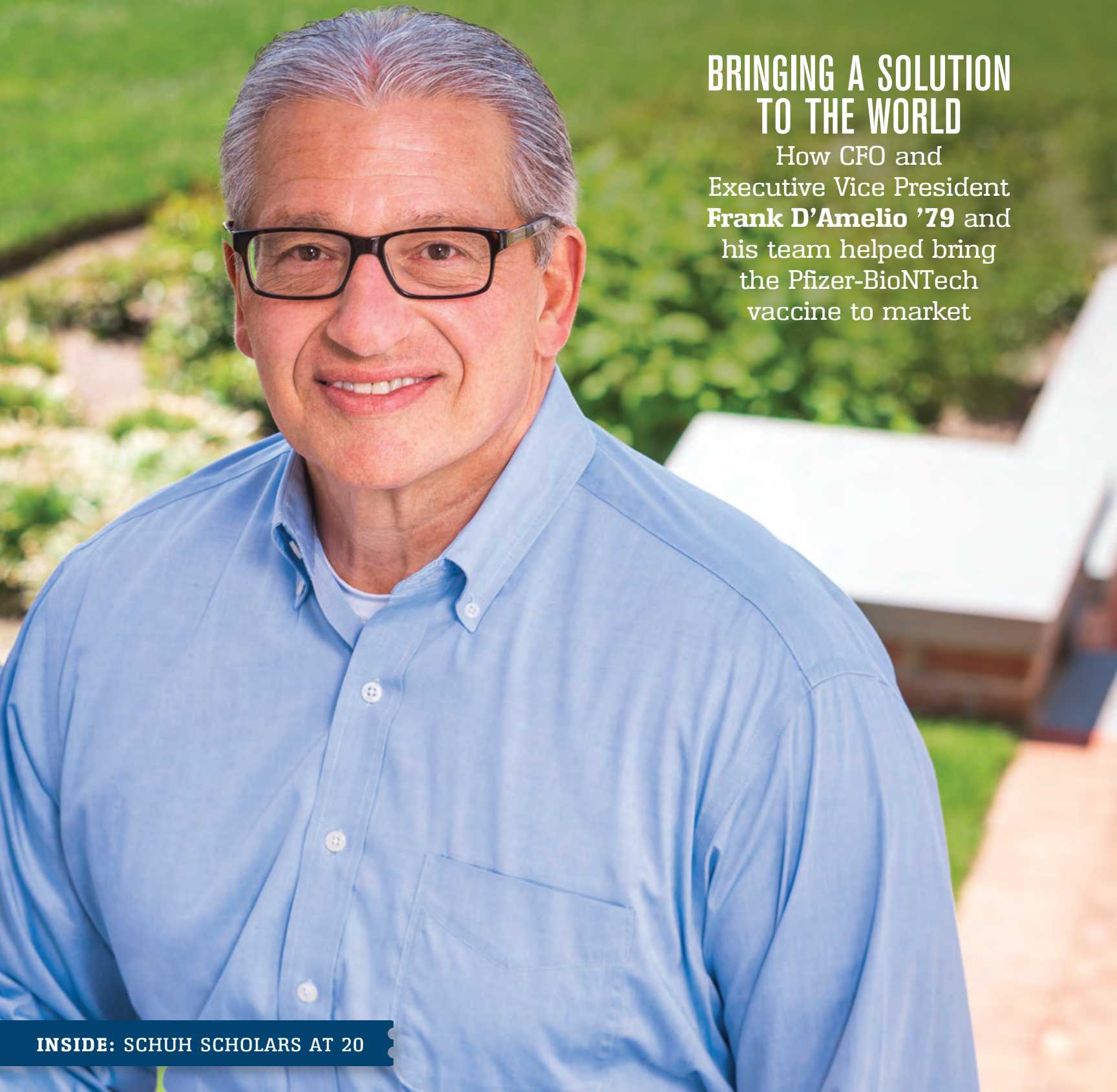




# Saint Peter's

## UNIVERSITY

Magazine  
SPRING 2021



## BRINGING A SOLUTION TO THE WORLD

How CFO and  
Executive Vice President  
**Frank D'Amelio '79** and  
his team helped bring  
the Pfizer-BioNTech  
vaccine to market

INSIDE: SCHUH SCHOLARS AT 20



## Pure Joy

Peacock Nation had a lot to celebrate on March 12. The women's basketball team's defeat of Rider University in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) semifinal in Atlantic City marked the first time in 19 years the program advanced to a conference championship. The Peacocks made their 13th appearance in the MAAC Championship Final, the second-highest total by any school in the conference.

Despite falling to Marist in the final the next day, the Peacocks concluded a historic season with 13 wins—accounting for their highest single-year win total in well over a decade.





## The Best Measure of Our Impact? Our Graduates!



The best way to illustrate the lasting impact of Jesuit education at Saint Peter's University is to look at our graduates and what they go on to do. For a small university and an active alumni body that numbers 35,000, Saint Peter's has produced an extraordinary share of leaders in nearly every profession, including business, education, law, nursing, government, public policy and more.

One of these leaders is Pfizer CFO and Executive Vice President, Global Supply Frank D'Amelio '79, who played a critical role in delivering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to the world to combat the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic. Like so many of our alumni, Frank was the first in his family to graduate college and his story is a powerful reminder that a Saint Peter's education can take you anywhere you want to go in life.

We also celebrate in this issue The Rev. Joseph E. Schuh, S.J. Scholars Program that began 20 years ago to support science students in the pursuit of medical school, doctoral programs and advanced degrees in medicine. It was inspired by Rev. Joseph E. Schuh, S.J., endowed by the late John Connolly, M.D. '57 to pay homage to Professor Schuh, and led by an incredible scientist and mentor since 2001, Schuh Professor of Health and Natural Sciences Leonard Sciorra, Ph.D. After reading the stories of the eight Schuh Scholars

featured on these pages, all I can say is, wow! The work these Saint Peter's alumni are doing—and the contributions they are making to medicine, industry and the country—is a testament to the personal care we show all of our students, every day and in every discipline at this great University.

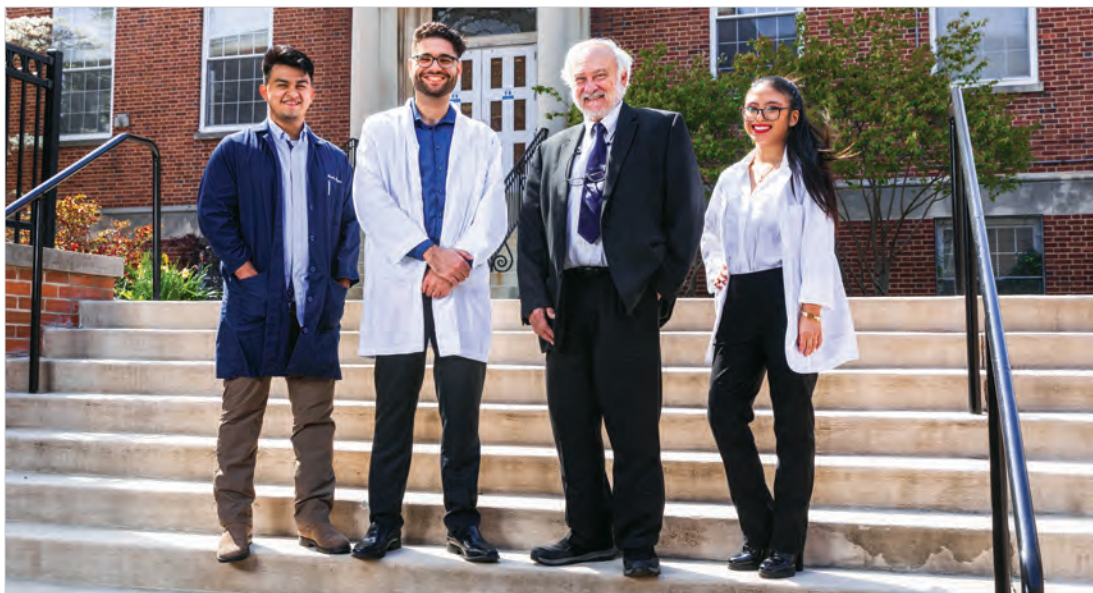
You have many more reasons to be peacock proud as we close out an academic year in which we all continued to grapple with the global pandemic. We honored two classes, 2020 and 2021, at virtual and in-person commencements, launched a new strategic framework to navigate the challenges and opportunities over the next three years and came together as a community for *Hearts & Minds: The Saint Peter's University Scholarship Celebration* in support of the General Scholarship Fund.

**“For a small university and an active alumni body that numbers 35,000, Saint Peter's has produced an extraordinary share of leaders in nearly every profession, including business, education, law, nursing, government, public policy and more.”**

There will be more to celebrate as we prepare for the official kickoff of our Sesquicentennial this fall. Stay tuned and engaged via Saint Peter's social media, our website and this magazine. We will honor our glorious past and look forward to the next 150 years of educating students who change the world.

Sincerely,

Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D.  
President



## HOW TO REACH US

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Frank D'Amelio '79, Pfizer CFO and  
executive vice president, global supply

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**You**Tube **vimeo**

*Photographs taken on campus for  
this issue followed the University's  
coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic  
social-distancing protocols.*



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### SPRING 2021 SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY

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Saint Peter's University Archives





## CELEBRATING THE CLASSES OF 2020 AND 2021



Saint Peter's University celebrated the accomplishments of 1,694 graduates from the classes of 2020 and 2021 virtually and in smaller, in-person commencement exercises held during the months of May and June. Virtual commencement ceremonies were held on May 21 for the Class of 2020 and on June 3 for the Class of 2021.

Rev. Gregory Boyle, S.J., H '20 founder and director of the world's largest gang-intervention and rehabilitation program, Homeboy Industries, addressed the Class of 2020 at the 129th commencement exercises for the University. Carlos A. Medina, Esq., H '21, president and CEO of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, addressed the Class of 2021 at the 130th commencement exercises. Fr. Boyle

and Medina each received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

Two Baccalaureate Masses, a long and popular tradition at Saint Peter's, were held in May and June to give thanks to God for our graduates and their many accomplishments and to ask God's blessing upon them as they begin new chapters in their lives.

A series of personalized commencement experiences for both classes took place in June. Recipients of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, along with their guests, had the opportunity to attend an in-person ceremony for their college or school at The Duncan Family Sky Room in the Mac Mahon Student Center. The events were live streamed for graduates to share with family and friends. 🏰



## COMING BACK TO CAMPUS



President Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D., announced on March 12 that Saint Peter's University intends to return to primarily in-person classes, programs and events for the fall 2021 semester. "We are certainly looking forward to returning to 'normal,' but be aware that things may look and feel different as we prioritize the health and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and administrators," Dr. Cornacchia stated.

On April 6, the University resumed limited capacity tours for prospective and accepted students from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Delaware. The resumption of all on-campus operations is being done in accordance with the latest state and federal health and safety guidelines. The University is also prepared to adapt its plans at a moment's notice should a health or safety issue, or government mandate, require it to do so.

## Guarini Institute Brings Leaders of Distinction to University Community



Gabrielle Sulzberger

Gabrielle Sulzberger is widely known as a successful financier, former chairman of the board of Whole Foods and breaker of glass ceilings. The co-founder of the private equity firm Rustic Canyon/Frontis Partners also grew up in Trenton, N.J., and was the first in her family to go to college, so a natural affinity was already established when Sulzberger spoke to the Saint

Peter's University community on February 11. "Do the work" was one piece of straightforward advice offered in "Lessons in Leadership: A Conversation with Gabrielle Sulzberger," a Zoom event moderated by Ginger Gold Schnitzer, executive director of the Guarini Institute for Government and Leadership and director of the Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) program. Sulzberger also stressed the importance of finding mentors and shared that her own path was not a straight line to success, but one that required patience, persistence and competence.

The Guarini Institute brought leading figures in public policy and government to its virtual campus throughout the spring. Jeanne Fox, former administrator of EPA region 2 for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and former commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) spoke on "Climate Catastrophe: How Do We Mitigate It," and a panel of experts discussed "Can the Constitution Survive COVID-19?" The Institute also introduced the "Healing America" series which featured Hon. Bonnie Watson Coleman, the U.S. representative for New Jersey District 12, and U.S. Senator Cory Booker.

