 (above from left) will receive *In Hoc Signo* Awards in recognition of their significant, longstanding and exceptional service to the College on Sept. 25 at a special dinner on campus during Fall Homecoming. Emily Thigpen ’10 (above, far right) will be presented with the Young Alumni Leadership Award at the event.

**LAWRENCE W. DOYLE ’83, P12, 11**

Lawrence “Larry” Doyle ’83, P12, 11 has compiled a record of leadership and service to Holy Cross, to his class and to Crusader Athletics for more than three decades. As chair of the Holy Cross Leadership Council of New York (HCLCNY) from 2006 to 2009, Doyle focused on increasing the number of and funding for student internships. He also has served as class gift chair for his 20th and 25th reunions.

In 2009, he established the Holy Cross Gridiron Leadership Council, which he chairs. The Gridiron Leadership Council oversees several initiatives, including the Ring of Fame at Fitton Field and the 90-Wide Mentoring Program. 90-Wide involves 120 alumni from 23 states who mentor Crusader football student-athletes.

Doyle, who also volunteers with the admissions office, has mentored Holy Cross students, provided internships and career counseling, and presented career planning seminars on campus through the Ciocca Office for Entrepreneurial Studies/Career Planning Office. He established the William ’48 and Helen Doyle Scholarship in honor of his parents.

Doyle volunteers in his local community as well. He is involved with youth sports and serves as a Eucharistic minister in his parish. Doyle, who writes about financial matters in his Sense on Cents blog (senseoncents.com), is the CEO of DM Income Advisors and author of the book, *In Bed with Wall Street. The Conspiracy Crippling Our Global Economy*. He and his wife, Valerie, reside in Greenwich, Conn., and have four children, including Kevin ’11 and Alison ’12.

**JOHN P. HAMIL ’61**

John Hamill ’61 generously shared his wealth of financial knowledge as an active member of the College’s Board of Trustees for nearly two decades. His service included multiple years on the Board’s Executive Committee and more than 10 years as national chair of the Holy Cross Fund. He served on the Presidential Search Committee that resulted in the selection of Rev. Michael McFarland, S.J., as the College’s 31st president. He is the founding and current chair of the College’s Advisory Board, established in 2006, as a committee of alumni and friends to serve as advisers to the Board of Trustees and the administration.

Hamill worked in the banking industry for nearly five decades as the president, chairman or CEO of Boston’s largest banks. He secured a recurring annual commitment from then-Sovereign Bank to provide financial aid for Holy Cross students participating in the College's Study Abroad Program.

Beyond his service with Holy Cross, Hamill has been a member of many other corporate and nonprofit advisory boards. He is a former chair of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston and chaired the fundraising committee for The Salvation Army's Kroc Community Center in Dorchester.

Hamill retired as chairman of Sovereign Bank (now Santander) of New England. He holds *juris doctor* and *LL.M.* degrees from New York University. Hamill and his wife, Kathryn, reside in Boston and have four daughters.

**RONALD R. LAWSON ’75**

Ronald “Ron” Lawson ’75, chair of the HCAA’s Bishop Healy Committee, has been a member since 1997. In 2008, Lawson formally launched the Bishop Healy Emergency Fund at the 35th reunion of the Holy Cross Black Student Union, raising more than $10,000 for the fund at that event. Since then, more than $75,000 has been raised for the Bishop Healy Emergency Fund, which assists low-income ALANA students when they have a financial emergency.

Lawson is a member of the HCAA board of directors and serves on the HCAA Career Services Advisory Committee. He initiated the ALANA Mentoring Program in 2013, which includes nearly 100 students and 100 ALANA mentors. Lawson’s Holy Cross service also includes past membership on the HCAA Executive Committee, Holy
Cross New York Leadership Council, the Black Student Union’s 40th- and 45th-anniversary committees and the Class of 1975’s 35th-Reunion Gift Committee. He is currently managing director of Lawson Consulting Associates, a provider of services to nonprofit organizations. He is the former COO of the International Leadership Charter High School in Bronx, N.Y. During his career, he has worked both as a corporate COO and an independent consultant. He has a master’s degree in public policy and management from Carnegie-Mellon University’s Heinz College. Lawson and his wife, Nina Klyver-Lawson, reside in Bronx, N.Y., and have one daughter.

ELIZABETH STEVENS MURDY ’81
Elizabeth “Liz” Stevens Murdy ’81 has served Holy Cross, her class, her regional alumni club and the HCAA in a variety of leadership roles over many years. She participates in opportunities to learn more about the College by traveling to volunteer training sessions, HCAA meetings, reunions and class get-togethers.

As a dedicated class chair for more than two decades, Stevens Murdy keeps her class informed, connected and close to the College. A member of the HCAA Senate since 2008, and former HCAA Director (2005-2008), she has also served as the treasurer and board member of the Holy Cross Club of Long Island since 1995. She is the primary organizer for her regional club’s participation in National Holy Cross Cares Day and is an active volunteer with the College’s admissions office.

Stevens Murdy’s ties to the Holy Cross community span several generations of alumni, including her father, the late William “Bill” Stevens ’40. Her special affection for the Purple Knight classes has fueled her efforts to connect alumni from all classes.

Stevens Murdy, who had an early career in the insurance industry, also volunteers in her community. She is president of the Lido Beach Civic Association, volunteers at her children’s Catholic school and is a member of her parish council, among other commitments. Stevens Murdy and her husband, Paul, reside in Lido Beach, N.Y., and have three sons.

Young Alumni Leadership

EMILY G. THIGPEN ’10
Emily Thigpen ’10 has participated in the initiatives and events of the HCAA regional clubs wherever she has resided. She joined the Syracuse Regional Club, where she served as the director from 2012 to 2013. In 2013, her career in university admissions took her to the Washington, D.C., area, where she quickly became active in that city’s regional club. In addition, she has been a Holy Cross class agent since 2013.

Thigpen joined the HCAA Young Alumni Committee (YAC) in 2010 and served as its first secretary. Now YAC chair, she helped create a new event, “Seniors in the City,” which is intended to bridge the gap between Holy Cross students and young alumni.

She was named the alumni speaker at the 2013 Senior Week Reflection Luncheon on campus, where she spoke about her deep love for the College and the value of joining a vibrant alumni association.

Thigpen, who joined the Colgate University Admissions staff in 2010, is the senior assistant dean of admission for the Mid-Atlantic region. She has been based in the Washington, D.C., area since 2013. In May, she was awarded a master of education degree from The George Washington University.

Mark Your Calendars

THE HCAA FALL HOMECOMING DINNER IS FRIDAY, SEPT. 25, 2015.
Alumni, family and friends are invited to attend this annual gathering to honor the In Hoc Signo and Young Alumni Leadership award recipients. For tickets or sponsorship information, visit http://alumni.holycross.edu/hcaadinner or call 508-793-2418.

The Holy Cross Alumni Association (HCAA) supports alma mater in its Catholic, Jesuit mission by bringing together the diverse talents, experience and knowledge of Holy Cross alumni. We accomplish this by engaging alumni for life through our reunions, regional clubs, community outreach and intellectual and spiritual formation programs. By these means, we nurture our love for and dedication to Holy Cross, its students and its alumni as men and women for others.
BOOK NOTES

From Our Alumni Authors

The Mystery of the Trinity
By Richard Gid Powers ’65
Caravel Books

In this religious thriller, Powers’ first foray into fiction after success in the nonfiction realm, heiress Ann Carroll finds herself leading a movement to reform the soul of the Catholic Church. Murder, chilling conspiracy, science, ancient history and corporate crime are all part of the heady, suspenseful mix, set in Europe, Central America and the United States.

