



Saint Peter's
UNIVERSITY

Magazine
SUMMER 2025



IGNITING THE MISSION

Moving Boldly Forward to be a National
Model for Jesuit Educational Excellence





It Takes a Collective Vision

The greatness of Saint Peter's University lies in its people. *Igniting the Mission: A Bold Vision and Model for Jesuit Educational Excellence* is brought to you by students, faculty, Jesuits, administrators, alumni, trustees and regents—the people who shape this University. More than 400 members of the Saint Peter's community contributed their voices and best ideas to the strategic planning process. This included a planning committee of 16, working committees involving 70 individuals and hundreds of attendees who showed up for campus forums and participated in surveys.

This issue of the magazine is dedicated to the collective vision that will drive Saint Peter's direction and future over the next three years. Story begins on page 14.



Igniting the Mission

Nearly 500 years ago, Saint Ignatius sent a letter to his fellow Jesuit, Saint Francis Xavier, who was about to set out on a missionary journey to India. “*Ite, inflamate omnia,*” Saint Ignatius wrote, “Go, set the world on fire,” the phrase that has inspired the work of Jesuit institutions for centuries. Today, the motto carries extra meaning as Saint Peter’s University charts its own course for the future.

It is with great pleasure that I share *Igniting the Mission: A Bold Vision and Model for Jesuit Educational Excellence*, the strategic plan that will guide Saint Peter’s for the next three years. *Igniting the Mission* is an effort we can all be proud of. It’s the result of our shared understanding and vision for Saint Peter’s and a pathway to position the University for growth, prosperity and greater recognition for the things we do better than anyone.

“It’s time to amplify our successes so many more people understand the difference our brand of Jesuit educational excellence makes in the world...”

The collective work on this dynamic plan encompasses three central principles. First and foremost, *Igniting the Mission* is grounded in the Ignatian values that drive us. Everything we aspire to achieve—from new academic programs to enhanced student experiences and bolstered community partnerships—is built on the lived Jesuit principles evident in our daily interactions and relationships.

Second, *Igniting the Mission* is proactively practical. The 70 people who served on working committees to develop the strategic plan read the signs of the times and the



complex environment in which higher education must now operate. I am grateful for their commitment. They’ve identified the challenges and clarified our strengths and opportunities, creating a workable structure for Saint Peter’s to move forward boldly.

Finally, *Igniting the Mission* is achievable. Our Peacock community has long recognized that when promising students are given access and opportunity to prove themselves, along with a great deal of *cura personalis*, the outcomes are tremendous. It’s time to amplify our successes so many more people understand the difference our brand of Jesuit educational excellence makes in the world and our role as the preeminent engine of social mobility. Your participation is vital to this effort.

I ask for your prayers—and your financial support—on behalf of an institution that has done much good for so many. Someone ignited the mission that made your Saint Peter’s education possible. You can be the spark that lights the way for present and future Peacocks. Join us.

With gratitude,

Hubert Benitez, D.D.S., Ph.D.
President



CONTENTS

11. CURA Grows: An abundance of learning, research and service is growing alongside the hydroponic plants inside CURA Farm.
14. It's a Bold New Day: The University's next strategic plan to be a national model for Jesuit educational excellence
22. Gifts of Opportunity
24. *Hearts & Minds: The Saint Peter's University Scholarship Celebration*

DEPARTMENTS

3. University News
26. Class News and Notes
32. Remembrances



HOW TO REACH US

Alumni News & Notes

Email: alumni@saintpeters.edu
Office of Alumni and Donor Engagement
2641 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Letter to the Editor

Email: aboyer1@saintpeters.edu
Editor, *Saint Peter's University*
2641 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Jersey City, NJ 07306
Telephone: (201) 761-6239

Mission Statement:

Saint Peter's University, inspired by its Jesuit, Catholic identity, commitment to individual attention and grounding in the liberal arts, educates a diverse community of learners in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs to excel intellectually, lead ethically, serve compassionately and promote justice in our ever-changing urban and global environment.

CONNECT



ADMINISTRATION

Hubert Benitez, D.D.S., Ph.D.
President

Katie Arcuri
Director of Athletics

Virginia Bender, Ph.D. '78
Assistant to the President for
Special Projects

Paul Ciraulo
Vice President for Finance and Business
Guillermo de Veyga, Ph.D., M.B.A.
Executive Vice President, COO and
Chief of Staff

Rev. James J. Miracky, S.J., Ph.D.
Vice President for Mission Integration
and Ministry

Claudia Pope-Bayne, Ed.D. '16, '22
Interim Vice President for Advancement
and External Affairs

Travis Whisler
Vice President for Student Affairs

WeiDong Zhu, Ph.D.
Interim Vice President for Academic
Affairs

SUMMER 2025 SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY

Volume 44, Number 2

Editor

Angeline Boyer
Assistant Vice President of
Communications & Marketing

Assistant Editor

Meghan Boyd
Executive Director of Marketing

Editorial & Design Services

Erbach Communications Group

Contributors & Editorial Assistance

Claudia Pope-Bayne, Ed.D. '16, '22
Liliana Huerta Murcia, M.B.A. '23

Photography

Michael Marmora
Maeve McNally-Cullum
Pope Francis picture page 6:
© Korea.net/Korean Culture and
Information Service



Inspired Graduates

134th commencement exercises celebrate the Class of 2025



Joy, gratitude and anticipation filled the PNC Bank Arts Center for the 134th commencement exercises on May 19. The ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of nearly 1,300 Saint Peter's University graduates and conferred 446 bachelor's degrees, 807 master's degrees and 16 doctoral degrees to the Class of 2025.

Student speakers Isabelle Bautista '25 and Jenny Theroux '25 shared inspiring stories of resilience and transformation. Bautista, a self-described "scrappy child of immigrants from Greenville, Jersey City," initially came to Saint Peter's to study STEM and graduated with three bachelor's degrees in math, chemistry and philosophy with minors in medicinal chemistry and physics. She earned a fully funded fellowship at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, to pursue a master's degree in statistics and data science.

Instead of discussing her achievements, Bautista focused on the power of belonging to the Peacock community. "Belonging isn't about fitting in," she stated. "It's about being seen. When we help others belong, we create strength far greater than our own. Having my place here, I learned I could carve my place anywhere."

Theroux matriculated to the University for a master's degree in industrial and organizational psychology. She urged graduates to embrace courage and change, "Because the best version of yourself is not behind you, it's still ahead, waiting to be discovered. And as Peacocks, we don't sit back and accept the status quo. We adapt, we rise, we lead and we strut boldly into the future with purpose and confidence. The Jesuit tradition calls us not just to succeed, but to use our success for something greater. It teaches us that leadership is service and that a well-lived life is dedicated to lifting others up."

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page



Isabelle Bautista '25

The University awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to Foreign Service Officer Marta Costanzo Youth '87. A career diplomat who has served in posts around the world, Costanzo Youth is preparing for a new role, Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Rome. Drawing on her time at Saint Peter's and 33 years in the Foreign Service, Costanzo Youth offered several pieces of advice to graduates, one of which was to be tenacious and "Find whatever it is that you think will inspire you." Setbacks are part of the journey, she noted in the commencement address. "Frequently, those setbacks actually have a silver lining, as long as you keep your eyes on what it is that you actually want to achieve in the end."

Members of the Class of 1975 also attended, honored for their 50th anniversary as Saint Peter's graduates.

Partners for College Success

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY IN JERSEY CITY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS



Jersey City high schoolers are prepping a path to college success, thanks to the recent partnership established between Saint Peter's University and Yonkers Partners in Education. Saint Peter's and YPIE share a belief: Students in economically challenged school districts can prepare for college, earn a degree and gain a rung in the ladder to economic

mobility with appropriate intervention and support.

In 2023, YPIE partnered with Jersey City Public Schools to launch YPIE Jersey City. Currently, more than 200 high schoolers participate in the college readiness programs, including an after-school learning program, the YPIE Jersey City College Zone, hosted on the second floor of Saint Peter Hall. Additionally, the partnership provides students opportunities to earn college credits and scholarships, as well as mentorship with University students who serve as peer mentors and tutors.

"Saint Peter's University shares our belief that higher education is a key driver of upward economic mobility," said Sam Wallis, YPIE executive director. "As a result of this unique partnership, YPIE Jersey City students will experience academics and life on a college campus and see firsthand the benefits a college education can provide."

YPIE Jersey City currently serves students in Abraham Lincoln High School and William L. Dickinson High School, and is expanding to Ferris High School this fall.

#1 IN NEW JERSEY FOR VETS



The *Military Times'* 2024 Best for Vets: Colleges ranking is in. The ultimate and trusted source for veterans named Saint Peter's University the number one university in New Jersey and 14th overall in the nation. The annual ranking provides the largest and most comprehensive list of top colleges and universities that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to supporting military service members, veterans and their families.

The recognition comes as Saint Peter's has intensified its efforts in recent years to become the premier destination for military-affiliated students. In 2022, Saint Peter's earned the Military Friendly® Schools designation, a standard that measures an organization's commitment, effort and success in creating sustainable and meaningful opportunity for the military community. In 2023, the University was named among the "Best Colleges for Veterans" by U.S. News and World Report.