## TWO OF A KIND



Deyra Acosta '21 believes any moment is a great moment to capture a beautiful image. The fine arts major is one of seven graduating seniors whose work was featured in "The Rebel's Revolution: Senior Thesis Art Exhibition" which premiered virtually on IGTV on April 15.

"Two of a Kind" (see photo left) was taken by Acosta on an iPhone 8 Plus. "There is a specific attention to detail and subject that comes with black and white photography, which I love," Acosta explained in her thesis presentation.

The senior thesis class and exhibition were overseen by Beatrice M. Mady, M.F.A., graphic arts coordinator and director of the Fine Arts Gallery at Saint Peter's University. Works by student-artists included photography, graphic art, painting and illustration.



# PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY AND DATA

## CYBERSECURITY TRENDS AND REMEDIES PRESENTED AT SPBN EVENT



Doug Falduto '86



Tim Gallagher '90

There is now a hacker attack every 30 seconds, and these cyber-crimes are hardly limited to large corporations. Forty-three per-cent of cyberat-tacks target small

businesses, and the average cost of a data breach exceeded \$4 million in 2020. Two cybersecurity experts, Doug Falduto '86 and Tim Gallagher '90, discussed the ramifications of cyberattacks and the measures people can take to protect their companies, small businesses and personal data at the virtual Saint Peter's Business Network (SPBN) event "Cybersecurity: What You Know vs. What You Should Know" on March 4.

Falduto is vice president of administration and chief security officer at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. Gallagher is a 20-plus-year veteran of the F.B.I. who is now managing director with Kroll Business Intelligence and Investigations Practice and head of the company's New York office. The alumni teamed up to provide insights on securing data and privacy in an increasingly online world in the session moderated by KPMG Dean of the Frank J. Guarini School of Business Mary Kate Naatus, Ph.D. Here are a few insights and tips from the session to minimize your risk of cyberattacks. →

**1. Pay attention to ransomware**, a form of malware that encrypts and prevents access to data until a ransom is paid. "Attacks are predicted to reach \$20 billion in 2021, up from \$325 million in 2015," Falduto cautioned. Small businesses are prime targets for ransomware attackers. "They are counting on the fact that you might not be maintaining or patching your system the way a major corporation might," Gallagher explained. Both experts advise businesses to replicate data and files in a secondary environment to protect information.

**2. Invest in employee education whenever possible.** "The numbers are staggering in terms of human error or human action that causes an incident or event from a cyber perspective," said Falduto. Focusing your energy and resources on employee training and awareness of cyberthreats can go a long way in mitigating the risks that can compromise your business.

**3. Be judicious about sharing information online.** "Every crime begins with reconnaissance," Gallagher stated. "That's something to think about in terms of your social media accounts. How much stuff are you putting out there that can be formulated into an attack plan? The less that's out there, the harder you will make it for bad actors to put together a plan to attack you."

To watch the entire event, "Cybersecurity: What You Know vs. What You Should Know," visit <https://www.bitly/34FpJFE>.

## ASK THE PROFESSORS

### SHOULD SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS LIKE FACEBOOK AND TWITTER BE REGULATED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND, IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT?



**Barna Donovan, Ph.D., professor of communication**

Absolutely not! The regulation of social media would establish

a dangerous precedent, creating a chilling effect on free expression. Such governmental authority to compel speech would also be a clear violation of the First Amendment. The antidote to offensive online speech, conspiracy theories or fake news, is more speech, criticism, and debate, but not censorship.



**Marilú Marcillo, Ph.D., associate professor of business**

The government should regulate social media platforms because of

their role in how information is disseminated. Private social media companies are driven by their shareholders' needs, but their role extends beyond those needs since they serve the public good. Congress regulates radio, TV and newspapers and should also regulate social media policy to ensure the public good is prioritized.



**Georgia Kral, instructor, communication and media culture**

Recently we have seen the alarming proliferation

of misinformation on social media. These platforms have shown that controlling hate speech and fake news among a massive user base is too big; the technology does not exist to moderate the speech of billions of people. The government has a role to play in figuring out how to control this problem.





Saint Peter's  
UNIVERSITY



## SESQUICENTENNIAL KICKOFF

Saint Peter's University unveiled a logo, theme and website in anticipation of the Sesquicentennial celebration set to kick off this fall. Bold graphics and iconic imagery that utilize the keys to the kingdom of heaven given to Saint Peter and the Peacock mascot bring the milestone anniversary to life. The message "Opportunity for Generations" speaks to the University's long history of opening doors for promising, hardworking students, many of whom are the first in their families to graduate college.

Special events and programs to mark the 150th anniversary of Saint Peter's will be announced later this summer. These events will commemorate the past, present and future of The Jesuit University of New Jersey. *Saint Peter's* University magazine will also devote its fall 2021 issue to the Sesquicentennial.

Visit the Sesquicentennial website for updated news and events at [saintpeters.edu/150](http://saintpeters.edu/150).

## O'Toole Library Adds Rare Copy of *Spiritual Exercises* to Collection

The Theresa and Edward O'Toole Library has acquired the crown jewel of Ignatian spirituality for its Rare Books and Special Collections: A 1676 copy of *The Spiritual Exercises* by Saint Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus. Library Director Daisy DeCoster, M.L.I.S., M.B.A. '14, said the 17th century book is an important addition to the historic collection of Jesuit books, texts and manuscripts. "The book contains 55 plates that were designed to illustrate the contemplative process of *The Spiritual Exercises*. It's a groundbreaking text that is still incredibly relevant, and we're excited to share it with the University," she said.

Many acquisitions for Rare Books and Special Collections are made possible by an endowment created by Eugenia M. Palmegiano, Ph.D., J.D., professor *emerita* of history. The copy is currently on view in the O'Toole Library. DeCoster anticipates the book will be utilized in a variety of ways ranging from classes on Ignatian history to events involving the St. Aedan's: The Saint Peter's University Church community. A library exhibition featuring the 1676 edition of *The Spiritual Exercises* is also planned for the near future.







# Vitality Value Viability

THE SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY  
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR 2021-2024

Saint Peter's University has come a long way in the last decade. VISION 2015, the first strategic plan enacted under the leadership of President Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D., built and strengthened the infrastructure of the University through the expansion of graduate programs, new and renovated facilities and the attainment of university status. *Pathways to Distinction*, the strategic plan that followed, enhanced all facets of the student experience, resulting in record graduate and career outcomes and expanded experiential learning opportunities.

Now, *Vitality, Value and Viability: The Saint Peter's University Strategic Framework for 2021-24*, will take the University through its next evolution with a forward-looking plan designed to help the institution adapt, respond and thrive amid the changing higher education environment.

"We can't predict all the new realities and expectations for colleges and universities," said Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Planning Virginia Bender, Ph.D. '78. "But this plan was developed by taking a hard look at trends, listening to our students and anticipating the skills and experiences our graduates will need to lead productive and meaningful lives." Using a three-year framework, the plan addresses the key issues affecting colleges and universities nationwide: Changing demographics and the decline of 17- and 18-year-olds entering college and heightened competition for traditional undergraduates, student expectations for individualized, relevant and flexible learning op-

portunities, as well as shifts in public opinion about debt and the return on investment of a college degree.

Three high-level directives—vitality, value and viability (see below)—allow for creativity and flexibility to tackle the challenges identified in the plan and to capitalize on opportunities. The end goal is a stronger, more resilient, nimble institution able to advance its nearly 150-year mission of student-centric, Jesuit education that changes lives for the better.

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**"The plan is a strong one because it is built on the creativity and resiliency that came out of adversity."**

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Dr. Bender credited the scores of students, faculty, staff and administrators on the strategic plan committee and planning teams, along with the Board of Trustees, who persisted with a process that began in the fall of 2019 and continued throughout the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic. "COVID-19 was a disruptor and accelerated the changes we're seeing in higher education," she stated. "The more we dealt with the immediate challenges of the pandemic, the more we realized we needed a longer-term framework to move forward. The plan is a strong one because it is built on the creativity and resiliency that came out of adversity."



## Vitality

Build an inclusive, optimally sized University distinguished by Jesuit values and excellence.



## Value

Strengthen student achievement and learning outcomes through contemporary *cura personalis*.



## Viability

Increase institutional fiscal strength, agility and sustainability.



## SIMULATION EDUCATION 2.0



Students in the School of Nursing have been working with manikins—the lifelike patient simulators used to represent real-world clinical scenarios—for some time. With significant upgrades to the Nursing Lab unveiled in May, Saint Peter's University nursing students are now exposed to the latest in simulation education. The technology also establishes greater flexibility in the delivery of experiential learning.

The newly updated simulators, or SIMs, have advanced capabilities and can manifest an array of patient vital signs and symptoms. They can also be programmed to speak and to respond as clinical interactions unfold. "It's an essential piece of learning now," said Dean of the School of Nursing Lauren O'Hare, R.N., Ed.D. Cardiopulmonary arrest, or "code," requiring immediate resuscitation, is one of the critical scenarios run in the Nursing Lab using SIMs. "When our students do their clinical rotations, a code is something they may not see or experience," Dr. O'Hare continued. "When you have to respond to your first code as a nursing professional, it's pretty intense. It's valuable to have that experience in a simulated lab."

Enhancements to the Nursing Lab—which include laptops, monitors, screens and software to operate the SIMs and provide essential feedback on clinical performance—were made

possible by an anonymous donor and generous contributions from alumni and friends. Motivated by Saint Peter's mission and the critical need for quality care, the donor offered a dollar-for-dollar match to all gifts made in support of the School of Nursing, and future frontline heroes, up to \$100,000. Donor support has also made possible enhancements to classroom instruction, provided state-of-the-art equipment and opened doors so that Saint Peter's nursing students can build stronger professional networks. The School of Nursing is also better positioned to continue clinical education even if circumstances call for remote learning as they did with the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic. The introduction of Hy-Flex (hybrid flexible) classrooms in Pope Hall will allow a group of nursing students to observe and learn from a simulated clinical scenario in a separate location while a small team runs the procedure. "The new technology really connects students to experiential learning in the best possible way," said Dr. O'Hare.

*For more information on supporting the School of Nursing, please contact Scott Donovan, director of annual giving, at (201) 761-6109 or [sdonovan@saintpeters.edu](mailto:sdonovan@saintpeters.edu).*





## Making the Most of Summer

These Saint Peter's University students are three of many looking forward to a summer of career-building opportunities.



Vincenzo Marna '21



Ryan Marsh '22



Koral Booth '22

**Vincenzo Marna '21** will be doing a summer internship at Johnson & Johnson in finance. He graduated from Saint Peter's in May with a bachelor's degree in business management and will complete the accelerated master's degree in business analytics in December.

**Ryan Marsh '22** landed a coveted Global Capital Markets (GCM) Summer Analyst internship with Morgan Stanley. At the start of the academic year, the business and finance major was selected to be

a team member of the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) with Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC. For the better part of a year, Marsh has worked with Lord Abbett investment professionals, gaining firsthand exposure to the management of client assets.

**Koral Booth '22** is a communication major with a journalism minor, a member of the Goldman Sachs Local College Collaborative (LCC) and will be covering the Hudson County political beat in a news-writing internship with [insidernj.com](https://insidernj.com).



### BUSINESS STUDENTS ATTEND VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Saint Peter's University business students competed in the 2021 IBESCC, a global business ethics competition, and earned second place in the 10-minute presentation category. Loyola Marymount University's College of Business Administration in California hosted the virtual event on April 8 and 9.

The University's team was composed of five students: Marie-Christine Geck '21, Fatema Khan '22, Martin Le Pays Du Teilleul '21, Andrea Rosas '22 and Jili Zhu '21, and their faculty advisor Marilú Marcillo, Ph.D., associate professor of business. This innovative competition enabled students from around the world to persuasively apply ethical reasoning to practical issues and the moral imperative of sustainable development goals (SDGs) that focused on a wide range of social, environmental and economic issues.



## 29 THESES DEFENDED BY HONORS STUDENTS

A year of remote learning didn't stop 29 seniors in the Saint Peter's University Honors Program from completing original, independent research on a chosen topic. Honors Program students successfully defended their research to the University community in presentations held in April via Zoom.

