**June 2012**

**SUMMER CONCERT DRAWS THOUSANDS TO SXU CAMPUS**

Nearly 3,000 people attended the 16th annual Summer Concert on Saint Xavier’s campus featuring a performance by The New Odyssey Band and concessions from The Original Rainbow Cone, Gilhooley’s Grande Saloon, Calabria Imports, Happy Jack’s and the SXU Alumni Association. The event concluded with a patriotic finale and fireworks display at dusk.

**September 2012**

**COUGAR 5K ATTRACTS NEARLY 1,000 PARTICIPANTS**

Under beautiful skies and unseasonably warm weather, President Christine Wiseman, J.D., welcomed nearly 1,000 runners and walkers to the 12th annual Cougar 5K. The course started and finished on campus, winding its way through the heart of Evergreen Park. After the race, alumni, parents and friends joined her in the All-Alumni Reunion tent before the Homecoming football game. A portion of the proceeds support the Student Scholarship Fund and the Cougar Club. (For more on Homecoming 2012, please see page 22.)

**ELECTED OFFICIALS TALK PENSION TROUBLES, GAMING EXPANSION**

Local business professionals met with Chicagoland elected officials and President Christine Wiseman, J.D., at the seventh annual “Breakfast With Your Legislators” at Saint Xavier’s Chicago campus. State Sen. Edward Maloney (D-18th), State Rep. Kelly Burke (D-36th), State Rep. Bill Cunningham (D-35th), Cook County Commissioner John Daley (D-11th), Alderman Matt O’Shea (19th) and Evergreen Park Trustee Mark Marzullo answered questions about Illinois’ pension troubles, the expansion of gaming in Chicago and more.
11 | Push for Education Within Education Grows

It’s not easy to be a college student in today’s world. With the economy still stubbornly sluggish, the University has ratcheted up its promotion of pre-professional experience to give students a step up on the competition. Employers increasingly want to hire students who have internships or community-based learning under their belts.

By Dave Wieczorek

16 | 10 Years of Diverse Dialogue

In its decade of existence, the Center for Religion and Public Discourse has mounted more than 200 programs including lectures, panels, seminars, symposia, exhibits and teaching events co-sponsored with local high schools and artistic organizations, many with nationally recognized speakers.

By Erin Muldoon

Saint Xavier University, a Catholic institution inspired by the heritage of the Sisters of Mercy, educates men and women to search for truth, to think critically, to communicate effectively, and to serve wisely and compassionately in support of human dignity and the common good.
FORMER CHICAGO ALD. VIRGINIA RUGAI NAMED SXU’S FIRST SENIOR FELLOW

Former Chicago Alderman Virginia Rugai has been named the first appointee to Saint Xavier University’s Senior Fellows program.

Rugai will teach three five-week seminars in political science during the 2013 spring semester covering “Women, Government and Politics,” “Making Public Policy” and “Politics and Urban Education.”

Rugai also will serve other constituencies as Senior Fellow, spending campus time organizing a public lecture covering issues within her expertise, mentoring and guiding students about careers in public service and politics, and being available to faculty as a guest speaker or docent for urban field trips within the political sphere.

“I am deeply honored by this appointment and anticipate lively discussions with SXU students, our future leaders in building a better community, a better city and, ultimately, a better America,” she said.

“Virginia Rugai’s experience as a Chicago City Council member and her decades of public service involvement will enable her to provide valuable insights about life in the public sector at many levels for our students. We are excited to welcome a woman of her experience to the Saint Xavier University educational community,” said President Christine Wiseman, J.D.

Rugai was 19th Ward alderman on the Chicago City Council from 1990 to 2011. She served as chairman for the Energy, Environmental Protection and Public Utilities Committee, as vice chairman of the Police and Fire Committee, and on numerous other committees including Finance, Budget and Government Operations, and Transportation and Public Way. She also was appointed to the task force on Women’s Health and the Cook County Commission on Women’s Issues.

Rugai served as president of the Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization and as a member of other organizations, including the Little Company of Mary Hospital Foundation Board, Saint Xavier University’s President’s Advisory Council, the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago, Brother Rice High School’s Board of Directors and Mercy Home for Boys and Girls Leader Council.

Rugai was also awarded an honorary degree from Saint Xavier in 2010.

Rugai’s appointment as Saint Xavier University’s first Senior Fellow is being funded through an endowment provided to Saint Xavier’s Office for University Mission and Heritage. It seeks to bring scholars and leading practitioners from the arts, sciences, politics, religion, business, humanities, social sciences or other disciplines germane to Saint Xavier’s educational programs. Senior Fellows are appointed by the president in consultation with the Office for University Ministry. The Senior Fellow’s role is to advance student learning, create academic synergy, exhibit thought leadership and enhance the University’s reputation and resources.

Football media guide scores ‘best in nation’ title

Following the lead of its national championship football team, the Saint Xavier University Athletics Department earned another national title when its 2011 football media guide was named “Best in the Nation” when the 2011-12 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Publication Contests results were released. It was the first time that the football media guide earned the top spot in the football brochure category since SXU started submitting media guides for the contest in 2003.

Saint Xavier University Athletics also claimed third place in the combined basketball brochure category for the second straight year for its men’s and women’s basketball media guide.