WHAT OTHERS SAY “Richard Gid Powers, a distinguished historian who has uncovered the secrets of J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI, has now written a spine-tingling and head-spinning thriller that takes on the mysteries of the Trinity. A thinking man’s (or woman’s) Da Vinci Code, The Mystery of the Trinity probes the meaning of faith in an age of science, and reveals the capacity of the past to illuminate the dark secrets of our own age. Like Umberto Eco and Gore Vidal, Powers demonstrates how all good stories have deep roots in history.” —Mark Carnes, professor of history, Barnard College and Columbia University

Reflections on Old Age: A Study in Christian Humanism
By Cornelius F. Murphy Jr. ’54
Resource Publications

Beginning with a passage about the marginalization of the elderly, even as life expectancies continue to rise, Reflections on Old Age explores how aging has been discussed by the great philosophers through the centuries. It also serves as a call for the emergence of a more inclusive humanism, one that is welcoming to persons of all ages, and addresses the issues of spiritual maturity, divine justice and mercy.

WHAT OTHERS SAY “Cornelius Murphy writes about a traditional philosophical topic—old age—with honesty, clarity and vigor. He discusses the most important ancient theories, exploring their moral and political significance and then draws his conclusions with regard to the modern times. We live longer now, but is our old age better, more valuable and productive than it used to be? How could we live better all the way to the end? Murphy gives his carefully weighted conclusions from an enlightened Christian perspective.” —Timo Airaksinen, professor of philosophy, University of Helsinki

Education Reform and the Limits of Policy
By Michael F. Addonizio ’70 and C. Philip Kearney
W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

Co-authors Michael F. Addonizio ’70 and C. Philip Kearney use Michigan as a laboratory to examine the successes and failures of education reforms, including financing, student performance assessment and the federal directives of No Child Left Behind. The book also addresses the growing trend of school choice, in terms of the options parents have to select charter schools or to send them out-of-district via a school of choice program. The authors point out that charters present somewhat mixed hopes for the future. They also identify the benefits and potential pitfalls of the school of choice program.

WHAT OTHERS SAY “Education Reform and the Limits of Policy: Lessons from Michigan provides an in-depth look at the history of the Michigan school system and the educational reform movement in a clear and convincing style that doesn’t get lost in confusing statistics or complicated formulas. Any individual who is interested in the formation of
the Michigan school system and/or the negative impact that school reform policies have had on the very systems they seek to reform should consider reading this excellent book.” —Ryan Arbuckle, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in Monthly Labor Review

How to Buy and Sell South Florida Real Estate
By Katie and Ray Stack ’55

Welcome to the great South Florida real estate shark tank.” The first line of the new book from husband-and-wife writing team Katie and Ray Stack ’55, How to Buy and Sell South Florida Real Estate, almost says it all. The book combines market analysis and insider real estate knowledge with anecdotes about local historical characters such as Napoleon Broward and Billy Bowlegs, as well as a colorful county and city directory for newcomers to this coveted area. Chapters with useful how-to information (including how to assemble the best real estate team, how to arrange for financing, how to price your home and how to purchase insurance) apply to any area of the country. And tips on how to avoid costly mistakes plus special chapters for Canadian and international real estate investors tap into the authors’ special real estate certifications and 20+ years of expertise.

If you have authored a book, HCM would like to know about it. Please send a copy to Editor, Holy Cross Magazine, One College St., Worcester, Mass. 01610-2395. (Items will not be returned.)

James A. Doherty ’38

Everyone knows the family ties at Holy Cross are many and strong, and for our Mystery Photo from the last issue, those ties solved the case. We heard from Michele Minor Felins ’06 and Marion “Mimi” Doherty ’02, who recognized their grandfather, James A. Doherty ’38, in the sepia-tone photo taken on the steps of Dinand Library. Doherty is the gentleman third from the right, with one leg hanging off the wall. “Not only did he graduate from Holy Cross, but three of his sons, one of his daughters and eight of his grandchildren did too,” Mimi told us.

The 1938 Purple Patcher describes Doherty as a tall, handsome Crusader who was a regular on the dean’s list and one of the “number of men” Scranton, Pa., “keeps” at Holy Cross. A devotee of boxing, movies, philosophy and trips to the gym, Doherty was prepping for a career in business, which spurred his classmates to call him “the businessman who is never ruffled.”

“Thank you!” Michele shared with us upon spotting her grandfather. “I got the chills when I looked at this.”

Hall of Fame Nominations Due November 1, 2015

Since 1950, the Holy Cross Varsity Club has served as an important resource for the College’s student athletes and alumni as it helps preserve the traditions, foster the ideals, advance the interests and improve the quality and prestige of Holy Cross athletics and the role of athletics in the College’s educational community. The Varsity Club Hall of Fame inducted its first class in 1956, and has been celebrating the accomplishments of Crusaders ever since. Please note all nominations are due by November 1, 2015 (The November 1 deadline replaces the previous deadline of December 31 of each year). If you’d like to nominate an athlete for the Hall of Fame, please review these requirements:

• The nominee must have made an outstanding contribution to Holy Cross Athletics in one or more sports.
• His or her class must have been graduated five years, although the nominee need not have graduated.
• The official nomination form is required to support each nomination.
• The Varsity Club reserves the right to make its own independent inquiry and requests that those placing names in nomination refrain from divulging that fact to their respective candidates.
• To be considered, candidates must be nominated anew each year, even though they may have been nominated in prior years.

You must submit the official nomination form by mail to James A. Maloney, Secretary, Holy Cross Varsity Club, 862 Pleasant Street, Worcester, Mass. 01602 or by email to him at jmaloney_law@yahoo.com before November 1, 2015. The new mandatory official nomination form can be downloaded at holycross.edu/hcm/hofnom.
Purple in the Classroom

ith its rich and explorative education minor and Teacher Education Program, Holy Cross has graduated thousands of teachers who now populate classrooms across the country and abroad. Recently, HCM heard from a group of teachers right here in Massachusetts, who gave us some insight into their daily work. About 90 minutes north of Boston, five alumnae work together at Dracut High School in Dracut, Mass., where they donned the purple on their school’s monthly College T-Shirt Day (above, from left): math teacher Caitlin Colombo Cummings ’04, history teacher Christine (Rogers) Johnson ’97, history teacher Mary (Dennehy) Carney ’05, Spanish teacher Christine (DeRoche) Lord ’98, English teacher Lauren Murphy Akashian ’00. Cummings, Lord and Akashian each chair their departments at Dracut High.

“College T-Shirt day is sponsored by our guidance department,” Lord explains. “Faculty and staff are encouraged to wear shirts from their alma mater, and students are encouraged to wear shirts from their future college or university (if they know where they are going) or their ‘dream school.’ Ideally, it is meant to start conversations about college between teachers and students.”

Lord says the best part of her job is working with the many appreciative students she has taught in her years as an educator. HCM asked about misperceptions of today’s high schoolers. “There are a few misperceptions that people have,” she replies. “One standout would have to be that they are so wrapped up in themselves and social media that they are unable to think for themselves. While that may be true for some, the vast majority of the students we have worked with are kind, generous, community-minded individuals who amaze us with their accurate, astute world view.”