The body of research produced this academic year represented a wide range of disciplines and academic majors in science, business, nursing, the humanities and social science. The relevancy of topics was especially notable as honors students delved into issues of equity, social justice, sustainability and the impacts of the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic.

The work of more than 120 Honors Program students can be found in the University's Digital Repository established and managed by the Theresa and Edward O'Toole Library. Visit <https://repository.saintpeters.edu> to learn more.



## Saint Peter's Message to Prospective Students: We Mean What We Say



A new mission-driven enrollment initiative is making its case to prospective college students: Academic excellence, individual attention and affordability are all possible at Saint Peter's University. The effort combines the "Experience the Difference" marketing campaign with two critical initiatives designed to enhance the accessibility of Jesuit higher education.

Through a variety of media, the "Experience the Difference" campaign highlights the many benefits of a Saint Peter's education, from *cura personalis*—the personal care of each student—to leading academic programs, outstanding faculty, career readiness, location, diversity and more. "There is a real difference in Jesuit education, and we're inviting prospective students and their families to explore the many ways a Saint Peter's education transforms lives," explained Elizabeth Sullivan, vice president for enrollment management and marketing.

In keeping with the University's Jesuit mission to serve a diverse population, Saint Peter's launched new strategies to

assist students with college affordability. Earlier this year, Saint Peter's announced its new *Gateway Tuition Program*, which promises zero tuition for New Jersey residents who meet qualifying criteria, starting with new first year students, as well as new transfer students enrolling for the fall 2021 semester. In addition to tuition, the program covers comprehensive fees and the new student orientation fee. Full-time undergraduates who are Pell Grant-eligible, with a household income of \$65,000 or less and an expected family contribution below \$5,846, may qualify for consideration. The University will review potential awardees based on submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).


Ultimately, the University's goal is to make a Saint Peter's education available to a broader pool of students. Sullivan said, "We mean what we say: This University is committed to providing all students with an exceptional and affordable college experience. Through these mission-driven strategic efforts, we are building a bridge to higher education for more students."

### Veterans Initiative

The University is also renewing its dedication to veterans, active military personnel and military families who want to pursue higher education. The qualities embodied by members of those with a military background align well with the Saint Peter's mission. According to the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University, 62 percent of veterans are first-generation, and their diversity mirrors that of the general population. Members of the military also have a strong commitment to serving their communities and their nation, which is a natural fit for Saint Peter's Jesuit mission to educate men and women for others.

To develop comprehensive educational support, Saint Peter's recently launched an initiative to raise funds to expand access and services dedicated to veterans and active duty military, as well as the establishment of specialized programming to assist with transitioning to civilian life or supporting students in active service.

Learn more at [saintpeters.edu/admission/veterans](https://saintpeters.edu/admission/veterans).

For information on how you can contribute to the University's veterans initiative, please contact Leah Leto, M.Ed. '05, vice president for advancement and external affairs, at (201) 761-6110 or [lletto@saintpeters.edu](mailto:lletto@saintpeters.edu). 

# SCHUH SCHOLARS AT 20

The Rev. Joseph E. Schuh, S.J. Scholars Program began with a bold aspiration: Provide opportunities for Saint Peter's University undergraduates to gain entrance to medical school, Ph.D. programs and graduate school, so they would go on to make a difference in medicine and their chosen professions.

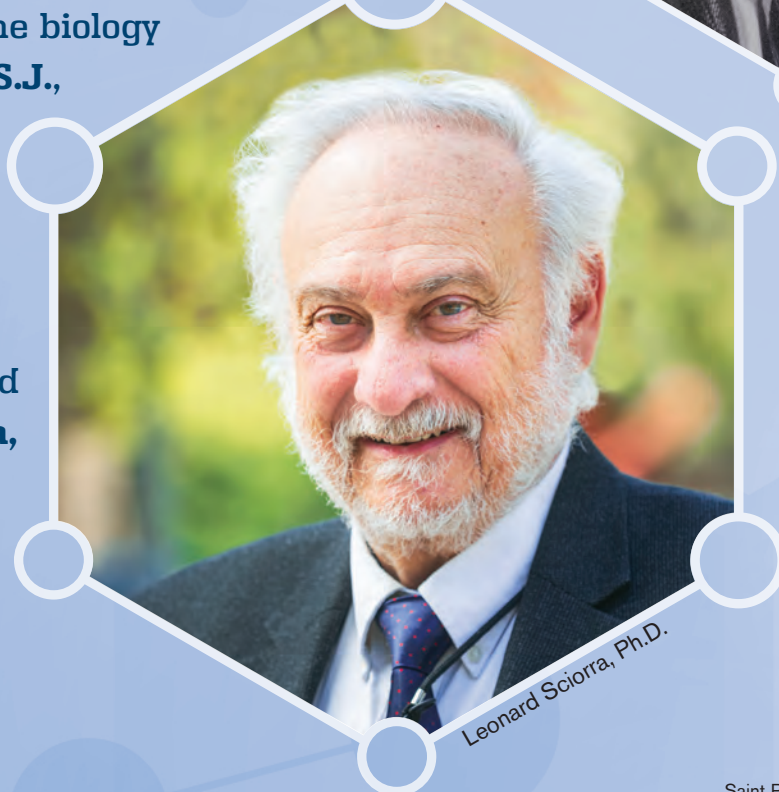
Twenty years and 67 Schuh Scholars later, the idea is reality. Graduates of the selective program are training the next generation of OB/GYNs, helping critically ill children get better, accelerating the pace of innovative biopharmaceuticals and more. Three individuals are catalysts for these outcomes. The memory of longtime biology professor **Rev. Joseph E. Schuh, S.J.**, inspired the program. The late **John Connolly, M.D. '57**, a highly respected orthopedic surgeon, endowed it. Since its inception in 2001, Rev. Joseph E. Schuh, S.J. Professor of Health and Natural Sciences **Leonard Sciorra, Ph.D.**, has led the program with a huge dose of *cura personalis* and by connecting students with internships, mentorships and hands-on research.



Rev. Joseph E. Schuh, S.J.



John Connolly, M.D. '57



Leonard Sciorra, Ph.D.

Read on to  
see what  
eight Schuh  
Scholars are  
doing today.





## Reconstructing Lives



A typical week for Edward Hahn, M.D. '04 can involve replanting the amputated finger of an accident victim one day and breast reconstruction following a patient mastectomy another. "I love the vast scope of practice," said Dr. Hahn, a board-certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon who is fellowship trained in hand and microsurgery. The first in his family to attend college,

ing nights and weekends as a paramedic.

It was a taxing schedule, and still, he seized the opportunity to become a Schuh Scholar. The funding allowed him to conduct genetic research on atypical lipomas, or fatty tumors, at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, which bolstered his CV and interest in cancer research.

Dr. Hahn continued his medical education at Rutgers, graduated at the top of his class and landed one of only two plastic surgery residencies established in New Jersey at the time. "I honed a strong work ethic that served me well in medical school because I had to work so hard in college," he explained. "The confidence to pursue a competitive residency, the ability to set and reach goals, I think a lot of that came from Saint Peter's."

By the time he began his residencies, the alumnus discovered his passion and talent was reconstructing patients' lives after cancer surgery, a traumatic injury or congenital anomaly. "Plastic surgeons restore form and function to the human body," said Dr. Hahn, who also serves as assistant professor of medicine at Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. "It's very gratifying to ease the suffering of patients and the ailments that impair them or impact their quality of living. I really enjoy caring for so many different people, from different backgrounds and their families."

the surgeon traces his many successes in medicine and in life back to Saint Peter's University and the Schuh Scholars program.

Before Saint Peter's, Dr. Hahn worked as an EMT and then paramedic at Hackensack University Medical Center, where he frequently followed the cases of patients he brought to the emergency room. "I had a thirst to learn more medicine and to care for people," he recalled. At age 28, Dr. Hahn enrolled at the University and double majored in biochemistry and chemistry while work-

## The Challenges and Rewards of Caring for Critically Ill Children



From the age of eight, Jennifer Gillen, M.D. '06 knew she wanted to become a doctor: a pediatric gastroenterologist, to be precise. "Things did mold and change," said Dr. Gillen, who is a pediatric critical care specialist at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

It's demanding but gratifying work. As

Emeritus of History Jerome Gillen, Ph.D. '66, she was encouraged to find mentorships and guidance to get into medical school. "I was the first in my family to pursue medicine. I didn't have family members I could talk to about how to create a medical school application or present yourself as an attractive candidate."

While an undergraduate, Dr. Gillen worked in a lab as part of a summer research program at the University of Pennsylvania, which got her comfortable and ready for the clinical research she conducts today. Dr. Gillen was valedictorian of her class and earned a medical degree from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. She did her residency at the New York University School of Medicine and went on to a fellowship in pediatric critical care at New York Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Center.

The critical care pediatrician still relies on her Jesuit education, especially as an assistant professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, where she is among a team of specialists training residents and medical students. "So much of our Saint Peter's education was learning how to think," she said. "That definitely informs how I teach now because there is so much that we don't know in medicine. It's more about the process than just getting to the answer."

a physician who takes care of critically ill children, Dr. Gillen continues to be amazed by the resiliency of her patients. She admitted, "There are good days and bad days," but also noted, "I see a strong difference in how kids come into the ICU and how they leave here. We make a big difference in our patients' and families' lives. We have the potential to do that."

The Schuh Scholars program was in its early days when Dr. Gillen arrived at Saint Peter's University. The daughter of Professor

## Accelerating the Pace of Therapeutic Innovation



If a biotechnology company seeks private financing for a promising drug, Bigyan Bista, Ph.D. '07 may be the scientist who is assessing its probability of success. "Our mandate is simple: Find really innovative ideas that will meet the highest unmet need to improve human health," said Dr. Bista, a biotech analyst for Rock Springs Capital, a hedge

fund specializing in the healthcare and biotechnology sectors.

If that sounds like a tall order, it's one Dr. Bista is uniquely qualified for, beginning with his time as a Schuh Scholar at Saint Peter's University. A graduate of St. Xavier's College in Kathmandu, Nepal, Dr. Bista was among the first group of students from the Jesuit secondary school to attend Saint Peter's. He discovered the University in an American college guidebook because it checked so many boxes: Jesuit, proximity to New York City and scholarship

**"Our mandate is simple: Find really innovative ideas that will meet the highest unmet need to improve human health."**

support. More St. Xavier's graduates followed the path he forged and by the time Dr. Bista graduated, there was a cohort of 12 to 15 international students from Nepal.

### MENTORED BY PROFESSORS

The self-initiative that drove Dr. Bista to attend college 7,500 miles from home served the biology and mathematics major well. "I found myself to be extremely fortunate to have been at Saint Peter's at the time. The professors were really mentors," he said, citing Professor of Mathematics Gerard P. Protomastro, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics Brian Hopkins, Ph.D., and Schuh Professor of Health and Natural Sciences Leonard Sciorra, Ph.D., as big influences.

As an undergraduate, Dr. Bista wanted in on research, and Dr. Hopkins connected him with a summer study in mathematical biology in Park City, Utah. The following summer, Dr. Bista conducted research in the Department of Neuroscience at the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham. Other opportunities arose on campus. In 2006, when the University was prepping its biotechnology program, Dr. Bista and several classmates set up and ran experiments in the lab for confocal microscopy.

Dr. Bista considered a career on Wall Street after graduation, but his interest in biology won out. "I knew a doctoral program would

be long and it would be tough, so I had to be sure it was a commitment I was willing to make," he recalled. Dr. Bista worked in a cancer biology lab at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine and kept in close contact with his Saint Peter's mentors. "I saw how the research enterprise works and that gave me the confidence to apply to the best doctoral programs in the country."

### NEXT STOP: MIT

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was at the top of his list. Dr. Bista continued to do research in cancer biology at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT and completed a doctorate in biology in 2016. As a newly minted Ph.D., he landed a position at Clarion Healthcare in Boston, a company that hires accomplished scholars to advise pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology firms and other life science organizations. As a strategy consultant, "I was wearing my scientific hat, digging deep into the science and literature, and leveraging my scientific background to address the tough business challenges biopharmaceutical and other companies face."

