



Saint Peter's
UNIVERSITY

Magazine
SUMMER 2022

SHOWING THE
WORLD WHAT
Peacocks
CAN DO





WELLS FARGO CENTER



SP

Happy Time to be a Peacock

Alumni and friends from near and far flocked to the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia on March 25 for the East Regional semifinals of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. Peacock Nation was there to represent, while other fans cheered from the Run Baby Run Arena on campus and from locales throughout the country and abroad.

It was another historic game to add to the many achievements the Peacocks garnered in the extraordinary March Madness run. Saint Peter's defeated Purdue 67-64 and became the first No. 15 seed team to ever advance to the Elite Eight. The faithful, as well as newly minted Peacock fans, were elated. "You have people who understand what it means to be a Peacock," Vanessa Cordoba '22 told *USA Today* in an interview from the Run Baby Run Arena. "So, we all know the lingo. We all know we're going to count on each other, no matter the outcome."

The tourney ended for the Peacocks on March 27 when they fell to the North Carolina Tar Heels. Coverage of the NCAA Tournament and its impact on the University begins on page 8.

Seizing Greatness



Nothing fills me with greater satisfaction or pride than watching Saint Peter's University students shine. For 40 years, I've been privileged to witness our students—the majority of whom are still the first generation in their family to graduate from college—make the most of the opportunities a Jesuit education affords to be their best and forge promising futures.

I'm not the only one. Millions of people outside of our Peacock family gained newfound appreciation for our ambitious students and Ignatian mission when our men's basketball team defied enormous odds to reach the Elite Eight in this year's NCAA Tournament. Defeating powerhouse Kentucky and then Murray State before knocking off Purdue in the Sweet Sixteen, the Peacocks seized greatness as the world watched them achieve what no other No. 15 seed team had done before.

It was a tremendous moment for this University. The lasting effects, in terms of awareness and national exposure, have already begun, as recounted in the cover story for this issue, "Showing the World What Peacocks Can Do." There are also some early, promising impacts on admission and fundraising. Schools that garner attention and interest from an unprecedented tourney

run like ours, however, typically experience continued increases in applications and philanthropy beginning the year following the tournament. Trust that our faculty and administration are making the most of every opportunity that has come our way, and exploring new ones.

Away from the limelight, progress continues on all fronts at Saint Peter's. Our Data Science Institute has emerged as a program of choice, one that now attracts students from all over the globe. We are a designated Military Friendly® School, recognized for creating meaningful educational opportunity for the military community, and plan to grow our program to assist more veterans and members of the armed forces in writing the next chapters of their lives. *Hearts & Minds: The Saint Peter's University Scholarship Celebration* brought us together in person for the first time since 2019, grossing a record \$637,775 in support of our students' aspirations.

"It was a tremendous moment for this University. The lasting effects, in terms of awareness and national exposure, have already begun."

As we've shown throughout our 150-year history, we can accomplish tremendous goals when we pull together for the University we love. Thank you for all you do for Saint Peter's. In the coming months, I look forward to sharing news and developments on how we're capitalizing on the present momentum to reach new and greater heights.

Sincerely,

Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D.
President



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On the cover:
Daryl Banks III '23 and
Fousseyni Drame '23 left the
Kentucky Wildcats stunned.

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Sesquicentennial Graduates Take Center Stage



Final exams are finished. Capstone projects have been presented and these successfully defended. Members of the Class of 2022 celebrated the conclusion of their Jesuit educated journeys at the University's commencement exercises held at The PNC Bank Arts Center on May 26. Saint Peter's University awarded 878 degrees to graduates in the Sesquicentennial graduating class. This included 549 bachelor's degrees, 270 master's degrees and 59 doctoral degrees.

University President Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D., emphasized the Class of 2022's place in Saint Peter's history. "You are now part of that 150-year tradition. I have no doubt you will build on the legacy of those who preceded you. We

have prepared you to not only earn a living, but also lead a life worth living and be a light for others."

Rev. DeForest B. Soaries Jr., D. Min., H '22, pastor *emeritus* at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens and former secretary of State of New Jersey delivered a rousing commencement address. He told graduates that as beneficiaries of the Ignatian tradition that began 500 years ago, they have a job to do. "Ignatius leaves for us a challenge to not be so preoccupied with the right now, so that we don't make an investment for what God wants in other people's lives in the not yet. That is your assignment," he stated. "You are the generation that must lead this nation to believe that everybody is somebody and where they start should not be where they finish."

Continued on next page

AN ICON RETIRES



Joseph V. Doria Jr., Ed.D. '68, has left his mark on Saint Peter's University. Retiring as dean of the Caulfield School of Education effective June 30, Dr. Doria has built a Peacock legacy spanning almost 60 years as a student, administrator and trustee. Dr. Doria also served as a longtime elected official in Bayonne and in the New Jersey state legislature. Executive Vice President and Provost Frederick Bonato, Ph.D., said, "I want to thank Joe for all of his contributions to our community over the decades. We're happy that he plans on participating in the Saint Peter's community in the future."

To watch Dr. Doria's interview for the Saint Peter's Oral History Project, visit bit.ly/3HvX7kS.

Continued from previous page

The University conferred four honorary degrees to individuals whose contributions and accomplishments in the fields of faith-based community development, education, fine arts, poetry and public service reflect the Jesuit and Catholic values promoted throughout Saint Peter's 150-year history. The honorary degree recipients included Rev. Soaries; Nadia Makar '69, '81, H '22, STEM supervisor for Union City Board of Education; Carolyn Palmer H '22, internationally-recognized sculptor; and Judith Valente '76, H '22, award winning journalist and poet.



Rev. DeForest B. Soaries Jr., D. Min., H '22

DATA SCIENCE INSTITUTE GROWS IN STATURE AND SIZE

Saint Peter's University began its data science program in 2018 with two graduate programs and 43 students. Today, the Data Science Institute encompasses seven master's programs and attracts students from all over the world. Currently, 462 students are enrolled in the Institute, which is under the auspices of the Frank J. Guarini School of Business. Joseph Gilkey, Ph.D., director of the Data Science Institute, attributes the exponential growth to several factors.

In addition to the range of programs, students can learn fully online, on campus or choose a hybrid method. Jobs in the field are in high demand and the Institute has well-developed partnerships with IBM, the University of South Florida Health system, Digitas and others. Dr. Gilkey said the Data Science Institute has

also evolved: "We have shifted the focus to a practical model to ensure that students are able to obtain jobs once they graduate."

To better prepare students, Dr. Gilkey and his colleagues utilized natural language processing and looked at 2,000 data science jobs on LinkedIn and Indeed. They rated skill sets required for each position, which informed platforms, programs and learning outcomes for every course in the Institute. "We have been reviewing job descriptions every six months to ensure we are keeping the programs up-to-date," Dr. Gilkey added.

The growth trajectory is expected to continue. The Institute will offer a Ph.D. in data science this fall and programs at the undergraduate level are under development, as well.





ASK THE PROFESSORS

INFLATION HIT A 40-YEAR HIGH RECENTLY. WHAT RAMIFICATIONS ARE YOU SEEING AND WHAT SOLUTIONS WOULD YOU PROPOSE?



**Anna J. Brown, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor & Chair of
Political Science Department**

From a social justice point of view, we must consider who suffers the most harm during periods of inflation, the social context within which inflation exists and how we might best answer the call of those who are suffering. Those marginalized by our system feel the most pain from inflation and have so for years. Witness the skyrocketing costs of housing, education and medical care over the past four decades.

While we are not experiencing the inflationary crisis of the 1970s, inflation within the context of inequality has diminished the lives of those made poor. So, what are we to do? Here I agree with the “people’s economist” Hadas Thier: we must “push back against inflation panic to maintain demands for higher wages and increased social spending, while guarding against real inflation through price controls and policies that protect working people’s pockets.”



**Amanda Page-Hoongrajok, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor of
Economics & Finance**

Inflationary pressures in the U.S. may be easing. Used car prices have come down from pandemic highs, millions of barrels of oil were released from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and trucking markets seem to be cooling off. Furthermore, nominal wage growth has not kept up with inflation and, anecdotally, Amazon’s 2022 first quarter earnings report suggests that the company is no longer facing labor shortage issues. This means wage growth is unlikely to push prices higher.

That said, factors that place upward pressure on inflation remain, such as the war in Ukraine and COVID lockdowns in China. In many metropolitan areas, rents are also reaching new heights.

The Federal Reserve is committed to taming inflation, by raising the federal funds rate. But we can also consider a broader set of policy tools to manage inflation, such as reducing corporate markups by strengthening competition policy, capping prices of life-saving items like insulin and building out capacity for more production.



**Devin Rafferty, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of
Economics & Finance**

Price increases are primarily coming from supply-side bottlenecks in four areas: energy, food, housing and healthcare. To complicate matters, the largest corporations in these sectors are raising their profit mark-ups at historically unprecedented rates, which their CFOs openly admit on earnings calls. So, how concerning is this? Very, because the bottom line is that we have inflation because of decades of underinvestment in the infrastructure that holds the middle class together, and corporations are usurping the pandemic to normalize higher profit margins for the investor class. COVID-19 simply pulled back the curtain on this social imbalance and incentive structure.

The policy response? Rather than letting the Federal Reserve raise interest rates, which will only force thousands of upper-Midwesterners into the unemployment line with disastrous political consequences, President Joe Biden should get out there and make sure Congress passes Build Back Better yesterday.

(Opinions expressed above are solely those of the professors.)



AND THE EMMY® GOES TO...