“Having the NAIA’s top-ranked football media guide really holds a special place in my heart for two reasons,” said Rob Huizenga, SXU’s assistant athletic director for sports information. “The first is that the football brochure category is always such a competitive field and we have been so close over the past eight years, but never won. The other reason is that we were able to win in the same year as our amazing football team, so it is a great feeling personally to have the NAIA’s best media guide representing the NAIA’s top football team.”
BLACKHAWKS VISIT CAMPUS TO BENEFIT FIREFIGHTER AND POLICE CHARITIES

Members of the Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Association took part in the fifth annual charity softball classic at Saint Xavier in September to benefit Chicago firefighters and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation.

“As former members of the Chicago Blackhawks, we love Chicago and have the utmost respect for the Chicago police and fire departments. We are honored to be able to help their families,” said Jack O’Callahan, a Blackhawks alumnus and gold medalist with the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team.

Alumni of the Blackhawks played a 16-inch softball game with members of the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Fire Department. Families enjoyed appearances from Benny the Bull, Tommy Hawk, Hubert the Harris Lion and SXU’s Champ Cougar, and they lined up for autographs from Blackhawks legend Stan Mikita.

CREATOR OF SAINT XAVIER SHIELD TURNS 100

The Saint Xavier community wishes Sister Mary Solina Hicks, R.S.M., a joyful and blessed 100th birthday.

A Sister of Mercy since 1934, Sister Solina created the Saint Xavier College's Shield in 1952, which remains a symbol of the University’s heritage and mission to this day. The seal includes a black-and-white checkerboard and diagonal gold bars from the family coat of arms of Saint Francis Xavier; red and gold bars and a white Jerusalem cross taken from the shield of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; an open book to represent education; and the Scripture verse, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6)

She also was instrumental in establishing the Art Department at Saint Xavier in 1956 and served as its only faculty member for the first 10 years of its existence.

After leaving SXU in 1965, Sister Solina opened an art department at a New York university, spent a summer in Paris and lived for almost 20 years on an Indian reservation. Loving God, art and teaching has been her creed throughout her long life.

GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MARS

Vatican Observatory brother discusses God, science

Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J., a leading researcher and spokesman at the Vatican Observatory, shared his thoughts on science and religion in a one-hour interview for “God Matters” on WXAV during a visit to campus in September.

A native of Detroit, Brother Guy said people often are shocked to learn that there is a Vatican Observatory but he explained that God and science are not opposed to each other. “People are hungry to feed their souls,” he told program host Peter Kretten. “Looking out at something bigger than yourself puts your own daily problems into perspective. The universe is very much aligned to the religious impulse.”

The universe is a sign of God's goodness, he said. “We get to know God when we see how God creates. We see God’s personality when we understand creation.”

Brother Guy said many people stop the real learning of science and religion in childhood and think they have to choose one or the other. Legitimate scientists and people of faith don't have the problem of believing in both, he said.

“Science gets me used to the way that God operates,” he said. “God is beautiful, God is elegant.”

Brother Guy holds a Ph.D. in planetary science and later took his vows as a Jesuit brother. He has co-authored five astronomy books and is curator of the Vatican meteorite collection in Castel Gandolfo, one of the largest in the world.

How to listen to “God Matters”

There are two ways that those beyond the listening area can listen to “God Matters.” Go to www.wxav.com and listen live at 9:30 a.m. (CST) Sundays, or find the podcast through iTunes by entering “WXAV God Matters.” Brother Guy’s episode will air Dec. 2.
Mahony urges U.S. to reform immigration

Cardinal Roger Mahony, archbishop emeritus of Los Angeles, said 11 million undocumented people live in the United States, and history has shown that fervent anti-immigrant sentiment only surfaces during economic downturns.

In his hourlong talk at Saint Xavier in October, the cardinal presented a biblical and historical overview of immigration in the context of Catholic social teaching, noting the human dignity of all people and that Adam and Eve were the first recorded migrants when they were tossed out of the Garden of Eden.

The immigration system today doesn’t balance the needs of labor, he said.

“Only 5,000 green cards a year are allocated in the United States, and yet hundreds of thousands of immigrants come in and get jobs,” he said. “They do not take the jobs of Americans. They are not a threat.”

He said the position of the Church is that people have the right to migrate to find better opportunities, nations have the right to control borders, and refugees should be afforded protection.

Mahony said he likes talking to students to change the hearts and minds of the younger generation about the often polarizing views of immigration.

“With baby boomers retiring and fewer kids, America has a deficit of workers,” he said. “We need immigrants. We need to develop a path to earned residency for them, be afforded a work permit and have them participate in the economic system.”

Mahony has served on a wide range of committees and commissions of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference, including Farm Labor, Migration and Refugees.

Though he retired as archbishop of Los Angeles in 2011, Mahony continues to be an active proponent of comprehensive immigration reform, seeking justice and respect for the rights of all individuals. He is convinced that young adults of faith and principle will eventually and successfully address the complexities of poverty, prejudice, fear and self-interest embedded in current immigration debates.

The lecture’s title, “I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me,” was borrowed from the Last Judgment scene in the Gospel according to Matthew 25 and was sponsored by the Office for University Mission and Heritage.