Dr. Bista then joined a strategy team at AstraZeneca, a biopharmaceutical company, where he was in charge of investment decisions for Phase III trials of immunotherapy drugs used in the treatment of lung cancer. In his current role at Rock Springs Capital in Baltimore, Md., Dr. Bista was involved in the investment decisions of 20 innovative biotechnology companies in the past year. In this highly technical and specialized field, he delves into everything from the origin of the idea for a therapeutic, to the experimental phases, both pre-clinical and clinical, the assessment of the C-Suite management team and correspondence with the FDA.

### TRAINING COMES FULL CIRCLE

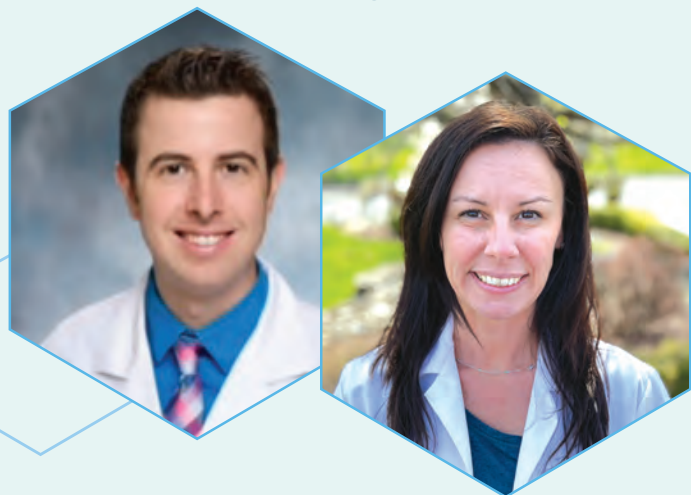
"Having a front row seat to witness some of the most exciting biology, chemistry and chemical biology ideas morph into innovative medicines, and be able to evaluate the most promising science and reward them with investment to increase the pace of innovation is an absolute privilege," he stated. "The research I was doing as a Schuh Scholar and then my experiences at NYU and MIT really all came full circle," Dr. Bista continued. "They are all foundational to what I do now because I evaluate ideas on their scientific merit, making use of all of my research and scientific training."

### Gap Year

It's not uncommon for Schuh Scholars to take a gap year or two to demonstrate their readiness and dedication to medical school or a doctoral program. Many, like Bigyan Bista, Ph.D. '07, gain experience in a lab. Others use the time to study for the MCATs or conduct independent research.



## Schuh Scholar Siblings



Becoming a Schuh Scholar—and then a doctor—is a family tradition for Kristen LoRe-Ziobro '04 and her brother, Justin Lo Re '11. Raised in Bayonne, the two landed at Saint Peter's University due to a bad case of homesickness.

"I got accepted to my dream school of Penn State University and lasted only five days before being so homesick that I left and decided I needed to be closer to home," Kristen recalled. She applied to Saint Peter's, planning to stay a semester while she sorted things out, but fell in love with the University and stayed on.

While Kristen went to Bayonne High School, Justin attended Saint Peter's Prep: "My high school's motto of molding its students into men of competence, conscience and compassion has really stuck with me throughout my education and young career. My sister's connection to Saint Peter's, particularly through Dr. Sciorra, helped me ultimately decide on Saint Peter's."

### DR. SCIORRA'S INFLUENCE

Dr. Sciorra is Leonard Sciorra, Ph.D., Schuh Professor of Health and Natural Sciences, who oversees the program that influenced both siblings. "I was in Dr. Sciorra's immunology class when I was asked to be a Schuh Scholar," Kristen said. "That class was one of the tougher classes I took there, but I still use what I learned in that class today daily as an OB/GYN."

Justin described Dr. Sciorra's guidance as pivotal. "Dr. Sciorra has been one of my biggest mentors throughout college and beyond. He had a knack for explaining complicated topics in a very easy-to-understand manner. He sought to always build knowledge from the foundation up, which is the most effective means to teach. I've tried to emulate this methodology in my own career when teaching medical students and residents."

### A PATH TO THE FUTURE

Being a Schuh Scholar helped solidify Kristen's decision to apply to and attend medical school. An internship working as a research

coordinator on a diabetic research project also supported her goals: "It was my first experience working in a clinical setting, and I loved being part of a team and around the office."

Justin also found that the Schuh Scholar experience helped lay a firm path to the future. For two years, he conducted cutting-edge research in the Center for Microplasma Science and Technology (CMST) alongside WeiDong Zhu, Ph.D., the former director of CMST, who is now Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. During his senior year, he presented findings at the International Workshop on Microplasmas and in his gap year between college and medical school, Justin co-authored a book chapter on stem cell technologies with Rezma Shrestha, Ph.D. '10 (see story opposite page).

Kristen went on from Saint Peter's to the College of Osteopathic Medicine, New York Institute of Technology, with a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Currently, she is in a hospital-based private practice, Deal Lake OB/GYN in Asbury Park, delivering babies at Jersey Shore University Medical Center (JSUMC). In addition to private practice, she is part of the faculty at JSUMC, helping to train future OB/GYNs.

**"Dr. Sciorra has been one of my biggest mentors throughout college and beyond... He sought to always build knowledge from the foundation up, which is the most effective means to teach."**

Justin earned his medical degree from Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his internship in internal medicine at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS). He completed a neurology residency at RWJMS, serving as chief resident for neurology during his final year, and is undertaking a fellowship in clinical neurophysiology at JFK New Jersey Neuroscience Institute. This summer, he will be joining a neurology private practice, Lawrenceville Neurology Center, in Lawrenceville.

### DOCTORS' ADVICE

Both siblings offered words of wisdom for current and prospective Schuh Scholars.

"This COVID-19 pandemic has made for trying times," Kristen said. "The last year probably has not played out the way you would have liked it to; however, do not let this deter you from your dreams. Continue to study hard, chase after your goals and remember to have some fun along the way!"

"My advice would be to get to know your professors very well in the science department," said Justin. "Try to establish a close relationship with a mentor or two, as I did with Dr. Sciorra. It will pay large dividends, for both your personal and professional development."

## From Schuh Scholar to Senior Research Scientist



Becoming a Schuh Scholar was an important step for Rezma Shrestha, Ph.D. '10. A Presidential Scholar at Saint Peter's University who was part of a cohort of international students from Nepal, Dr. Shrestha had the opportunity to conduct research at Duquesne University the summer after sophomore year. "It was something I wanted to continue at Saint Peter's and, thankfully, I

was able to join the student research group," she recalled. Schuh Professor of Health and Natural Sciences Leonard Sciorra, Ph.D., mentored the group, which led the biotechnology major to the Schuh Scholars Program.

Dr. Shrestha gained crucial experience through the program, with summer research internships and work as a research assistant with Dr. Sciorra, developing an innovative procedure using non-embryonic stem cells. She credits these intensive research experiences with fueling her interest in pursuing a Ph.D. "The

process of designing and conducting experiments had a huge impact on how I thought about scientific questions, and that lab experience early on inspired me towards the path of training to be a scientist. That critical way of thinking continues to shape both my personal and professional life."

At Princeton University, Dr. Shrestha was fully funded on her path to earning a doctoral degree in molecular biology in 2017. She specialized in cell biology of the skin, and in her last year of graduate school, discovered TRI Princeton, a world-leading research initiative focused on hair and skin testing. The scientist was fascinated by how the institute integrated research that serves both academic and industrial interests. She joined the institute as a postdoctoral fellow and is now a senior research scientist tasked with leading investigations on hair, skin and other biological substrates and applying the findings to the advancement of cosmetic science.

Dr. Shrestha has some suggestions for the new generation of Schuh Scholars. "The pursuit of science is filled with challenges and a lot of complexities, something that might be overwhelming when you first start out. Make conscious efforts to nurture the sense of curiosity that first sparked your interest. In light of that, anything good or bad that arises will only strengthen your love for learning."

## The Road to Dental School



Ara Herrera '19 wasn't thinking about becoming a dentist when she left Lima, Peru, at the age of 12. She was happy just to join her mother in New Jersey and begin her new life. She eventually graduated from Sayreville War Memorial High School and applied to Saint Peter's University after her stepdad, who had attended the University, suggested she consider it.

Herrera, who majored in biochemistry, found her calling after careful deliberation. In high school, a presentation about careers prompted her to do research on dentistry. The summer after her freshman year, Herrera participated in a medical/dental enrichment program at Rutgers University, which, she said, "completely convinced me."

Schuh Professor of Health and Natural Sciences Leonard Sciorra, Ph.D., helped Herrera make sense of a process that may be less clear-cut than, say, applying to medical school. "Everyone knows

about the MCAT," Herrera said, "but who knows what exam you take for dental school?" Dr. Sciorra helped her figure all that out, from choosing a school to preparing for the dental school exam.

On the road to dental school, Herrera heard some interesting information about scholarships available through the U.S. Army. She learned that qualifying students can receive full tuition plus a monthly stipend through the F. Edward Hébert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP).

Today, Herrera is in her second year at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. She is also a second lieutenant in the Army. She has two more years of dental school and, after graduation, she will pick a location and work on an Army base as a captain. The HPSP will also pay for a residency or special program of study if she becomes interested in a dental specialty. "I was able to do all this because my Saint Peter's connections helped me," said Herrera, who encourages current Saint Peter's students to do the same.

"Talk to your professors and ask questions," Herrera advised. "I wasn't afraid to say 'I don't know what I'm doing. How do I even start applying?' When I met Dr. Sciorra, I didn't know he would help me with all this. I found him at the exact time I needed him. Try to find a mentor."



## Invaluable Experience



Though she is in the process of applying to medical school, Azuri Hughes '20 already knows what she wants to pursue, interventional cardiology, and why. "I have seen how people of color, especially members of my family, disproportionately suffer from metabolic diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease," said Hughes, who graduated from Saint Peter's University with de-

grees in biochemistry and biotechnology last spring. "As an aspiring physician, my goal is to educate and ensure that my patients explore all of their options in order to receive the best treatment, especially those from underserved communities."

Becoming a Schuh Scholar was providential for Hughes, who lives in Maryland and came to Saint Peter's on a tennis scholarship. In addition to the stipend that helped her meet living expenses as a residential student, she had the opportunity to

conduct genomic research at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in Newark. Another pivotal experience was the Short-Term Research Experience for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP) program through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Selected for the competitive STEP-UP program in 2018, Hughes spent two summers at the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences at the University of Maryland. The first summer, she studied the effects of branched-chain amino acids (BCAAs) on insulin signaling and mitochondrial function, and the following year, Hughes monitored the impact of short-term, high-fat diet on tricarboxylic acid cycle metabolism.

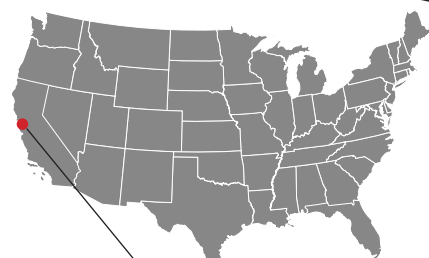
Like many Schuh Scholars, Hughes took a gap year before applying to medical school. She is currently working as a lab technician at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C., testing samples for coronavirus, COVID-19, and is studying for the MCATs. She's feeling good about her candidacy for medical school.

"A lot of students who want to go to medical school want to focus on the clinical," she explained. As a Schuh Scholar, "I got a feel for both—the research and the clinical—and the research is so translatable to the practice of medicine. It was an invaluable experience." 🏠

## Where Schuh Scholars Go

Sixty-seven Saint Peter's University students completed The Rev. Joseph E. Schuh, S.J. Scholars Program since it began in 2001. Graduates go on to medical school, fully-funded Ph.D. programs, dental school, pharmacy school and other graduate schools for health professions. Here is a sampling of institutions attended by Schuh Scholars.