THE SHOW WILL GO ON:

REVIVING ARGUS EYES FOR A NEW GENERATION



Joshua Greenbaum '26 and Ayesha Qazi '26

When computer information sciences major Ayesha Qazi '26 and visual arts major Joshua Greenbaum '26 met in the course, "The History of Ancient Science," it quickly became clear that, while their courses of study didn't overlap, they both had a passion for writing and the arts. Searching for a place to showcase their creative pursuits, Qazi and Greenbaum discovered that Saint Peter's University did have a drama society—before their time on campus.

The student-led theater organization Argus Eyes met for the first time in December 1933, putting on an array of productions until the COVID-19 pandemic forced the group to shutter its spring production of *Hair* in 2020. Now, after a five-year intermission, Argus Eyes is back.

With the help of Yani Horge, assistant director for undergraduate student involvement, Qazi and Greenbaum are determined to revive the organization and create an artistic haven for all

Peacocks. This year, they have hosted an informational meeting, as well as two improvisation workshops, in the hopes of gaining interest and momentum from the larger student body. Assistant Professor of History Maria Americo, Ph.D., University Director of Music Joseph W. Hill, Jr., M.M., and Professor of English Rachel Wifall, Ph.D., have also come aboard as advisors.

"Argus Eyes making a comeback has been well-received," Horge said. "It's a big time commitment, but it's been a good start." Both Qazi and Greenbaum said it's been an opportunity to connect with new people, and they are excited to provide a space for the performing arts on campus. They hope to launch a full-scale, student-led production in the spring of 2026.

While the Argus Eyes organizers are learning how to stage a production and enrolling members, Horge is helping the students gain a fuller understanding of what it means to be part of an arts community. "It can be hard to get students to be interested in things like a drama society," Horge said. "With everything they have going on, it can be transactional: What skills am I going to get from this immediately? And is it going to get me a job? So, it's an important message, keeping performing arts alive—because it is a vessel for creativity for our students that they may not have even known existed before."

Greenbaum and Qazi agree. While the previous iteration of Argus Eyes relied on outsourcing many production tasks, their vision is to get students involved in everything: writing, staging, props, costumes, lighting—even marketing. "There are a lot of artists here—a lot of artists who don't know they're artists yet," Qazi said. "This is such a great opportunity to bring all of the artists together."

DR. DE VEYGA APPOINTED TO NEW LEADERSHIP POST

Saint Peter's University appointed Guillermo de Veyga, Ph.D., M.B.A., to the newly created leadership post of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, effective July 1. The Cabinet role was established to strengthen operational and financial efficiency and to better align daily operations with the University's new strategic plan, *Igniting the Mission: A Bold Vision and Model for Jesuit Educational Excellence*.

In addition to leading efforts related to *Igniting the Mission*, Dr. de Veyga will oversee major initiatives and supervise the divisions of Enrollment Management, Communications & Marketing and Institutional Research. He will also serve as Chief of Staff.

Most recently, Dr. de Veyga served as Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and University Relations at William Paterson University. He brings more than two decades of strategic, operational and academic leadership experience to Saint Peter's.



POPE FRANCIS WALKED THE TALK

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY REFLECTS UPON THE LEGACY OF THE FIRST JESUIT POPE



Rev. James Miracky, S.J., Ph.D., and the faculty panel on *Remembering Pope Francis* (L to R): Edgar Valdez, Ph.D., Jennifer Ayala, Ph.D., David Surrey, Ph.D., and Chris Durante, Ph.D.

The Saint Peter's University campus erupted in joy and excitement when Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected the first Jesuit pope in 2013. Twelve years later, the death of Pope Francis united the University community in dialogue and reflection on his humility, advocacy for the poor and marginalized, and vision for the church.

Remembering Pope Francis was a commemorative event held on May 5, co-sponsored by the Office of Mission Integration and Ministry, six academic departments and the Center for Inclusive Excellence. A panel of five, Vice President for Mission Integration and Ministry Rev. James Miracky, S.J., Ph.D.; Director of Latin American and Latino Studies Jennifer Ayala, Ph.D.; Associate Professor of Theology Chris Durante, Ph.D.; Professor of Sociology, Urban Studies and Anthropology David Surrey, Ph.D.; and Associate Professor of Philosophy Edgar Valdez, Ph.D., discussed the work, life and legacy of the first Jesuit pope.

Fr. Miracky began the panel by pointing out that Pope Francis was a man of *The Spiritual Exercises*, particularly Saint Ignatius of Loyola's call to express love in deeds rather than words. "Pope Francis, first and foremost, I think, recognized his humanity and his limitations," said Fr. Miracky. From his first papal appearance, when he asked to be prayed for before giving a blessing, to washing the feet of the incarcerated and embarking on reconciliation tours to promote healing and peace "he not only talked the talk; he walked the walk. He not only preached the Gospel but he showed

that those words had implications for how we are to be treated by one another."

The faculty panel delved into Pope Francis's papacy which prioritized the most vulnerable and the moral clarity he brought to issues of inequality, migrants, the Gaza-Israel conflict and the environment.

Dr. Durante quoted from *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis's 2015 encyclical on care for the environment: "We have to realize that the true ecological approach always becomes a social approach. It must integrate questions of justice into debates on the environment." The theology professor described *Laudato si'* as an interdisciplinary approach toward a universal ideal. "He's connecting social justice and environmental justice," Dr. Durante said. "He puts forth this idea [of] integral ecology, which is a holistic vision that wants to integrate religious, scientific, sociopolitical, socioeconomic thinking and aspects of our lives. He wants us to decompartmentalize our thinking and our living and our teaching in these ways, and all of this is grounded in Catholic social teaching to the common good."

Three days after *Remembering Pope Francis*, history was made again when Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, now known as Pope Leo XIV, was elected the first American pope. In a message to the Saint Peter's community, Fr. Miracky noted Pope Leo's opening message of unity and peace and stated, "I cannot think of a better way to articulate what our mission and community at Saint Peter's are all about."

30 Peacocks Inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma

CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGE ATHLETE HONOR SOCIETY IS ESTABLISHED



Saint Peter's University inducted the inaugural class of 30 student-athletes into the New Jersey Upsilon Chapter of Chi Alpha Sigma on April 28. The University established the chapter of the National College Athlete Honor Society earlier this year.

Chi Alpha Sigma recognizes college student-athletes who excel academically while contributing to their teams and communities. Eligible members participate in a sport at the varsity intercollegiate level, achieve junior or senior academic standing after their four full-time semesters or six quarters of college work after high school and sustain a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher. The inaugural class included 30 seniors who represent 11 men's and women's teams and hold an average GPA of 3.798.

In addition to academic recognition, Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance Noémie Lacroix-Moreau said establishing a chapter of the honor society at Saint Peter's "provides our student-athletes with further opportunities for internships, awards and scholarships, as well as professional development." The Department of Athletics also sponsors the membership fees for student-athletes inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma. Lacroix-Moreau, who serves as advisor to the Saint Peter's chapter, was inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma when she attended Long Island University. Student-athletes inducted into the 2025 class said they were humbled and excited to be honored.



Go Peacocks!

Peacock Nation Day 2025 crushed its initial goal and raised more than \$108,000 in February in support of Saint Peter's University student-athletes and teams. The new year of giving is underway. Stand with the hardest working student-athletes in the MAAC and make a gift to Peacock Nation or direct your contribution to a specific team or program for 2025-2026.

Details on Peacock Nation Day 2026, including donor challenges and dollar-for-dollar matches, will be released soon. If you would like to organize or sponsor a donor challenge for Peacock Nation Day, contact Jessica Oudhnarine, director of annual giving, at joudhnarine@saintpeters.edu or (201) 761-6109.





Professor Wagner on the Red Carpet at the 2024 NJACT Perry Awards

EXAMINING CHOICES

ENGLISH PROFESSOR'S PLAY IS GETTING NOTICED

In one evening, a mother and daughter reevaluate their relationship in *Choices*, a short play by **Constance G.J. Wagner, M.A.**, writing program director and lecturer of English. The play was one of 15 original works selected for the 13th Annual Short Play Festival—LUV 2025, February 6-23, at The Players Theatre in Greenwich Village.

Professor Wagner was thrilled to see *Choices* produced for LUV 2025, a festival that attracts thousands of submissions. Theatergoers (which included a group of Saint Peter's students from the playwriting and composition classes on February 21) laughed in all the right places and released

a collective gasp of surprise when the plot twist was revealed. "I hope the experience will be repeated with this or other plays I write. I have lots of ideas," said Professor Wagner who is currently finishing a short play titled *True Colors*.

The festival marked the second staging of *Choices*. It was staged last May as one of nine featured works in the West Hudson Arts and Theater Company One Act Play Festival. The festival was nominated for a 2024 New Jersey Association of Community Theater Perry Award for Outstanding Production of an Original Play, and *Choices'* playwright, director and actors teamed up again for LUV 2025.

A Tolkien scholar, Professor Wagner has extensively published academic articles and works of fiction and nonfiction. "Summer's End," a poem by the professor, will appear in the forthcoming anthology, *Bards Across the Pond*.

SOLVING A 400-YEAR-OLD MYSTERY



Could famed English Renaissance dramatist Christopher Marlowe be the author of the first 17 sonnets in the collection known today as the

"Shakespeare Sonnets"? It's a question Professor of English **Rachel Wifall, Ph.D.**, explored with the hosts of the *Hidden in Plain Sight* podcast, a program that explores the life, work and possible alleged death of Marlowe in 1593.

