In the past year the Division of Student Affairs has seen numerous changes that I am excited to share with you.

For the first time, in academic year 2001-02, a professional staff member will be residing in each of our residence halls. This is a result not only of additional funding but also the ardent recruiting effort of last year’s staff. Gilbert Contreras, coming from the University of Texas at Austin, is living in Healy; Jim Levuske, a graduate of Clark University, is living in Leidy; Joe Parillo, from UMass Amherst, is in Wheeler; Nyvette Grady, of Manhattanville College in Clark; and returning to Loyola will be Alicia Black, Holy Cross’ 00. Also, new to Holy Cross is Patrick Allen, Assistant Director of Residence Life Christine Nadeau. She previously spent three years at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and will have responsibilities for the “quad.” And beginning her second year at Holy Cross is Patricia Allan, Assistant Director of Residence Life and a resident of Hanselman. In April, Michael Morrill was named Assistant Dean/Director of Residence Life. He is a resident of Mulledy and will lead this team of energetic professionals, who are all excited to be a part of the Holy Cross Student Affairs Staff and are looking forward to working with our students in the residence halls.

I am also happy to welcome two new members of the Student Affairs team: Kristin Goodwin, Associate Dean for Student Life, and Mable Miller, Director of Multicultural Education. Dean Goodwin began her career as a Residence Hall Coordinator and has subsequently held various positions of increasing responsibility in the area of Student Life. Just prior to arriving at Holy Cross she spent eight years as the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at Connecticut College. Ms. Miller has over twenty years of experience in higher education including Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Boston University. Before coming to Holy Cross, she was an independent consultant on issues of education, diversity and communication in the Boston area. Robert Princep, Director of Special Projects and Multicultural Training will be working closely with Mable. In addition, Bob will be heading up the Commencement Committee.

In the office of Student Programs and Leadership Development, Jayne Ducharme was promoted to Assistant Dean/Director of Student Programs and Leadership Development. Her team includes Brenda Hounsell, from Springfield College, as Associate Director of Leadership Development. Brenda has been at Holy Cross for approximately 6 months. New this year are Candace Christopher, from the University of Rhode Island, Assistant Director of Student Programs and Cathy Reitz, a graduate of the State University of New York at Geneseo, as Community Service Coordinator.

The Division of Student Affairs also welcomes two new secretaries: Monica Elefterion and Michelle Hight. Both have previous experience at the College - Monica in the Registrar’s Office and Michelle in Dining Services.

We have every confidence that all of these professionals will “pull together” to contribute in a valuable way to the quality of the educational experience of our students. I strongly urge you to get to know all of these individuals and take advantage of the experience and expertise that they bring to our already dynamic Student Affairs team!”

Dean Jacqueline Peterson

Residence Life observes a change of guard

BY SARA MILLERICK
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

In hopes of better meeting the needs of Holy Cross students, Residence Life has implemented some notable changes in staffing and programming this year. Currently, there are four professionals residing in every dorm on campus, except for Corbin. Mike Morrill, Director of Residence Life and a Community Complex Director (CDC), explains that the role he and his fellow CDCs play is to “advise and support” the Resident Assistants (RAs), while serving as mentors to their student residents.

Morrill spoke on behalf of Residence Life when he presented three issues that are priorities on campus this year such as issues of race, gender, and alcohol abuse. He asserted that these topics are of direct concern to Holy Cross students and his office hopes to open up a dialogue on these topics through various dorm programs.

In regards to race, Morrill suggested that many African/African Native-American (ALANA) students feel isolated on campus. He hopes that programs dealing with race will help recognize and address these situations. Under the heading of gender, Residence Life is focusing on sexual abuse and assault, and tolerance toward homosexuality. Morrill emphasized the importance of these issues when he said between 50 and 80 women at Holy Cross are victims of attempted or actual rape each year. He added that there is a connection between student abuse and alcohol abuse, which is the last of the major priorities. Holy Cross is ahead of the national averages in regards to binge drinking, which often results in sickness or blacking out. Holy Cross has lost three students due to alcohol related deaths in the past seven years.

In order to implement community awareness regarding race, gender and alcohol abuse RA’s have organized eight hall programs a semester. While most of these are social, three must be educational and relate to these specific issues. RA’s can utilize many student organizations, including Multicultural Peer Educators, Relationship Peer Educators, and Students for Responsible Choices, to help facilitate group discussions. Additionally, they hold their own lectures and meetings regarding these issues.

A poster that will soon be displayed around campus asks students to analyze their behavior and why they drink. It asks if students identify with the categories of “easier to be social after I drink,” “can’t express my feelings (SRC) unless I drink” and the quote “work hard, play hard.” Then it contrasts these categories with the question “or are you an individual who can do your own work?”

Residence Life has also drawn in publicity for their goals by posting stickers on the backs of dorm room doors in most residence halls. These stickers depict a circle with the word “truth” at the center surrounded by an outer circle comprised of the words “easiest,” “enrichment” and “responsibility.” Faith is the cornerstone of the diagram and is defined by writer Sharon Doloz Parks as “the activity of seeking and discovering meaning on the most comprehensive dimensions of our experience.” It is a broad generic human phenomenon. To be human is to dwell in faith, to dwell in the sense one makes out of life -- what seems ultimately true and dependable about self, world and cosmos. Joe Parrillo, Wheeler’s CDC, explained that this sticker attempts to show the connection between “ones love of life,” zest, “the responsibility that comes with our actions,” and the enrichment that can be found in “bridging the gap between learning inside and outside of the classroom.”

Beyond trying to attend to the main issues, CDCs and RA’s are committed to making life in the residence halls enjoyable. Joe Parrillo explains he is “interested in working with college students to enhance their experience outside of the classroom.” He enjoys planning and implementing hall programs such as BJJ’s, assisting residents with roommate issues, and working with club sports. He does not see his job as that of a policeman seeking to punish unruly students, rather, he hopes to encourage a healthy and cohesive community. Parrillo’s goals are similar to many of the other CDC’s and RA’s who hope to continue to improve the Holy Cross student residence experience.