About 90 minutes south of Boston, Julie Benotti ’00 and Mary Jane Calhoun-Donelan ’81 (above right, from left) work at Plymouth South Middle School, in Plymouth, Mass. Calhoun-Donelan has been a teacher for 33 years, 30 of those in the art department. She tells us “serendipitously, I have ended up in the fine company of a much younger Holy Cross graduate!” and notes that it is a special pleasure to have another Crusader in the workplace. Benotti is a math specialist, which means she co-teaches her classes, often with other math teachers or special education teachers. “This position was created to help at-risk math students,” she explains, adding that she jumped at the chance to be in a classroom with other math teachers. “It is a rare occurrence and one that I’m so thankful for,” Benotti says.

Calhoun-Donelan, who has a master’s degree in integrated learning and believes that art is a vehicle through which anything can be taught and learned, says that a quote she saw near the beginning of her teaching career has become one of her guiding principles as a teacher: “I believe kids ‘care what you know, when they know that you care.’” She also shared this story of a neat trick played by a certain professor who is now a vice president at the College:

“When I was at Holy Cross, Rev. Paul F. Harman, S.J., was our professor for education courses. One day he said, ‘Before we begin, I contacted each of your parents during the Christmas break, and they all were kind enough to send along photos of each of you in junior high school. Let’s turn out the lights and have a look, as I had them made into slides.’ We all wanted to run away from our junior high selves in front of college pals! Fr. Harman turned the lights back after a few seconds of playing with a slide projector, and said, ‘Just wanted you to remember what it feels like to be that middle school student!’ I have always kept the memory of that raw feeling; it has served me well to remember to be gentle and compassionate with this funny, busy and so sensitive middle school student stage of development. Kids, at this age, do not always like what they see in the mirror, but building competencies builds authentic confidence that translates into going out into the world and doing great things for themselves and for others. Art keeps some kids in school. Thanks to Fr. Harman for that bit of wisdom!”

ONLINE ONLY We had such an interesting conversation with these alumni teachers that we decided to share it in a Web Exclusive. Visit magazine.holycross.edu to read their thoughts on keeping kids engaged in the classroom, using fun as a tool to learning, creating a Data Team and the power of the word “yet.”
True Patriot

For more than three decades, Jerry Colbert ’64 has produced one of the nation's largest Independence Day celebrations, “A Capitol Fourth” in Washington, D.C. The stars come out for him—Colbert and his team have worked with Ray Charles, George Clooney, Dolly Parton, John Williams, Neil Diamond, Phillip Phillips and Steve Martin (plus many other celebrities) over the years. Attended by hundreds of thousands and seen by millions on television, “A Capitol Fourth” airs this July 4 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. ET on PBS (it can also be heard live over NPR member stations nationwide). HCM caught Colbert before this year’s extravaganza to ask a few questions about his unique work.

Q: It’s your 35th year producing “A Capitol Fourth.” What has changed over the years in terms of the legwork needed to pull off such an immense event?
A: Well, 35 years ago, when we first began, our goal was just to get the show on television. At the time, we had a limited budget so we went to WETA, our local PBS station, and borrowed a small studio truck. When we got to the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, we found out that unless the director hit the console with his hand it wouldn’t turn on and it was all rusted out. Nobody knew where to put the cameras, so it began as a real amateur hour.

We’ve grown tremendously over these years. We have bigger stars and a crew I brought in from the Academy Awards, the Grammys and the Tonys, so we have the top people in production. With 20 HD television cameras and this great professional crew, the shows have become powerful experiences for the television audience at home.

Q: What’s the first step in planning this?
A: We have a list of performers we want to book and work to get the top people that we possibly can for the broadcast. We do look at who’s popular and will resonate with the audience, but the key thing is to produce a program where everybody feels celebratory. At that moment, I think the audience feels there’s a oneness. There’s so much divisiveness right now in the country and so much chaos, but, at this moment, everybody's happy and having a great time. To bring this kind of unity and celebration to the country is a great moment.

Q: What is your most-anticipated moment of the Capitol Fourth this year?
A: Well, every year we have this huge on-site audience on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol of about 400,000 people, which is electrifying. When the National Anthem is first sung, I get goose bumps, so that’s what I anticipate first; that the show has started, all the trouble is over with, and we’re ready to go. This year, Barry Manilow is going to come back to sing “Let Freedom Ring.” That will have everybody up on their feet singing. Also, the great pianist Lang Lang will be performing Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue,” and we have the legendary country music band Alabama, so it’s going to be a great musical celebration. There is never just one moment, but a series of them.

Q: Why is patriotism an important trait for Americans?
A: These days, society seems to be breaking down in a lot of ways, but for an hour and a half we are all Americans celebrating together, and that’s a wonderful blessing. “A Capitol Fourth” follows John Adams’ vision of celebrating Independence Day with “Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.” When we’ve lived through 9/11, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and so many acts of violence, it’s wonderful to see everybody together having a great time and being thankful for all of the blessings of this great country.

ONLINE ONLY Jerry Colbert ’64 has also produced the powerful Memorial Day Concerts in Washington, D.C., for many years. He shares some of his standout memories from those events, including the Korean War veteran’s wife who said one of the concerts changed her life, in the Web Exclusives at magazine.holycross.edu.
A sea of purple washed over campus two weekends in a row as more than 2,600 alumni and their guest returned to Holy Cross for reunions. On the agenda? Reconnecting, relaxing and remembering. May 29-31 included family games, Crusader Kids Soccer Clinic, an Admissions information session, a Kimball Quad Late Night After Party and the special 25th-Reunion celebrations for the Class of 1990.

During the second weekend, June 5-7, alumni and their guests enjoyed a tour of the Integrated Science Center, a presentation on the new Contemplative Center, an open house at Figge Hall, dinners, a picnic on Kimball Quad, a golf outing and Class Masses. Plus, the Class of 1965 celebrated its 50th reunion.

See more great Reunion photos at alumni.holycross.edu/reunion
Children playing soccer in front of one of the many churches Malik Neal ’13 saw while traveling and studying in Sri Lanka.
Room For Both?  BY MALIK NEAL ’13

Malik Neal ’13 was awarded a Fulbright research grant in 2013 to study the root causes of ethnic conflict and reconciliation in post-war Sri Lanka. A history major with an Asian studies concentration, Neal spent nearly a year conducting fieldwork in some of the country’s former war zones. In this essay, he shares a one-on-one encounter he had with a known terrorist last year.

It was June 27, a Friday, and the sun was disappearing slowly into the clouds over Sri Lanka’s Jaffna Peninsula. A pile of trash smoldered on the dirt road, and as the heat of the day faded, a warm breeze carried the stench through the window of the room I was waiting in. Spider webs hung limply from the corners of the low ceiling, and a pair of well-worn sandals sat on the floor, beneath a cracked mirror.

A low, almost inaudible voice emerged: “Welcome to my home. Please, sit.”

My host and I shook hands, and I took the chair opposite him at a small, rectangular table.

I remember the date and the details because the man was a terrorist. For 12 years, Prashant, as I will call him, was a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a separatist insurgent group I was studying for my academic research on ethnic conflict. The LTTE, or simply the Tigers, had for nearly three decades fought for an independent Tamil state in the small island country of Sri Lanka. Fear was the Tigers’ method of persuasion, murder their main way of stoking it: They mastered the use of suicide bombings, carrying out more attacks than any other terrorist organization to date; assassinated two world leaders; and massacred several thousand innocent civilians. The FBI labeled the LTTE, before its brutal defeat in 2009, “among the most dangerous and deadly extremist groups in the world.”