Dr. Wifall has a great deal to contribute

to the subject. She specializes in English Renaissance drama and has published numerous academic articles on the staging of Shakespearean drama and the intersecting cultural legacies of Shakespeare and Jane Austen. The English professor discussed questions related to the authorship and composition of the 17 sonnets in episodes four, five and six of the season three series. Episodes of the podcast are available at hiddeninplainsight.us.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED



Hands-On Combinatorics: Building Colorful Trains to Manifest Pascal's Triangle, Fibonacci Numbers, and Much More, by Professor of Mathematics **Brian Hopkins, Ph.D.**, was published by the MAA Press. The textbook provides an active learning approach to combinatorial reasoning and proof through a thoughtful sequence of low-threshold, high-ceiling activities. Dr. Hopkins is the 2015 recipient of the MAA's Haimo Award for Distinguished Teaching.



Foundations of Teaching and Learning: A Comprehensive Guide to Assessment in the K-12 Classroom, by Professor of Education **Nicole Luongo, Ed.D.**, was

published by Cognella Academic Publishing. The second edition textbook is designed to provide current and future K-12 teachers with an introduction to the essential concepts and principles of student assessment and evaluation.



OVATION AWARD TO GUARINI SCHOOL OF BUSINESS PROFESSOR

Philip Sookram, CPA, MAcc., associate professor of accounting, was honored with a 2024 Ovation Award by the New Jersey Society of Professional Accountants for his work in Open Educational Resources. Recognized by the NJSPA in the Innovation category, Professor Sookram was selected

among professionals driving forward-thinking change in accounting. Professor Sookram developed comprehensive accounting modules on Pressbooks, a vehicle for OER that makes teaching and learning materials freely accessible to a global audience. Open textbooks that enhance student engagement and reduce educational costs "is the future of teaching, learning and development," the accounting professor said.

The initiative was jumpstarted by Professor Sookram's participation in the OER Summer Institute at Saint Peter's University. The institute was funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Title V Grant, "Ensuring Success for the New Majority Student."



Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, M.P.A., professor in the Master of Public Administration program, has been named chair of the

Education Committee in the New Jersey Assembly. Professor Reynolds-Jackson, who represents the 15th legislative district, which includes multiple municipalities in Hunterdon County, has served in the Assembly since 2018. The leadership role reflects her commitment to advancing education and shaping impactful policies that benefit communities and the state. 🏛️

GUARINI INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kristina Micu, Ph.D. '08, is the new executive director of the Guarini Institute for Government and Leadership. Dr. Micu, an adjunct faculty member at Saint Peter's since 2017, brings extensive experience in public programming, higher education and community engagement to the role. This included serving as program manager for the Center for Migration and the Global City and the award-winning Newest Americans project at Rutgers University-Newark, where she managed major community initiatives, grant projects, public events and international collaborations focused on migration, identity and civic dialogue.

Dr. Micu is honored to return to the University to lead the Guarini Institute. "Saint Peter's shaped my academic and professional journey, and I look forward to building bridges between students, the campus community and the broader world through the work of the institute."

She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and urban studies from Saint Peter's, a master's degree in international affairs from The New School and a doctorate in global urban studies from Rutgers University-Newark.

Full Degree Programs in Spanish Set to Begin this Fall

Saint Peter's University will widen its reach to Latino communities and respond to workforce demands with two new Spanish-language degree offerings beginning this fall. The University is the first college or university in New Jersey to implement degree programs taught entirely in Spanish. Enrollment options for Spanish speakers include the Associate of Science in Business Management and the Master of Business Administration with a concentration in business analytics.

"We are addressing a need in the market not just among our students and employers who value a diverse workforce," said President Hubert Benitez, D.D.S., Ph.D. "These programs reflect our commitment to ensuring that language is not a barrier, but a bridge to success in the modern, globalized economy."

With plans to expand bilingual and

dual-language degree options at the undergraduate and graduate level, the initiative advances Saint Peter's status as a leader among Hispanic Serving Institutions. The University was the first institution of higher learning to attain HSI status in New Jersey and in the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. Currently, 41 percent of full-time undergraduates at Saint Peter's are Hispanic.

Dr. Benitez will teach one of the courses offered in Spanish during the fall semester. By leaning into the University's strengths, he said, Saint Peter's is innovating to meet the needs of students and communities. "This initiative is very much in keeping with our Jesuit, Catholic values," he said. "Our mission calls us to serve students who seek opportunities and a gateway to better, purpose-driven lives."



PETE THE PEACOCK VISITS ACCEPTED STUDENTS

Pete the Peacock celebrated National Decision Day by visiting accepted students at Henry Snyder High School, Jose Marti STEM Academy and Hudson Catholic Regional High School in Jersey City. The University looks forward to welcoming the Class of 2029 this fall!

MOVING THE BOUNDARIES OF MATHEMATICAL ACHIEVEMENT



(L to R): Eileen Poiani, Ph.D. H '17, Isabelle Bautista '25, Aakash Pandey '25 and Chad Awtrey, Ph.D.

The 2025 Pi Mu Epsilon Poiani Infinity Award went to the New Jersey Epsilon chapter at Saint Peter's University. The award, established by Eileen Poiani, Ph.D. H '17, chair of the Sustainability Council and professor of mathematics, celebrates chapters that demonstrate excellence in engaging students, organizing impactful events and cultivating a strong mathematical community.

A group from Saint Peter's was on hand to receive the award, which was presented by PME President Chad Awtrey, Ph.D., on January 8 at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Seattle. PME chapter members Isabelle Bautista '25 and Aakash Pandey '25 attended the mathematical gathering, as did Dr. Poiani, a former president of the mathematical honor society.

Dr. Poiani established the award to honor the memory of her parents and to help the PME Council "recognize those chapters that have a proven record of enthusiastically moving the boundary of mathematical achievement forward through innovative programs and activities." The Poiani Infinity Award reflects a deep belief in the power of education and the importance of a solid foundation in mathematics for everyone in all walks of life.

CURA GROWS

An abundance of learning, research
and service is cultivated alongside the
greenery inside the hydroponics lab.



Kesselman Student Fellows (L to R) Catherine Saldana '25, Maraya Cruz '25 and Justin Capin '26 examine seedlings with Brandy Garrett-Kluthe, Ph.D.

An interesting thing happens whenever Justin Capin '26 works a shift at the Center for Urban Research in Agriculture Hydroponic Farm on the first floor of the Mac Mahon Student Center. People passing by can't help but notice the greenery growing inside the glass-walled lab called CURA Farm. Curious, they knock on the door and ask, "What is this place?"

"People are always intrigued," said Capin, a double major in environmental and computer science. He and other CURA Farm team members welcome the interest. Since 2022, the small lab that grows and distributes hundreds of edible plants each year has been a hub for research, sustainability, career preparation and service to the community.

"As abundant as the lettuce we grow, so are the opportunities for students," said Brandy Garrett-Kluthe, Ph.D., associate professor of biology and director of the environmental studies program. She ticks off a list of student outcomes achieved in two years, from hydroponic technical training to research management and professional networking. Community engagement has also been deepened, she noted, because "Saint Peter's students are drawn to be a part of something that is doing good that they can have a direct relationship with."

A SUSTAINABLE WAY TO FARM

Hydroponics, a plant-growing method utilizing soilless cultivation and nutrient-rich water, dates to the ancient Hanging Gardens of Babylon. In the current century of climate change, it's a way to produce certain crops 30 to 50 percent faster using 90 percent less water and land. Dr. Garrett-Kluthe introduced hydroponics in 2020 when the University's SURGE summer camp was held virtually during COVID-19. "I had to get creative," she recalled. Homemade hydroponic kits were distributed to high schoolers enrolled in the STEM camp. The program was so well received, the biology professor pitched a hydroponics lab to be one of two innovation hubs developed as part of the federal \$4.8 million STEM-PODER grant awarded to the University in 2021. "The grant included an innovation hub to provide students with real-life skills and to prepare them for STEM careers," said Dr. Garrett-Kluthe. The second innovation hub, the earth lab, is also under the direction of Dr. Garrett-Kluthe. It will have state-of-the-art equipment for air quality monitoring and environmental testing.

NATIVE MEDICINAL PLANT STUDY IS BORN

The research opportunities the University envisioned for its students quickly emerged once CURA Farm opened. The most prominent is a two-year research study on native medicinal plants conducted by Saint Peter's undergraduates. The study's inquiry, "Are immigrant populations in Jersey City losing knowledge of indigenous and medicinal plant knowledge from their countries of origin?" was prompted by an earlier paper on food sovereignty. "Immigrant Foodways in Jersey City" documented how city residents were losing access to culturally significant foods. Co-authored by Diana K. Chen, Ph.D. (University of Arkansas), Dr. Garrett-Kluthe and Alexis O'Callahan '19, (currently a doctoral candidate in environmental dynamics at the University of Arkansas), the study identified ingredients, mainly lack of fresh produce, as the core barrier to preserving ethnic food culture.

"We looked at what we could grow in here and give it back to the community."

A new group of undergraduate researchers took the food sovereignty study a step further. In 2023, GiannaMaria Guido '24, Maraya Cruz '25, Junanyelis Flores '24 and Capin were named Kesselman Student Fellows for the Advancement of Democracy by Engage NJ, an initiative that empowers teams of students across New Jersey to work on community projects that remove barriers to opportunity. "Many of us [involved in CURA Farm] are biology majors," said Cruz. "We all want to go into medical fields, so I think it inspired us to look at herbal plants and medicine."