SAINT XAVIER RECOGNIZED AS ‘COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION’

Saint Xavier University was named to the 2012-13 “Illinois Colleges of Distinction” list.

The list honors schools that engage students, offer great teaching, create vibrant campus communities and foster successful outcomes. It aims to identify colleges and universities “that take a holistic approach to admissions decisions, that consistently excel in providing undergraduate education and that have a truly national reputation.”

The list is generated through graduation rates, classroom size and other key statistics, as well as feedback from admission experts, high school counselors and visits to campuses.

NEW SAINT XAVIER NEWS WEBSITE OPENS TO PUBLIC

A new Saint Xavier News website will inform the SXU community and the general public about all the latest news and events happening at the University. It is at news.sxu.edu, but it also can be accessed through the SXU homepage.

The site includes a redesigned news system and archive and an updated University events calendar.
**MATALIN, BRAZILE SQUARE OFF BEFORE ELECTION**

More than 1,000 people came to the Shannon Center to hear the political visions of friendly rivals Mary Matalin and Donna Brazile, but only a handful of audience members identified as GOP faithful when the women took an informal poll of presidential politics five days before the election.

Matalin, a staunch conservative with ties to former President George W. Bush and his vice president, Dick Cheney, wasn’t surprised at the predominantly Democratic audience.

She quoted her liberal husband James Carville in saying he “would feel like a fireplug at a dog show.”

Nonetheless, the frequently funny and folksy exchange between Matalin and Brazile kept the 90-minute event fresh as they talked about their campaign war stories, the influence of money, health care, women in politics and their takes on who would win the White House.

It was moderated by veteran journalist Jim Warren, former managing editor and Washington bureau chief of the *Chicago Tribune* and the publisher of the *Chicago Reader*.

Brazile, a TV political commentator and Al Gore’s campaign manager in 2000, said the race would come down to enthusiasm and turnout.

She praised President Barack Obama for his decisions in bringing home troops from Iraq, putting the first Latino woman on the Supreme Court, saving the auto industry and stabilizing the economy.

Matalin countered that people are not better off and that Mitt Romney would win.

“I don’t dislike the president, but jobs were not a priority. We’ve had the worst recovery in history. This government, these policies, don’t work.”

Still, the women said they believed that civility could return after a bitter, contentious political campaign.

“There’s a lot of stuff we can work on together,” Matalin said. “After we’re done screaming, we can find bipartisan support in energy, trade, entitlement reform and tax reform. It’s been a pig through a python in this election.”

“We should be upbeat about our country,” Brazile added. “We need to come back to some form of civility and advance the common good. We live in the most blessed place on the planet.”

The event was part of Saint Xavier University’s Voices and Visions Speaker Series.

**STUDENTS GET INVOLVED IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

Saint Xavier University hosted two successful presidential debate watching parties for students, and a *SouthtownStar* reporter covered the second event as 67 students watched President Barack Obama square off against Republican Mitt Romney. The article appeared on the front page of the Oct. 17 *SouthtownStar*. Additionally, 10 students registered to vote.

**Prayers for the academic year**

The University community gathered in September for the annual celebration of Mercy Day. This day honors the Sisters of Mercy on the traditional feast of Our Lady of Mercy and incorporates the Catholic tradition of asking for the blessing of the Holy Spirit on the academic community. The day included the leadership commissioning ceremony of faculty, staff, administration, alumni, students, sponsors and trustees near the Academy Bell outside the Warde Academic Center.
SAINT XAVIER HIRES STREHLAU TO HEAD WOMEN’S SOCCER

Evan Strehlau was named new head coach of the women’s soccer program in July.

Strehlau becomes the fourth head women’s soccer coach in SXU history since the program began in 1997. He replaces Jeremy Ekeler, who served as head coach for four seasons (2008-2011) before pursuing a new career venture in Nebraska. Strehlau served the previous four seasons as an assistant coach under Ekeler and has held a variety of coaching stints around the South Side of Chicago.

Strehlau also spent the 2011 season as the head varsity girls soccer coach at neighboring Mother McAuley High School. In 2007 and 2008, he served as head varsity girls soccer coach at Queen of Peace High School in Burbank, Ill. In addition, Strehlau held a number of assistant coaching positions in the area, including stints with the Chicago Red Eleven (2009-2010), Chicago Gaels (2005-2008), Moraine Valley Community College and Victor J. Andrew High School.

“We had several highly qualified candidates for this position, but when it came down to making the final decision I felt that Evan stood out in the field,” said SXU Athletic Director Bob Hallberg. “I believe that his experience and familiarity with the program over the past four years provides us with the best opportunity to move forward and continue a winning tradition.”
Zackery named to 2012 NFF national scholar-athlete class
Wide receiver wins $18,000 postgraduate scholarship

Senior wide receiver Shane Zackery of Rockford, Ill., was one of just 15 collegiate football players nationwide selected by the National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame for the 2012 NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards. It is the first time an SXU player has been so honored, and he is only the second NAIA player in the past five years to make the finals list as well.

The nominees also comprise the list of finalists for the 2012 William V. Campbell Trophy, which recognizes an individual as the absolute best football scholar-athlete in the nation.

