Campus mourns Jacob Jackson '04

By Kate Meyers

This week, the campus community at Holy Cross mourns the death of one of its own. Jacob "Jake" Jackson, a member of the class of 2004, passed away on Monday afternoon at Saint Vincent’s City Hospital in Worcester due to undisclosed circumstances. Jake is missed by many on campus, including his close friends, acquaintances, and hockey teammates. In the midst of all the pain that accompanies Jake’s death, it is important to remember him and who he was to the Holy Cross community.

Jake lived in Fort Washington, Maryland and spent summers in Newport, Rhode Island. He is survived by his parents and his younger brother, Nate. Jake was very close to his younger brother, whom he “adored.”

This summer, he worked as a lifeguard in Newport and competed in a lifeguard tournament. He loved to swim, and was an “amazing swimmer.” Jake loved airplanes and hoped to one day fly airplanes himself. He enjoyed spending time with children, and was known for giving “great hugs.” His hobbies included playing hockey, writing poetry, and playing golf.

Many Holy Cross students who knew Jake well had only wonderful things to say about him as a person. Jake has been described by his close friends as “wicked smart” and a great hockey player. As a Physics major in the Pre-Med program, he was very serious about his work and tried to have a good time as well. Many people who knew Jake have said that he was “a hilarious guy,” always in good spirits. Jake was known all around campus as a “great kid.” He was also known as a “voice of reason” to his friends, who commented that Jake was someone who was always there to help get through any situation, and always knew the right thing to do.

In addition to being a “smart kid” and a great friend to many, Jake was also an integral team player on the Holy Cross Men’s Varsity Hockey team. He attended and played hockey at Gonzaga High School near Washington, D.C., before spending a post-graduate year at Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. During the Holy Cross 2000-2001 hockey season, Jake played as a forward and wore the #25 jersey. Hockey coach Paul Pearl described Jake as “very talented” and added that he “did well for [the team] and would have done well for us in the future.” During last year’s season, Jake started in 21 games, even as a freshman. His hockey teammates will miss him immensely and commented that the hockey team “feels like [it has] lost a brother. He will be missed on and off the ice.”

On campus, the administration and Chaplain’s office have been very supportive to all students in this difficult time. An informational meeting was held in Mulledy to let students know what had happened.

Holy Cross responds to terrorist attack on U.S.

By Dawn Maruna & Matt Hayes

After braving an already difficult night following news of the loss of Jacob C. Jackson ’04, the Holy Cross community awoke to shocking reports of outbreaks of disaster in Washington, D.C., New York City, and western Pennsylvania early Tuesday morning. As word of the calamity spread, students, faculty, and staff congregated around television screens in the Hogan Campus Center and Stein Hall to monitor the series of events surrounding the worst terrorist attack ever perpetrated on American soil. As hijacked commercial airplanes crashed kamikaze-style into the Pentagon building and the World Trade Center’s towers, members of the community made apt comparisons between the surreal course of events and scenes featured in the Hollywood film “Independence Day.” Although those riveted by the opening scene found themselves watching in disbelief, they painfully accepted the veracity of the situation. The shock that America had been directly and forcefully attacked resonated in an environment where almost nobody remembered the last direct attack on America at Pearl Harbor in 1941.

“It’s frightening to think that our country is not as invincible as we think it is,” remarked Sarah Jones ’04. Rachel Adams ’02 had a less intellectual but more corporeal reaction, saying that the news of the attacks made her “sick to her stomach.” News of national disaster measures – the order that all domestic flights currently in the air be grounded, the rerouting of international flights to Canada, and the subsequent indefinite grounding of all air travel within the United States - quickly filled the airwaves, as images of ambulances, firefighters, and policemen battling the disaster in New York filled the television screen.

Sensitive to the community’s need to draw on one another for strength and seek spiritual guidance, the Chaplain’s Office quickly issued a campus-wide e-mail extending a universal invitation to assemble at the 12:05 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Memorial Chapel. More than 750 students responded and joined in celebrating the midday Mass. Rev. Gerald McKeon, S.J., observed that he had never seen the chapel so crowded. Following McKeon’s homily, President Michael C. McFarland, S.J., addressed the highly emotional congregation with words of consolation and hope. Additionally, McFarland urged all students to take any measures they deemed necessary to deal with the situation, lamenting that “there is little most of us can do in the short run to affect events on the larger stage.” He explained that in order to maintain a degree of normalcy during the otherwise chaotic day, scheduled classes would not be cancelled.

Later that afternoon, via a campus-wide e-mail, McFarland reiterated his earlier sentiment. “I know all of us are deeply shocked and saddened by the mind-numbing events of today,” he wrote. “Our sympathy and prayers go out to the as-yet-uncounted victims and their families. Holy Cross has deep roots in Washington and especially New York, so we know that our community will suffer much in this tragedy.” He also announced that the Hart Athletic Center, Fieldhouse, and Chaplain’s Office would be extending their hours of operation and that the Counseling Center’s phones would be staffed around the clock.

A later e-mail sent by Dean Jacqueline Peterson invited everyone to gather together for support and information at the Hogan Campus Center. Students, faculty, administrators, and staff stood dumbfounded around television screens set up at the second floor lounge outside Student Programs and the Crossroads eatery.

Feelings of frustration, anger, and angst built throughout the day as students encountered difficulty in contacting friends and loved ones in the affected areas. Telephone lines were jammed, leaving many plagued by uncertainty. In an interesting note on modernity, internet access remained largely unaffected, providing one of the only outlets for communication out of Worcester.

Exhibiting its trademark humanitaritan spirit, the campus responded to the tragedy with a willingness to aid the victims in any way they could. In response to the Red Cross’ call for nationwide blood donation, Holy Cross students flocked to the nearest blood donation center thanks to transportation provided by Student Programs. Meanwhile, student organizations such as Student Programs for Urban Development (SPUD), the Student Government Association (SGA), and the Purple

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