 **University of Pittsburgh**  
School of Dental Medicine



 **Stanford**  
MEDICINE

 **VIRGINIA TECH.**  
School of Medicine & Health Sciences  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

 **Cooper Medical School**  
of Rowan University

 **ROWAN UNIVERSITY**  
School of Osteopathic Medicine

 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
College of Osteopathic Medicine

**RUTGERS**  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

**RUTGERS**  
New Jersey Medical School

**RUTGERS**  
School of Dental Medicine

**RUTGERS**  
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

 **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**



# THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

The 2021 Schuh Scholars have big plans



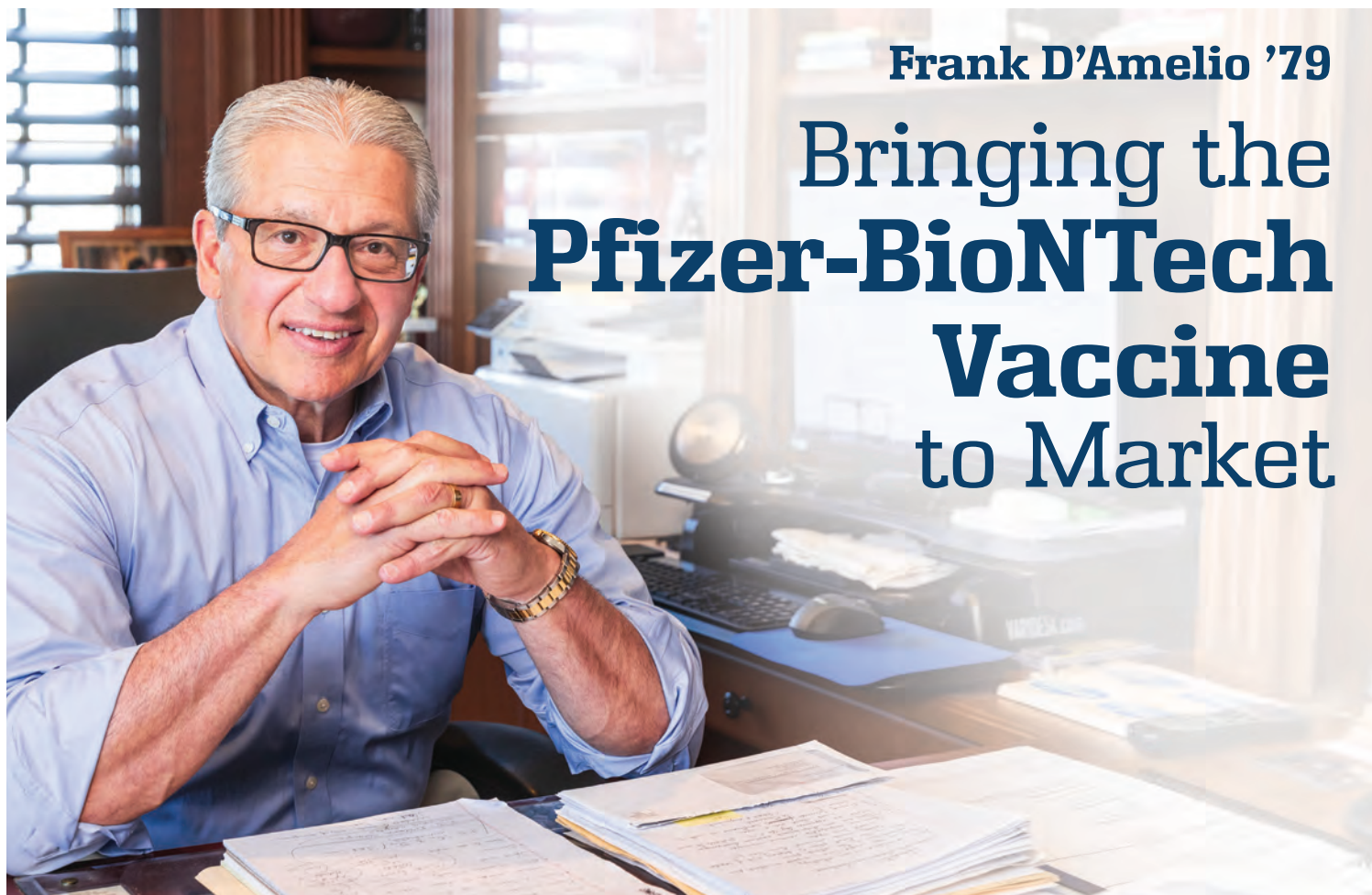
Claudio Amaya '21 will begin a doctoral program in chemistry at Virginia Tech this fall, where he plans to research developing energy fuels using artificial photosynthesis. Amaya graduated with a double major in chemistry and biochemistry. Born in El Salvador, he immigrated to the U.S. in 2013 and lives in West New York, N.J.

Alejandro Gomez Gonzalez '21 graduated in May with bachelor's degrees in biotechnology and biochemistry. A resident of Kearny, N.J., he plans to study molecular genetics and molecular biology in graduate school and attain a position in the pharmaceutical industry, "To bring novel and feasible treatments directly to patients."

Schuh Professor of Health and Natural Sciences  
Leonard Sciorra, Ph.D.

After completing degrees in biochemistry and biotechnology, Ariana La Rosa '21 plans to pursue a master's degree and ultimately earn a Ph.D. in molecular biology, genetics or genetic engineering. The Schuh Scholar is from Perth Amboy, N.J.





## Frank D'Amelio '79 Bringing the **Pfizer-BioNTech** **Vaccine** to Market

Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech anticipate delivery of 2.5 billion doses in 2021 and 3 billion in 2022 of their groundbreaking COVID-19 vaccine, found to be 95 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 illness. From capital deployment to overseeing manufacturing and distribution, Frank D'Amelio '79, Pfizer CFO and executive vice president, global supply, played a lead role in bringing a safe, effective vaccine to market.

### **When did you become aware of the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic and how did the virus impact your role at Pfizer?**

We knew early on that the virus was going to be serious. We also concluded early on, "If we don't solve it, who will?" In terms of my role, it's interesting because it's a dual one as chief financial officer and head of the global supply chain. What we did from a capital deployment perspective was really unheard of in terms of putting billions of dollars at risk to develop the vaccine with no business cases to support it. All of the capital we deployed was shareholder money. We did not take government money for the research and development of the vaccine.

From the supply chain perspective, lining up the suppliers, equipment and space to make the product, storage and distribution requirements, all of that had to literally be created from scratch because we never made an mRNA vaccine before. So, it really was a double purpose role given my responsibilities.

### **Given your dual role, what were your key priorities during this time?**

As a company, Pfizer laid out three priorities. First, was the safety of our employees. Our employees and colleagues were coming to work every day at the height of the pandemic to make the medicines people need on

a regular basis. Plus, there were all the folks who were coming up with the new vaccine, so we took extensive actions to ensure their safety. Priority two was making sure all of our medicines remained available to all of our patients throughout the world. We knew we had to keep our supply of existing medicines, particularly given that many of them were needed to treat COVID. The demand was huge and we were able to meet it.

»» **“The breadth and depth of Jesuit education really does prepare you for anything you are going to have to deal with in business. It prepares you for the unforeseen, the unpredictable, the unimaginable.”**

Obviously, the third priority was, the world needs a solution. We concluded the best way to solve that was the mRNA technology platform (messenger RNA that teaches our cells how to make a protein to trigger an immune response within the body) that ultimately helped us develop the vaccine. So those were the priorities. And I couldn't be prouder of our Research & Development and Pfizer Global Supply (PGS) colleagues. The dedication, the commitment and courage these folks showed to bring a solution to the world is just indescribable.

#### **How did Jesuit education prepare you to meet these incredible challenges?**

I should mention that I attended a Jesuit high school, Saint Peter's Prep, as well as college, Saint Peter's University. Saint Peter's has been very good to me. I think on a macro level, Jesuit institutions provide a very well-rounded experience. The breadth and depth of Jesuit education really does prepare you for anything you are going to have to deal with in business. It prepares you for the unforeseen, the unpredictable, the unimaginable. Another great thing about Saint Peter's is the diverse student body with many first-generation students. I know I got a really strong work ethic from being the first in my family to go to college, because I was given an opportunity my parents didn't have.

#### **What did you learn from the experience of bringing the vaccine to market in the midst of a global pandemic?**

Clearly one of the things we learned was how quickly we could get a product to market. Think about what we did. It was a medical miracle. We started working on the vaccine in March 2020 and had emergency use authorization from the U.S. government on December 11. The fastest approval for any vaccine had previously been four to five years, and the Pfizer-BioNTech was done in nine months.

I think the biggest thing Pfizer did, right from day one, was assume success. We assumed we were going to be successful and that drove decisions on the equipment we needed to buy, the space we needed to free up, the research and development we committed to and so on. Let me be clear, as a CFO, I don't like deploying a couple of billion dollars of capital without having business cases to support it. It's not something I want to do on a regular basis, but we have learned a lot in terms of how we can get through trials faster, better ways to design trials, things we can capture in a bottle and deploy going forward that can get medicines to market and to patients faster.



**You and your wife, Cam, both graduated from Saint Peter's and have been great supporters of the University. Why is that a priority for you?**

Both Cam and I were the first in our families to go to college. The education we received really gave us the tools we needed to be successful. We feel it's only right to give back to an institution that's been so good to us.

By the way, our years at Saint Peter's were really fun. We worked hard, but we also had a great time. Many of our friends to this day are from Saint Peter's.

#### **As a first-generation student, what advice would you give the Class of 2021, many of whom are also the first in their families to graduate college?**

To me it's always about giving your very best effort. One of my favorite sayings all during my career was, "The harder I worked, the luckier I got." And it always turned out to be good luck in terms of the opportunities, promotions and positions I wanted. What I would suggest to students is to make sure you can look at yourself in the mirror and say with utmost honesty, "I gave this my very best." That's all you can do. When you do that, good things will happen. 🏆

*Frank D'Amelio '79 was named CFO and senior vice president of Pfizer Inc. in 2007. A senior executive with three decades of operational and financial experience at AT&T, Lucent Technologies and Alcatel-Lucent prior to joining Pfizer, D'Amelio has been ranked among America's Top CFOs 10 times by Institutional Investor magazine. He holds a B.S. in accounting from Saint Peter's and a M.B.A. in finance from St. John's University. D'Amelio and his wife, Cam Zampaglione D'Amelio '79, are the parents of three grown children.*



# HeartsMinds

The Saint Peter's University Scholarship Celebration  
A Virtual Event



## *Supporting Student Possibility*

**FIRST VIRTUAL HEARTS & MINDS IS A RECORD-BREAKING EVENT**

Alumni and friends demonstrated their deep belief in Jesuit education and stalwart support of students in the first virtual *Hearts & Minds: The Annual Saint Peter's University Scholarship Celebration* held on May 7. More than 150 participants—from Jersey City and locations all over the country—came together online to honor the first *Magis* award winners, Patricia McQuillan Cummings '77 and Kevin Cummings and Cheryl and Joseph Della Rosa, and to ensure that Saint Peter's continues to open its doors to a diverse student body, more than 50 percent of whom are still the first in their families to graduate college. With nearly \$350,000 raised prior to the event—a *Hearts & Minds* fundraising record—attendees generously contributed an additional \$50,000 for the General Scholarship Fund during the evening's fund-a-scholar auction. The spontaneous and heartfelt show of generosity was helped by a matching gift challenge of \$10,000 from Beth and Ken Moore '91, and the gifts continued even after the live event concluded.

Adrista Ramirez '21, a recent accounting graduate with plans to pursue a master's in business analytics, was one of several first-generation college students who expressed gratitude to donors. "Scholarship support allowed me to attend Saint Peter's and graduate debt-free," said Ramirez, who, earlier that day, was inducted into the New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association (NJCBA) Honor Society, a statewide association that recognizes one percent of the top performing business students each year. "It enables me to kick start my career and to start giving back sooner. I aspire to establish a scholarship of my own one day so I can help others the way I've been helped."

From present day undergraduates to honorees, the opportunities afforded to first-generation college students was an overriding theme of the evening. "The value of a Jesuit education is priceless, and this scholarship fund helps so many first-generation college students on their path to great careers," said Patricia Cummings, who appeared with her husband, Kevin, from a remote location. "I





ADVANCEMENT

## SAINT PETER DAY EXCEEDS GOAL

Alumni and friends came together with one goal on April 7: Support hardworking and deserving students on the third annual Saint Peter Day. More than \$193,000 was raised by 460 donors in 24 hours, including matching gift challenges, which were offered by Garry Prime '65, the De Luca Family, Noreen Beaman '86, George Degnon '63 and Gary Hansen. The University is grateful to everyone who made a gift, which provided critical support at a time when Saint Peter's students needed it the most.