But it was precisely Prashant’s cordial demeanor—the soft voice, the warm, parental smile—that slowly put me at ease as I sat across from him in his home. We spoke for three hours, maybe more, and I wrote until my fingers cramped, my notes becoming illegible. Our conversation centered on his past: his motivation for joining the LTTE, his experience as a soldier and the cruel acts he and others carried out. Prashant’s English was good, but he often switched tenses without realizing it, lending his stories a vivid intimacy.

“I am on the roof,” he recalled at one point, “and a soldier [a Sri Lankan government soldier] is walking to me. I shoot my gun; he is dying.” Death. All of his stories seemed to return to it. He didn’t boast. He simply told the truth.

I asked him if he had changed, or if he had any regrets. “I regret all I have done, every day,” he confessed. “I have to live with that.” He paused for a moment. His face clouded over. “All I can do is beg for forgiveness. That’s all I can do.”

His eyes widened with enthusiasm. “I am the same!” There was a pause, a moment that, in lingering, only added emphasis to the words that followed. “Will you pray with me?” he asked. A smile tugged at his lips.

I felt the panic rising in my throat. Surely, I thought, as a researcher, it would be inappropriate to interact with a source in this way. Even more, I simply could not reconcile his request with what he had done, and thus, who he was. I suddenly saw prayer as a form of endorsement. I had made my decision, but I couldn’t think of what to tell him. I muttered something as I tried to form my thoughts.

He interrupted. “Don’t worry, it is on your way to the bus. I will walk with you.”

We left the house and walked for a few minutes in darkness, barely able to see the path ahead. There were no people around. Stray dogs lurked ominously along the road, barking loudly. Suddenly, a large, discolored statue of the crucifix, dimly lit, became visible. Below was a small wooden slab for kneeling. We stopped.

“This is where we will pray,” Prashant said, motioning me toward the statue.

I looked down at the small kneeler and then at him. “We can’t both pray here,” I pleaded, expressing my honest impression that there wasn’t enough space, but also hoping this would provide me with a way out.

And then, resting his hand on my shoulder, he stared squarely into my eyes. “No,” he said in a near whisper. “There is room for us both.”

We knelt beside each other. I made the sign of the cross and clasped my hands tightly. I looked up into the inky blackness in the sky above. The dogs no longer barked. It was quiet now, and so he began.

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A native of Philadelphia, Malik Neal ’13 now lives and works in New York City.

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THE PROFILE

BIRTHPLACE
Cleveland

RESIDENCE
Lexington, Ky.

BIRTHDAY
Feb. 15, 1972

FAMILY
Wife, Tracie L. Overbeck, M.D.;
dughter Audrey, 10

PETS
Miko, a cat named after the
mischievous raccoon in
Disney’s Pocahontas

MEDICAL SCHOOL
The Ohio State
University

ONLINE ONLY
Read more of our interview
with the AMA’s new president
in this issue’s Web Exclusives.
Visit magazine.holycross.edu.
The Classic Doctor:
Steven J. Stack, M.D., ’94

Steven J. Stack, M.D., ’94, the newly elected president of the American Medical Association (AMA), recalls a quiet morning in the emergency department at Saint Joseph East, a community hospital in Lexington, Ky., where he serves as medical director of the emergency department. Quiet, that is, until a nurse shouted, “I need a doctor!”

Stack and several nurses swarmed around the bed of a 6-week-old baby who had stopped breathing. As the horrified parents looked on, the infant’s skin began blotching purple. Stack carefully worked with the child, massaging his frail chest. Precious seconds ticked by. The infant gave an abrupt gasp and suddenly he was breathing again.

“It was a moving and humbling experience,” Stack remembers. “The child was dying in front of his parents. But through prompt action, we were able to resuscitate him, and he later went home fine. The mother and father now have their child to enjoy for a lifetime.”

On June 9, Stack was inaugurated as the 170th president of the AMA. At the event, held in Chicago, Rev. Philip L. Boroughs, S.J., president of the College, delivered the invocation. “With Steve’s guidance and generous spirit, may the AMA flourish in the years ahead and continue to work hard to improve the country’s health system to achieve better health, better care and better value.”

The AMA’s mission, Stack adds, is to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health, and under his stewardship the organization will continue to work hard to improve the country’s health system to achieve better health, better care and better value. He also acknowledges that in the coming years the AMA will wrestle with a long time before the United States moves toward a Canadian- or British-type healthcare system.”

Founded in 1847, the AMA is the largest physician and medical student association in the nation representing the entire medical profession. Not only is Stack the first emergency physician to hold the position, but at 43 years old, he is also its youngest president since 1854.

A classics major and Henry Bean Scholar for Classical Studies on Mount St. James, Stack visited campus in March at the invitation of classics department associate professors John Hamilton and Mary Ebbott. The pair asked Stack to talk with students about the value of a classical liberal arts education. “Though the buildings and campus have changed since I was a student 21 years ago, the essence of Holy Cross was the same,” recalls Stack. “There was a strong sense of community in the students I met,” he continues. “It was great to see their youth, their intelligence and their own enjoyment for learning. And it was wonderful seeing my old professors, like Professor Hamilton, who was one of my mentors. His office looked unchanged— I’m certain the layout of books on his shelves hasn’t varied in two decades.”

He pauses a moment to chuckle. “It was also great to hear from one student that Hamilton is as much a riot now as he was when he taught me.”

Stack’s love for classic literature, his interest in medicine and his connection to Holy Cross began at Cleveland’s Saint Ignatius High School. Biology was a favorite class, as was a Latin course taught by Mike De Vinne ’85, who had also been a Henry Bean Scholar at Holy Cross. Stack says De Vinne ignited a spark for learning that still burns today.

“My Jesuit education taught me that our task is to ‘learn how to learn’ and that the quest for knowledge is a skill we should carry throughout life,” he says. “At Holy Cross, I considered being a classics and chemistry double major. Though I didn’t complete the chemistry major, I completed my senior honors thesis with [former] Assistant Professor of chemistry Alice Deckert. I recall looking at the books on my dresser shelf, and thinking how cool that was, such a diversity of topics and such a Renaissance approach to learning. That love of learning is a gift that has served me well in medicine and in life.”

The AMA’s mission, Stack adds, is to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health, and under his stewardship the organization will continue to work hard to improve the country’s health system to achieve better health, better care and better value. He also acknowledges that in the coming years the AMA will wrestle with tough issues, including the Affordable Care Act, alternative medicine and hospice care.

“It’s a difficult balance,” he continues. “We don’t want the government to intrude too much into our profession and our lives, yet we definitely need the government to play a role in making sure we have a healthy population that has access to quality healthcare, and make sure every American has access to quality healthcare.”

The medical profession is undergoing a lot of change, and it’s difficult for most people to embrace it,” he says. “[The AMA] feels the pressure of too much regulation and micromanaging from Washington, D.C., yet we expect and need the entire country to come together to better manage the financing of healthcare, and make sure every American has access to quality healthcare.”

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Holy Cross Magazine publishes In Memoriam to inform the College community of the deaths of alumni, Trustees, students, employees and friends. Featured obituaries are provided for faculty, senior administrators, Jesuits, honorary degree recipients and Trustees. Obituary content is limited to an overview of an individual’s life accomplishments, including service to alma mater and a survivors’ listing. Portrait photos from The Purple Patcher appear as space permits and at the discretion of the editor (photos provided by the deceased’s family are not accepted). Tributes appear in the order in which they are received; due to the volume of submissions and Magazine deadlines, it may be several issues before they appear in print. For a list of recent deaths, visit offices.holycross.edu/alumni/services/memoriam. To notify the College of a death, please call the Alumni Office at (508) 793-3039 or email AlumniRecords@holycross.edu, attaching a copy of a newspaper obituary, if available.