Ernabel Demillo, M.S., lecturer and chair of the Department of Communication and Media Culture, won an Emmy® for her short documentary, "Fighting Hunger,

Feeding Minds: A New Yorker's Mission to Keep Rural Kids in School in the Philippines," at the 64th New York Emmy® Awards on October 31, 2021. The broadcast profiled the nonprofit ARK—Advancement for Rural Kids, a New York and Philippine-based organization working to eliminate malnutrition and keep kids in school across rural villages in the Philippines.

Professor Demillo described what she witnessed in the Philippines as "a feeding program with a twist. It's not a handout. It's an investment in schools to lead them to the road of independence, requiring 100 percent participation from schools, teachers and parents." The program first aired in 2019 on CUNY TV's *Asian American Life*, a monthly magazine show hosted and produced by the Saint Peter's professor.

A veteran New York City broadcaster, Professor Demillo's reporting has been nominated for multiple Emmy's®. In 2017, she was nominated for a segment, "The Ties That Bind: Filipinos in New York," which traced the little-known history of Filipino immigration in the early 20th century.

NASA SELECTS MATH INSTRUCTOR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH INITIATIVE



NASA invited Instructor of Mathematics **Mary Anne Gallagher-Landi '85** to participate in its Climate Change Research Initiative Educator Ambassadors

(CCRI EA) program at the agency's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), located at Columbia University in New York. CCRI EA is a yearlong educator professional development program that exposes participants to research, training, NASA resources and other opportunities to enrich STEM learning and create a more diverse STEM workforce. Educator ambassadors for the CCRI partner with NASA education specialists and scientists to use NASA climate change research and data in STEM coursework.

The NASA STEM Engagement Office attributed Professor Gallagher-Landi's selection to the CCRI EA program to several factors: expertise in improving STEM and climate change education, dedication to students and integration of NASA education content into classroom instruction. Research topics for this year's program range from the study of atmospheric rivers in a changing climate to earth-observation applications for resiliency.

Professor Gallagher-Landi is no stranger to NASA. Prior to becoming a math educator, she worked as an operations research analyst for NASA's Goddard

Space Flight Center in Maryland after earning a master's degree in mathematics from Boston College. She joined the Saint Peter's faculty in 2019.

NEW RESEARCH FROM THE DATA SCIENCE INSTITUTE

Faculty members **Gulhan Bizel, M.B.A., Ph.D.** and **Joseph W. Gilkey Jr., M.B.A., Ph.D.** teamed up with Data Science Institute graduates **Saloni Mishra, M.S. '20** and **Bhagyashree Chavan, M.S. '21** on a study recently published in *Socrates Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*. The article, "Time Series Analysis on Social Media Posts: A Study on TS Restaurants in Hawaii," detailed the results of a time series analysis of a restaurant chain's promotion of a musical event, and its impact on user ratings and seasonal trends. Time series analysis is the evaluation of a sequence of data points collected over a designated period. It is often employed to help businesses identify seasonal trends, determine why these trends occur and forecast consumer behavior and events.

The study was conducted when Mishra and Chavan were graduate assistants at the University's Data Science Institute. Mishra is now a data scientist at Unilever and an adjunct faculty member at Saint Peter's and Columbia University. Chavan is a senior Python developer at Equinix. Dr. Bizel is assistant professor and director of marketing science at the Frank J. Guarini School of Business. Dr. Gilkey is director of the Data Science Institute.



SOLO SHOW FOR PROFESSOR MADY



Professor of Graphic Arts **Beatrice M. Mady, M.F.A.**, unveiled new paintings and digital prints in a solo exhibition at the Watchung Arts Center in Watchung, N.J. Professor Mady's work, which is often described as a dialogue between the drawn form and color, was exhibited from April 19–May 22. "It's All in the Heat," another new work by the artist (pictured left), is featured in the 2022 New Jersey Art Annual at the New Jersey State Museum. The annual exhibition highlights the state's visual and performing artists in partnership with major museums around the Garden State. This year's theme, Reemergence, tasked artists with creating works focused on return amidst a changed landscape following the impacts of the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic. The exhibition is on view until April 30, 2023.

In addition to teaching graphic arts, Professor Mady serves as director of the University's Fine Arts Gallery.

BUSINESS PROFESSOR IS RUTGERS' MSI ASPIRING LEADER



The Rutgers' MSI (Minority Serving Institution) Aspiring Leader program receives hundreds of applications from highly qualified candidates each year but can only accept

a few. Associate Professor of Business Administration **Marilú Marcillo, D.M., M.B.A.**, is one of 13 MSI leaders selected from a nationwide pool of 500 for this year's program; she is also the only higher education professional to represent New Jersey. The MSI Aspiring Leader program is a two-year endeavor that prepares participants for leadership opportunities in the administration of minority servicing higher education institutions.

ASTROPHYSICIST PRODUCES NEW ANIMATED FEATURE



William Gutsch, Ph.D. '67, distinguished professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, wrote, co-produced and directed *The Great Undersea Adventure of Barney*

and Beenie, an animated feature produced by Fulldome Studio DN for IMAX and planetarium theaters. Geared to children ages four to seven, the educational feature follows the adventures of two lagoon creatures who work cooperatively to tackle problems of pollution and climate change.

Gutsch is a highly respected astrophysicist, academic and expert communicator of complex scientific topics to the general public. *Barney and Beenie* is one of many

features and science documentaries he's developed that have been screened in museums, science centers, planetariums and other venues around the globe.

ENGLISH LECTURER BY DAY, ACTOR AT NIGHT

Judy Wilson, M.A., adjunct lecturer in English, starred in two one-act plays earlier this year, *The Actor's Nightmare* and *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You*, at the Studio Players in Montclair, N.J. A seasoned performer, Professor Wilson has appeared in several Studio Players productions and has acted in scripted and documentary television roles. In March, she joined the cast of *Bridesmaid Murder*, a murder mystery dinner theater staged by the West Hudson Arts & Theatre Company in Kearny.

SHOWING THE
WORLD WHAT
Peacocks
CAN DO



THIS MAGIC MOMENT

Told you. That was the collective reaction of Saint Peter's University alumni after the Peacocks knocked down Kentucky, 85-79, in the first round of the NCAA men's basketball tournament. More than 20 million brackets were busted by the thrilling, overtime win. People everywhere were stunned. Gobsnacked. Those of us who've known and lived the Saint Peter's story took to social media to set the universe straight.

"Never, EVER underestimate the Peacocks," we posted, texted and said out loud to colleagues, friends and neighbors not acquainted with the Jesuit institution that's been doing the work of changing lives for 150 years. This tough, tenacious team that went on to beat Murray State and powerhouse Purdue did what Saint Peter's graduates have been doing for generations: proved themselves. They did it magnificently. Matt Feeney '15, who grew up in Jersey City, summed it up beautifully on LinkedIn: "The young men on this basketball team are representing all of us: the underdogs, the overlooked, the little guy. And they are showing the world what happens when you meet your opportunity with courage, passion and confidence."

Prediction: this magical moment we didn't want to end will catapult Saint Peter's far beyond the status of "best kept secret" and "hidden gem in Jersey City." We captured the hearts and minds of the nation because Saint Peter's is living proof that standards matter. David can still beat Goliath. And greatness lies within us all.

The proverbial ball is in our court. The world now knows our name. Let's show them what Peacocks can do.



MAKING HISTORY

Led by Head Coach Shaheen Holloway, the 2021-22 men's basketball team shattered records and achieved many firsts for Athletics, the University and the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).

- First MAAC men's basketball program to reach the **Sweet 16** in the NCAA Tournament after knocking off Murray State, 70-60
- **Third No. 15** seed team in tournament history to ever advance to the Sweet 16
- **First No. 15** seed team to reach the **Elite Eight** after defeating No. 3 Purdue, 67-64
- **First school from New Jersey** to advance to the Elite Eight since Seton Hall's run in 1991
- With the defeat of Kentucky, Murray State and Purdue, the Peacocks amassed the **most wins in a single tournament** by any MAAC men's or women's basketball team in the conference's 41 years of competition.



THE NCAA TOURNAMENT HAS ENDED...

THE IMPACT IS JUST BEGINNING!

On March 29, two days after the men's basketball team concluded its unprecedented run in the NCAA Tournament, the host of WNYC's *The Brian Lehrer Show* invited President Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D., on the live broadcast to talk about the history-making event and its lasting effect on Saint Peter's University. Asked about the ways March Madness raised the University's profile beyond athletics, Dr. Cornacchia told Lehrer, "Everybody's talking about Saint Peter's all across the country and especially in New Jersey. It's been a remarkable moment for us." Here are key impacts and outcomes to emerge from the Peacocks' epic journey to the Elite Eight that point to an even brighter future for The Jesuit University of New Jersey.



SOLD OUT!

Online orders for Peacock gear came from **45** different states from March 18-20, the days after Saint Peter's upset Kentucky in overtime, 85-79. On campus, **\$47,000** in merchandise sales were recorded from March 17 to 24, more than double the sales recorded in the entire fall semester. Consumer interest in licensed Saint Peter's products generated more than **\$100,000** in sales in the first weekend of the NCAA Tournament.



Watch the commercial by scanning the above QR code.

SPIKE IN ADMISSION APPLICATIONS

"It's not about where you come from. It's about being given a chance and what you do with that chance," begins the powerful "Know Our Name" campaign for Saint Peter's admissions, narrated by Jayson Wesley '11. The 15-second and 30-second commercials went into heavy promotion during the NCAA Tournament, capitalizing on the Peacock grit and determination that attracted nationwide attention. As is the case at many universities with Cinderella teams, Saint Peter's is expecting an admission boost the year following the tourney appearance.

