HC enjoys impressive attendance at march

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By Catherine Borelli

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Dinner held to support SPUD program

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volved in the greater Worcester community, and this is an excellent way of doing that," McCaffrey also spoke of the significance of the program. "We are all here because of thememory of Price: "The freshmen who come in get an idea of what [Price] was all about…serving others." McCaffrey also mentioned that a few lacrosse players who have left the team still choose to remain involved with the program.

SPUD is also involved with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Anne Migliozzi ’03, the director for SPUD Big Brothers Big Sisters, attended the event, along with some other SPUD participants. Migliozzi commented upon why she became active with the program. "I missed having children around, and missed helping them out. I wanted an organization which would entail a one-on-one mentoring programs with little kids." Because of Migliozzi’s hard work, a SPUD van travels to the Canterbury Street School every day of the week with Holy Cross students.

On hand at the fundraiser was Mark Fidrych, a former Detroit Tigers pitcher from 1974-1980 and a Red Sox pitcher from 1980-1983. He autographed a few baseballs for the auction list. He is also active in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Fidrych commented that he had first found out about Big Brothers Big Sisters through a next-door neighbor who asked him to attend a function. He said that Big Brothers Big Sisters is a “worthwhile organization,” and went on to comment about the impact the organization has on the lives of the children it assists. "It is good for kids to be able to talk to a person…it helps a lot of them…we all long to have someone take us under their wings.”

After a chicken dinner, the auctioneer began his job. Among the 100 or so items auctioned off were a mountain bike, a gift certificate to a masseuse, and a soap kit, with all proceeds going to the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. The Holy Cross lacrosse players in attendance displayed the items to be auctioned off to the audience. Ben Ticho, Holy Cross alumnus and president of Big Brothers Big Sisters, was all smiles as he observed the success of the fundraiser.}

BY CATHERINE BORELLI

CRUSADER NEWS EDITOR

“I’ve never had a day that I didn’t love doing this. I’m truly the luckiest man alive. I get to do what I love most: go home and think about poems so that I can come into class and teach it the next day. It is a wonderful feeling and nothing could be more right for me.” Professor Robert K. Cording has been an English professor at the College of the Holy Cross since 1983. He has always maintained the excitement and bliss that he gets from teaching, there is no surprise that he feels that the years have "gone by so quickly.”

Cording began teaching at the age of 28, and actually got into the education field quite by accident. His true loves and true passions were poetry and writing. He said, “I wrote poems in college, but I wasn’t satisfied. I wanted to know all I could about poetry. I received a fellowship to get my PhD, and it was then that I was able to study poems and take all the classes that were of interest to me.”

Once out of college, Cording worked as a high school teacher. This career, however, did not suit him. Cording wanted more of a challenge, to tackle higher levels of material. The monotony of teaching the same courses with the same material several times bored him. “I love teaching new courses and I love learning new things. Literature is interesting to me.” The passion that Cording feels towards that which he teaches is a quality that every teacher and every professor should possess. “I ended up in the education field because I wanted to teach what I love to talk about. I think that’s the most important thing. Then, an English major is seeing the parts of a poem come together, right down to punctuation marks. That is why I created the Critical Reading and Writing I Course. I strongly believe in the material taught in that class.”

Aside from his time-consuming teaching schedule here at Holy Cross, Cording also participates in workshops at various high schools. It is here where he helps other teachers learn the techniques to teach, and importance of teaching, students to read poetry. “I think that teachers in the classroom are evidence of what they did in school.”

``This is the great mistake of teaching. Teachers feel that they are working with young adults that need to be shown what the world isn’t black and white. I think that the students will feel that they have been taken away from them and that they have been given no replacement. It is quite condescending to think that students are unaware that the world is not black and white.” Further- more, Cording elaborated on the focus that educators should have when in the classroom, “The real thing that educators should be teaching is what it means to be alive. I am here because, on some level, I believe that I am helping students come to an understanding about life. That is truly important to me. I want them to question why we are here, where we are all going, and how we would live. I believe that without posing these quest- ions and seeking for the answers, educa- tion does not extend past mere job train- ing.”

It is clear that Cording wants those that he teaches to reach the highest levels and bringing on the most important aspects of life. The passion that he feels towards the material that he teaches, and the thought- provoking questions that he poses in class, are evidence of this. Cording loves his job, stating that, “Teach- ing has given me the three most important things in my life.” The first is that he loves poetry, and, through teaching, is able to share it with others. The second is that his job is intimately con- nected to writing. He is able to discuss ideas about life and other’s po- etry in class. For the third reason, Cording said, “I still believe in teaching as a kind of soul-baking activity.”

The highlight of Cording’s teaching career happened last year when he was able to teach the daughter of a student that he first taught. “It is absolutely moving to have been around long enough to see this whole generation of life. Longevity is a won- derful thing!” Cording then went on to say how much he loves seeing his stu- dents turn into good adults. “Many of my ex-students have become great, life-long friends. I probably get 10 emails a day from ex-students. I tend to stay in touch with my students.”

Another highlight for Cording is get- ting to work with students on their writ- ing. “I get to see more sides of them.” Jack O’Connell is a highlight that Cording gets to see everyday. He edits the alumni magazine for Holy Cross, but was once one of Cording’s students. “After he graduated, Jack sent me parts of novels that he had written.” O’Connell turned into a successful mystery writer. Of this, Cording commented, “I was happy to have played a tiny part in Jack’s writing, to have been able to watch it, to have seen the joy that it gave him.”

When Cording is not busy with work- shops and teaching, he writes poetry. His fourth book of poems is coming out in two weeks. “I don’t write in the winter because I am too busy; I revise my poems then. I write from May until August, every morning from 6:30 to 12:00 or 1:00. To become a writer you need the discipline to religiously write everyday.”

When asked about his feelings towards his career Prof. Cording boldly stated, “My avocation and my vocation is the same thing. My love is my work.” Any- one that has taken a class with him will know this to be true.