1943
William P. Guiney
William Guiney, formerly of Stoneham and Wakefield, Mass., Greenwich, Conn., and Boca Raton, Fla., died on Sept. 11, 2014. Mr. Guiney is survived by his wife, Geneva “Betty”; two sons, including William P. ’66; a daughter; their spouses; a sister; and several grandchildren. His brother was the late Rev. John E. ’41.

Andrew Natowich
Andrew “Andy” Natowich, a resident of Brattleboro, Vt., since 1945, died Oct. 30, 2014, at 95. Mr. Natowich taught many years at Brattleboro Union High School, where he also served as a varsity football and baseball coach; both sports teams won several state championships, among other honors, during his tenure. In 2012, Mr. Natowich was inducted into the Vermont Principals’ Association Hall of Fame for his contributions as a coach; in 1982, the football field at the high school had been named in his honor. A 1938 graduate of Ansonia (Conn.) High School, where he was a three-sport athlete, Mr. Natowich had been a member of the varsity baseball, basketball and football teams at Holy Cross, including the 1942 football team that upset Boston College in its final game of the season. Mr. Natowich played one year in the National Football League with the Washington Redskins. In 1985, he was inducted into the Holy Cross Varsity Club Hall of Fame. A veteran, Mr. Natowich served in the Army during World War II. He had been a member of Saint Michael Roman Catholic Church in Brattleboro and several fraternal organizations. Mr. Natowich is survived by his wife, Alice; a son; two daughters; their spouses; a brother; a sister; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

1944
John T. Grady, M.D.
John Grady, M.D., of Winchester, Mass., and, formerly, of Arlington, Mass., died Nov. 7, 2014. A graduate of the Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, Dr. Grady maintained an orthopedic practice in Arlington, Cambridge and Somerville, Mass. He was an Army veteran of World War II and an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. Dr. Grady is survived by his wife, Frances; two sons; their spouses; a brother-in-law; two sisters-in-law; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; many nephews and nieces; and extended family.

1945
Edward J. Sullivan
Edward Sullivan, formerly of Cumberland, R.I., died on Oct. 16, 2014, at 88. Mr. Sullivan had been a chief financial officer for Uniroyal, retiring in 1988. A member of the NROTC program at Holy Cross, he served as a naval officer in the South Pacific during World War II. Mr. Sullivan was born in Providence, R.I., where he was a graduate of La Salle Academy. He is survived by three sons; a daughter; their spouses; a sister; II grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

1946
Leo R. Moisan
Leo Moisan, of St. Charles, Mo., died Sept. 25, 2104, at 91. Mr. Moisan was a Marine Corps veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He is survived by a son; a daughter-in-law; a sister; two granddaughters; and a great-granddaughter.

1947
Frank G. Kronoff
Frank Kronoff, most recently of Shrewsbury, Mass, died July 12, 2014, at 87.
Earning a second bachelor’s degree—in education—in 1951 at Worcester State College, Mr. Kronoff had been a longtime educator and football coach in Central Massachusetts. Teaching history at Marlborough High School, he subsequently served as vice principal of Algonquin Regional High School in Northborough, where he later worked many years as a substitute teacher. Beginning his football coaching career in 1951 as an assistant at Clinton High School, Mr. Kronoff then served as coach at Bartlett Junior Senior High School in Webster, Marlborough High School—and Algonquin Regional High School, from 1969 to 1994; his career record was 119 wins, 66 losses and 11 ties. Mr. Kronoff was a 1981 inductee of the Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame and an inaugural inductee of the Algonquin Regional High School Hall of Fame in 1999. A standout athlete at his alma mater Classical High School in Worcester and a member of the varsity football team at the College, he played on the Holy Cross team that competed against the University of Miami in the 1946 Orange Bowl. Born and raised in Worcester, Mr. Kronoff resided for many years in Northborough; he had also been an accomplished golfer. Mr. Kronoff is survived by his wife, Alice; a son; a daughter-in-law; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

Charles K. Abdelnour

Charles Abdelnour died Nov. 28, 2014, at his home in Worcester, at 98. Receiving his master’s degree from Worcester State College, Mr. Abdelnour had been a longtime educator in the Worcester Public Schools system; beginning his career as a teacher, he retired as assistant principal of the Rice Square School. A lifelong resident of Worcester, Mr. Abdelnour was a graduate of Commerce High School. He had been an active member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Mr. Abdelnour is survived by his wife, Alice; a son; a daughter-in-law; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

George R. Smith

George Smith, of Raleigh, N.C., died Nov. 10, 2014, at 87. Mr. Smith worked many years for the General Electric Co. in the information technology field, conducting on-site training at various locations, including the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., and the United States Penitentiary Atlanta. Spending time during his career in Schenectady, N.Y., Doraville, Ga., Phoenix and Scotia, N.Y., he relocated with his family to Raleigh in 1970, upon leaving GE. Prior to retirement, Mr. Smith worked in information technology groups for several companies, including the Occidental Life Insurance Co., Honeywell, Burroughs Wellcome, Wake Medical Center (Raleigh) and Durham (N.C.) Regional Hospital; following retirement, he volunteered at Rex Hospital in Raleigh. A veteran, Mr. Smith served in the Navy. He had been a Holy Cross class agent. Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, Jean; two sons; a daughter-in-law; a sister; two grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

William F. Byrnes, M.D.

William “Bill” Byrnes, M.D., of East Point, Ga., died Aug. 2, 2014, at 84. Dr. Byrnes is survived by his wife, Norah; three sons; a daughter-in-law; five grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Paul J. Foley

Paul Foley, of Holden, Mass., died Nov. 3, 2014, at 87. A graduate of the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program, Boston, Mr. Foley had been a senior vice president of the Safety Fund National Bank in Worcester. Previously, he was a vice president at the State Mutual Life Assurance Co. of America in Worcester and president of the Massachusetts Bankers Association in Boston. Mr. Foley’s professional and community involvement included serving as a trustee of the Williams College New England School of Banking, Williamstown, Mass., and the American Charitable Trust; a corporator of Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass., and Hahnemann Hospital and Consumers Savings Bank, both in Worcester; a director of Big Brothers Inc., the NFIC Holding Co. of New York, SMA Equities and the American Variable Annuity Life Insurance Co.; a vice president at WSMW-TV, Channel 27 in Worcester; and vice chairman of the Worcester Business Development Corp. A member of the Advisory Council for the Clark University MBA program, he was also a board director of the Worcester Historical Society and a member of the Holden Finance Committee, among other endeavors. A Navy veteran, Mr. Foley served as a pharmacist mate during World War II. Born and raised in Worcester, he had resided in Holden for 59 years. Mr. Foley is survived by his wife, Jane; a son; two daughters, including Beth J. ’79; a son-in-law; a daughter-in-law; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

John O’Connor

John O’Connor, a lifelong resident of Worcester, died Nov. 25, 2014, at 87. A graduate of Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Mr. O’Connor served 43 years as assistant clerk magistrate for the Worcester Superior Court House, retiring in 2001. He was a recipient of the Diocese of Worcester St. Thomas More Society Award and a past chairman of the American Legion Boys State Program, organizing the “mock trials” event at the annual convocation. A graduate of Saint John’s High School, then located in Worcester, Mr. O’Connor had been a longtime, active member of Blessed Sacrament Church. An Army veteran of World War II, he served as a founding member and past commander of the Vernon Hill American Legion Post. Mr. O’Connor is survived by his wife, Dolores; a brother-in-law; a sister-in-law; and many nephews and nieces.