59% increase over the same time period the previous year

131 new applications March 17-26

#STRUTUP

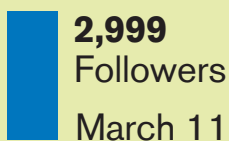
The Peacock rally cry became Twitter vernacular with more than **61,000** uses of the hashtag in the month of March alone. @PeacocksMBB also got the elusive blue check mark from Twitter when a Verify Us campaign went viral.

EXPONENTIAL RISE IN FOLLOWS AND FANS

67,423 visitors checked out saintpeters.edu on March 18. Over the next two days, site traffic increased to **189,815** users. It reached a high of **247,493** the following week.



Saint Peter's Men's Basketball 
@PeacocksMBB



There were **824,250** total mentions of #MarchMadness on Twitter. On its own, Saint Peter's accrued half of that (**476,512**).



SURGE IN GIVING & ALUMNI PARTICIPATION

Old friends. New friends. Loyal alumni, first time donors and people moved by Saint Peter's story showed their support for the University's students, athletes and 150-year mission of elevating lives. Here's one snapshot that illustrates the impact of giving.

643 contributors

March 9-26, 2022

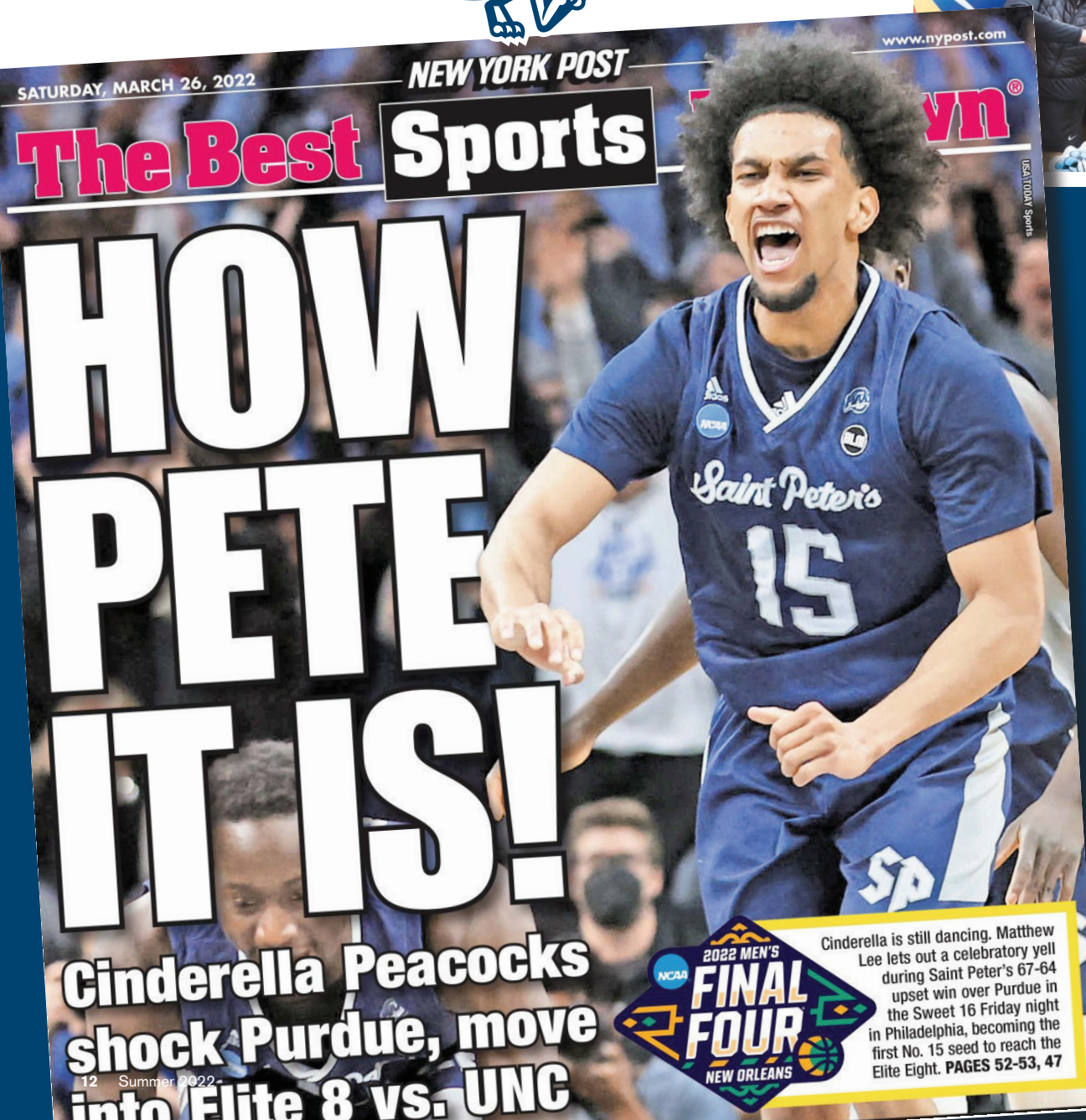
348 contributors

March 9-26, 2021



278% increase
in gifts and pledges

Over 1,000 registrants for
alumni watch parties



MEDIA BUZZ

23.4 B

You got that right! More than 23 billion impressions were generated in print, online and broadcast about Saint Peter's during the NCAA tourney.

9

The number of times the Peacocks graced the front and back pages of *The New York Post*, *The Daily News* and *Sports Illustrated*.



SAINT PETER'S IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

12.15 million people watched the Peacocks play on national television. According to Nielsen, Saint Peter's appearance and defeat of Kentucky and Murray State landed among the **20 most-watched television** programs in prime time during the week of March 13.

From early morning until late at night, the Peacock Cinderella story was a big topic of conversation on *Good Morning America*, *The Today Show*, *NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt*, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and many more broadcasts.

Local, regional, national and international media couldn't get enough Peacock coverage in March. Some headlines include:

Historic upset puts Saint Peter's on the map

– *Associated Press*, March 18, 2022

Who is Saint Peter's? Meet the No. 15 seeded Peacocks, who upset Kentucky and now reached the Sweet 16

– *USA Today*, March 19, 2022

The Miracle of Saint Peter's: How Jersey City produced the most unlikely Sweet 16 team

– *The Washington Post*, March 24, 2022

How St. Peter's Became the Belle of the March Madness Ball

– *The New York Times*, March 25, 2022

PRIDE OF NEW JERSEY

Starting in McGinley Square and spreading out to the New Jersey Turnpike, the Peacocks inspired a spontaneous outpouring of support. Banners went up in local pubs, City Hall lit up blue and billboards honored Saint Peter's Jersey style. Departed Soles, a Jersey City brewery, even crafted a "Busted Bracket" beer in honor of the team.



TOP TWEETS FROM MARCH MADNESS



Earvin Magic Johnson ✓
@MagicJohnson

Congratulations to Coach Shaheen Holloway and the St. Peter's players for playing an incredible game!!
[@PeacocksMBB](#)



Rob Phillips @nasdaqphillips · 21h
Congratulations @saintpetersuniv @SPUAthletics @PeacocksMBB from
[@Nasdaq](#)
#StrutUp #Sweet16



5 31 174



2:44 PM - Mar 24, 2022
37.1K Reply Share this Tweet



Eli Manning ✓
@EliManning

What? I have been cheering for Saint Peter's for years. They are my local New Jersey basketball team. Go Peacocks!!



Governor Phil Murphy ✓
@GovMurphy

New Jersey is all in on [@PeacocksMBB](#)! #StrutUp 🇺🇸
#MarchMadness #Sweet16





What?! Birds of a feather MUST flock together. Pack your bags Spirit Squad. We're getting you to the game. Can you be ready in...a few hours?! 🏀👊 We're making this happen. #PeacockProud



LET'S GO @PeacocksMBB



LET'S GOOOO 🏀🏀🏀🏀🏀

Saint Peter's Men's Basketball @PeacocksMBB · Mar 25

HISTORY!!!!

YOUR PEACOCKS ARE HEADED TO THE ELITE EIGHT!!

🏀 67-64 🏀

#StrutUp 🏀



Saint Peter's gave us one of the greatest Cinderella runs ever.

- ★ First 15-seed to make the Elite Eight
- ★ Major upsets over Kentucky and Purdue
- ★ Ended Murray State's 21-game win streak
- ★ Obliterated brackets and captured hearts nationwide

What a run 🏀



READY TO WORK

Bashir Mason takes over for Holloway

If you didn't know the Coach Bash ethos of winning with integrity, you know it now. Bashir Mason, the 16th head coach of the Saint Peter's University men's basketball program, made his priorities very clear at the April 13 press conference where he was introduced to Peacock Nation as Saint Peter's new basketball coach.

Mason started his remarks by taking a moment to address his players at Wagner College, where he coached for more than 10 years before accepting the Saint Peter's job. The presence of the Wagner players at Mason's introduction at the Run Baby Run Arena spoke volumes about his commitment to student-athletes' physical, academic and mental well-being. Coach Bash, who steered the program to great success over the past decade, thanked the Seahawks for their trust and support. Then he pointed at his watch and reminded Wagner players about afternoon classes: "I expect you to be there, up front and representing the program."