“The 2012 National Scholar-Athlete class represents all that is right about college football,” said NFF Chairman Archie Manning, whose sons Peyton (Campbell winner) and Eli were NFF National Scholar-Athletes in 1997 and 2003, respectively. “They have displayed the same competitive fire to win in the classroom that has distinguished them as some of the best football players in the country. In addition, each has found time to give back with an impressive list of leadership roles in their respective communities. Ensuring that they continue their education with an $18,000 postgraduate scholarship is a privilege, and we know that they have only begun to reach their potential.”

Zackery is a business management, marketing and finance major and carries a 3.71 cumulative grade-point average. As a 2011 First Team All-American, Zackery led Saint Xavier to its first NAIA national championship in school history, posting nine receptions for 78 yards and one touchdown in the title game. The 2011 All-Mid-States First Team receiver ranked No. 2 nationally in receptions (95), No. 3 in receiving yards (1,208) and No. 4 in touchdown receptions (18) during his junior season.

The team captain tied the school record with a 99-yard touchdown reception in 2011 and entered his senior year ranked in SXU’s top 10 in career touchdowns. This season Zackery boasts 46 receptions for 654 yards and seven touchdowns, averaging 93.4 yards per game for the No. 5 Cougars.

He is also active around the local community volunteering his time at local community centers and taking part in various service projects.

“This is an amazing honor and I feel blessed to be selected,” Zackery said. “When I saw the names of the previous winners like Peyton Manning and Tim Tebow, it really hit home how competitive the field for this award is and what an honor it is to be included in such a distinguished group of football players.”

Zackery will receive an $18,000 postgraduate scholarship and will travel to New York City to be honored Dec. 4 during the 55th NFF annual awards dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria, where all the candidates’ accomplishments will be highlighted in front of one of the most powerful audiences in all of sports. One member of the class will be announced live at the event as the winner of the Campbell Trophy.

DOLPH NAMED NAIA FOOTBALL DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Saint Xavier junior linebacker Zach Dolph was named the NAIA Football National Defensive Player of the Week in September. It is the first national player of the week honor in any of the three categories (offensive, defensive and special teams) for the football team this season and marks the first time a Saint Xavier football player has garnered one since week eight of last season.

Dolph, from Crest Hill, Ill., tallied a season-best 14 total tackles, including eight solo stops, five tackles-for-loss and three sacks in Saint Xavier’s 37-7 rout of Langston University (Okla.). He also added a forced fumble and pass breakup in the effort. Overall, the Cougar defense held Langston to only 139 yards of total offense and forced four turnovers.

Dolph leads the team with 32 tackles and ranks fifth in the NAIA in tackles-for-loss (7.5) and eighth in sacks (3.0).
CHICAGO WHITE SOX CREATE SPECIAL NIGHT FOR NATIONAL CHAMPS

The Chicago White Sox honored the 2011 NAIA national champion football team at U.S. Cellular Field in August with on-field congratulations, and Head Coach Mike Feminis threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

For some of the SXU team captains, the pre-game events proved even more rewarding with greetings and photo opportunities with White Sox first baseman Adam Dunn and Olympic gold medal swimmer Conor Dwyer.

“I’m a huge fan of the Olympics, so meeting a gold medalist athlete like Conor Dwyer was a true honor for me,” said senior wide receiver and captain Shane Zackery. “The Olympic swimming events in London were among my favorites to watch, so getting the chance to meet one of the swimmers and hold his gold medal was something I will never forget.”

The entire 2012 Saint Xavier football roster as well as some graduated seniors from last year’s national championship squad gathered in the centerfield tunnel minutes before the opening pitch. Following the warning track along the left field wall and making their way down to home plate, players and coaches waved to fans and carried their national championship banner while public address announcer Gene Honda introduced the team and their accomplishment to the stadium.

“This was such an amazing night, not just for our team, but for Saint Xavier University,” Feminis said. “As a lifelong Sox fan, getting the opportunity to be out on the field and throw out the first pitch was a dream come true. They run a world-class operation at U.S. Cellular Field, and I can’t thank them enough for their hospitality. I know it is something our players will never forget.”

VOLLEYBALL OFF TO BEST START IN 26 YEARS

Senior middle blocker Colleen O’Hara of Lemont, Ill., finished with eight kills, two service aces and a block assist to help lead the Saint Xavier volleyball team to a Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference (CCAC) win over Trinity International University (Ill.) in September.

The Cougars took the match in three sets by scores of 25-12, 25-18 and 25-22. With this victory, SXU moved to 9-1 overall this year, the best start for the program in the 26 years that current head coach Robert Heersema has directed the squad.
“I knew that getting an internship was something that had to happen. I knew I had to get my foot in the door and put myself above other job candidates.”

What Liesen didn’t know is that she’d be one of the lucky 1 million to 2 million college students who complete internships every year in the United States and are offered jobs before receiving their diplomas. During the first week of the fall 2012 semester, Liesen, who will graduate in May with a degree in computer studies, signed employment papers with Grosvenor Capital Management in Chicago, which created a new IT position for its former intern.

“I was thinking that if I landed an internship for the summer I might end up with a job,” she says, laughing incredulously, “but this is insane.”