"Engage NJ is unilaterally focused on student projects that have identifiable outcomes in communities," said Saul Petersen, Ph.D., executive director of Engage NJ. Kesselman Student Fellows receive training and opportunities to build skills that advance their projects and are transferable to the 21st century workplace.

With \$1,000 in fellowship funding, the group surveyed Jersey City residents from a range of neighborhoods and countries of origin about their knowledge and use of native medicinal plants. Once the team assessed the data, they identified commonly known and used plants and deployed their hydroponic training to grow them. "We looked at what we could grow in here and give it back to the community," said Capin. Biology and environmental science major Catherine Saldana '25 joined the research project in 2024-2025, after Engage NJ provided a second year of funding to grow and distribute native medicinal plants, as well as create a plant knowledge online portal for Jersey City residents.

The Saint Peter's group presented the native plant medicinal study and project at Engage NJ's THRIVE Student Conference and Opportunity Fair in March. The progress and outputs were so encouraging, Engage NJ is funding a third cohort of Kesselman Student Fellows from Saint Peter's. "What we are interested in is replication," said Dr. Petersen. "You could take this sample size hydroponics lab in Jersey City and help multiply it to five or 10 campuses."

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Food grown inside CURA Farm is given away to the Campus Kitchen Food Pantry and the campus community. The current team, Cruz, Saldana and Capin, organized outreach events for Earth Week, recruiting volunteers to harvest and then distribute plants in McGinley Square and for Green Out Day on campus. The academic and service components of the project have encouraged growth in other areas as well.

"I used to be really shy," said Cruz, who wants to become a physician assistant. Convincing people to complete surveys and presenting at the THRIVE conference "allowed me to improve my public speaking skills and get out there." Saldana, who plans to attend graduate school in environmental science, agreed: "Being a Kesselman Fellow has definitely strengthened my public speaking skills. It's also given me exposure to different people and connections." From Niagara, N.Y., to Portland, Ore., Saint Peter's students presented hydroponic and other plant research at the Eastern College Scientific Conference and the Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting.

CURA Farm, meanwhile, has become a sustainable student-run operation. "It's at the point where I come in to check on things or troubleshoot," said Dr. Garrett-Kluthe. Even at a training session for the new cohort in March, the professor's only role was introductions and ice breakers. The students, including Guido, a member of the original cohort and now a graduate student in health sciences, ran the entire process.

No doubt the next group will make the most of the career and life-building opportunities that grow from CURA Farm. "This is open to everyone," said Capin, who plans to remain involved in the hydroponics lab his senior year. STEM students, liberal arts majors and community members interested in making a positive impact on the community are all welcome. He added, "We want more people here to learn about urban agriculture and to have opportunities to do research and gain hands-on experience." 🌱

Follow the developments and progress of this innovative project on Instagram @curafarms.

IT'S A BOLD NEW DAY

Saint Peter's University is going to get loud. Loud about the Jesuit principles that inform all we do. Loud about our track record of care that takes students far beyond the expectations of their circumstances. Loud about the smart, ambitious Peacocks who forge successful careers and lead lives of purpose and consequence.

Fueled by our Ignatian values, *Igniting the Mission: A Bold Vision and Model for Jesuit Educational Excellence* is the strategic plan that will take the University on an ambitious path over the next three years. Our collective vision is to become a national model of excellence in Jesuit higher education, known for extraordinary access, opportunity, outcomes and impact on social mobility.



VISION:

Saint Peter's University will be a national model of excellence in Jesuit education by empowering students from all backgrounds for thriving careers, social mobility and purposeful lives of service, compassion and justice.

Mission & Core Identity

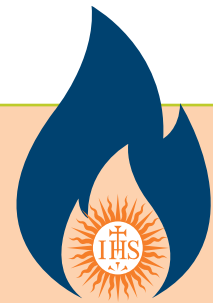


JESUIT MISSION 2.0

There is only one Jesuit University of New Jersey. This distinction is the basis for making the Ignatian ideals embraced by the University better known, understood and valued by the campus community and society at large. Strengthening Jesuit Mission and Core Identity will forge deeper bonds among Peacocks, provide more opportunities for spiritual and personal growth and elevate school spirit. It is also the founda-

tion from which Saint Peter's will achieve its long-term aspirations.

"A Jesuit education at Saint Peter's ignites a fire in students that takes them farther than they thought possible," said President Hubert Benitez, D.D.S., Ph.D. "Advancing our Jesuit mission ignites the *magis* of this community, so the world can see everything the University and its students are capable of."



BETTER, STRONGER AND FASTER

Institutions of higher education are navigating a world that has changed dramatically over the past five years. Our model of strategic planning, "Better, Stronger and Faster," ensures the best possible results.

We will work better by tackling tough challenges and constantly differentiating the lifelong value of Jesuit education at Saint Peter's University. The impact of *Igniting the Mission* will be stronger because community-wide participation will bring the plan to fruition. Our collective vision will be achieved faster with a three-year timeline that provides greater focus, clarity and manageable steps of action.

Strengthening Jesuit Mission and Core Identity



Integrate Jesuit values with greater intentionality throughout the undergraduate experience to support excellence and belonging.



Promote engagement, personalized learning and accompaniment in graduate and online programs that embody the Jesuit mission.



Offer Ignatian formation to all who steward our Jesuit-educated students, including faculty, administrators and staff.



Become a leader in Jesuit education by placing critical thinking, ethical decision making and justice education at the heart of student learning.

Academic Portfolio & Student Experience

MEETING WORKFORCE DEMANDS IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Prospective students' interest in the School of Nursing is on the rise. In fact, enrollment for the 2025-2026 academic year has doubled compared to the previous year for both undergraduate and accelerated nursing degree programs. This development is good news for New Jersey, where the demand for well-educated, clinically ready nurses and other healthcare professionals outpaces the number of college graduates. The state has the third-highest shortage of nurses in the nation, according to the Bureau of Health Workforce. Additionally, an estimated 20 to 30 percent of nurses in New Jersey are projected to leave the profession by 2036.

Saint Peter's University is addressing critical workforce issues and creating greater opportunities for students by expanding its footprint in health sciences education. The centerpiece is a Phase I renovation of Pope Hall that will be ready for the spring semester 2026. The 12,000-square-foot, modernized space will encompass state-of-the-art nursing and exercise science rooms, flexible

learning spaces and advanced interactive technology for clinical education. The investment, made possible by a \$6.2 million grant from the State of New Jersey and \$1 million from Saint Peter's, will double capacity for the BSN, master of science in nursing and exercise science education program. The space will also support the expansion of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program to include other in-demand nurse practitioner tracks that fulfill a vital need in healthcare. "Our purpose is clear," said Accelerated Director of BSN/Nursing Lisa Garsman, Ph.D. "Saint Peter's will be the premier institution for education, training and programs that strengthen the state's healthcare workforce." The phase II project will build out the infrastructure further and support credentialed degree programs, including physician assistant education, public health, social work and consideration of additional degrees leading to clinical licensure.



Academic Excellence Drives Growth

Distinctions in schools and programs throughout the University can be optimized to expand and enrich the breadth, depth and scope of the academic portfolio to meet market needs:



Our Jesuit-educated students pursue STEM at higher rates than the national average; **37 percent of Saint Peter's undergraduates are STEM majors** compared to 24 percent nationwide.



The **Frank J. Guarini School of Business** introduced three new concentrations to the M.B.A. program—artificial intelligence, nonprofit management and machine learning—to meet evolving workforce needs.



Other new programs launching include:

M.A in Clinical and Counseling Psychology
Master in Social Work (MSW)
Ph.D. in Educational Leadership
Doctor in Business Administration

STANDOUT FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

When new Peacocks arrive at Saint Peter's University, they quickly discover that personal care is baked into the student experience. Support from professors, advisors and coaches, along with intentional first-year programming, places Saint Peter's students on the path to college success. These efforts have been instrumental in bolstering student retention and encouraging ownership of personal, academic and career goals.

Igniting the Mission will create an integrated flagship first-year experience that promotes even greater engagement and connections between students and faculty.



100% HIGH IMPACT PRACTICE

One measure of an engaged student body is High Impact Practices, methods that promote deep learning and active participation. HIPs can be undergraduate research, service learning, study abroad, capstone courses and more. Currently, 93 percent of Saint Peter's students participate in one or more HIPs. *Igniting the Mission* will expand opportunities and lean on our strengthened Jesuit mission to ensure that 100 percent of students fulfill an HIP by graduation.



PEACOCKS FOREVER!

Transforming the Jersey City campus over the past decade was a catalyst for invigorating the community and University pride. Students participate in 50+ clubs and activities, find meaningful opportunities to grow in service to others and partake in longstanding traditions that bind generations of Peacocks together. *Igniting the Mission* calls for a strategic review and enrichment of student experiences that boost campus spirit and camaraderie.

The greater sense of belonging will improve student success even further while instilling in graduates an enduring connection to Saint Peter's.



Value Proposition & Differentiation

CAREER READY, THE PEACOCK WAY!