Those that made a gift of \$25 or more received a Saint Ignatius Tiny Saints™ key charm as a thank you.




1. Emcee Jayson Wesley '11 with hosts Leah Leto, M.Ed. '05, and Eugene Flinn '80. 2. President Eugene Cornacchia, Ph.D., thanked alumni and friends from Guarini House. 3. and 4. Patricia McQuillan Cummings '77 and Kevin Cummings (top) and Joe Della Rosa and Cheryl Della Rosa (below) are the recipients of the first *Magis* award for advancing educational opportunities. 5. Vice President for Mission & Ministry Rev. Andrew Downing, S.J. 6. Adrista Ramirez '21. 7. Behind the scenes at *Hearts & Minds*.

know Saint Peter's was there for me," Patricia continued. "Let's help the University continue the mission today."

"Education is the great equalizer," said Kevin Cummings, chairman and CEO of Investors Bank, who urged attendees to dig deep in support of students. "If it doesn't hurt to give, we can all give a little more." Cheryl and Joe Della Rosa, a couple who've advanced education through the Della Rosa Family Foundation, emphasized their Jersey City roots and experiences as the first in their families to attain higher education. "We know, firsthand, Saint Peter's has been educating first-generation students for literally generations, and through these years raising so many possibilities for students and their families," said Joe. Cheryl thanked Saint Peter's faculty and administrators for their care and attention to students during the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic. "You symbolize the essence of *Magis* (to always do more) and are the true givers. We are grateful for your dedication."

The virtual *Hearts & Minds* was emceed by the actor and performer Jayson Wesley '11, and co-hosted by Eugene Flinn '80,

retired restaurateur and member of the Board of Trustees, and Leah Leto, M.Ed. '05, vice president for advancement and external affairs, from the McIntyre Conference Center. University President Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D., addressed the Peacock community from Guarini House. "During this year of intense uncertainty and fear, our community leaned in," he stated. "You answered the call. You are a big part of making the theme of this evening, 'Infinite Possibilities, Infinite Potential,' a reality for our students."

The presenting sponsors for *Hearts & Minds* were Patricia McQuillan Cummings '77 and Kevin Cummings, The Della Rosa Family Foundation, Adeline & Frank L. Fekete '75, Investors Bank, the John P. & Anne Welsh McNulty Foundation, Pfizer Inc and Joann & Victor Wright. The lead sponsors for *Hearts & Minds* were Carole and Bob Cashill '64, Collins Building Services, Genova Burns LLC, Joe Gromek '68, Hon. Frank J. Guarini H '94, Proskauer and Diana & Jim Yacobucci. After the live presentation, guests joined the online after-parties hosted by the honorees, Finn and Wesley. 



# Corporate Partners Step Up

Corporations have found new ways to partner with Saint Peter's University. The reasons are simple, yet profound: A diverse student body, shaped by a pandemic that has cultivated determination and resilience—qualities that translate well to a marketplace experiencing seismic shifts in the way we do business. In this issue, we highlight four of our hundreds of incredible corporate partnerships.

## NJM Insurance Group

### A Level Playing Field

NJM Insurance Group has deep roots in New Jersey and through its philanthropic initiatives found many compelling reasons to support the students of Saint Peter's University. "Since its founding almost 150 years ago, Saint Peter's has been providing students with the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary for a life of purpose," said Michael J. Van Wagner, vice president of public affairs at NJM Insurance Group. "The rich diversity of cultures and backgrounds represented by Saint Peter's students—many of whom are first-generation college attendees—is inspiring, and the University's track record on student outcomes is impressive."

The company has committed to contributing \$40,000 over two years to establish the NJM Insurance Group Annual Scholarship. The corporate scholarship will support the University's new Gateway Tuition Program, established earlier this year to provide free tuition to underserved students. "NJM is proud to support the Gateway Tuition Program which provides transformational scholarships to highly motivated students, regardless of their financial circumstances," Van Wagner added.

"Saint Peter's has one of the most diverse undergraduate populations in the nation," noted Mary Kate Naatus, Ph.D., KPMG dean of the Frank J. Guarini School of Business. "Our students are amazing, talented and full of determination—all qualities valued by corporations such as NJM."

## BANK OF AMERICA

### Dynamic Duo

Bank of America Managing Director Doug Houser and Saint Peter's University share a dedication to *cura personalis*—the personal care of every

student. The Jesuit-educated executive lives that ideal through his personal mentoring of students. In fact, it's not uncommon for Houser to call a student first thing in the morning to discuss career objectives or next semester's course schedule.

"Doug has taken a very proactive approach to working with our students," said Crescenzo Fonzo, interim executive director of Saint Peter's Center for Career Engagement and Experiential Learning (CEEL). "He takes the time to talk to them, providing clarity and guidance on career paths in the financial industry and the possibilities at Bank of America."

As a member of the CEEL Advisory Board and the Frank J. Guarini School of Business Board of Advisors Workstream on Corporate Outreach, Houser works closely with Fonzo to help match individual Saint Peter's students and graduates with Bank of America career opportunities. In addition, Patrick J. Haugh III '98, Bank of America treasury sales officer, has been instrumental in providing networking opportunities for Saint Peter's alumni.

Last year, three members of the Saint Peter's Class of 2020 landed full-time jobs at Bank of America—a remarkable accomplishment during a pandemic. Fonzo and Dr. Naatus credit Houser and Haugh with opening the door for Saint Peter's students. Dr. Naatus said, "Together, they have created a real Saint Peter's community at Bank of America. It's been an invaluable relationship for our students and for the University."



### Expanding Horizons

The longtime partnership between Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and Saint Peter's University is growing, thanks to a shared vision centered on educational and career excellence. Today, Horizon has stepped up its efforts to provide unique experiences that build the career skills of the current—and future—workforce. The key components: Enhanced opportunities for internships, jobs and educational attainment.

"This is a very symbiotic relationship that has grown organically through the years," explained Emory Edwards, the University's director of corporate, foundation and government relations. "Recently, we have strengthened the partnership, which has proven to be very beneficial to Saint Peter's students and Horizon employees."

An advocate of the partnership's growth is Doug Falduto '86, vice president of administration and chief security officer at Horizon. A noted cybersecurity expert, he also generously shares his professional expertise with the Saint Peter's community, most recently through a cybersecurity webinar. Through Falduto and others, Horizon has deepened its commitment to expanding internship and career opportunities for Saint Peter's students. Working with Horizon's human resources department, Saint


Peter's has also developed targeted undergraduate and master's courses, including the M.B.A. and Master of Education (Ed.D.), for Horizon employees. Edwards said, "Horizon's human resources department is committed to employee success. Through the encouragement of Doug and others at Horizon, many employees are now proud Saint Peter's alumni."

## Goldman Sachs

### Impact of Mentors

A worldwide pandemic was no match for the Goldman Sachs Local College Collaborative (LCC). Pivoting quickly last year, the firm transitioned to a virtual format to continue presenting its four college partners—including Saint Peter's University—with invaluable professional development opportunities. Currently in its fifth year, the LCC is a competitive leadership program that brings together college students and Goldman Sachs professionals to develop advanced career skills through real-world case challenges.

This year through the LCC, 10 Saint Peter's students worked with Overground Cloud Services, a Goldman Sachs client and certified Salesforce consulting firm, to develop recommendations on expanding business relationships in a virtual environment. After five months of intense study, the Saint Peter's students presented their findings virtually to a mock board of directors from Goldman Sachs. "The case challenges presented through the LCC are always non-hypothetical, real world challenges," explained Taina Cutler, senior career coach with CEEL, who guided the team with faculty mentor Raymond T. Butkus, M.B.A., founding director of the Center for Leadership Studies. "There is a high level of mentorship and coaching that enhance the career paths of Saint Peter's students."

Recently, Goldman Sachs held a speaker series to give the Saint Peter's students insight into potential careers across their business, in addition to sharing details about their summer analyst program. The company has also advanced its partnership with Saint Peter's through the appointment of Oluwaseun Olapade-Olaopa, vice president, global markets division at Goldman Sachs, to the CEEL Board of Advisors. Fonzo said, "I think our partnership with Goldman Sachs elevates the level of professionalism of Saint Peter's students. It's a very sought-after program and the selection process is rigorous. Students know that being mentored by Goldman Sachs professionals will enhance their level of career preparedness." 

*The University is always seeking new and expanded corporate partnerships to enhance opportunities for our students. If you would like to get your company involved, please contact Director of Corporate, Foundation and Government Relations Emory Edwards at [eedwards@saintpeters.edu](mailto:eedwards@saintpeters.edu) or (201) 761-6108.*





Alyssa Adams '21



Andrew Connor '21



Nazae Craw '21



Daniel Lodato '21

# Peacocks'

## Second Chance

Daniel Lodato '21 had waited almost a year for the good news: Halted by the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic, Saint Peter's University fall and spring athletics were back in action for the spring semester. "The fact that we had a spring season means a lot," said Lodato, a member of the Peacock track and field team. "For a while, I didn't think I would ever have the chance to throw again in college. This year, I was sitting on the edge of my seat wondering if we were going to have a spring season."

While pandemic-related safety measures modified the season, Peacock

athletes responded with gratitude and determination. Women's soccer player Nazae Craw '21 explained, "This season may have looked a lot different than previous years, but my team really made the most out of unimaginable circumstances. In life, it is important to be flexible in tough situations." Volleyball player Yaidelis Lopez-Jimenez '21 said, "We were so lucky to be able to play, while many other colleges couldn't. We were very excited to finally share the court together. Having a senior season means the world to me, even if it was shorter than usual."

As they trained through the uncertainty, players tapped Peacock resilience to remain focused. "Coach and the team as a whole stuck together, constantly keeping in contact and ensuring we were all holding each other to a high standard, both on and off the field," noted men's soccer player Philip Smith '21. "It gave us a mental distraction from what has gone on over the last year."

Peacock runner Grace Proctor '21 agreed: "This year has been crazy, not just for Saint Peter's, but for the whole world. The way I stayed motivated was to just think about



Yaidelis Lopez-Jimenez '21



Jeff Peters '21



Grace Proctor '21



Philip Smith '21

the future and know that I would have at least one last race. I continued to train and thought about how I wanted my last track race to be my best one." For Peacock golfer Jeff Peters '21, optimism was key: "Keeping a positive mindset through all of this kept me going. This year pushed me to work extremely hard. One lesson I have learned in my four years is to always look forward. When times are tough, looking forward at the positives will help you to persevere."

Today, these seniors say the pandemic has taught them to savor every day. "I am not taking any game for granted, because from experience I have learned any game could be your last," said softball player Alyssa Adams '21. Baseball player Andrew Connor '21 added, "The one thing I have taken away from this experience is to always give every day your all. The people and things that we care about most can be taken away in the blink of an eye. As I took the field for my last season, I planned on leaving it all on the field. I am grateful to get the opportunity to play again for the last time." 🏆



## DONORS DOUBLE THEIR IMPACT ON FIRST PEACOCK NATION DAY

The first ever Peacock Nation Day raised more than \$30,000, thanks to matching gift challenges and an enthusiastic response from alumni and friends. The giving day, held on February 27, included a special matching gift challenge led by Peacock Nation supporters Richard Donnelly '67, Robert Donnelly '75 and Sharon Pastore '73, a member of the University's Board of Trustees. The three alumni matched every gift made in honor of Peacock Nation, up to \$7,500.

When the final total was tallied, 156 donors came together to raise \$30,952 to support the athletics department and the University's student-athletes. "We are so incredibly inspired by and appreciative of the participation, commitment and generous support given to our student-athletes," said Director of Athletics Rachelle Paul. "Despite the challenges of the past year, our student-athletes have remained dedicated to their studies, their teammates and to representing Saint Peter's with pride and distinction. Beyond providing our athletic programs with critical resources, your gift shows our student-athletes that they continue to have a strong Peacock Nation cheering them on."