Liesen is an example of how real-world experiences can jump-start the career of a soon-to-be or freshly minted graduate.

“It’s not an exaggeration to say an internship or a relationship with one of Saint Xavier’s partners is more important today than ever before,” says Director of Career Services Jean Riordan. “Employers want to know that a student is capable of excelling in their workplace. They want graduates to have some kind of pre-professional experience.”

With the economy still stubbornly sluggish, the University has ratcheted up its promotion of pre-professional experience to give students a step up on the competition. Initiatives are under way or in development by Career Services, University Advancement and the Graham School’s Center for Service Excellence. As part of Saint Xavier’s “Vision 2017” plan, individual schools, departments, administrators and alumni are helping build “strategic partnerships” by forging relationships with businesses, nonprofits and community organizations throughout the Chicago area.
“No longer are employers looking for good candidates. They’re looking for the perfect candidate,” says Deb Rapacz, a professorial lecturer in the Graham School of Management. “We need to help Saint Xavier graduates get a little bit of an edge, so they can push more into the perfect category.”

That “push” is more aggressive than ever as the University emphasizes the importance of internships, partnerships and community-based learning to students’ future.

“It’s a triangle of opportunities that provides a stable value for students, for Saint Xavier’s partners and for our alumni,” says Cheryl Luczak, Ph.D., assistant professor and director of the Graham School’s Center for Service Excellence.

Cracking an Employer’s Market

In today’s nothing-is-guaranteed marketplace, parents of college students everywhere are asking: Are we getting the greatest value possible from our educational dollars? Will a Saint Xavier education secure a job for my son or daughter?

“There’s no question that internships or experience that is career related has become the No. 1 issue,” says Kathleen Carlson, executive director of Institutional Research. She notes that an institution’s ability to offer career connections was a “slam dunk” when Saint Xavier asked high school sophomores and juniors for their most significant factors in selecting a college.

According to Saint Xavier’s First Destination Survey of the class of 2010-2011, approximately 85 percent of those students who graduated with bachelor’s degrees were employed professionally or were attending graduate school. One in every five of the graduates had completed an internship, and 70 percent said that an internship led to a job. Those employed reported annual salaries ranging from $30,000-$50,000.

“Internships are becoming a mainstream way of getting your first position after you graduate,” Carlson says. “The entire economy has changed so much that it’s clearly an employer’s market for hiring.”

At Career Services, Riordan and her staff teach students the skills they need to conduct successful job searches, including basic decision-making skills, self-exploration, use of social media and professional networking and evaluation of job offers.

“We help students identify who they are, what they want, what skills they need,” Riordan says.

Career Services staff also expose students to University partnerships and contacts – across all disciplines – with profit
and nonprofit organizations in the Chicago area and just about anywhere else Saint Xavier alumni land. They also offer plenty of encouragement.

“We understand that many of our students have to work while going to school and that in some fields internships are unpaid,” Riordan says. “You can have your part-time job at Target, but you had better find time for an internship, too. You had better be invested in your community and demonstrate leadership skills. You need that complete package to compete at a very minimal level.”

Says Colleen Sehy, executive director of Corporate, Foundation and Government Relations: “Employers want to see that a graduate has applied what he or she learned in the classroom in some kind of a professional setting. Whether it’s an internship, doing a project with a University partner or community-based learning, all these things make a graduate’s résumé more viable.”

**Partners, Projects and Practicality**

Internships are one corner of the strategic triangle. Partnerships are another.

**Jim Hedderman ’00 Accounting** is a director at True Partners Consulting in Chicago, a firm that has established a model relationship with Saint Xavier. As a partner, True sponsors Saint Xavier’s annual golf fundraiser, takes on interns (and often hires them) and reaches out to students through off-campus experiences.

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“**It’s not an exaggeration to say an internship or a relationship with one of Saint Xavier’s partners is more important today than ever before. Employers want to know that a student is capable of excelling in their workplace. They want graduates to have some kind of pre-professional experience.**”

—Jean Riordan, director of Career Services
“I’d gone back to Saint Xavier for a visit and heard how students have to get a lot more experience in networking and to experience what it was like to interact with a potential employer,” Hedderman says.

So two years ago he and True colleague Trent Douglas ’02 Liberal Arts, ’04 MBA organized “Meet True Partners,” a student networking event. Twenty-five students attended the event in September. Michael Kennedy, who did an internship with True last winter and will graduate in May, has already accepted a position with True.

Partnerships should be mutually beneficial to the University and to the business or organization, Sehy says.

“We want our partners to know that they’re getting quality interns and quality future employees. We want companies to invest in us because we make a better community in which they and their employees live and in which they do business.”

Some businesses that are not official partners are involved with students in projects arranged through the Center for Service Excellence, which reaches out to businesses and alumni for partnerships, helps students mentor high schoolers for experience and uses its social media advisory board to develop partnerships with web-based companies.