Saint Peter's University understands what students want and need. These insights can help the University distinguish itself from other colleges and universities at a time when competition for students is growing. Silvia Cabreja, director of undergraduate admissions, explained, "One constant is the changing attitude toward career readiness from students and potential employers. Both want to be ready from the jump to dive into the workforce with the skills they need to be successful. We want all our students to graduate with some form of credential or professional development that is highly sought after." Credentialing will better

prepare Saint Peter's graduates, helping them stand out from the crowd with highly sought-after experiences employers value. The University is also looking to offer integrated work experience for all students through campus-based businesses or work-study programs tied to National Association of Colleges and Employers competencies. Additionally, Enriching Value Proposition and Differentiation will explore low-credit or non-credit professional development programs focused on soft skills, networking and personal branding across both undergraduate and graduate programs. Career readiness, the Peacock way!



Adding Real Value to the Saint Peter's Brand

A culmination of strategies will set the University apart from competitors and make us even more attractive to prospective students in all age ranges. Initiatives include:



Create a new and distinctive approach to career readiness. APEX (Academic and Professional Excellence Experience) represents this innovative approach. Career readiness is baked into the accelerated degree program, geared to the growing number of high schoolers who complete associate degrees in secondary school.



Engage alumni and the broader community to enhance the University's brand and student success. The University reinvigorated Saint Peter Day in recent years, a unifying event that celebrates the spirit of giving. The record amount raised in 2025 (119 percent over goal) energized the entire Peacock flock.



Bolster pride and campus engagement to raise school spirit and make our Peacock community more connected than ever. Sharing and promoting the incredible outcomes of our students and graduates tells the Saint Peter's story in compelling new ways. Look for profiles and stories on our social media channels.

Financial Viability & Stability

DIVERSIFY REVENUE STREAMS

Defining the lifelong value of a Saint Peter's education is the essential step to growing enrollment in undergraduate and graduate programs. In the competitive higher education market in which we operate, investments in branding and marketing are vital to reach new audiences, demonstrate what the University stands for and clarify why Saint Peter's graduates are prepared to achieve more in the workplace and on behalf of the people and communities they serve.

Strengthening enrollment, coupled with operational efficiencies and comprehensive fundraising, will diversify revenue streams, steward financial resources and secure a viable and stable future for Saint Peter's.



OPTIMIZE OUR CAMPUS

Igniting the Mission calls on the Saint Peter's community to reimagine the campus master plan. The initiative looks to optimize existing infrastructure and assets to advance access, utilization, sustainability and revenue generation. Integrating advanced technologies to enhance academic and operational excellence will be fundamental to this effort.

BE AN EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

The mission of Saint Peter's draws exceptional students to the University. We will attract and retain world-class faculty and staff by investing in the people who teach, mentor and inspire our students. Ensuring employees have the resources needed, introducing more opportunities for professional development and improving compensation will boost the University's standing as an employer of choice.



Elevate Community Engagement

A FLAGSHIP UNIVERSITY FOR JERSEY CITY

Saint Peter's University is an anchor institution in Jersey City and Hudson County, with strong ties to the greater community through partnerships, outreach and reciprocal relationships. Fueled by Ignatian values, the University is recognized nationally for its commitment to the principles of community engagement. "We always hear from Jesuit institutions that we are the living embodiment of the mission," said President Hubert Benitez, D.D.S., Ph.D. "As we think about ways to ingrain the mission on campus, that thinking also must extend to the Jersey City community and New Jersey. Jesuit values are a guiding principle for how we want to be a partner and leader in this community." *Igniting the Mission* seeks to increase community

partnerships by 25 percent.

Efforts to Elevate Community Engagement are gaining visibility on campus and within the surrounding community. The Campus Kitchen Food Pantry and Clothing Closet reopened on the second floor of the Mac Mahon Student Center this year. Erich Sekel, director of community service, shared, "Having a larger space in the hub of the University gives us more opportunities to welcome the local community and give them a better sense of what we want to do to contribute." Additionally, Ignite Institute, part of the Frank J. Guarini School of Business, expanded its Peacock Pitch entrepreneurship boot camp by partnering with the City of Jersey City.



GREATER CONNECTION to Jersey City and beyond.

The Gold Standard for Community Engagement



Only 25 colleges and universities received the first Carnegie Leadership for Public Purpose Classification in the U.S. in 2024. Saint Peter's University was on the short list of institutions recognized for outstanding leadership development for public service. "Students from these institutions will undoubtedly shape a brighter future for us all, upholding fundamental American values and advancing opportunity for the nation," said Carnegie Foundation President Timothy F.C. Knowles.

Widely considered the gold standard for community engagement and civic scholarship, the Carnegie classification validates Saint Peter's commitment to addressing and solving public challenges for the common good. The recognition also affords greater opportunities to elevate the University's Ignatian-inspired approach to community engagement. Saint Peter's will adopt the Carnegie Community Engagement Framework to enrich mutually beneficial, reciprocal relationships with nonprofit, corporate and public service partners.



Saint Peter's University in 2028

By achieving the strategic direction of *Igniting the Mission*, Saint Peter's University will have established:

- **100 percent of faculty and staff** offered Ignatian formation opportunities.
- **Successive years of fiscally responsible** financial plans and budgets.
- **Stronger brand recognition** for Jesuit excellence and social mobility.
- A portfolio of academic **programs aligned with career outcomes**.
- **100 percent of students** graduate with experiential learning and engagement in at least one High Impact Practice.
- **A 25 percent increase** in community partnerships.
- A growing enrollment of **3,500-plus students**.

LOVE STORY

Their life together started at Saint Peter's. The Phyllis (Amoroso) Cicirelli '70 Memorial Endowed Scholarship is a legacy to their enduring love.



The Dinneen Hall cafeteria was packed with students on a December day in 1966 when Ralph Cicirelli '68 first laid eyes on Phyllis Amoroso '70. Phyllis, a Saint Dominic Academy graduate from Jersey City, was in the inaugural class of 100 women admitted to the Day Session that fall. When she stood up, "We kind of glanced at one another," remembered Ralph. He immediately turned to his friend and asked, "Who is that?"

The brief glimpse across a crowded cafeteria sparked a love story for the ages. Over the next 55 years, Phyllis and Ralph Cicirelli built a beautiful life together. They dated casually at first and then exclusively. They became engaged and married in 1970, just as Ralph was called up for two years of active military duty.

The early years of their marriage were spent in Geissen, West Germany, where Ralph served as an officer in the U.S. Army. "Nei-

ther one of us had done a lot of traveling prior to that and it was a wonderful way to start a marriage," he said. After moving back to New Jersey, Phyllis became a teacher and Ralph landed a position with American Hospital Supply. The couple prospered, raised three boys, welcomed grandchildren and always remained close to extended family.

Not long after Phyllis passed away in 2022, Ralph established The Phyllis (Amoroso) Cicirelli '70 Memorial Endowed Scholarship at Saint Peter's University to support education majors who may also be veterans. "It was something I felt the need to do," he explained. Phyllis loved her profession. A kindergarten teacher in Middletown, N.J., for many years "she got a lot of joy from working with these kids before anyone else and instilling in them a love of learning before they moved on to other grades," Ralph added. In addition to honoring Phyllis' gifts as a teacher, the scholarship will help a new generation of education students achieve their goals, while recognizing the institution that meant a great deal to the couple.

Phyllis was proud to be a member of the trailblazing class of women who changed Saint Peter's for the better.

'A BLESSING TO MANY'

Joyce and Eugene Flinn '80 make lead gift to establish scholarship in memory of Rev. Oscar Magnan, S.J.



According to those who knew him best, Rev. Oscar Magnan, S.J., wouldn't have wanted a big fuss, after he quietly passed away at Murray-Weigel Hall on July 25, 2024. Eugene Flinn '80 thought otherwise. The fine arts professor, who dedicated nearly 50 years to Saint Peter's University, "helped a lot of students develop their

artistic abilities, which was a blessing to so many," said Eugene, who serves on the University's Board of Trustees.

At a memorial held on June 22 at the Mac Mahon Student Center, the Saint Peter's community remembered Fr. Magnan's life

and influence as a Jesuit, teacher, artist and devoted friend. The service coincided with an initiative to establish the Rev. Oscar Magnan, S.J., Memorial Endowed Scholarship, for which Joyce and Eugene Flinn generously made the lead gift. "It's a way to honor Fr. Magnan and keep alive his memory and everything he did for students at the University," Eugene said.

A history major, Eugene became acquainted with Fr. Magnan as president of Argus Eyes. The Jesuit advised on set design and helped students procure props and costumes from New York City's antique and secondhand shops for musical comedies, Shakespeare plays and even a psychedelic staging of *Hair*. "Fr. Magnan spurred creativity in students," said Eugene. "He would also tell you if it wasn't good."

Fr. Magnan's influence turned out to be pivotal for the Flinns, who built lasting restaurant establishments, popular for both food and atmosphere. The couple owned and operated Amanda's



Phyllis Amoroso Cicirelli '70 (far right) in 1966, the year the Day Session became co-educational.

She forged lifelong friendships and came back to campus for reunions and events. "Saint Peter's is where this all started and the scholarship seemed appropriate to do," said Ralph. "She was worthy of being remembered."

Ralph funded the scholarship by making a gift to Saint Peter's using part of his required minimum distribution, utilizing what is commonly referred to as an IRA charitable rollover. The process is simple, said Ralph. "Your IRA custodian can easily setup the rollover for you. Using an IRA charitable rollover is an intelligent and tax efficient way to gift Saint Peter's. It is a win-win for everybody." In addition to financial advantages, the gift is put to use immediately, allowing donors like Ralph to see the difference their donations make.