Mason told the Peacock team he's ready to get to work: "I'm gonna challenge you guys every day. There's a standard here at Saint Peter's that you set. Every guy who enters this program is going to live up to those standards. Every single day. Not just on the court, but how we are in the classroom and in the community."

A decorated coach among Division I schools, Mason brings a winning pedigree to Saint Peter's, having led Wagner to three Northeast Conference (NEC) regular season titles, three National Invitational Tournament appearances and a 165-130 overall record. In 2021-22, the program posted a 21-6 record and an appearance in the NEC title game, marking the third time in Mason's tenure and ninth time in program history that Wagner won 20 or more games in one season. Director of Athletics Rachele Paul described Mason as the perfect choice to lead the Peacocks after Shaheen Holloway assumed the head coaching position at Seton Hall University. "[Mason's] teams play with grit, heart and a sense of persistence that Peacock Nation has come to expect," she said.

A native of Jersey City, Mason began his coaching career at his high school *alma mater*, St. Benedict's Prep, under Dan Hurley, now head coach of the University of Connecticut. When Hurley took over the Wagner program in 2010, Mason became assistant coach of the Seahawks. Appointed to the top job two years later, Mason, at age 28, was the youngest head coach in Division I basketball. He holds a bachelor's degree in sports management from Drexel University, where he played four outstanding seasons of Division I basketball, and a master's degree in education from Wagner College. 🏀



Telling Our Stories

The Oral History Project commissioned for the Sesquicentennial did more than document the past. It informed our understanding of the present and forged deeper connections among students, faculty, staff and alumni.



For Jesse Resurreccion '22, interviewing alumni and faculty for the Oral History Project commemorating the 150th anniversary of Saint Peter's University was a profound experience. "I wanted to see [the University] through the eyes of someone else," said Resurreccion in a panel discussion that presented

the Sesquicentennial project to the campus community on April 21. "I was watching people's lives unfold. I loved hearing how life was before I was [at Saint Peter's]."


Organized by the Sesquicentennial Commission, the Oral History Project began in 2020. Its purpose was twofold, according to Assistant Professor of History John Johnson, Jr., Ph.D., a member of the Sesquicentennial Commission who guided student-interviewers through the process of collecting and documenting community memory. "The project was born of a desire to capture oral histories of alumni, faculty and staff," he explained. "And to also foster connection between current students and alumni through dialogue about how Saint Peter's has changed over the years." In addition to Resurreccion, student-interviewers included Gineen Abuali '21, Loretta Graceffo '21, Desiree Amas Rosas '21, Bianka Labrador '22, Kattie Corte '22 and Toyibot Osho '22. The students conducted approximately 36 oral history interviews, capturing experiences of faculty and alumni representing every decade from the 1950s to the present day. Many of the interviews also contain perspectives and recollections of the Day Session becoming fully coeducational in 1966, the lasting influence of the Jesuits and Ignatian values, social movements in the 1960s and 1970s,

developments that transformed Jersey City and the growth of a diverse student body.

Several panelists spoke on the significance of preserving community memory, noting that the past really does inform the present. "We always hear stories about how Dr. King came and spoke at Michaelmas," said Professor of Education Jennifer Ayala, Ph.D., referencing the historic 1965 visit to campus by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., H '65. "At that time, it was a really radical move that we may not appreciate as much now. Thinking about something that happened then can give us strength to be courageous now at this institution."

Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Kevin Callahan, J.D. '69 emphasized his lifelong connection to Saint Peter's and the importance of recording history. "I have been here for half of the 150 years [of Saint Peter's] and it has just been a great honor," he stated. "People have to know it. And if people from my generation don't pass it down to your generation, then we are missing something."

While many of the stories document change, a constant theme emerged among the generations of Peacocks represented in the project. "Doing the interviews, the spirit of Jersey City and Saint Peter's remained surprisingly consistent," observed Resurreccion. The alumni she interviewed, "were so grateful for the foundation that Saint Peter's University provided for them. As a daughter of immigrants, I can say Saint Peter's provided me a foundation in order to get ahead, in order for me to have a future, in order for me to have an impact on my community."

The collection of primary source material will be added to the oral histories created during the 125th anniversary of Saint Peter's. To view the Oral History Project in its entirety, visit saintpeters.edu/150. 



John Johnson Jr., Ph.D., assistant professor of history (standing), facilitated a panel discussion on the Oral History Project. The panel included interview subjects (L to R): Michelle Pérez '16, president of the Alumni Board; Jennifer Ayala, Ph.D., professor of education; Kevin Callahan, J.D. '69, associate professor of criminal justice; and student-interviewers Jesse Resurreccion '22 and Toyibot Osho '22. Opposite page: (L to R): Toyibot Osho '22, John Johnson, Jr., Ph.D., Jesse Resurreccion '22 and Karina Diaz '22.

Reflect & Rejoice

On the 150th birthday of Saint Peter's University, Founders' Week honored Jesuit tradition and the legacy of providing Opportunity for Generations.




Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C. Ss.R, H '22, and Rev. Andrew Downing, S.J.



President of Saint Peter's Prep and University Trustee Michael Gomez, Ed.D., and President of Saint Peter's University Eugene Cornacchia, Ph.D.

'I Want What the Peacocks Are Offering'

One hundred fifty years to the day, the Saint Peter's University and Saint Peter's Prep communities gathered for a Founders' Day Mass at St. Aedan's: The Saint Peter's University Church. The charter from which both institutions descend was established by a Special Act of the Legislature of New Jersey on April 3, 1872.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., H '22, archbishop of Newark, served as guest celebrant and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, from the University. His homily was timely, referencing the men's basketball team's inspiring run to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament, and thought provoking, noting the defeat of powerhouse programs drew worldwide admiration for Saint Peter's diversity and mission to form men and women for others. "People are saying, 'I want a piece of what they've got. I want what the Peacocks are offering,'" said Cardinal Tobin, noting that people look at how Christians live more than what they say. "And so, thank you Peacocks. For reminding us to walk the talk, so that others will say, 'I want what He is offering.'" 






State and local officials joined the Founders' Week celebration. **1.** State Senator Sandra Cunningham and Assemblywoman Angela McKnight shared words of congratulations on behalf of the entire State Legislature. **2.** President Eugene Cornacchia, Ph.D. and Board of Trustees Chair Frank Fekete, CPA '75, welcome State, County and Local officials including: Gov. Phil Murphy; Sen. Sandra Cunningham; State Assembly Members, Raj Mukherji, William Sampson and Angela McKnight; Mayor Steven Fulop H '14; Hudson County Commissioner Anthony Romano '77, Jersey City Council President Joyce Watterman; and City Council Members Richard Boggiano, Amy DeGise, Frank Gilmore, Daniel Rivera, Yousef Saleh and James Solomon. **3.** Jersey City Council President Joyce Watterman and Mayor Fulop presented a resolution from the Jersey City Council. **4.** Gov. Phil Murphy addresses the University community.

Governor Addresses University Community for Founders' Week

Gov. Phil Murphy recognized Saint Peter's University as one of New Jersey's most treasured institutions of higher education at the Founders' Week celebratory event on April 6. "The values of a Saint Peter's education are rooted in the belief that all who walk throughout this campus should be given the tools to excel intellectually, lead ethically, serve compassionately and promote justice," the governor told students, faculty, administrators, alumni and members of the Board of Trustees, Board of Regents and Alumni Board who gathered in The Duncan Family Sky Room of the Mac Mahon Student Center. "It is what has made Saint Peter's the place American dreams are not just dreamt, but where they take root and are made to become reality."

The event was organized by the Sesquicentennial Commission and the Guarini Institute for Government and Leadership. A compilation of 150th anniversary news, events and happenings is available at saintpeters.edu/150. 



President Cornacchia presents basketball signed by Elite 8 men's basketball team to Gov. Murphy.



Director of Military and Veterans Services Frank Rivera, M.S. **Driven to Serve**

Frank Rivera served his country for eight years. Now he's serving men and women transitioning out of the military in a newly created role at Saint Peter's University.

What prompted you to enlist in the military?

I grew up between Jersey City and Bayonne, and joined the military in 2002, just after 9/11. I was 18 and just happened to answer a phone call from a recruiter. I joined the Air Force, but at the time had no idea what branch did what. I just knew I wanted to serve and give back a little bit. It completely changed my life.

I became an electrical and environmental system technician and worked my way up to flying crew chief, where I would fly with military aircraft and fix them as a flight mechanic. I was stationed eight years at Travis AFB in California and served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and have been to roughly 22 percent of the countries on the planet. It was a pretty great military career.

What did you learn about yourself by serving in the military?

That I have the ability to learn. That's something I didn't understand about myself in grammar or high school. I was always kind of inquisitive, but always directed to

the vocational side of things. That's what I thought of myself. But the military showed me I could be so much more.

I started applying myself. That's what the military makes you do. You don't want to fail your brothers and sisters in your flight, so it pushes you a little bit harder. It sparked in me the idea that I could learn so many new things. I think that's something I still carry to this day.

What was your transition out of the military like?

You get all this preparation to do things while you're in the military, but there was no preparation for us to get out. After transitioning out in 2010, I didn't know how to navigate the situation.

I ended up moving to Texas, working in Kansas and getting transferred to South Carolina. I wasn't happy with the job, so I called up my wife and said, "Hey, I'm going to quit my job and come back to New Jersey and get enrolled in school." That's where I started getting



help. I met Elaine Gargiulo, director, military & veterans services at NJCU (New Jersey City University) and she changed my life. She showed me how to navigate the system. She helped me with everything, made my time at NJCU an amazing experience and offered me a lot of opportunity to really expand my horizons.