Marrying Coursework to the Workforce

Numerous initiatives are under way or in development across Saint Xavier to establish relationships with the community and create real-world experiences for students. Here are a few:

- Career Services is developing a database to inventory how many University partnerships are internship-focused.
- Institutional Research is creating a website dedicated to “return on investment” – ROI – including the job outcomes of recent graduates.
- Professorial Lecturer Deb Rapacz coordinates the Graham School’s new MBA concentration, “Internet Marketing and Social Media.” “We kept getting requests from businesses for interns, but we weren’t teaching that area,” she says. “Now we are.”
- The English Department runs the Career Experience Preparation Program. “Our goal is to work with traditional English majors and marry their coursework to workplace experiences,” says Gina Rossetti, associate professor and chair of English and Foreign Languages. “We had concerns with some students who say, ‘I really love English, but I’m not sure I can get a job with that.’ An English major can read critically, think critically, speak critically and write critically. That is necessary for just about every field.”
- To prepare students personally and professionally for the work world, the Graham School’s Achieving Career Excellence program requires undergraduates to participate in a variety of activities, such as workshops for writing résumés and evaluating job offers and attending etiquette dinners and campus art and music shows.
So what is the true value of a Saint Xavier education in the 21st century? Thanks to the triangular push for more internships, partnerships and community-based learning – coupled with the demands of the marketplace – the value should grow greater with every graduating class.

“Real-World Value

So what is the true value of a Saint Xavier education in the 21st century? Thanks to the triangular push for more internships, partnerships and community-based learning – coupled with the demands of the marketplace – the value should grow greater with every graduating class.

“All marketing students are required to do a ‘real-world’ project,” Luczak says.

One of the 10 projects for the 2012-13 academic year involves the Sandra Cavoto Farmers Insurance Agency in Chicago.

Cavoto’s marketing director, Katie Gonzalez ’12 Marketing, suggested to Cavoto that she sign on for a project because of the good experience she remembered from her junior year project with The Classmate, an education and school materials business in Evergreen Park, Ill., that was losing sales to online retail sites. Student teams created a marketing plan for the owner, who implemented some elements from the winning plan.

Cavoto took the suggestion of Gonzalez, her former intern, and now five teams totaling 20 students are creating strategies for growing her insurance business. Cavoto ’12 Business, who earned her Saint Xavier degree after 15 years of being in business, will pick the winning strategy in December.

“It’s another door of opportunity for companies like mine and for college students to help each other and to help the people in your community,” Cavoto says.

The third corner of the triangle is community-based learning (CBL), an umbrella term for off-campus experiences, such as student teaching in the School of Education, clinical placements through the School of Nursing and community service as part of coursework, such as tutoring immigrants or helping ex-convicts re-enter the workforce.

Starting with fall semester 2013, all incoming freshmen will be required to take at least one CBL course before graduation. Sixteen courses across all disciplines have already been redesigned to include a CBL component.

“Community-based learning should enhance the student’s learning and at the same time provide something of value to the community,” says CBL coordinator Sara Mehta.

In the eyes of students, parents and employers, that makes the value of a Saint Xavier education priceless.

Our Corporate, Government and Foundation Relations staff can help connect your company with students, faculty and programs in your areas of interest and help promote your involvement with SXU. To learn more go to www.sxu.edu, Keyword: corporate.
The goal at first was simple, to create conversations and explore diverse viewpoints to promote the free and open exchange of ideas and the search for truth.

Today, as the Center for Religion and Public Discourse turns 10 years old, its reach across the University has grown to include popular lecture series, radio programs and conferences.

Sister Susan Sanders, R.S.M., Ph.D., remembers the early days when she worked with a shoestring budget to bring in speakers who had something to say.

“We didn’t ask them to talk about typical things,” she said. “We brought them in to do something different.”

Added Sister Joy Clough, R.S.M., who now heads the CRPD, “We wanted to have speakers talk about the religious or ethical or faith dimensions of their lives or professions.”

The CRPD was the brainchild of Sanders, vice president for administration and planning. With the support of the University president, the center had two key goals, which Sanders and Clough spelled out in an article in the scholarly Journal of Catholic Higher Education in 2011. Their mission was “to enhance Saint Xavier University’s Catholic identity, internally and externally, and to make the University more visible and respected as a meeting place for reasoned consideration of issues that can and should be informed by religious, moral and ethical perspectives.”

They began first with the recognition that some of the speakers they brought in would be controversial or fraught with minefields, and some were. An imam discussed “A Snapshot of Islam,” a discourse of God, jihad and nonviolence. An educator talked about “The Sex Abuse Scandal: Implications for the Roman Catholic Church.” A panel discussed “Challenge to Intellectual Integrity: Erosion of Academic Honesty.”

As the work of the CRPD grew, however, Sanders and Clough said its reach and influence increased as well. They sought out “names people would want to hear, but on a topic that was not cliché.” Thus, Chicago Bears Hall of Famer Dan Hampton talked about teamwork. Journalist and TV personality Bill Kurtis talked about food and the environment. And Bill Rancic, Donald Trump’s first “You’re Hired” apprentice, talked about ethics and entrepreneurship.

In fact, Sanders said, the center was able to get Rancic, who grew up in Orland Park, Ill., because she knew his babysitter. She even had his mother introduce him at Saint Xavier. It’s all about the relationships, she stressed. Because the center can’t afford to pay thousands of dollars for well-known speakers, an extensive list of connections is key to make contacts informally and offer speakers the chance to delve into topics they normally are not asked to do.