Ralph's children were all in favor of establishing an endowed scholarship to honor their mother. His son, Mark Cicirelli, made his own gift to accelerate the award of the scholarship as a surprise Christmas present for Ralph. The first recipient of The Phyllis (Amoroso) Cicirelli '70 Memorial Endowed Scholarship will be named in fall 2026. "We're deeply grateful to Ralph for his incredible generosity in endowing this scholarship," said Linda Moore, assistant vice president for individual giving. "It's a very meaningful way to honor Phyllis while helping aspiring teachers, educators and leaders at Saint Peter's blaze their own trails."

That's gratifying to Ralph. He misses the start of the school year and listening to his wife talk about her new students and their different personalities: "Phyllis was a wonderful person, and a great wife, mom and grandma. I loved being with her every day." 🍷

Donors who are 70½ or older can give any amount (up to \$108,000) per year from an IRA directly to a qualified charity such as Saint Peter's University without having to pay federal taxes on the money. Beginning in the year a donor turns 73, they can use the gift to satisfy all or part of the required minimum distribution.

Learn more about how IRAs and other retirement investments can be utilized to achieve your financial and philanthropic goals. Contact Linda Moore, J.D., assistant vice president for individual giving, at lmoores2@saintpeters.edu.

Restaurant in Hoboken, N.J., and artfully restored the Mile Square City's Elysian Café to its late-19th century glory. "Set design is so important to running a successful restaurant," said Eugene. "Fr. Magnan's incredible persistence about details made me more aware and sensitive to that."

"It's a way to honor Fr. Magnan and keep alive his memory and everything he did for students at the University."

The Jesuit community dined regularly at Amanda's, which allowed Fr. Magnan and Eugene to rekindle their friendship in the early 1990s. Eugene later audited the professor's art classes and took up painting. When Fr. Magnan retired to Murray-Weigel Hall in

2019, Eugene helped set up a painting studio so the Jesuit could do what he loved most. He visited the ailing Fr. Magnan twice a week, and the friends had long conversations that Eugene treasures to this day: "It was great to talk to him about art, life and friendship. That was a real gift to me."

Saint Peter's alumni who benefited from Fr. Magnan's gifts as a teacher, mentor and friend can substantially impact the scholarship. The Flinn's generous gift, combined with an additional \$25,000 in donations, would endow the scholarship and support students majoring or minoring in the arts in perpetuity. Asked what Fr. Magnan would think about a scholarship in his name, Eugene responded, "He'd be honored and would truly appreciate it."

Gifts to the Rev. Oscar Magnan, S.J., Memorial Endowed Scholarship can be made by contacting Linda Moore, J.D., assistant vice president for individual giving, at lmoores2@saintpeters.edu. 🍷

Hearts Minds

The Saint Peter's University Scholarship Celebration

Saint Peter's University recognized outstanding service and scholarship on May 14 at *Hearts & Minds: The Saint Peter's University Scholarship Celebration*. Held at The Grove, the annual event honored individuals who truly embody Jesuit ideals through their support of the University: Virginia "Ginny" Forrester Bender, Ph.D. '78, the *Magis* Award; Noreen Heath-Beaman '86 and William Beaman, the Loyalty to Saint Peter's Award; and James G. Rizzo '81, the Professional Achievement Award.

Board of Trustees Chair Kenneth Moore, CFA '91, who sent a video message from his daughter's out-of-state commencement, pledged the first gift of the evening. His generosity sparked donors to step up with contributions for scholarships awarded to Saint Peter's students.

University President Hubert Benitez, D.D.S., Ph.D., noted the instrumental role donors play in creating extraordinary opportunities for today's Peacocks. Echoing the ideals of the late Pope Francis, Dr. Benitez said, "Education is the pathway to creating hope and to creating new happiness in the future. Opportunity isn't a given, but it is a promise that we give at Saint Peter's University. The importance of scholarship support is truly incredibly important."

Recalling her own college experience, Dr. Bender noted that *cura personalis*—care for the whole person—has enriched Jesuit education for generations of Saint Peter's students. The longtime special assistant to the president for institutional planning, chief of staff and secretary to the Board of Trustees at Saint Peter's University said, "Over these past years, I've witnessed that kind of care and opportunity extended to thousands of students, and I think that's what the *magis* means at Saint Peter's: Striving relentlessly for the better, the greater, for and in our students."

Heath-Beaman, an executive coach, head of leadership development at East Bay Executive Coaching and Consulting and a trustee at Saint Peter's, credited her Jesuit education with shaping the moral foundation upon which she built a life of service. "The Jesuit principles of *cura personalis* and men and women for others have been my guiding light," she explained, accepting the award on behalf of herself and husband, William, who enjoyed a distinguished career in finance. "These values have instilled in me a deep commitment to serve, to lead with integrity and always consider the greater good. That is why I'm passionate about paying it forward."

A seasoned financial professional and community leader, Rizzo described reconnecting with the University and marshaling a group of Saint Peter's alumni working at his firm to provide fundraising support: "We all said, 'This is what we have to do for this school that has given so much to us and has helped us in our careers.'" 🏆



1.



2.



3.



4.



1. William Beaman, Noreen Heath-Beaman '86, President Hubert Benitez, D.D.S., Ph.D., Virginia "Ginny" Forester Bender, Ph.D. '78 and James Rizzo, '81
2. Virginia "Ginny" Forester Bender, Ph.D. '78, recipient of the *Magis* Award
3. Noreen Heath-Beaman '86 and William Beaman, recipients of the Loyalty to Saint Peter's Award
4. James Rizzo '81, recipient of the Professional Achievement Award
5. Ernabel Demillo, Chair of the Department of Communication and Media Culture
6. Board of Trustee member William T. Price III '91, Elena Price and President Benitez
7. Board of Trustee member Eugene O. Flinn '80 and Leah Leto, M.Ed. '05
8. Saint Peter's students enjoyed an evening of mingling with alumni and friends of the University
9. The evening's awards

Send us your

NEWS

- Landed your first job?
- Retired from your last job?
- Met the love of your life?
- Celebrated a milestone anniversary?
- Welcomed a child?
- Welcomed a grandchild?
- Reminiscenced with friends from Saint Peter's?
- Received a promotion or honor?

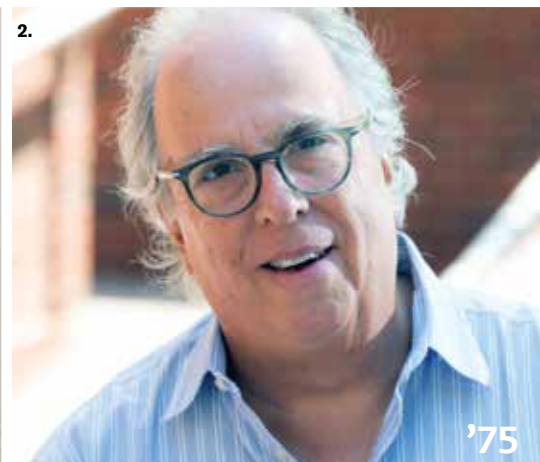
Saint Peter's University welcomes any and all news about your career, education, family life and reconnecting with other alumni. Submit class notes to alumni@saintpeters.edu or send to:

Office of Alumni and Donor Engagement
2641 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Jersey City, NJ 07306
alumni@saintpeters.edu

1.



2.



3.



1957 **Ronald W. Tobin** will celebrate his 90th birthday this year. In March, he welcomed his seventh great-grandchild, and also met up with classmate **Larry Armentano** during his annual visit to Florida.

1959 **Lt. Col. Thomas Foley** and his wife, Maryellen, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. They recently moved to Shaker Pointe retirement community in Latham, N.Y., from Kennebunkport, Maine. Lt. Col. Foley and Maryellen met on October 10, 1958, at Saint Peter's at a play and dance. They are both avid travelers and have visited more than 70 countries.

Harold Heinz celebrated his 61st wedding anniversary on May 23. He also retired from the permanent diaconate for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, after serving for 42 years.

1966 **Stanley Zaborowski** shares sad news of his youngest son Jason's passing. Jason was 49 years old.

1967 **Richard Marcel Cardillo** and his wife, Mary Duncan Cardillo, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on a Disney cruise with their three children, Richard, Sarah and Kate, and their eight grandchildren. Their celebratory dinner occurred at Laico's with the rest of the Duncan family alumnae.

1969 **Joseph Hordych** and his wife, Patty, welcomed the addition of his first granddaughter, Braylee Rae Hordych, into the family. After three grandsons, she's a welcome change!

1972 **MaryAnn McGuigan's** new collection of short stories called *THAT VERY PLACE* comes out in September. Her creative nonfiction has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

1974 **John Anderson** was elected president of the New Brunswick, N.J., City Council after taking over as vice president when another council member won a New Jersey State Assembly seat. This is John's second go-around as president.

1975 **Jim Fusilli's** 10th novel, *A Song for Katy Shayne*, was released in April.

Thaddeus Guzowski and his wife, Barbara, are proud grandparents of their first granddaughter, Spencer Olivia, born on October 31, 2024, in Chicago, Ill.