# Send us your NEWS!

## Have you...

- 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?
- Reminiscid 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 a class note on: [alumni.saintpeters.edu/newsandnotes](mailto:alumni.saintpeters.edu/newsandnotes) or send to: Office of Alumni Engagement, 2641 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, NJ 07306.**

## 1960

**James J. Magee, Ph.D.**, published his novel about the exploits of two American spies in Europe during World War II, *I'm Holding Four Aces and a Weapon* (Kindle Amazon, 2021).

## 1964

**Daniel E. Toomey, Esq.**, has retired after practicing law for 52 years. He remains a mediator and arbitrator with The McCammon Group, with which he's been affiliated for 11 years. He and his wife, Marty, have taken this time to repair their second home in Lewes, Del., where they've been since

March 2020. He's enjoying retirement, being near the beach and the pool at their home. He looks forward to getting the band together in the near future to prepare for their 60th reunion in four years.

## 1966

**Joseph A. Panepinto, Esq.**, and Stefania Panepinto celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

## 1967

**Rick Geffken's** latest book, *To Preserve and Protect, Profiles of the People Who Recorded the History and Heritage of Monmouth County, NJ*, was recently pub-

lished by the Monmouth County Clerk's Office. His *Stories of Slavery in New Jersey, the Last Northern State to Abolish Slavery*, was published by The History Press.

**Gerald J. Stanig** is proud to announce that his grandson is carrying on the Jesuit school tradition by entering his freshman year at Saint Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia.

## 1968

**Joseph A. Bove** is pleased to announce the publication of *Reflections*, a book of 23 poetic pieces, with topics ranging from birth to coping with one's self-worth in a pandemic plagued society. Email [followthebungalowroad@gmail.com](mailto:followthebungalowroad@gmail.com) to purchase a copy (\$15, inclusive of postage!).

**James J. Dowd, Ph.D.**, professor emeritus at the University of Georgia, had a book on film published by Routledge Press in October 2020. The book, *Social Life in Film: How Hollywood Imagines War, Schools, Romance, Aging and Social Inequality*, continues Dr. Dowd's research and teaching interests in the topics covered. The book is available through Amazon and Taylor & Francis.

## 1969

**Neal Goodman, Ph.D.**, professor emeritus of sociology at Saint Peter's University, was recently featured on the BBC's World News program *Business Daily* about the value of diversity training in dealing with racism and the aftermath of the George Floyd murder. *Business Daily*, which is hosted by Manuela Saragosa, is broadcast globally and ranks within the top 15 most downloaded podcasts on iTunes. Dr. Goodman came to Saint Peter's in 1965 because of his involvement in the civil rights movement and the encourage-

ment of Jesuits sympathetic to the movement. He led his first anti-bias workshop in Jersey City in 1965 and continues to offer anti-bias programs at leading organizations such as Prudential, Dow Jones and Johnson & Johnson.

## 1970

**Alan N. Buonpastore, Esq.**, retired after 31-plus years as a criminal prosecutor in both the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and the New York State Attorney General's Office. Later this year, Buonpastore will move to Florida, where he's been for the past 10 winters. He's done extensive travel throughout the world and is looking forward to resuming travel—Australia and New Zealand next on the list—once it's safe again.

**Peter A. Klein** and his wife, Susan A. Klein, welcomed their great-niece, Sienna Baer, on May 26, 2020.

## 1971

Author **William Kane** has published his new book, *Unintended Consequence: Transforming America—How and Why We Came to this Place*, a thought-provoking discussion of the many facets of our country—available at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes store, Amazon, Google Play or Barnes & Noble.

## 1974

**John Molino's** latest novel is titled *From a Distance*. He is also the author of two other suspense-filled novels: *Murder Gets Even* and *Death in the Dune*. All three are available on Amazon in paperback or Kindle.

## 1975

**Robert Wysokinski, M.D.**, is thrilled to welcome a new addi-

## The Peace Corps Volunteer Who Became a Foreign Service Officer



Six years ago, **Suegatha Kai-Rennie '12** was a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia, one of 10 young alumni profiled in *Saint Peter's University* magazine. The Saint Peter's alumna kept pursuing her goals, and today she is a foreign service officer with the health bureau of

USAID, an independent agency of the federal government that administers civilian foreign aid and developmental assistance to countries across the globe.

"I continue to be inspired by people who are passionate about seeing the world become a better place," said Kai-Rennie, who is currently stationed in Dakar, Senegal. "Likewise, I am passionate about giving people the tools to lift themselves out of poverty."

**"It's a way for me to show the world the best of America and the diversity we represent."**

The pathway from Peace Corps volunteer to foreign service officer was forged when Kai-Rennie applied for the USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program, an initiative designed to foster diversity in the foreign service by providing students from historically marginalized groups tuition money for graduate school. The program also includes an internship in Washington D.C., a mission abroad and mentorship. Kai-Rennie was one of seven accepted into the highly selective program in 2016. She noted that relationships fostered at Saint Peter's and recommendations from Professor of Sociology, Urban Studies and Anthropology David Surrey, Ph.D., and mentor **Bill Armbruster '71** played an instrumental role in her being selected for the program.

While participating in the fellowship, Kai-Rennie earned a master's degree in global development policy with a concentration in public health from Boston University. There, she participated in the foreign language area studies, studying Kiswahili for two years and completing research in religion and

world affairs as well as African studies. After graduation from Boston University in 2018, Kai-Rennie moved to Washington, D.C., to begin working as a USAID foreign service officer.

"The majority of my work entails managing and providing technical support for programs within the public health sphere in the countries we serve," is how Kai-Rennie described her current role within the health bureau of the agency. She works directly with the ministry of health, partners and donors to strengthen the capacity of the national health system of Senegal and ensure that community health programs for malaria, HIV and AIDS and more reach vulnerable populations. "What I appreciate most about my job is that I get to be a student every day by working alongside experts in the public health arena and top leaders in the country we serve." While she acknowledged there are aspects to working in the international development community that can be challenging, Kai-Rennie, who escaped civil war in Liberia as a child, hopes to remain in the field. "It's a way for me to show the world the best of America and the diversity we represent," she said.

Like all of us, Kai-Rennie's experience was affected by the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic. She did not arrive in Senegal until December 2020, an eight-month delay due to the shutdown of international travel. "What's most impactful is not being able to go out into the field to see the people we serve and the activities we manage," she noted. As COVID continues to be contained, Kai-Rennie is hopeful that she may begin to go into the field.

The alumna has great advice for Saint Peter's students who want to pursue international development: "I believe my Peace Corps experience was the catalyst for my entry into the foreign service, however, it's not the only way." She encourages students to build skills and cultural knowledge while they are in school through community service, travel opportunities via the Center for Global Learning and to follow the Ignatian principle of *Magis*, to always do more. "Do what you are passionate about and don't limit yourself," she advised. "If you've always been a B student, aim to become an A student. Every effort you put into your personal growth to become a person of excellence—even if you don't always succeed—people will see that and value you. The goal is never to show that you are perfect, it is to show that you have character, can take on challenges and can progress in your skill." 🏆



## Millions Raised in Legacy Challenge

The Legacy Challenge was the most successful planned giving program ever launched by Saint Peter's University, raising more than **\$3 million** and increasing the number of new planned gifts by more than 325 percent over last year.

Alumni and friends were motivated to remember Saint Peter's in their estate plans and many existing **Pavonia Heritage Society** members increased or documented their planned gift. The future growth of Saint Peter's University depends on the future plans of our alumni and friends.

*For more information about planned giving, please contact Linda Moore, J.D., senior director of leadership and planned giving, at (201) 761-6128 or lmoore2@saintpeters.edu, or Sharon T. Morrissey, M.B.A., M.Ed. '13, director of planned giving, at smorrissey@saintpeters.edu or (201) 761-6126.*

## Class of 2020 Care Package



While 2020 didn't allow the Office of Alumni Engagement to welcome members of the Class of 2020 to the alumni community in-person, the team sent warm wishes and positive vibes to its newest alumni via a special care package this past winter that included Peacock socks, a Saint Peter's University mug and some hot cocoa.

*Continued from page 26*

tion to his family, Christian Robert Wysokinski, born on January 18. Christian is also welcomed by his brother, Gabriel, who turned 2 in November 2020.

### 1983

**Mark G. Kahrer, CPA**, was named senior vice president—regulatory affairs, marketing and energy efficiency at New Jersey Natural Gas.

### 1993

**Nadine (Davis) Augusta** was appointed chief diversity, equity & inclusion officer at Cushman & Wakefield, a leading global real estate services firm.

**Frank J. Musumeci** published his crime novel, *Marked*, about a group of unlikely characters—a Native American, a New Jersey Mafia capo and an FBI agent—banding together to search for a missing teenager. *Marked* is currently available at Little City Books in Hoboken.

### 1996

**Joseph T. Pergola** was appointed chief financial officer at Integral Ad Science in 2020, overseeing finance and accounting globally.

### 2009

**Rachel Slaiman** is the president of the Women's National Book Association-NYC Chapter.

### 2015

**Prajwal Niraula** was featured in an article on *Inverse*, "'Clockwork' Planet Reveals A Uniquely Mathematical Orbit," which discussed the discovery of a planet, dubbed K2-315b, that completes a full rotation around its star in just 3.14 days.

### 2017

**Esther Onger** was featured in *Es-sence* magazine for being a staffer on the Biden-Harris campaign.

### 2019

**Iryna Chorni** was selected as a recipient of the East-West Center Foundation award. She will be studying at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and will be participating in the Center's Education Program, which offers a range of activities designed to foster intellectual and cultural interaction.

### 2020

**Samantha Martinez-Mendoza** and **Angela Smith** have been hired as full-time caseworkers at the United Way of Hudson County. Both are working with grants that will help alleviate homelessness.

### 2021

**Karyn Barrera** has joined the United Way of Hudson County Housing Department as an intern working on a rapid rehousing project.

**William Flores-Rebolledo** is a songwriter and just released a song in honor of those affected by the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic. The song is performed by Katherine Orellana, a famous singer in his native country, Chile, who recorded two CDs with Sony Music prior to releasing her new song under his new music label, Flores Records. Learn more at FloresRecords.com.

# In Memory

Saint Peter's University remembers two influential leaders who served on the Board of Trustees

## JERSEY CITY'S GREATEST BOOSTER



He was called "a tireless Jersey City booster" by *The New York Times* and a "Jersey City institution" by others. **Bernard M. Hartnett Jr., Esq. '51**, a fourth generation son of Jersey City who devoted his life to the betterment of the city, passed away on December 22, 2020, at the age of 91.

Born and raised in the Second Ward, Hartnett attended Saint Peter's Prep, Saint Peter's University and earned a law degree from Seton Hall University. His career began with the National Labor Relations Board and he later became Western Electric's labor counsel and then vice president, general counsel and secretary of New Jersey Bell, now Verizon Communications, Inc. In addition to the demands of practicing law, Hartnett played a crucial role in civic initiatives that revitalized Jersey City.

He led the effort to create Liberty State Park, served as chairman of the Jersey City and Hudson County Democratic committees and stepped into the role of Hudson County executive days before 9/11. He convinced Connell Foley LLP to set up an office in Jersey City and foresaw a future that few could envision. "People laugh at me, but I think there will come a time when travel agents book vacations to Jersey City," he presciently told *The New York Times* in 2000. "You'll see."

Hartnett was also deeply loyal to the Jesuit and Catholic institutions he attended, generously giving over the years, as well as serving as chairman of the Board of Trustees and chairman of the Board of Regents at Saint Peter's University. **Joseph A. Panepinto, Esq. '66** said people naturally gravitated to Hartnett and wanted to work with him on promoting the common good. "It feels like yesterday that Bernie recommended me to the Board of Regents in the 1970s," Panepinto recalled. "He is missed by the many people whose lives he touched in a very positive way."

Hartnett is survived by his daughters, Erin Hartnett and Maryellen Hartnett Reid, son Edward Hartnett, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

## ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP



**Charles A. Fiumefreddo '55** had a story he liked to tell about Saint Peter's University. The summer after graduation from Bayonne High School, Fiumefreddo was at loose ends. His father advised him to, "Go up to Saint Peter's and talk to one of the Jesuits." Fiumefreddo stopped the first Jesuit he saw on campus and explained he wanted to enroll in college, but hadn't applied. He was told, "Don't worry,

we'll take care of this," and that was the start of a lifelong relationship with the Jesuit University of New Jersey.