Did that influence your decision to work with active military and veterans in higher ed?

One hundred percent. My experience transitioning out of the military was very difficult and I didn't want anyone else to feel that way, ever. It made me want to get involved somehow. When I finished my master's degree, I saw a job for assistant veterans services coordinator at Middlesex College. It felt like an opportunity to give back.

My boss, Richard Feldman, was the best mentor anyone could ask for. I was a mechanic at heart, and he made me pivot and showed me that you can completely change if you are willing and open-minded to that change. My career kind of went from there. I worked with an amazing group of people at Middlesex and then had the opportunity to direct military and veterans services at the New York Institute of Technology.

What drew you to Saint Peter's?

I had been eyeing Saint Peter's for a while because I'd heard the University was planning to do something in this space. When the opportunity came up, I knew it was the position I had been waiting for. It's not in Middlesex. It's not in New York City. This is in Hudson County, where I was born and raised. When you serve the community from your area—and you can be a part of something that's been here for 150 years—it really does make you feel like this is the place you were meant to be.

A lot of the students I interact with are local. When they find out I lived in Holland Gardens for a while or went to P.S. 37, you make connections. I'm not somebody from the outside coming in here to help. I'm a local person. It motivates students so they can visualize themselves in a completely different position.

How would you describe your role?

One of my main jobs at the University is to really understand what the processes are, what we have in

place for military and veterans and try to reimagine our actual approach to it. That's something that takes time, especially if we want to be ready to handle an influx of students.

Because this is not a traditional student. It's not even your traditional, non-traditional student. These are folks with extremely diverse backgrounds and experiences and now they are trying to get re-educated or enter a whole new chapter of their lives. I talk a lot about identity loss. When you join the military at 18, 19 or 20 years old, you're still a kid. And you become a soldier, or sailor or Marine for a period of time. When you get out, you are no longer that soldier, sailor or Marine and you're no longer that kid. The question is, "Who are you?" That is a very jarring thing to have to deal with when you are 28, 29 or 30 years old. Helping people in this situation understand the question, think about it and figure out where they want to go is the best thing we can do for our students.

What do you hope Military and Veterans Services looks like in the future? How should the program evolve?

I would like us to have more of a footing, expand our student population and become the premiere destination for men and women transitioning out of the military. I want Saint Peter's to be the place where folks get real-world and real-life experience for the next chapter of their lives.

You have to have support for this to be successful, so it's important for people to know that it's just not me. Without Beth Sullivan (vice president for enrollment management and marketing) and the hard work she put forth before I even arrived, or people like business professor Ray Butkus, who organizes the Veterans Day Ceremony every year, we would not be successful. We have the backing of everyone in the institution, from the president on down. That's laid the path for me to have the opportunity to build and grow this program. 🏡

Frank Rivera, M.S., became the inaugural director of Military and Veterans Services at Saint Peter's University in October 2021. Rivera holds a B.A. in economics and M.S. in national security studies from NJCU. He is married to Elizabeth Rivera, a former military flight medic and respiratory therapist at East Orange VA Medical Center. The couple has two children.

Saint Peter's University is on its way to becoming the premiere destination for veterans and military personnel. In March, the University earned the 2022-2023 Military Friendly® School designation, a standard that measures an organization's commitment, effort and success in creating sustainable and meaningful opportunity for the military community.

Building on its long history of assisting veterans, service members and their dependents, the University introduced new initiatives to serve the needs of veterans and active duty military students. A chapter of Student Veterans of America was established on campus.

Green Zone training has also been introduced to the broader University community. Its purpose is to help students, faculty, staff and administrators understand the experiences of military-affiliated students and to foster better communication and support in the transition to civilian life.

Hearts & Minds

The Saint Peter's University Scholarship Celebration


150

Celebrating 150 YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIP

The Saint Peter's University community pulled out all the stops on behalf of promising students at the 2022 *Hearts & Minds: The Saint Peter's University Scholarship Celebration* on May 6.

The University set a new record with a total of \$637,775 raised in support of the event, with all proceeds benefiting scholarships. Such an achievement is a testament to the deep belief that's shared by alumni and friends alike for Saint Peter's mission and its 150-year history of transforming students' lives.

Celebrating 150 Years of Scholarship was the theme for this year's event, and the honorees embodied the University's legacy of providing life-changing opportunities to ambitious students. Mesfin Fekadu '08, an award-winning journalist and writer at Netflix, was the recipient of the Rising Star Award. Lord, Abnett & Co. LLC, the privately held money management firm that established the University's Student Managed Investment Fund, was presented with the Corporate Citizen Award. The Loyalty to Saint Peter's honor went to Christine and Fausto Rotundo, CPA '91, who both have been tremendous supporters of the University and its students.

The celebration was held at Maritime Parc in Jersey City, the first in-person *Hearts & Minds* since 2019. Ernabel Demillo, lecturer and chair of the Department of Communication and Media Culture, served as emcee for the evening while Trustee Eugene Flinn '80 and Leah Leto, vice president for advancement and external affairs, co-hosted and engaged with the audience for the fund-a-scholar auction. Tevin Ighalo '22 spoke about his experience as a Saint Peter's student thanks to the generous scholarships that he received. The University extends its gratitude to all who supported the event, including lead sponsors: the Rotundos, Lord Abnett, Pfizer, Genova Burns, LLC, Charles M. Lizza, Esq. '77 and Sandy Lizza, Della Rosa Family Foundation, Edgewood Management LLC, Hon. Frank J. Guarini H '94, Investors Bank and Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP. 





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1. Saint Peter's University President Eugene Cornacchia, Ph.D., and Mesfin Fekadu '08; 2. Christine and Fausto Rotundo '91 with President Cornacchia; 3. President Cornacchia and Brooke Fapohunda, J.D., partner and chief sustainability officer, Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC; 4. Guests enjoying the program at Maritime Parc; 5. Tevin Ighalo '22; 6. Trustee and Co-Host Eugene Flinn '80; 7. The Aidan C. McMullen Chorale performs; 8. Sandy Lizza participates during the fund-a-scholar auction; and 9. Emcee Ernabel Demillo, lecturer and chair of the Department of Communication and Media Culture



Saint Peter's yearbook photo of William Harford '51



Helen and William Harford '51



Helen and William Harford '51 with their extended family

The Most Meaningful Gift

At times, William Harford '51 seemed larger than life. With a smile that could instantly light up a room, the longtime sales and marketing executive often set others at ease with a series of quips that sparked infectious laughter among listeners. Yet beneath his jovial personality was an intensity of purpose founded on qualities that had shaped his life, like character, hard work and ingenuity.

After the World War II veteran passed away on June 14, 2020, his family wanted to honor his incredible legacy. One idea tossed around by his son and daughter-in-law, Woody and Suni Harford, was an endowed scholarship for veterans at Saint Peter's University. By winter 2020, the project hadn't gained much traction—or so Woody thought.

As the couple exchanged presents on Christmas Eve, Suni informed her husband that the William Harford '51 Scholarship for Service would soon be a reality. "What is the most meaningful gift you could give anyone?" asked Woody. "At this point in our lives, gift giving has become less about things and more about experiences. This was a gift she knew I'd value highly."

Established with a \$250,000 contribution, the William Harford '51 Scholarship for Service will provide tuition and other assistance for veterans who enroll at Saint Peter's. The scholarship recognizes the service of Harford, a Jersey City resident who graduated from Lincoln High School then enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After two years in the Pacific theater, Harford returned home and enrolled in a special program to prepare veterans for college. With the assistance of the G.I. Bill, he enrolled at Saint Peter's, where he studied business and played on the varsity baseball team.

After graduating, Harford embarked on a long career in sales and marketing, working for several firms before landing at Noxell Corporation, which boasted well-known products like Noxzema and CoverGirl and later became a subsidiary of The Procter and Gamble Company. Despite his career achievements, Harford considered his biggest success to be his family: his wife, Helen, and four children. Harford was a hands-on dad, which was unusual at the time. “He was a fabulous father,” explained Helen. “He did everything with the children.”

Throughout his life, Harford maintained that a can-do attitude was everything when it came to facing challenges. As a coach for Woody’s youth baseball team, he’d choose the roster more on attitude than on the ability to pitch, hit and throw. An adolescent Woody also stayed home from school for a week to help his father build a new deck in the rear of the family’s home. “He’d never remotely built anything like that before,” laughed Woody, who is retired from the airline industry.


Established with a \$250,000 contribution, the William Harford ’51 Scholarship for Service will provide tuition and other assistance for veterans who enroll at Saint Peter’s.

The results of those experiences—two baseball championships and a new deck for the family—helped to shape Woody’s character: “Dad was an attitude guy. Those experiences taught me that you can get anything done if you approach it with a positive attitude. They were great life lessons about what’s really important for success.”

Harford also taught his children to think on their feet. At family dinners, one game involved speaking extemporaneously as a spoon, representing a microphone, was passed around the table. “Bill believed in the importance of being able to think critically and speak well,” Helen said. “He knew that you could be the smartest person in the world, but something’s missing if you can’t communicate your ideas.”

Today, veterans affairs remain important to the Harford family. In addition to Harford’s service, Suni’s father served in World War II, her brother is an Air Force veteran and she is a founder of Veterans on Wall Street and recipient of the U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Award. Woody believes his outgoing father would be humbled by the scholarship for veterans established at Saint Peter’s in his name: “He loved being the center of attention, but I think he’d be overwhelmed by this. He always downplayed his successes and never gave himself enough credit.”