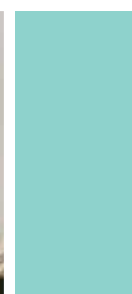
Robert Kennedy is teaching biology and ecology part-time at Ramapo College of New Jersey. He retired from full-time teaching at Tenafly High School in 2022.

Vincent Scuro has two films that will be released, *Woman in Motion* and *Drone Runner II*.

Jacqueline Zanelli-Cicchetti retired in June 2023 after 35 years of teaching in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa. She taught eight years at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in language arts, and 27 at Lancaster Catholic High School as chair of the English Department. She and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21. They tied the knot one month after their graduation from Saint Peter's.



'96



'98



'97

1. 1972: MaryAnn McGuigan 2. 1975: Jim Fusilli 3. 1975: Jacqueline Zaneli-Cicchetti
4. 1996: Deborah Zelasny 5. 1997: Elaine Santiago 6. 1998: Robert Ryan

1976 **Judith A. Valente Reynard** recently released *The Italian Soul: How To Savor The Full Joys of Life* (Hampton Roads Publishing), which focuses on what we can learn from Italy about living more mindfully and joyfully. A collection of her poems and short reflections is also forthcoming.

1977 **Richard F. Brazicki** is a retired police inspector after 32 years of service with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department. In January 2025, he became director of security for Walpack Historical Society.

1979 **Claude E. Gagna, Ph.D.**, is a professor, molecular biologist and anatomist at the New York Institute of Technology, Old Westbury, N.Y. He was recently elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He has also received the Long Island Business News 2025 Health Care Heroes award in the Individual Scientific Innovation category.

1983 **John Wiegartner** and his wife, Jeanette, were recently recognized with Lifetime Achievement Awards at Plainsboro, N.J., Township's 8th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day "Make a Difference" Volunteer Awards. Both were recognized by local and state officials for their outstanding dedication to the community and are life members of the Plainsboro Rescue Squad (35+ years of service), having held many positions within the organization.

1985 **Rev. Wilfred S. Royer, Ph.D.**, celebrated his 35th anniversary of the holy priesthood on June 4.

1993 **Carolyn (CT) Smith** and her husband, Tom Stabile, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They reside in Rutherford, N.J., with their adorable four-year-old daughter, Carly Smith Stabile. Carolyn is currently serving on the Alumni Board of Saint Peter's University.

1995 **George L. Garcia**, a partner and co-chair of the Real Estate and Land Use group at the law

firm Connell Foley LLP, has been appointed to the firm's Executive Committee.

1996 **Gustavo Adrianzen** was named assistant family division manager in the Union Vicinage for the Superior Court of New Jersey.

📷 **Deborah Zelasny's** first book, *Key of the Darkhouse*, was just published and is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. She thanks retired Saint Peter's professor Rev. Robert McCarty, S.J., for the support and inspiration when she was his student years ago.

1997 📷 **Elaine Santiago** was promoted to senior fundraising manager at Several Sources Shelters in March.

1998 📷 After 25 years with the Bayonne Police Department, **Robert Ryan** retired as a captain in December 2024 and was able to celebrate with some of his closest friends from Saint Peter's, including members of the Class of 1997. In attendance were **Marissa Castle**,



7. 2009: Jonathan Carrillo 8. 2018: Maryam Syed
9. 2021: Ian Concevitch

Yvette Perez, Kathleen Hoban, Michele Temples, Jennifer Methe and Sabina Bruno.

2006 **Miguel Trinidad** and his wife, **Ashley Maikranz-Trinidad '06**, recently launched Travel by Trinidad, a concierge-style travel agency that brings a shared passion for planning unforgettable vacations to life. From cruises to all-inclusives, they help families and couples create lasting memories—something they value deeply from their own travels with their daughter.

2007 **Nico Victorino, Ed.D.**, is a recipient of The Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership through the National Blue Ribbon Schools program and credits much of his success to Saint Peter's University.

2009 **Jonathan Carrillo**, an attorney in the Newark office of Littler, the world's largest employment and labor law practice representing management, was elevated to shareholder effective January 1. Across its United States, Mexico and Singapore offices, the firm elevated 28 attorneys to shareholder status.

2017 **Zakee Conte-Smith**, a medical scientist at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, presented "The Health Care Journey" to an attentive audience in Gannon Hall on February 13. Conte-Smith offered informative, inspirational and wise advice from his own academic and professional journey to students interested in pursuing careers

in STEM and health. Conte-Smith earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Saint Peter's University, and a second Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science from Rutgers University-Newark. He completed a Master of Science in Biomedical Science from Rutgers University in 2024.

Pamela Johnson will be running for the Ward A City Council seat in Jersey City.

2018 **Maryam Syed** presented at The TESOL International Convention & Expo this year on "Global Citizenship for All."

2021 **Ian Concevitch** is teaching high school health and personal fitness, as well as coaching varsity high school baseball, at Savannah High School in Savannah, Ga. He is also playing professional baseball in the summer, most likely in Martinez, Calif.

2022 **Eberlyne Legerme** received a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Administration from Saint Peter's University in May.

2023 **Kristen Brennan** landed her first job at Wagner College as an accounting analyst in the Finance and Business Office.

2024 **Wendy Brewster** received her master's degree from Saint Peter's University in May.

2025 Delaney Reception



The Class of 2025 received its official welcome into the Saint Peter's University alumni community at the John J. Delaney '50 Graduate Reception on May 18. University Trustee Bill Price '91 addressed Saint Peter's newest alumni and urged graduates to, "Help the next generation of Peacocks write their own Saint Peter's stories."

This graduating class is off to a good start. Its members presented a check for \$4,584.33 to the University, the largest class gift in recent memory. Well done, Peacocks!

Florida Receptions



Jane and Russel Stern '70 and Peter and Annette Corbin '84 hosted alumni at Sailfish Point in Stuart on February 18.



An alumni Mass and brunch was held on February 16, at the Vineyard Country Club in Naples, hosted by Josephine and Thomas O'Reilly '69.

A Tribute to Alumni



On February 23, the University community gathered to celebrate the extraordinary generosity of donors to *Peacocks Rise: The Campaign for Saint Peter's University*, and unveil a permanent tribute to the alumni, friends and partners who contributed \$10,000 or more during the most ambitious campaign in Saint Peter's history, which concluded in June 2024.

Donor support allowed Saint Peter's to forever change the lives of promising students, and the donor wall stands as a testament to the profound impact our donors have on the lives of Peacocks—now and for generations to come.

Mike Brown '56 Alumni Golf Outing



Alumni and friends gathered at Metuchen Golf and Country Club on June 3 for the annual Mike Brown '56 Alumni Golf Outing. It was exceptional day on the links!

SAVE THE DATE

William J. & John P. Murray Peacock Athletics Golf Outing

Monday, August 18
Maplewood Country Club
28 Baker Street | Maplewood

Tournament includes 18 holes of golf, (with prizes awarded for longest drive and closest to the pin), athletics department apparel, Beat the Pro and a silent auction. Participants will be treated to a brunch before hitting the links, as well as a post-tournament reception and dinner. The golf outing serves as the department's largest annual fundraiser, benefiting all 16 athletic programs. For more information, contact John Tagliaferri, associate athletic director for digital media and communications at jtagliaferri@saintpeters.edu or (201) 761-7305.



Silver & Gold: Peacocks Forever

Celebrating the Milestone Reunions of the Classes of 1975 and 2000

Saturday, September 20

For more information, please email
alumni@saintpeters.edu or call (201) 761-6122

Catching Up With... Sabin Pradhan '16, '18



Sabin Pradhan '16, '18 at a Habitat for Humanity event.

What do free pizza, paper planes and convincing professors to offer extra credit have to do with succeeding as a lead data scientist using artificial intelligence at General Mills, the packaged food giant with a market cap over \$30 billion?

For Sabin Pradhan '16, '18, it all goes back to his time with the Saint Peter's University Physics Club. When he and his friends were struggling to attract more than a handful of attendees to their lectures on astronomy, flight and plasma, they turned to some creative troubleshooting.

Want people to show up for your astronomy documentary? Pizza. Want to get them thinking about the Wright Brothers? Paper plane contest. Need enough people for a guest lecture? Get a professor to offer extra credit to anyone willing to write a paper on the esoteric topic of plasma science. "We went from having four people show up to standing room only in Pope Hall," Pradhan said. "The sales side of data science is all about asking how I can take something that's really complex and figure out what really matters to the folks I'm trying to engage with."

Today, that experience helps Pradhan play a key role at General Mills, where he has spent the last five years helping shape the company's technical direction by using artificial intelligence and machine learning to optimize operations. A highlight was being the recipient of the 2025 AI Momentum Maker Award for building high-value AI pipelines in whitespace domains that unlocked new opportunities for the company. "I spend a lot of time identifying new opportunities within our data," he said. "A big part of my role is guiding the technical direction to help shape our approach."

Put simply for the average General Mills customer, Pradhan says his job is all about finding groundbreaking ways to

improve "the efficiency with which our products make it onto your shelf." While his day-to-day work involves algorithms and machine learning models, he credits his liberal arts education at Saint Peter's with helping him process the philosophical dilemmas at the heart of artificial intelligence.

"The problem goes from being a technical problem to a much more philosophical one," he said. "What is the nature of truth? Data is full of randomness. What is the true signal within the data?" Courses in philosophy, religion and history gave him the ability to think critically and consider the broader implications of his work. "How do you make sure that you're taking into account a diverse set of lenses to analyze the problem, not just from the perspective of whether this can be done technically, but also how it will affect society in the future?" he continued. "The core curriculum at Saint Peter's really helped me learn to think across multiple different lanes while analyzing a problem."