John P. Collins Jr.

John Collins, of San Anselmo, Calif., died Sept. 25, 2014, at 84. Working many years with his father managing various companies and divisions—from ranching to the import/export business—Mr. Collins traveled internationally during his career, spending time in Hong Kong and Malaysia.
IN MEMORIAM

Founding Collins & Co., a New York Stock Exchange member firm, in the 1960s, he had been involved as well in many philanthropic endeavors. Born and raised in New York, Mr. Collins later lived in Nicasio, Calif., with his family. A horseman, licensed pilot and an accomplished pianist, he also pursued many other interests, including sailing and amateur radio. Mr. Collins was a Marine Corps veteran, attaining the rank of staff sergeant. He had been a member of the President’s Council at Holy Cross. Mr. Collins is survived by a son; two daughters; and five grandchildren.

Richard J. Fay

Richard Fay, formerly of Spring Lake, N.J., died Oct. 26, 2014, in Arlington, Va., at 85. A 1954 graduate of George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., Mr. Fay practiced law in Belmar, Spring Lake and Wall, N.J. He had been a member and past chairman of the New Jersey Supreme Court’s Ethics and Fee Arbitration committees for Monmouth County and a longtime member of the court’s Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics. Mr. Fay’s professional affiliations included the New Jersey State Bar Association and the Monmouth Bar Association, where he was a past president and a 2003 recipient of its Abraham J. Zager Professionalism Award. His community involvement included serving as president of the Kiwanis Club of Belmar and as a member of the Spring Lake Board of Education; he was a parishioner of St. Catharine Parish in Spring Lake. Born in River Edge, N.J., Mr. Fay was raised in Bergenfield, N.J., and Belmar, where he was a 1947 graduate of St. Rose High School. He had been a Holy Cross class agent. Mr. Fay is survived by two sons, including Timothy J. ’81; five daughters, including Jeannine Fay Mood ’77; four sons-in-law; two daughters-in-law; a sister; 10 grandchildren; and nieces.

Charles L. Powers Jr.

Charles Powers, of Langhorne, Pa., died on July 7, 2014, at 86. Working in the shopping center industry, Mr. Powers had managed and operated the Moorestown (N.J.) Mall, Plymouth Meeting (Pa.) Mall and the Neshaminy Mall in Bensalem, Pa. He served as legal counsel and adviser for Edward B. O’Reilly Associates in Philadelphia. Mr. Powers was an Army Air Forces veteran of World War II. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite “Marge”; four children; their spouses; and eight grandchildren.

Donald F. Slack

Donald Slack, of Peabody, Mass., died on Nov. 21, 2014, at 86. Self-employed as a manufacturer’s representative for industrial products during his career, Mr. Slack had most recently represented Giering Metal Finishing, Inc. in Hamden, Conn., for 27 years. A Navy veteran, he served aboard the USS Little Rock during World War II. Born in Worcester and raised in Boylston, Mass., Mr. Slack was a graduate of St. Peter’s High School in Worcester. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; a son; a daughter-in-law; two sisters; a brother-in-law; four grandchildren; and several nephews and nieces.

1952

J. Michael Bestler, M.D.

J. Michael Bestler, M.D., of Axton, Va., died Nov. 4, 2014, at 84. A graduate of the Rochester (N.Y.) School of Medicine and Dentistry, Dr. Bestler practiced medicine in Martinsville, Va., until his retirement in 1997. A veteran, he served as a naval aviator during the Korean War. Dr. Bestler had been a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Martinsville. He is survived by his wife, Brenda; two sons; three daughters; their spouses; 10 grandchildren; and the mother of his children, Jean Bestler.

Richard A. Bonfiglio

Richard Bonfiglio, of Auburn, Worcester and Dennis Port, Mass., died Nov. 1, 2014, at 84. Mr. Bonfiglio worked more than 35 years for the city of Worcester, serving as laboratory director for the former Worcester City Hospital and as deputy tax collector prior to retirement; he had also owned and operated a medical laboratory, Bio-Medical Laboratories, and a real estate company. Active in city government, Mr. Bonfiglio had been a member of the Worcester School Committee, the Charter and Civic Center commissions and the Worcester City Council; he subsequently served as a board director of Worcester Technical High School. Mr. Bonfiglio belonged to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Worcester and several fraternal organizations. Receiving his master’s degree from Tufts University, Medford, Mass., he took classes at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and received a Ph.D. from Sussex College in England. Mr. Bonfiglio is survived by his wife, Shirley; two sons; a daughter-in-law; a brother and his wife; a sister-in-law; a granddaughter; many nephews and nieces; and extended family.

John W. McGarry

John McGarry, of Maryland, and, formerly, of Massachusetts, died on Nov. 11, 2014. Mr. McGarry was a former commissioner and chairman of the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C. He had been a member of the President’s Council at Holy Cross. Mr. McGarry is survived by his wife, Marietta M. Ethier; a sister-in-law and her husband; nephews; nieces; grandnephews; and grandnieces.

1953

Kenneth J. Dunne

Kenneth Dunne died Sept. 5, 2014, at his home in Edenton, N.C. At the start of his career, Mr. Dunne worked 12 years in management and planning for Mobil Oil Corp., Westvaco and CBS Corp., becoming the director of business development. His wife and he subsequently started a gourmet foods business on Long Island, N.Y.; relocating to Edenton in 1991, they purchased the Granville Queen Inn and operated it for 13 years prior to retirement. Mr. Dunne had also served as a commissioner of the Jericho Water District in Syosset, N.Y. A Supply Corps officer in the Navy, he was stationed on Saipan in 1957. Mr. Dunne had earned a master’s degree in business management at Columbia University in New York City. He was a parishioner...
of St. Anne Catholic Church in Edenton. Mr. Dunne is survived by his wife, Margaret; two sons; their spouses; and six grandchildren.

John C. Scully

John “Jack” Scully, of Vero Beach, Fla., died Oct. 21, 2014, at 82. Joining the John Hancock Life Insurance Co. in 1953 as a management trainee, Mr. Scully held many positions with the company, including supervisor, field vice president and general agent for its Indianapolis office. Returning to John Hancock’s Boston home office in 1975 as a senior vice president, he was promoted in 1980 to executive vice president, individual operations; from 1987 until his retirement in 1991, Mr. Scully was president of the retail sector. In addition, he served as a board director of John Hancock between 1980 and 1991, and as chairman of the boards of the Life Insurance Marketing Research Association (LIMRA), the Life Underwriter Training Council (LUTC) and the Insurance Institute at Northeastern University. President and chief executive officer of LIMRA International from 1992 to 1997, Mr. Scully subsequently served 10 years as a board director for the American United Life Insurance Co. (AUL) in Indianapolis. During his career, he held leadership positions in many civic organizations and educational institutions, including the YMCA of Greater Boston, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, the Boston Jaycees, Springfield (Mass.) College and Suffolk University, Boston. Mr. Scully had been a member of the President’s Council at Holy Cross and a Holy Cross class agent. He was an active member of St. Paul’s Catholic Church, Wellesley, Mass., St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis and the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Vero Beach. A veteran, Mr. Scully joined the Army during the Korean War. He earned the CLU (Chartered Life Underwriter) designation in 1963. Mr. Scully is survived by his wife, Barbara; a son; five daughters; five sons-in-law; two daughters-in-law; two brothers, Jerome J. ’60 and Richard A. ’63; a sister; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

1954

Glenn C. Wallace

Glenn Wallace, of Kinderhook, N.Y., died Oct. 2, 2014, at 82. A graduate of Albany (N.Y.) Business College, Mr. Wallace worked in the insurance industry, retiring from the Travelers insurance company in 1989; at the end of his career, he had been a special investigation officer for the New York State Insurance Frauds Bureau. Mr. Wallace had been active in the Boy Scouts of America, including the Twin Rivers Council; the Republican Party, on the town, county and state levels; and community affairs, including the Marion Stegmann Fund, providing food to the needy, and the Kinderhook Elks Lodge. He had been a member of St. John the Baptist Parish and St. Joseph Spiritual Life Center in Valatie, N.Y. Mr. Wallace was a Navy veteran. He is survived by a son; a daughter; their spouses; three grandchildren; and a cousin.