Recalling the moment she heard about the scholarship, Helen said, “I was flabbergasted. What a fantastic way to honor and pay tribute to him.”

If you are interested in establishing a legacy scholarship to pay tribute to a loved one, please contact Linda Moore, J.D., senior director of leadership and planned giving, at (201) 761-6128 or lmoore2@saintpeters.edu. 



What a Rally! SAINT PETER DAY RAISES MORE THAN \$300,000 IN 24 HOURS

Saint Peter Day donors doubled their impact and raised a record \$302,021 in 24 hours on April 6. This year’s day of annual giving coincided with the Founders’ Week celebration in honor of the 150th anniversary of the charter that established Saint Peter’s University. The historical significance of the Sesquicentennial, along with Peacock Pride on the heels of the men’s basketball team’s outstanding performance in the NCAA Tournament, fueled the outpouring of support from alumni, students, faculty, staff, administrators and friends.

The effort was helped by a group of loyal and generous alumni who challenged the wider University community to donate by matching the first \$150,000 raised, dollar-for-dollar. The Opportunity for Generations challengers included Garry Prime ’65, Patricia Crifo ’70, Kevin Downes ’73, Noreen Beaman ’86, Anthony ’92 and Maureen ’94 Pergola, La Toro Yates ’94, Rosemary Ampuero ’96, John Hallanan III ’03, Rozen Pradhan ’11 and Anu Joshi ’12.

PEACOCK NATION DAY

The second annual Peacock Nation Day, held on February 27, also surpassed expectations. The day of giving in support of the University’s student-athletes raised \$70,946 from 171 gifts, setting a record that more than doubled the amount raised in the inaugural campaign. Thanks to matching gift challenges from Tom Mac Mahon ’68, Sharon Pastore ’73 and Christie Shea ’00, the campaign drew contributions of all sizes from all sectors of the Saint Peter’s community. Director of Athletics Rachelle Paul said the outstanding result “is a testament to all of Peacock Nation and the unified goal of providing the best possible experience for our student-athletes.”

Through the Athletic Director’s Challenge, donors also had the opportunity to direct a gift to their favorite team. The men’s baseball team won the challenge with a total of \$12,698 raised, and the program was awarded a \$2,500 bonus.

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 class notes to: alumni.saintpeters.edu/newsandnotes or send to: Office of Alumni Engagement, 2641 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, NJ 07306.

1955

Bob Kramer gave a reading of selections from his translations of German literature at The New York Browning Society's celebration of National Translation Month. He is a regular book reviewer for *American Book Review* and continues to publish his own poetry and literary translations.

1957

Donald J. Nowacki and his wife, Barbara, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on February 10 with their children and grandchildren at their wine country home in Santa Rosa, Calif.

1959

Bob Savasta retired from a career as an aerospace engineer. He and his wife, Dotty, are also proud to announce the birth of their 18th great-grandchild.

1961

Joseph Caruso and his wife, Anne, moved to a retirement community in Tucson, Ariz. They will celebrate 59 years of marriage in December. They are blessed with five children and 15 grandchildren.

Joseph Millichap, Ph.D., would like to announce his latest published book, *Robert Penn Warren, Shadowy Autobiography*,

and *Other Makers of American Literature* (University of Tennessee Press, 2021).

1963

Bob Fay was among the last of 213 finishers of the 2021 Keystone Trail Challenge. He was the second of only two 80-year-olds to finish the 25K race!

1965

James Brown retired as a school psychologist from Newark Public Schools.

Gaetano (Guy) Callari and Janice Callari celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Guy retired from the high-tech industry on December 31, 1999, and has been making wine on California's Central Coast ever since.

1966

Raymond Bober studied chaplaincy after retirement and is a board-certified clinical chaplain. He volunteers his time visiting patients at Hackensack Meridian Health JFK University Medical Center.

John Gleason, Esq., is pleased to announce that he survived a bout with lymphoma, thanks to the good doctors at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

1967

Robert G. Lahita, M.D., announces his new book called *Immunity Strong*, published by Humanix Books in January.

Gerald J. Stanig and Lucy M. Stanig celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

1968

Walt Dwyer became a grandfather with the birth of his grandson, Peter Walter Dwyer, on December 21, 2020.

Bob Steeves is proud to announce the birth of his fifth great-grandchild, Mackenzie Grace DeCarlo, on December 22, 2021. Mackenzie joins older twin brothers, Owen and Zachary (age 2), as well as cousins Elena (age 3) and Rene Cesar (age 1) Romero in Steeves' growing tribe of great-grands.

1969

Joseph Hordych, USA (Ret.), is proud to announce the birth of his third grandson. He also shares that he married Patti Riposta.

1970

John Introcaso will participate in the pre-Broadway opening of an original musical in October at the Bay Street Theater in Sag Harbor, N.Y. Introcaso wrote both the book and music.

Kevin Murray and his wife, Connie, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 12, 2021. They have four children and two grandchildren. They spend their summers in Rochester, N.Y., and their winters in their Naples, Fla., home. Murray retired in 2019 and enjoys pickleball, reading and adventures with their two little granddaughters.

Bill Scheller is the author of *In All Directions: Thirty Years of Travel*, a collection of articles written for national magazines during his career as a travel writer. Published by Natural Traveler Books, LLC in September 2021, it is available exclusively on Amazon.



SIX PEACOCKS INDUCTED INTO ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

The Saint Peter's University Athletics Hall of Fame welcomed six Peacocks to its ranks at an induction ceremony on February 27. Members of the 2022 Class were recognized for athletic merit, as well as distinction and leadership demonstrated in advancing athletics at Saint Peter's. Congratulations to the inductees: Lovro Bilonic '13, Derek England, M.Ed. '11, Thomas Farley '55, Chris Innis '09, Serra Soylu Kosar '07 and Stephanie Zemaitatis Vigliotti '98.

1971

Bill Armbruster was selected as a recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Volunteer Award from the East-West Center Association.

Daniel D'Alessandro retired as a judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey and returned to private practice as a mediator, arbitrator, educator and public interest attorney.

1973

Donna (Pica) and Tom Derise '74 are happy to announce the birth of their second grandchild, Noelle Grace, on December 25, 2021.

Vincent Scuro served as archival producer for the feature film, *Pre Fab!*, the incredible story of Colin Hanton, the original drummer of The Quarrymen, a small Liverpool band during the late 1950s that included three then-unknown musicians named John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison. The documentary was selected as the opening night film for the 2022 Florida Film Festival.

1974

Joseph Merlino, M.D., is happy to join the faculty at Saint Peter's as an adjunct professor in the new graduate school program for health sciences.

1975

Terry Brennan has retired from Cooper University Health Care after spending 10 years developing and directing the physician liaison program. His previous position was senior district sales manager at Sanofi in New York and New Jersey for 25 years. Terry was captain of the Saint Peter's University track team in his junior and senior years and held 14 indoor and outdoor school records. He is a member of Saint Peter's Ath-

letic Hall of Fame. Terry resides with his wife, Peggy, in Cherry Hill.

Kathleen Adams Porto and Robert Porto are proud grandparents of Matthew Anthony Crosby, born March 20, 2021.

1976

John Montone, legendary New York City radio host, retired after nearly 40 years at 1010 WINS.

1977

Kenneth Harms started a new position as senior vice president of business development and corporate strategy for United Engineering Resources, Inc.

Lulu Hester-Alexander, D.D.S., is proud to announce that her granddaughter, Jessona Gray, graduated from the College of Charleston in Charleston, S.C., at the age of 20 with degrees in biology and environmental studies. Hester-Alexander also celebrated her 65th birthday in March.

1979

Mike Kahrer and his wife, Lorraine, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on April 3. The couple met while he was a student at Saint Peter's through her brother, **John Meyer**. Kahrer describes himself as mostly retired. They divide their time between the Jersey Shore and Naples, Fla., and are proud grandparents of 18-month-old Madison. Kahrer also serves as a trustee with the Vintage Automobile Museum of New Jersey.

1980

Brian Seliga is happily retired and residing in Florida.

1981

Elaine Dorry-Kelly and her husband, **John P. Kelly '66**, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year.

Mary Ann (Dapuzzo) Ludwig is proud to announce the birth of her first grandchild, Atticus Anthony Ludwig, born on December 26, 2020. Atticus lives in Leewood, Kan., with his parents, Matthew and Kirsten, as well as his two brothers, Brydon and Max.

1984

Sharon (Doering) Cutola celebrated her 35th wedding anniversary with her high school sweetheart, Kevin Cutola.

1993

Dara Liberatore-Sawczuk and her husband, Adrian Sawczuk, started a scholarship fund at Saint Peter's University in memory of Adrian's parents named the Konstantyn and Marta Sawczuk Endowment Fund. They have also started a business, Tidal Creek Brewhouse, located in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

2001

Shireen Musa, D.P.S., is an assistant professor in the Department of International Trade and Marketing at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Her current research is focused on compassion, mindfulness and sustainable consumer behavior. Dr. Musa recently published an article, "An Empirical Study Identifying Fair Trade Consumer Attributes of Compassion and Sustainability Awareness," in the *Journal of Fair Trade*, which is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. Her article appears in Volume 3, Issue 1 (September 2021).

2002

Hector Gonzalez was appointed to the Bayonne Board of Education. He was also named Volleyball Coach of the Year by the Hudson County Interscholastic Athletic League.

2004

Laura Ciraco Hauser started a new position as vice president and chief development officer at Trinitas Regional Medical Center.