Technical chops and critical thinking aren't all that Pradhan brought with him from Saint Peter's to General Mills. He's also carried over his love of extracurricular science, winning the company's 2024 AI Hackathon and organizing its AI Summit and Advanced Analytic Forum, events that brought hundreds of professionals together under one roof.

Pradhan arrived at Saint Peter's from St. Xavier's School, the oldest Jesuit school in his native Nepal, and was drawn to Jersey City due to the University's "opportunities and generosity," as well as its proximity to New York City. After graduating *cum laude* with an undergraduate degree in math with a double minor in physics and computer science, he completed a master's degree in data science, one of the University's fastest growing programs.

At a Data Science Showcase held at Saint Peter's in December, Pradhan offered students one key piece of advice: Focus less on mastering every technical tool and more on solving meaningful problems. He drew a parallel to his physics courses, where complex math only became valuable when applied to real-world challenges. "The most difficult math classes I took were my physics classes, because you had to put the tools in context of a problem you're solving," he said.

When he's not working, Pradhan stays active by making the most of Minnesota's distinct seasons: "During the wintertime, I've taken up cross-country skiing...that kind of gets me out in the Minnesota winters. This year, I'm trying to do more water sports, so maybe a little bit more paddleboarding and kayaking." 🏄

Requiescant in Pace

Saint Peter's University wishes to extend its prayers and condolences to the families of alumni, members of the University community and friends who have passed away.

Thomas B. Anderson '67	John J. Foley '41	Angelo R. Lombardi, D.D.S. '43	Hon. Sheree V. Pitchford, Esq. '93
Edwin A. Angeloro, D.D.S. '43	Joanne B. Fraser '94	Joseph M. LoPresti, M.D. '42	Sandra N. Procel '11
Bernard J. Barry '65	John J. Galvin '52	Edward Mahon '00	Patricia A. Redden, Ph.D.
Victor A. Bergwall, USMC (Ret.) '54	Francis J. Godfrey, M.D. '43	Edward A. Mara '43	Henry Terry Reid
Susan Bienkowski '81	Frederic N. Goger '76	Michael L. Marino '75	Fred E. Reinl '71
Edward W. Bogart '60	Philip P. Graye Jr., D.D.S. '56	John P. Martin, Ph.D. '61	Charles A. Ribaldo '61
John A. Botti '43	Helen M. Smyth Griffin '96	Samuel G. Mauro '61	James N. Richardson '64
William O. Brady, USA (Ret.) '67	Raymond F. Hanbury, Ph.D. '67	Thomas P. McGuinness '54	Ralph R. Russo '70
John W. Burke, Ed.D. '57	Lucille M. Herten, CPA '88	Harry J. McNally '35	Gerard E. Schlask '75
Robert H. Burke '60	James P. Holian '75	Kenneth K. McNulty Sr. '51	Irwin M. Schultz, M.D. '44
Raymond J. Cavanagh '63	Msgr. James F. Johnson '37	Anthony F. Mecca '77	William L. Scott '41
Joseph M. Chirico '74	Gustav S. Kane '60	John F. Meehan, M.D. '66	Michael J. Siciliano, Ph.D. '59
Ann L. Cibelli '74	William J. Kellett '58	Francis J. Mertz, Esq. '58	Robert A. Sugrue '75
Carmine J. Cicchino '68	Edward J. Kenney, Ph.D. '42	John E. Mintz '50	Matthew Tavaglione '76
James J. Conroy '68	Ivan J. Koremba '01	Michael V. Morelli, D.D.S. '43	Vincent J. Tkac '36
Anthony J. Critelli '63	John H. Kouvel '60	Thomas H. Mullin '64	William Von Der Lieth, M.D. '41
Charles Dellalana '55	William A. Kozeracki '43	Alfred J. Nadler '67	Joseph G. Vrindten '56
Albert C. Derenzo	Carlton A. Krantz '64	David J. O'Connell, Ph.D. '62	Arthur F. Williams Jr. '66
Eugene J. Eichenberg, Esq. '40	Thomas F. Krissak '70	Joan O'Neill '83	Thaddeus J. Wisla '54
William M. Ewasko '65	William J. Lau '65	Walter J. Palasits '53	Thomas F. Youngblood, Esq. '68
Richard E. Fabrycki '73	William J. Lehner, USA (Ret) '56	Edmond R. Perrone, D.D.S. '38	Thomas Edward Zoeller '58
Robert L. Ferguson '80	Armand F. Leone, M.D. '43	Michael J. Pirozzi, M.D. '45	Harvey C. Zymet, D.D.S. '45



How to Make a Gift in Memory of a Loved one

A gift made to honor a loved one who has passed is a meaningful way to ensure their memory lives on. Such gifts offer a lasting tribute while providing family and friends the satisfaction of knowing they have helped future students. For more information on ways to honor a loved one through a current gift or planned gift, please contact Linda Moore, J.D., assistant vice president for individual giving, at (201) 761-6128 or Imoore2@saintpeters.edu.

Frank Mertz worked every day to make education better



For nearly every day of his long and illustrious career, **Francis J. Mertz, Esq. '58** worked to improve education in New Jersey. The first lay person to hold the position of executive vice president at Saint Peter's University and the *president emeritus* of Fairleigh Dickinson University passed away on March 26.

Born and raised in Newark, N.J., Frank Mertz attended Saint Peter's Prep and Saint Peter's University. He majored in economics, attained the University's highest academic honor, Most Noble Order of the Peacock, and was a Gannon Debater. Mertz later earned a *Juris Doctor* from New York University.

The concept of senior lay leaders was new and untested when Saint Peter's President Rev. Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J., named Mertz executive vice president. Mertz set the standard for lay leadership that others would follow. He was decisive, inclusive and committed

to expanding opportunities for students. One of Mertz's initiatives, the internship at the Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C., profoundly impacted the Saint Peter's interns selected for the program.

In the 1980s, Mertz was the leading voice for independent higher education in New Jersey. In a dual role as president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey and the Independent College Fund of New Jersey, he successfully advocated for public, corporate and philanthropic support of the sector.

One AICUNJ institution, Fairleigh Dickinson University, tapped Mertz as interim president in 1990. It was a critical time for the school. Two years later, Mertz was inaugurated as FDU's fifth president and the University celebrated its 50th anniversary with rising enrollment, a balanced budget and a renewed sense of vigor. "The feeling on campus and within New Jersey's higher education community is that the school has made a remarkable comeback," wrote *The New York Times*.

Beloved and respected, Mertz led FDU until his retirement in 1999, when he was awarded the title *president emeritus*. He retained a lifelong affinity to Prep and Saint Peter's, accepting the University's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004. Mertz is survived by his wife of 61 years, Gail, six children and 11 grandchildren. 🏠

Breaking Barriers



Teacher. Researcher. Mentor. Advocate for chemical safety and people with disabilities. **Patricia Ann Redden, Ph.D.**, professor *emerita* of chemistry, assumed all these roles and more as a cornerstone of the academic community at Saint Peter's University. Dr. Redden passed away peacefully on March 9.

"Pat will be missed dearly," said Associate Professor

of Chemistry Yosra Badei, Ph.D. "Her legacy and devotion to the chemistry department and its students will always be remembered in the halls of Gannon."

From the start, Dr. Redden broke through barriers when she arrived

at Saint Peter's in 1969. She was the first female scientist in the science department and the longest-serving chair of the chemistry department. Devoted to students, Dr. Redden mentored many who went on to become doctors, dentists and scientific researchers.

Outside the classroom, Dr. Redden turned her passion for service into the popular Puppy Club. The club provided students the opportunity to train service dogs for the nonprofit Companion Canines for Independence. "Having a service puppy on campus raises awareness of what disabled people can do if they have the help," she told *Saint Peter's University* magazine in 2018.

A tireless advocate for inclusivity for people with disabilities in the sciences, Dr. Redden was an active member of the American Chemical Society's national committees on Chemists with Disabilities and Chemical Safety. The ACS bestowed the 2025 Award for Volunteer Service on Dr. Redden for 45 years of service in advancing chemical safety, support for chemists with disabilities and outreach.

Dr. Redden is survived by her daughters, Maggie Redden '15 and Mariya Redden. 🏠

MillenALUM

Saint Peter's Alumni of the New Millennium

ANY AMOUNT COUNTS

Recent graduates often feel that they need to make a big gift to make a difference. Even \$20 makes a difference in providing vital scholarships and learning experiences for current Saint Peter's University students. Start your giving journey today!

Make your gift and transform student lives by scanning the QR code below.

For more information on how you can make giving even more impactful, contact:

Jessica Oudhnarine
Director of Annual Giving
joudhnarine@saintpeters.edu
(201) 761-6109



Saint Peter's
UNIVERSITY

The Jesuit University of New Jersey



Saint Peter's
UNIVERSITY

Office of Communications
and Marketing

2641 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Newark, NJ
Permit No. 118



PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Thursday, October 23, 2025

The Duncan Family Sky Room

Jersey City, NJ

This invite-only event recognizes those who have become members of our premier donor recognition societies.



To learn more about Saint Peter's donor recognition societies and make a donation today, scan the QR code.