Fiumefreddo passed away at the age of 87 on December 29, 2020. During a long and successful career as chairman of the Morgan Stanley Group of Investment Companies and founder and

chairman of Morgan Stanley Trust Co. & Morgan Stanley Advisors, Fiumefreddo earned the respect and admiration of employees, clients and industry leaders.

"Charlie was a very moral person in a very tough business," said **Joseph V. Doria Jr., Ed.D. '68**, dean of the Caulfield School of Education. "He was always willing to help anyone who needed help."

Fiumefreddo became a University Trustee and, with his wife, Joan, established the Charles A. and Joan Fiumefreddo Endowed Scholarship. As the first in his family to go to college, he wanted to ensure opportunities for future generations. "Charlie was very interested in the future of Saint Peter's," said Dr. Doria. "He cared about supporting students like himself, first-generation students who wanted to do well and succeed."

Fiumefreddo is survived by his wife, Joan, daughter Joanne, son Charles III, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



## REMEMBRANCES

# The Dean of Fun... and So Much More

In a year filled with unimaginable loss, the sudden passing of **Edward W. Reuter '64** on March 29 shocked and saddened the Saint Peter's University community. Reuter was connected to generations of Peacocks. A remembrance written by **Kathleen Fitzgerald Cocca '71**, **William T. Price, III '91** and his daughter **Kate Reuter** captured Reuter's generous spirit and the affection and love he elicited from people. Here is an excerpt of that remembrance, edited for clarity and length.



Ed Reuter had a rich and full life of connecting with people in ways they would always remember—as a father, family member, teacher, dean, advisor, friend and “honorary grandfather” to the kids on Courter Avenue in Maplewood. He was as comfortable on the fields of Woodstock in 1969 as he was in the finest restaurants he could find in the tri-state area, especially Hudson County.

From a long-bearded hippie to a doting dad and dapper gentleman, the constant across all those decades was the humorous, happy and kind person known for his lively stories that so many knew and loved.

Born in Bayonne on September 11, 1941, **Edward W. Reuter '64** attended Marist High School, an institution he would later help keep open by rallying alumni when the school fell on hard times. Upon graduating from Saint Peter's University, he became a teacher at North Bergen High School, and later, received a graduate degree from New Jersey City University. After a few years in the classroom, he found his second home as an administrator at Saint Peter's. He became dean of students—the “dean of fun” as he was known—during the 1970s, shortly after Saint Peter's welcomed women students to the Day Session. His focus then—and throughout his nearly 30-year tenure—was on creating a vibrant student life on the Jersey City campus, supporting new clubs and activities, chaperoning ski trips, cheering at games, guiding new staff members and embracing and unifying a diverse student body. Eventually becoming Vice President of Student Affairs, Ed was the embodiment of the Jesuit ideal of *cura personalis*, treating each student's individual needs with warmth, sincerity and concern. He was honored by the Univer-

sity in 2000 with the Loyalty to *Alma Mater* award and was serving on the University's Alumni Board at the time of his passing.

Ask anyone about Ed and they will tell you about his charming wit, his gift of gab and his love of fine food. He rarely entered a room or a restaurant without an alumnus, neighbor, cousin or family friend happily greeting him. Ed was his own social network, no need for Facebook. He was a connector of people—often over stories, wine and meals at places as different as Court Street in Hoboken, Razza in Jersey City or the Man of Kent Tavern in upstate New York.

One of Ed's most lasting impacts, however, may have been his generous spirit. He always shared his smiles and warm greetings and stories freely, especially with his neighbors on daily walks through Hoboken and Maplewood. A seven-year-old neighbor surprised his mother, saying he wanted to ask Mr. Reuter to his birthday party. When Ed learned that a young nanny from Africa he befriended in the neighborhood didn't have enough money to continue her studies, Ed stepped in and helped pay her tuition. In his retirement, he dedicated his time and energy to nonprofits that allowed him to continue his commitment to education and opportunity for all—including the International Institute of New Jersey and the Columbia High School Scholarship Fund in Maplewood.

When his wife, Jane, passed away suddenly in 1997, Ed established the **Jane Moulton Reuter '72** Needy Student Emergency Fund and the Jane Moulton Reuter Memorial Endowed Scholarship at their *alma mater*. After nearly 25 years, these funds at Saint Peter's have helped hundreds of students to overcome challenges and achieve success in their lives. And after Jane's passing, Ed took on his most unexpected, and most rewarding role in his life—widower and single-dad to Kate—who was by his side and his source of joy for all the years that followed.

In addition to Kate, Ed is survived by his sister, Ellen O'Connor, her husband, **Hon. Edward T. O'Connor Jr. '64**, and daughter Kerry (Ed's goddaughter) and dozens of cousins who gathered to exchange stories and laughs on a regular basis. 🍷

# Help when Saint Peter's students need it most



The Jane Moulton Reuter '72 Needy Student Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to students facing severe and unexpected hardship so they can continue their Saint Peter's education without interruption. The fund was established in 1998 in memory of the late **Jane Moulton Reuter '72**, a successful communications professional. Her husband, **Edward W. Reuter '64**, a former vice president for student affairs at Saint Peter's and member of the University's alumni board, passed away in March.

The fund will carry on under a new name: the Jane Moulton Reuter '72 and Edward Reuter '64 Needy Student Emergency Fund. For nearly 25 years, the fund has assisted students facing a variety of financial and personal emergencies, particularly in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy and this past year during the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic.

*To support the Jane Moulton Reuter '72 and Edward Reuter '64 Needy Student Emergency Fund, please contact Scott Donovan, director of annual giving, at (201) 761-6109 or [sdonovan@saintpeters.edu](mailto:sdonovan@saintpeters.edu).*

## 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.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Ambrosio '69  
Winifred Atkinson '84  
Lorraine Backus '58  
Daniel E. Barry '57  
Robert V. Bellacosa '63  
Joseph V. Braddock, Ph.D. '51  
Andrew J. Brunner '51  
Regina Neilan Buccafusco '71  
Thomas J. Casaburo '61  
Salvatore Cassaro  
John Cehelsky  
Raymond Chmielewski '76  
Evis J. Coda, M.D. '43  
James F. Coonan '56  
Brendan Cranwell '96  
Franklyn L. Cutrone '52  
George E. Degelmann '40  
Claire DiDomenico '81  
John L. Donnelly '58  
Joseph Fedor '99

Thomas A. Ferrari '73  
Elizabeth A. Fields '65  
Donald M. Finn '56  
Charles A. Fiumefreddo '55  
John B. Gray, Jr. '56  
Theodore Gromosaik '71  
Deborah W. Hairston  
Bernard M. Hartnett, Jr., Esq. '51  
Vincent J. Horn, Esq. '61  
LTC George P. Hutnan, USA (Ret.) '58  
Donald M. Iaccheri '73  
Arthur E. Imperatore H '80  
Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Ivory  
Alfred J. Jago '51  
Eugene J. Kray, Ed.D. '57  
William J. Lane '58  
Margo Hoffman Lane  
Maureen Lopez LaRusso  
Felice Lunanova '85  
Thomas J. Lynam '51

James J. Mack '64  
Lois MacNamara  
Martin B. McGonigle '63  
Frank J. McNabb '70  
Most Rev. John J. Myers, J.C.D., D.D. H '13  
Ellen R. Nestor  
Warren C. Nolan '54  
James C. O'Brien, M.D. '55  
John L. O'Reilly '58  
Mary Ann Olsen, Esq. '70  
Frank J. Phillips '61  
Edmund H. Polonitza '64  
John M. Ragazzo, Sr. '62  
Gary J. Randolph, M.D. '55  
Frank B. Reilly, Jr., Esq. '67  
Edward W. Reuter '64  
George G. Russo '71  
James F. Ryan '65  
Bernard C. Schroeder, M.D. '55  
Harold N. Smith '53

Philip Smith  
Raymond T. Snyder, M.D. '54  
James R. Sullivan, D.D.S. '55  
John F. Sweeney, M.D. '57  
Peter Szlasa '75  
John P. Szlasa '58  
Russell J. Tagliareni '51  
Charles J. Tahaney '67  
Thomas F. Tansey, Esq. '56  
Joseph Terzini '56  
Charles J. Trainor '61  
Emmett Varley  
Peter E. Warshaw '53  
H. Robert Westerman, Ph.D. '48  
Joseph J. Whalen '54  
Tadeusz Wilmanski  
John T. Wilson '70



# The Finer Points of Saint Peter's University History

There is the widely known history of Saint Peter's University (the institution closed in 1918 due to World War I and reopened in 1930) and then there are the finer points of University history.

For instance, the charter for what was then known as Saint Peter's College was established in 1872, but actual classes did not begin until September 1878. Professor Emeritus of English John Michael Walsh, Ph.D., explains that the delay was financial. The Jesuit provincial required the debts of the parish of Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Church be paid in full before building could begin on the college. Had the Jesuits waited for a clean balance sheet, Saint Peter's College would have opened in 1892. The Bishop of Newark persuaded the superior of the Saint Peter's Jesuits, Rev. John McQuaid, S.J., to begin construction before the parish debts were completely paid off.

Visit [saintpeters.edu/150](http://saintpeters.edu/150) to learn more.



## First College in Jersey City

Did you know? Saint Peter's University was the first college founded in Jersey City, one of three institutions of higher education that anchor the city today. New Jersey City University was founded in 1927 and Hudson County Community College was established in 1974.

The University's first classes were held in downtown Jersey City on Warren Street. The cornerstone for a new building was laid in 1899 at 144 Grand Street, which is now Saint Peter's Prep.

## Before The Pavan

The roots of *The Pavan*, the University's literary journal, can be traced back to 1911 and the publication of *Ephebeum*, a Latin term meaning college. The journal folded in 1918 when Saint Peter's closed its doors due to World War I and was resurrected as a literary supplement in 1938.

History once again intervened in 1941; government restrictions on pulp during World War II forced the publication to cease operation. *The Pavan* resumed publication in 1948 and has published every year since.



## Honorary Degrees

The practice of awarding honorary degrees dates back to the Middle Ages, as a means for institutions of higher learning to honor distinguished individuals for contributions to a profession or society-at-large. Saint Peter's University bestowed its first *honoris causa* in 1912 to Rt. Rev. Msgr. Henry A. Brann of St. Agnes Church in New York. Nearly 150 honorary degrees have been awarded since then. The short list of notable figures includes: civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. H '65, conservative journalist William F. Buckley Jr. H '69, First Lady of the American Theatre Helen Hayes H '75 and Cornell W. Brooks H '15, minister, attorney and former president of the NAACP.







# Ways to **GROW** the impact of your gift

And provide for the people and places that are important to you

## Discover the benefits of giving wisely.

### 1. **Avoid income taxes and give through your IRA**

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$100,000) per year from your IRA directly to Saint Peter's University without having to pay income taxes.

### 2. **Unlock the benefits of gifting appreciated securities and avoid capital gains taxes**

When you donate appreciated securities to Saint Peter's University, you may reduce or even eliminate federal capital gains taxes and be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction.

### 3. **Provide life income for yourself through a Charitable Gift Annuity**

This gift provides you with income payments for life and offers a variety of tax benefits.

### 4. **Develop an estate plan (through your will) to provide for the transfer of your wealth**

A simple, flexible and versatile way to ensure the University can continue its mission for years to come is by making a future gift in your will or living trust, known as a charitable bequest.

### 5. **Create your legacy by designating Saint Peter's University as a beneficiary** of your retirement account, donor advised fund or other financial account. You can review and adjust beneficiaries anytime you want.

## Have questions?

Contact our planned giving team to discuss how your future intentions can make an impact today.

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## Sesquicentennial Celebration

Saint Peter's will be kicking off its 150th anniversary—its Sesquicentennial celebration—this summer, inspired by the theme *Opportunity for Generations*. The theme honors the legacy of Saint Peter's welcoming students from virtually every background throughout its history. It also recognizes the impact of the University on the greater good from the accomplishments of its more than 50,000 graduates through the years, as well as underscores the role it has played in leading and fostering community service and engagement, urban vitalization and innovation.

Events will be taking place throughout the entire 2021-2022 academic year.

[saintpeters.edu/150](https://saintpeters.edu/150)

**#SPU150**