2005

Christine and **Natalie Furka** took their vows of Holy Orders at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan.

2006

Ana Sierra was named a Community Psychologist and also received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology for the success of her private practice in serving the Latinx community in the Washington, D.C., metro area.

2007

Niamh Sarno purchased her first home in Malibu, Calif., and is also currently pursuing a second post-graduate degree in aerospace engineering at Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology in Los Angeles.

Nicol Victorino, Ed.D., finished his doctorate at New York University in May 2021 and is now an elementary public school principal.

2008

Ramunas Radzevicius recently had a scientific article, "Relationship Between Healthcare Spendings and Life Expectancy in the United States of America," published. He wrote the article with a colleague from Vilnius University.

2009

Lisa Auriemma recently retired from the North Bergen School District and is looking forward to becoming an adjunct professor. She recently moved to Long Beach Island.

2010

Joseph A. Caplan, CPA, M.B.A., was hired in August 2021 to serve as chair of the Tax Department at RRBB (Rosenberg Rich Baker Ber- man & Company).

2013

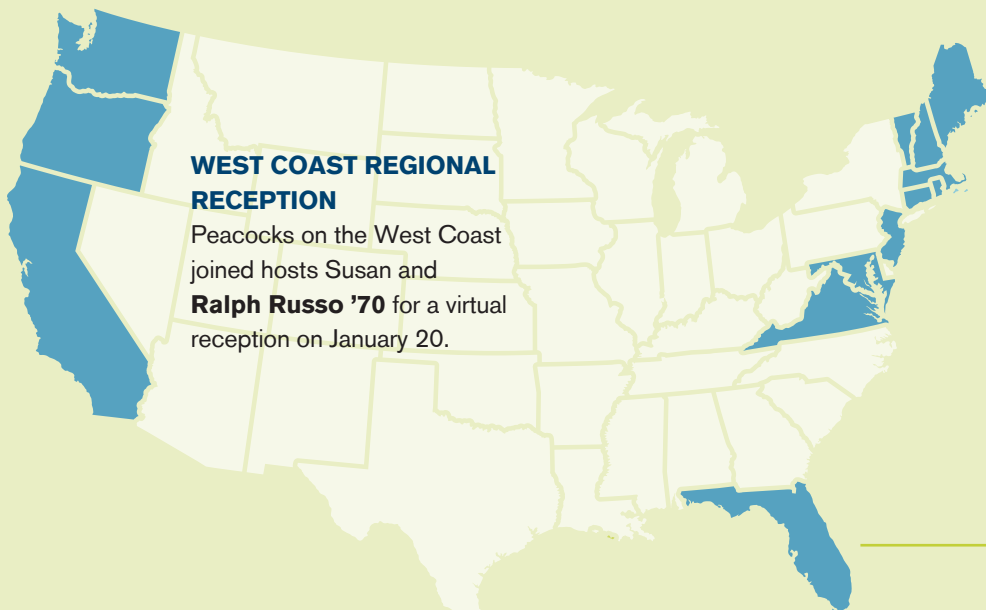
Neil Carroll was appointed and elected to the Bayonne City Council. He is now representing the First Ward of the city.

2015

Eleanor Ferguson works for former New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey at The New Jersey Reentry Corporation in Hudson County.

Celebrations Coast to Coast

In 2022, Peacocks celebrated the Sesquicentennial with 150th Anniversary Regional Tours, which were held on Zoom and at in-person receptions throughout the country.



WEST COAST REGIONAL RECEPTION

Peacocks on the West Coast joined hosts Susan and **Ralph Russo '70** for a virtual reception on January 20.

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL RECEPTION

On February 15, alumni from the New England area gathered virtually for a reception hosted by **Garry Prime '65**.

NEW JERSEY RECEPTIONS

On April 7, **Patrick J. Finnegan '70** and **Mark G. Kahrer, CPA '83** hosted Bergen County alumni at the Hackensack Golf Club in Emerson.

Ellen and **Jim O'Brien '64** will host alumni at Spring Lake Golf Club on August 18.

WASHINGTON, D.C., MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA RECEPTION

Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia alumni gathered virtually with host **John F. Prout, USA (Ret.) '69** on June 7.

Manet Lemuel-Clarke presented during the 2022 International Stroke Conference sponsored by the American Stroke Association in Louisiana on February 8.

2016

Arnaldo Diaz realized his lifelong dream of opening a Puerto Rican authentic cuisine restaurant called Mambo Nando's in Keansburg, N.J., at the Keansburg Amusement Park.

2017

Renea Hayes is proud to announce the birth of her first granddaughter, Mala Minus, born June 2, 2021.

2021

Aakash Bhatt landed his first full-time job in December 2021 at Samsung Electronics America as a marketing analyst III.

Ian Concevitch is a ninth-grade physical education teacher in Denver, Colo. He is also a professional baseball player when he is not teaching America's youth.

Yolonda Washington is celebrating 15 years of employment at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey.

Engagements

Sandra Vargas '07 became engaged on Christmas Eve 2021 to Kerwin Jean-Baptiste. They were married in June.

Myrberline Saint-Pierre '12 became engaged to Dimitry Pigne last summer.

Births

Nicole (Onello) Grabowski '11 and her husband welcomed their first child, Theo James, in November 2021.

Matthew T. Feeney '15 and his wife, **Mary Steele '15**, welcomed their first daughter, Abigail Marie Feeney.

Briseida J. Caceres '21 welcomed a daughter on January 9.

Marriage

Megan (Craven) Dailey '08 was married in Los Angeles on September 18, 2021.

SUNNY WELCOME IN FLORIDA

The 150th Anniversary Regional Tour made two stops in Florida. On February 24, **Carol B. Bastek, Ed.D. '70** hosted a reception at the Palm Beach Yacht Club in West Palm Beach. **Josephine and Thomas O'Reilly '69** hosted alumni and friends at the Naples Sailing & Yacht Club in Naples on February 27.

West Palm Beach, Fla.



Naples, Fla.



REMEMBRANCES

A Life Fueled by Purpose

Remembering Elnardo Webster, Ed.D. '69, '83



Last November, **Elnardo Webster, Ed.D. '69, '83** took a seat in the Run Baby Run Arena and smiled. It was the official opening of the sparkling new arena named for the legendary basketball team, of which he was a star player, and the start of the men's basketball season. Fans approached, wanting to talk about the past. Dr. Webster steered the conversation to the present. "This team," he said, presciently pointing to the now famous 2021-22 Peacock squad as they ran through warmups. "This team is on the rise."

Four months later, the Saint Peter's University community mourned the passing of Dr. Webster, who died on March 22 at age 74. It was the middle of March Madness and the Peacocks' stellar run to the Elite Eight. Unsurprisingly, *Sports Illustrated*, *The Daily News* and local sportswriters recounted Webster's storied career on the basketball court: 1,338 points and 769 rebounds in two years as a Peacock. Scored 51 points in a double overtime win against Marshall in the 1968 NIT that propelled Saint Peter's to a stunning defeat of Duke in the quarterfinal. Played professionally for the New York Nets, Knicks and in Europe.

Basketball, as Dr. Webster's family, teammates, colleagues and friends well know, was one facet of the purpose-driven life he led off the court. "Web, as I called him, is the greatest basketball player to play at Saint Peter's," said teammate **Tom Mac Mahon '68** at a Celebration of Life held for Dr. Webster on April 2 at the Run Baby Run Arena at The Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J., Recreational Life Center. "But more importantly, he became a better human being than

player. He loved Saint Peter's and he loved Jersey City. He loved to help its children."

Born in Harlem, Webster was one of six children. He grew up in Queens and Newark, N.J., before moving to Jersey City, where he enrolled at Lincoln High School. He excelled in basketball, but wanting to mature as an athlete and scholar, committed to a junior college in Texas. There, the Lincoln High standout made his mark, and upon his return to New Jersey, earned an athletic scholarship to Saint Peter's.

Webster had a knack for balancing academics and sport (during the 1968 NIT, he pulled an all-nighter for an exam, took the test and proceeded directly to Madison Square Garden to defeat Duke) and his college C.V. includes membership in the Argus Eyes drama society and Black Collegiate Cultural Society. "Jesuit education drives a person," said Dr. Webster in an interview he gave for the Sesqui-centennial Oral History Project. "It's not something you can see or touch, it's something that you feel, and it motivates and impacts the way you do business with people."

After retiring from basketball, Dr. Webster added a master's degree to his bachelor's degree from Saint Peter's and earned a doctorate from Seton Hall University. He forged a 40-year career in public education, serving as superintendent of Roselle Public Schools, and later, consultant for the New Jersey Department of Education. Dr. Webster was a commissioner on the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders and West Orange councilman. He also served multiple terms on the Saint Peter's Board of Trustees. "It was gratifying to serve Saint Peter's, which has been a wonderful stepping-stone in my life," he stated.

As director of the Center for After School and Expanded Learning (C.A.S.E.L.), Dr. Webster was a visible and accessible presence on campus. He mentored many C.A.S.E.L. interns and was a go-to resource for undergraduate and graduate students alike. Mac Mahon recalled Dr. Webster's commitment to C.A.S.E.L., describing a recent visit he and teammate **Harry Laurie '68** made to the Center's offices. "The energy, devotion and excitement [Web] showed me, helped me understand that this great athlete, this distinguished educator, this respected, longtime member of the Saint Peter's Board of Trustees recognized that his greatest mission in life was to help, teach and protect the young children of Jersey City," said Mac Mahon.