1955

Richard F. Cogswell


HOLY CROSS REMEMBERS

Constance G. Schick

(1945-2015)


A distinguished scholar of 19th-century French literature, Québécois literature, and the ethnic literature of French Americans, Professor Schick began teaching at Holy Cross in 1990, after serving as a faculty member at Iona College, New Rochelle, N.Y.; Stonehill College, North Easton, Mass.; and Memphis (Tenn.) State University. Her administrative duties included holding the positions of chair of the department of modern languages and literatures at the College, from 1998 to 2001, interviewer for the Holy Cross Study Abroad Program, and graduate studies adviser for the French program. She retired from the College in 2007.

During her career, Professor Schick published the book Seductive Resistance: Poetry of Théophile Gautier, as well as journal articles and book reviews, and presented lectures and papers at various academic conferences. In addition, she had been an elected member of the Administrative Council of the French Institute at Assumption College in Worcester.

A graduate of Annhurst College in South Woodstock, Conn., Professor Schick earned her master’s degree at Columbia University in New York City and Ph.D. at The Pennsylvania State University. Pursuing a lifelong interest in music, she sang in many choral groups, including the Masterworks Chorale.

Professor Schick is survived by her husband, Edgar C. Schick Jr., M.D., ’66; two sons; their spouse and partner; a daughter; two brothers; two sisters; a brother-in-law; three sisters-in-law; two grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

Charles A. “Charlie” Baker, Holy Cross associate professor emeritus of French, offers the following remembrance:

“Multi-talented—biker, runner, skier, pianist, delightful conversationalist, singer (she met her husband, Ed ’66, as a member of the combined Holy Cross/Annhurst glee club)—Connie was chair; professor and scholar,” says Baker. “As chair of a multi-language/culture department, she used administrative skills and humor to urge her colleagues to collaborate, share and understand their differences. She oversaw the beginning of the Francophonic literature and culture program. A 19th-century French literature scholar, Connie also published widely on the Franco-American culture from which she was descended and of which she was so proud. Equally important to Holy Cross, Connie challenged, encouraged and mentored countless students.”

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IN MEMORIAM

80. An educator for 40 years, Mr. Cogswell had taught the last 35 years of his career at Marlborough (Mass.) High School. A 1951 graduate of Clinton (Mass.) High School, he earned master’s degrees at Boston State College and Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass. Mr. Cogswell is survived by his wife, Marian; two sons; a daughter; their spouses; nieces; and nephews.

Lawrence F. Block

Lawrence “Larry” Block died Oct. 9, 2014, at his home in Hilton Head Island, S.C., at 81. During his career, Mr. Block had been involved in marketing computerized trust accounting services in his hometown of Milton, Mass., and, later, in Palos Verdes, Calif., and Hilton Head; he retired in 2003. An Air Force veteran, Mr. Block continued military service in the Massachusetts National Guard. A lifelong golfer and tennis enthusiast, he had been an outstanding tennis player at Milton High School, a member of the varsity team at the College, and the winner of tennis and golf championships at the Milton Hoosic Club. He served as a Holy Cross class agent. Mr. Block is survived by his wife, Sheila; two sons; a daughter; a brother, Albert E. ’54; and six grandchildren.

1960

George J. Griffin Jr.

George Griffin died Oct. 27, 2014, in New Bern, N.C., at 76. Mr. Griffin was a retired insurance broker with the firm Fred S. James and Co. He was a longtime resident of Scituate, Mass. Mr. Griffin is survived by his wife, Elizabeth “Libbie”; five sons; a daughter; their spouses; and 12 grandchildren.

1961

Chrisillos T. Biliouris

Chrisillos “Tom” Biliouris died Nov. 17, 2014, at his home in Fayetteville, N.C., at 76. Receiving his master of business administration degree from the University of Arkansas, Mr. Biliouris served 22 years in the Air Force, retiring in 1984 as a lieutenant colonel. Subsequently undertaking a career in real estate, he started a property management company that remained in operation for 15 years. Mr. Biliouris is survived by his wife, Grace; three daughters; two sons-in-law; a brother; a sister-in-law; four grandchildren; and extended family, including brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; nephews; nieces; and cousins.

1963

Joseph M. McCarthy Jr.

Joseph McCarthy, of Manchester, N.H., died Oct. 25, 2014, at 75. During his career, Mr. McCarthy worked on Wall Street in New York City for more than 30 years. He subsequently relocated to Concord, N.H., where he had been employed by Patsy’s Bus Sales until his death. An Army veteran of the Vietnam War attaining the rank of captain, Mr. McCarthy was awarded the National Defense Service Medal. He had been a member of the President’s Council at Holy Cross. Mr. McCarthy is survived by five cousins.

1965

Raymond K. Moore

Raymond Moore, a lifelong resident of New Orleans, died Sept. 3, 2014, at 71. A 1961 graduate of St. Augustine High School, Mr. Moore retired from the U.S. Postal Service following 40 years of employment. He had been an accomplished classical guitarist. Mr. Moore is survived by a son; 11 siblings; four grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

1967

Jorge A. Lawton

Jorge Lawton, of Atlanta, died Sept. 21, 2014, at 69. Born in Rochester, Minn., Mr. Lawton lived in Connecticut for 14 years before relocating to Atlanta with his family in 1959. A graduate of the Portsmouth (R.I.) Abbey School, he attended Holy Cross and received his bachelor of arts degree from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash.; Mr. Lawton was a Fulbright scholar in Santiago, Chile. Earning his master’s degree and Ph.D. at the Johns Hopkins Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, based in Washington, D.C., he became a certified simultaneous interpreter from Spanish and Portuguese to English; Mr. Lawton was also fluent in Haitian Creole. His work
involved translating critical political and cultural exchanges for many dignitaries, including former President Jimmy Carter and several Nobel laureates. During his career, Mr. Lawton also wrote for numerous publications, including the Financial Times, and taught at several universities, including the University of Maryland and the University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). An accomplished singer, he had been a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church choir in Atlanta. Mr. Lawton is survived of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He is a member of the Knox County Bar Association of Maine. Raised in Manchester, Conn., Mr. Briggs had attended East Catholic High School. He is survived by his wife, Alison Wholey Briggs; his parents; two sons; a stepson; a stepdaughter; two brothers; two sisters; their spouses; and many nephews and nieces.