Hundreds and sometimes thousands of people appeared for such notable and varied speakers as Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, daughter of Robert and Ethel Kennedy, Jim Edgar, former Illinois governor, and Mike Flannery, TV news political editor.

The center also initiated the “Squeaky Weal Lectures” to address the community’s wellness or “weal” by greasing the way into important conversations. Audiences flocked to hear speakers such as then-Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn talk about civic responsibilities in turbulent times, Francis Cardinal George on pre-emptive warfare in Iraq, Sister Helen Prejean on the death penalty and Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein on poetry as a moral and spiritual grounding.

In its decade of existence, the CRPD has mounted more than 200 programs including lectures, panels, seminars, symposia, exhibits and teaching events co-sponsored with local high schools and artistic organizations, many with nationally recognized speakers.

It will continue to showcase speakers who have something to say and aims to attract even more audiences from the University community.

“We educate the people who are the backbone of society,” Clough said. “We set the table for conversations the University should have.”
1. **Where are you from?**

I was born in Chicago, my dad was minister at St. Stephen Methodist Church, which has now long since burned down and been replaced by an apartment house. We lived here for a little while, and we left when I was very young, maybe ’46 or ’47. We moved down to Quincy (Ill.), down on the river, and were there until I started second grade. Then we went to Texas. So I grew up in Fort Worth, 30-plus years in Texas, which is why my bachelor’s is from Texas Christian, my master’s is from the University of Houston and my doctorate from the University of North Texas.

2. **What do you teach at SXU?**

This is my 10th year at Saint Xavier. I teach in computer science, computer studies and the master of applied computer science. I’m a generalist and have no true specialty. But I teach the security courses, which have been my area of intense interest since getting to SXU. I also teach about web servers, which has a lot to do with security.

3. **What are some of the things that few people know about you?**

I’m 67. It fools people because they always think I’m a lot younger. Most people don’t know that one of my favorite things to do when I’m not on the campus is to throw a bullwhip. I’m totally addicted to “crack.” I got involved with some people a few years back who threw whips, and they invited me to come out to a picnic to learn how to throw a whip with them. I just have a natural talent for it. I go out almost every day when the weather is decent.

4. **What was your favorite class in college?**

I started out in pre-med so I had a lot of science courses – histology, embryology, organic chemistry and many others. And a lot of those were a lot of fun, but the one I really enjoyed was Ralph Guenther’s Survey of Music. I’ve been sort of a musician, off and on, all my life. I play the piano and the Irish whistle and used to play the clarinet. But I just loved the course, because I learned so much about the structure and different types of music and how to identify them.

5. **What do you do in your free time?**

Things have changed. I live in an apartment so playing the Irish whistle is out. My neighbors might complain a little bit. So when I am not here on campus, what am I doing? Well, throwing my whip, I’m reading, I’m out on my bicycle somewhere … and I’m a huge WoW fan. I play World of Warcraft. I love WoW. There are some students who are in there, and my grandson is in my guild. His mother and her partner also played. Three of us started a guild. I’ve been playing the game for about two years. It’s the most fun I’ve ever had playing a game on a computer.

I was an active pilot, too, at one time. I love flying. That’s another thing people don’t know about me. If I could do anything in this world, I would just buy a plane and fly. My dream is to fly around the United States and touch every one of the continental states and Canada, maybe even Alaska, in an open cockpit biplane.

6. **What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

My kids. I have four children.

7. **If you could live anywhere, where would you live?**

Northeastern corner of Minnesota. I would winterize my cabin and live there year-round. It’s about one mile south of the Canadian border and 35 miles straight north of a little town called Grand Marais, which is about 50 miles from the border, if you travel on up the coastline of Lake Superior. There is no cellphone connection, no television and six miles to the nearest Wi-Fi. My dad and my mother bought that land – four and a quarter acres – for $1,500 in 1952. It’s outrageously quiet and beautiful.

The other place I’d go is back to Ireland. My ancestors on my paternal grandmother’s side – her ancestors came to this country in 1770 from Neale in County Mayo.

8. **What talent, real or imagined, would you most like to have?**

I’d still like to play the piano properly. And I still want to play the Irish whistle well, but I can’t find an instructor! Believe it or not, with all the Irish in this town, I can’t find an Irish whistle instructor.

9. **What do you wish you were better at?**

Everything. Quite literally everything, because everything I do I could do better. I have so many interests and so many things to do that there’s no time to master any one of them. I’ve never had the luxury in my life to be able to master anything.

10. **If you weren’t an educator, what would your dream job be?**

I just so love teaching that every time I turn around I’m teaching somebody something, whether it’s how to throw a whip or whatever. It’s in my blood.

To see the latest faculty achievements and published works, go to www.sxu.edu, Keyword: faculty notes.
1950s  Helen Petitti Osterman ’51 (Nursing) retired from her career in nursing and began writing mystery novels. Her sixth novel, Emma Winberry and the Evil Eye – A Prequel, combines mystery, suspense, humor, pathos and romance.

1960s  Class of 1963 Reunion Year! Make sure we know how to contact you. Questions? Call (773) 298-3316 or visit our website: www.sxu.edu/alumni.