Dr. Webster is survived by his wife, Sandra, and two sons, Elnardo Jr. and Damarko. 🏠

Peacock for Life




For **Fred Cranwell H '08**, Saint Peter's University was life. As the sports information director at Saint Peter's and a longtime sports reporter and editor, Cranwell was instrumental in spreading the good word about the 1967-68 men's basketball squad—dubbed the Run Baby Run team—that made a run in the NIT with a stunning quarterfinal upset of Duke.

Cranwell passed away on September 19, 2021, just six months before the Peacocks once again captured the nation's hearts as the Cinderella story of the 2022 NCAA Tournament. An award-winning sportswriter, he began his career at the now-defunct *The Hudson Dispatch* before moving on to *The Jersey Journal*, and later, *The Daily News* as assistant sports editor.

Yet, the Hudson County native was happiest when covering his beloved Peacocks. As sports information director at Saint Peter's, Cranwell had an open door policy when it came to the Run Baby Run team. **Bob Leckie '69**, a player on that team who went on to coach the Peacocks, said, "The Fred Cranwell who we all came to

know and love was an integral part of the Saint Peter's community. He loved Saint Peter's, Coach Don Kennedy and the Jesuits."

Teammate **Kenneth Grant '68** pointed to Cranwell as the architect of the team's storied persona. "The Run Baby Run team was Fred's team and Fred's creation," Grant said. "Coach Kennedy created the playing style on the court, but it was Freddie who spread the name in the media. He was able to get us so much publicity in all the area newspapers."

Later in his career, Cranwell returned to Saint Peter's to serve as director of publications until his retirement in 2005. His generosity of spirit was legendary, with friends and family always welcome to visit and go boating on the lake near his home in Lake Norman, N.C. Leckie recalled Cranwell's kindness to neighborhood kids when home games at the Jersey City Armory sold out: "Freddie would make sure to leave the door ajar so the neighborhood kids could sneak their way in and see us play. That's just what Freddie was—clever, kind and generous. He will live in our hearts forever, and he did it all for the greater glory of God." 

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.*

Deborah B. Abeltin '87
Peter Alexander, Ph.D.
Cesare Ambrosio, Ph.D. '60
Harry J. Arnold, Jr., Esq. '62
Dorothy Atchison '60
Winifred Atkinson '84
Ruth Aumack
Salvatore J. Averso '68
Bernard Azarow
Evangelos Bakirtzis '74
John F. Bassi '67
LTC James B. Behan, USA (Ret) '59
Michael J. Bent '67
Leo P. Bergin '57
Frank A. Biancola, Esq. '74
Richard T. Bielecki '68
Thomas Biondo '75
Sherman J. Bligh '55
Edward J. Borrone, Esq. '61
Kenneth A. Brown '68
Regina Neilan Buccafusco '71
William M. Burke Sr. '57
Brig. Gen. Alfred J. Cade
Walter J. Canzonier '57
Carmine A. Cappuccio '52
Rosario G. Cavari '60
Joseph A. Ceimo, M.D. '70
Christopher A. Cheevers '95

Kathleen B. Chester '77
Frederick R. Cranwell HA '08
Vincent M. Cronen '78
Sr. Mary Dacey, S.C.
Rory C. Dahill '09
Dorothy Danzi
Albert Davis
Luisa de la Torre, Ph.D.
Thomas H. Donnelly, Ph.D.
James E. Donovan '58
Edward A. Dunleavy '53
John J. Falco '56
Natalie E. Feehan, Esq. '72
Joseph Ferraro, M.D. '09
Donald M. Finn '56
Robert D. Finnegan '64
Joan Fiumefreddo
Dennis Fleming '70
Joseph Frankoski '58
Karen Frybarger '10
Lawrence J. Geraghty '65
Edward J. Grant '48
Norman W. Hartsfield '71
Dennis J. Hayes '56
Charles J. Heitzmann '64
Edward F. Heuston, Ph.D. '55
Thomas D. Hoffman, Esq., Ph.D. '62
Kenneth Holland '74

Joan B. Introcaso
Edward R. Kealy, Ph.D. '69
Dennis J. Kitson '64
Fred L. Koehler CPA '52
Eleanor Kreta '64
Edward F. P. Lane '61
Anthony E. Lanzilotti, Ph.D. '42
John P. Letinski '60
Walter R. Lezynski HO '48
John H. Lindstrom '67
Robert J. Lombardi '66
Martin Mahler '81
Donald J. Margoli '55
Robert J. Martalus
Arthur G. Mattei '61
Lillian M. McGee '68
Hugh J. McKenna '71
Rev. William A. McKenna, S.J.
Leo L. McKernan '56
Dennis J. McMullen '66
Hazel McNally
William A. Narducci, Esq. '53
Gerald Spatola O'Connor '79
Jeanne O'Connor
Fred E. Ous '56
William T. Petrina '69
Robert Protomastro '73
James S. Pullaro '70

Joseph P. Riccardo Sr. '67
John A. Roche '70
Joseph S. Rorro '55
Anthony Russo
Tara E. Salter '08
Cynthia Saporito '71
Vincent F. Scerbo Jr. '71
Edward D. Schroeder '65
Wallace Shrekgast '54
Raymond T. Snyder, M.D. '54
Anthony Sorrenti Jr. '68
Michael D. Sullivan, CPA '76
Mortimer J. Sullivan '54
Patricia A. Sullivan Amato, Ph.D.
Walter J. Sutkowski '59
Kathleen Tierney
Michael R. Torre, D.D.S. '54
James D. Van Blarcom '65
Gerald G. Vernice '64
Linda Vetterl '98
Peter E. Warshaw '53
Elnardo Webster, Ed.D. '69, '83
Donald J. Williamson, Esq. '58
Thomas R. York '55

*At the time of printing.

Dispatch to Future Peacocks

by Danielle Pelliccio '22



The Sesquicentennial graduating class recounts a historic year and offers some advice to the Bicentennial class of Saint Peter's University.

Dear Class of 2072,

As you celebrate the 200th anniversary of Saint Peter's University, we hope you look back to 2021-2022 to see what a consequential time it was for students, our University and society-at-large. The Sesquicentennial year should be widely remembered because it changed everything for us.

Our academic year began with uncertainty. We emerged from the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic unsure if in-person learning would ever be the same again. When the pandemic began in March 2020, our world shut down. For a year-and-a-half we attended classes remotely from our bedrooms and dorm rooms. Instead of walking to class together, we texted in class group chats between Zoom meetings. It was a major adjustment. Seeing faces on Zoom was not the same as seeing each other around campus, especially in our University community, where we are lucky enough to know a lot of our faculty and fellow classmates personally.


Despite the unpredictability of the pandemic, we relied on each other, our Jesuit faith and strong relationships to keep us grounded and promote positivity. With the entire world feeling isolated, life at Saint Peter's felt familiar and united. The support and understanding from professors made balancing our personal lives with our academics much easier during such a stressful time. School slowly returned to normal this year, but masks, Zoom and fear were still immersed in our everyday lives. We needed a boost of morale. Then, the most unexpected and wonderful thing happened.

The Saint Peter's community got to experience our own March Madness when the men's basketball team journeyed from the MAAC championship all the way to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament. With each win (Kentucky, Murray State and Purdue), the Peacock family grew immensely larger overnight. Here on campus, the intense pride was, for most, indescribable. No matter your religion, race, academic major or age, everyone

came together. Hallways became unusually flooded with blue. Walking to class, all you could hear were whispers between friends about what might happen next.

Even when the tournament ended for the Peacocks, our small University still felt absolutely "elite." The magical events that transpired over three weeks changed our school and Jersey City forever. This was "more than just basketball" for us all. The team sparked hope within ourselves and they inspired millions as they made the most of every chance given, in the humblest way possible. People outside of our community know our story and the support and pride for us Peacocks is now nationwide.

We will take these lasting memories with us. Our class also leaves Saint Peter's as independent, motivated leaders because we can look back on our four years and reflect on all the promises that were presented to us at orientation that have truly been delivered. Our togetherness, Peacock Pride, attention to the individual and opportunities were always present. We are certain that in 50 years, your graduating class will have newer experiences to reminisce on that changed the course of your time here, but never forget the original roots and mission of Saint Peter's University.

While we want the Class of 2072—and future classes—to remember the outstanding achievements of the past year and understand our ability to overcome the obstacles we have faced, our core principles should endure. If anything is to be continued, it should be our acceptance of all people; our kindness; our nonjudgmental attitude; ethically living and leading; keeping our Jesuit roots close to our hearts; and creating the feeling of family and hope within our urban community. 

Danielle Pelliccio '22 graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in business management and was named to the Dean's List. She is hoping to land a job in marketing, communications or social media after interning at Erbach Communications Group her senior year. Both of Pelliccio's parents, James '84 and AnnMarie (Baccarella) '86 Pelliccio, are Saint Peter's alumni.

ENDURING TRADITION

Graduating seniors were welcomed into the Saint Peter's University alumni community at the John J. Delaney '50 Alumni Reception on May 24. The University's newest graduates joined the Peacock family of more than 36,000 living alumni.





Saint Peter's students have been seizing opportunities for 150 years. For generations, students have come to Saint Peter's to better themselves, their families and their communities—and have done so with the same grit and determination exemplified by our men's basketball team during its historic run in the NCAA Tournament.

Opportunity has been the hallmark of Saint Peter's since 1872, and with your support, it will continue for generations to come. Help our students create even more historic moments. **Please make your gift today at saintpeters.edu/give.**



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