1982

Mary R. Betley

Mary Betley died Oct. 4, 2014, at her home in Plymouth, Mass., at 54. A social worker and psychotherapist, Ms. Betley had most recently served as director of clinical services for High Point Treatment Centers. Receiving her master of social work degree from Boston College, she had been a member of the National Association of Social Workers. Born in Wareham, Mass., Ms. Betley was a graduate of Bourne (Mass.) High School. She is survived by her wife and partner, Ellen N. Duff ’82; two daughters; and a brother.

1993

Darby E. Stott

Darby Stott, of Boston, died Sept. 12, 2014, at 43. Ms. Stott had worked in Washington, D.C., for Dewey Ballantine and the White House Office of the Press Secretary under the Clinton administration, among other endeavors. Returning to Boston to join the State Street Bank & Trust Co. and pursue graduate studies, she most recently worked at Fidelity Investments. Ms. Stott was a graduate of the Carroll School of Management at Boston College. In recent years, she dedicated her efforts in support of cancer research. Ms. Stott had been a member of the President’s Council at Holy Cross and a Holy Cross class agent. She is survived by her parents; a brother; a nephew; a niece; and many friends.

1985

Mary (Pomer) O’Donnell

Mary O’Donnell died Nov. 1, 2014, at her home in Melrose, Mass., at 51. A 1981 graduate of Belmont (Mass.) High School, Mrs. O’Donnell earned her law degree at Suffolk University, Boston, in 1994. Born in Boston and raised in Belmont, she had resided in Melrose for 24 years. Mrs. O’Donnell had been a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, William; four sons; a daughter; her father; her father-in-law and mother-in-law; five brothers, including Robert S. “Bobby” ’91; five sisters; and many nephews and nieces.

1976

C. Donald Briggs III

C. Donald Briggs died Sept. 7, 2014, in Camden, Maine, at 60. A graduate of Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Mr. Briggs worked nine years in personal injury law firms in Boston and Worcester before beginning practice in Midcoast Maine in 1988; he had been associated with the law firm Briggs & Wholey in Rockport. A board-certified civil trial advocate and an active participant in the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project, Mr. Briggs held leadership roles in many professional organizations, including the American Association for Justice, Pine Tree Legal Assistance and the Maine Trial Lawyers Association; he had most recently served as president of the Knox County Bar Association of Maine. Raised in Manchester, Conn., Mr. Briggs had attended East Catholic High School. He is survived by his wife, Alison Wholey Briggs; his parents; two sons; a stepson; a stepdaughter; two brothers; two sisters; their spouses; and many nephews and nieces.

1970

Frank R. Meyer Jr.

Frank Meyer died Nov. 14, 2014, at his home in Landenberg, Pa., at 66. Mr. Meyer is survived by his wife, Janice; a daughter; a sister; two brothers-in-law; three sisters-in-law; and many nephews and nieces.

1976

John A. Opar

John Opar, of Wayne, N.J., died Oct. 15, 2014, at 54. A graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law in Newark, N.J., Mr. Opar worked as an attorney for almost 30 years, specializing in real estate law. Born in Chicago, he was raised in Wayne, where he was a 1978 graduate of Wayne Hills High School. Mr. Opar had been a Holy Cross class agent. He is survived by his mother; and a sister.

Friends

Gilbert P. Connelly, M.D., father of Elizabeth Connelly Hudson ’91; Michael DeAngelis, father of Gary, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies (CIS) and religious studies departments; James L. Donahue, father of Kathleen Baille, advancement office; Harold P. George, father of Ellen, senior vice president’s office, and grandfather of Kevin Blanchard, grounds department; Michael T. Houston and William B. “Bill” Houston Jr., sons of William B. “Bill” Sr. ’47; Rose M. Jordan and Eleanor E. Rinaldo, sisters of Charles Spazianti, public safety; Paul Kennealy, father of Marybeth K. Cheever ’99; Sheila Marie (Tennyson) Landers, mother of Maureen A. ’80 and grandmother of Kerrin L. O’Leary ’11; Anne O. Licopoli, mother of Michael, physical plant/environmental services; Esther T. MacLellan, mother of Linda, environmental services; Clayton L. McNearney, formerly, theology department; Stephen J. Quigley, father of David J. ’14; Jesús Cibreiro Ríos, father of M. Estrella Cibreiro-Couce, Dean’s Office and Spanish department; Marjorie Schneider Rome, mother of Edward, dining; Carol Predmore Shields, wife of Thomas A. ’52, mother of Ellen S. Conte ’88 and mother-in-law of Thomas J. Conte ’87; Matthew W. Sunter, husband of Michelle C. Maynard ’84; Rosemarie B. Taylor, mother of Kathleen Taylor Connolly ’77, mother-in-law of Joseph B. Connolly Jr. ’77 and grandmother of Andrew C. Babbitt ’13; Rev. Andrew P. Whitman, S.J., formerly, mathematics department; Donald J. Zimmer, father of Catherine Z. Collins ’80 and father-in-law of J. Christopher Collins ’80 ■
Statue and Cross Happily Reunited

A piece of Holy Cross has been missing for five decades, and it has finally come home to Mount St. James.

During a particularly raucous snowball fight on Kimball Quad sometime between 1964 and 1968, the small cross atop the Christ the King statue (above, held by Roger Hankins, director of the College’s Cantor Art Gallery) was knocked off, hitting English major Tim Ferris ’68 right in the face. Not one to pass up such a unique souvenir, Ferris pocketed the carved stone and didn’t think much about it until a couple of years ago, when he saw a photo of the statue in the Holy Cross calendar. “I checked my things-seldom-used drawer,” Ferris wrote in a letter to the College. “And there—right next to the shirt studs, formal cuff links and retired wire rims—was the little old stone cross, which I return herewith in the hope that I have not been cursed or jinxed all this time.” Ferris continued, tongue firmly planted in cheek, “Please know that I no longer boost hotel towels, and I think my roommate and I gave back all the Kimball china, pie pans, pitchers and utensils when we graduated.”

An excited Hankins, who recently had contacted a conservator to work on the statue, says having the cross makes the repair much easier.

But the mystery continues: Christ the King is missing two fingers. Anyone?
ARTIFACT / THE NEXT ISSUE / TALK TO US / CLOSING

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Their Record Gift

We get to talk with John E. Luth ’74 and Joanne Chouinard-Luth, D.M.D., about their $32.5 million gift, the largest single donation in the history of Holy Cross, and the legacy they will leave for generations of Crusaders.

ALSO  The vision for the future of Holy Cross  •  Students and chaplains on their immersion trip to Guatemala  •  Holy Cross Alumni Association news  •  Television writer/producer Meredith Lavender ’00  •  Class Notes

SPECIAL FALL ISSUE FEATURE: THE LUTH GIFT

THE POPE’S VISIT
Will you be attending any events related to Pope Francis’ first visit to the United States in September? Please let us know. We are planning special coverage and would like to include as many people from the Holy Cross family as possible.

THE ALUMNI BOND
Holy Cross alumni are known for sharing their professional knowledge with recent graduates through one-on-one career mentoring and providing valuable internships. If you are helping a young Crusader get a foothold in your field, please share your story with HCM.

QUICK POLL
What is on your summer reading list this year? Give us a clever five-line review of your favorite book and you may be part of an upcoming story.

TELL US MORE
How are we doing? We’d like to hear from you.

MAIL
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Cecilia Wolfe ’15 played Rosemary, the aging schoolteacher, in the April production of William Inge’s Picnic in Fenwick Theatre, directed by Steve Vineberg, professor of theatre studies. How does she describe her character? In a word: “Intense.”