

# IN THE CLASSROOM

## DEEPENING A U.N. PARTNERSHIP

Saint Peter's College is furthering its ties to the United Nations and creating exciting opportunities for students along the way.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Alexander Mirescu, Ph.D., who worked as an in-house research consultant for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and continues to consult for the international agency, has facilitated the partnership. When the UNDESA commissioned the Saint Peter's professor for a book chapter on anti-corruption matters in Eastern Europe and the post-Soviet Republic, Dr. Mirescu tapped Karla Mendez '12, a student in the Honors Program, to assist with the project.

Visits to the U.N. and roundtables with high-level officials are another recent development. Last fall, students in an introductory political science class toured the Security Council and General Assembly, and the senior seminar class, "Global Inequality" met with Asoka Kasturiachrachi, Ph.D., a senior policy official at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) headquarters.

"We had an energetic and stirring conversation," said Dr. Mirescu. The

professor further explained that the partnership showcases the unique learning experiences available to political science students outside the classroom.

Saint Peter's relationship with the U.N. began in 2004 when the College became a designated U.N. Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). The Guarini Institute for Government and Leadership also assists undergraduate and graduate students seeking internships through the UN/NGO CONNECTIONS program.



Alexander Mirescu, Ph.D., and Karla Mendez '12

## SPORTS MANAGEMENT AND THE JESUIT SENSIBILITY

As industries evolve, so does the responsiveness of College faculty members like Karl Alorbi, Ph.D., and Richard Petriello, Ph.D., who teamed up to develop a new sports management minor.

Dr. Petriello, professor and acting director of health and physical education, and Dr. Alorbi, assistant professor of business administration, took notice of predicted job growth in sports, recreation and fitness over the next decade, and the fact that the industry grosses \$194 billion annually. "It is critical to always look for new ways to give your students the competitive edge in the marketplace," said Dr. Alorbi.

The sports management program was first introduced this spring semester, and already, 14 undergraduates have committed to the minor. The minor is available to all students.

Dr. Alorbi is confident that students studying sports management at the only Jesuit college in New Jersey will stand out from their peers. "All students taking the minor in sports management are required to go through the Saint Peter's College liberal arts core curriculum," he explained. "By giving our students the moral compass to navigate this challenging arena, they will be equipped to lead the sports industry in a more ethical way."

Dr. Petriello is thrilled that the College introduced the program, but at the same time, not surprised because, "I've been teaching here for 40 years and Saint Peter's has always been open to finding new ways to better furnish its students."

"Saint Peter's College is about grooming leaders for industry and society," concluded Dr. Alorbi. "We want our students to become socially responsible leaders in the sports management industry."

## YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM GROWS

Since 2009, veterans have attended Saint Peter's College at little or no cost, courtesy of the Yellow Ribbon program, a government benefit authorized under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act. Under the program, Saint Peter's matches the U.S. Department of Veterans' funds dollar for dollar, to pay eligible veterans' (and their dependents) outstanding tuition and fees not covered by the federal bill.

Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing Terence Peavy notes that the College's comprehensive academic offerings and flexible delivery methods are well suited to veterans. Participants are earning traditional bachelor's degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences/School of Business Administration (CAS/SBA), M.B.A.s through the Graduate Business program and are completing a number of undergraduate degrees in a blended format of face-to-face instruction and online learning in the School of Professional and Continuing Studies (SPCS).

"It's really a wonderful benefit that allows veterans to turn their educational goals into action," said Peavy. "Whether a student is starting college or returning to complete a degree, they're finding that we're an institution that does everything across the board."