Marianne Pluta Stowe ’66 (Special Education) is a retired psychiatric nurse and hospice chaplain. Marianne continues to work as a spiritual director and does ministry at San Luis Obispo County Jail in California. She and her husband, Keith, reside in Los Osos, Calif., where they take advantage of the golf-friendly weather year-round.

1970s  Kathleen Weiland Meyer ’71 (Nursing) worked as a registered nurse at the University of Illinois Hospital, a level 3-4 perinatal center, Mercy Hospital and Hinsdale Hospital. Now retired, Kathleen has two sons, Patrick and Shamus, and seven grandchildren. Kathleen would love to get together with classmates to “talk about what we’ve learned along the way and of course our grandchildren!”

1990s  Christine Pollard ’93 MA (Education) teaches social studies at Mother McAuley High School in Chicago.

Catherine Bronson ’94 (History), ’03 MA, received her second master’s degree along with a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in June 2012. She has accepted an Andrew Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Arabic and Islamic Studies at Beloit College in Wisconsin. Catherine and her husband, Sean Anthony, have three children.

Jacquelyn Janicke ’97, ’01 (Education) was recently named principal of Northeast School in School District 123 in Evergreen Park, Ill.

Christine Bess Johannesen ’97 (Art) resides in Glenmont, N.Y., with her husband Jeremy Johannesen, executive director for the New York State Librarian’s Association, and their sons Jack, 8, and Alexander, 5. Christine is a registrar at Maria College (also a Sister of Mercy institution), enjoys being a member of “Friends of the Library” and volunteers for the local Cub Scouts and the Bethlehem Soccer Program. Christine will be participating in a training program through CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) to become a parental advocate to assist those whose children have recently been diagnosed with ADHD. Upon completion of the Parent to Parent Training, Christine will be able to advocate for parents in school and provide training to the community.

Heather Schmaedeke ’99 (Art), ’03 MA (Education) was accepted into an artist residency program in Berlin. Heather was part of an international group of artists working in Berlin from July through September 2012.

2000s  Michelle McClure ’01 MS (Nursing) recently received a doctor of nursing practice from Loyola University New Orleans.

Lynne Wegrzyn ’01 (English, Industrial Psychology) moved to Australia and is teaching special needs students in Sydney.

Ken Allen ’03 (Biology) attended Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine after completing his studies at SXU and graduated with his D.M.D. in 2007. Ken served in the U.S. Army for the following four years in South Carolina, Texas, Alaska and Afghanistan. In August 2012, Ken began his own dental practice, Sloop Dental, in the South Loop neighborhood. Learn more at www.sloopdental.com.

Kevin McGee ’03 (Health Care Administration) has been named chief executive officer of Smith Senior Living. The not-for-profit organization sponsors Smith Crossing in Orland Park, Ill., and Smith Village in Chicago’s Beverly neighborhood.
Austin Schafer ’04 (Philosophy) was recently engaged to Jennifer M. Oddi and will be married in June 2013 in Columbus, Ohio. Since 2009, Austin has served as the pastoral associate for campus ministry at the St. Thomas More Newman Center at Ohio State University. One of his own designed college campus ministry programs was selected nationally as the 2012 Catholic Campus Ministry Association Exemplary Program of the Year for Developing Leaders for the Future.

Tina Louise Potter Vega ’05 (Biology), senior keeper in the carnivore department at Brookfield Zoo, is working on a master’s in zoology through Brookfield Zoo in partnership with Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Tina works with carnivores of all sizes from small otters and foxes to big cats and bears. Tina is the proud mother of four children ages 11, 9, 2 and 1.

Jennifer Lemmerman Cifelli ’06 (Psychology) graduated from Grand Valley State University in Michigan with a master’s in social work.

Tameka Pritchett ’06 MA (Education) recently completed another master in education in instructional leadership with a reading specialist – Type 10 certification from the University of Illinois Chicago.

Sylvia Habasinski Cervenka ’07 (Mathematics), ’12 (Education) is employed as a math teacher at Marist High School in Chicago.

Danielle Allen ’08 (Psychology), ’11 MA (Education) was hired as a resource teacher for Northeast School in Evergreen Park, Ill.

Ebony Hughes ’08 (International Studies) graduated in 2011 from Roosevelt University with a master’s in history. From 2009-2011 Ebony worked for DuSable Museum of African-American History as a assistant archivist and reference historian. Ebony is a faculty member for the University of Phoenix.

2010s

Jose Calderon ’11 MBA (Business Management) accepted employment from the City of Evanston in June 2012, working as division manager of IT.

Jasondra Johnson ’12 (Psychology) appeared in Crowns at the Goodman Theatre during the 2011-12 season.

Laura Raymond ’12 (Sociology) is volunteering at L’Arche Harbor House in Jacksonville, Fla. L’Arche is a community that creates an environment where people with developmental disabilities can share their gifts, affecting a positive change in the world.

in memoriam

1939 Florence K. Hennessey (History)
1941 Christine Konstant (Sociology)
1944 Elizabeth Corcoran (Nursing)
1946 Mary C. Haase (Spanish)
1950 Mary K. Sulick (Nursing)
1952 Shirley Ronan (Education)
1956 Sister Charla Gannon, R.S.M. (History)
1958 Sister Georgia Purk, R.S.M. (Chemistry)
1961 Sister Mary Gallagher, R.S.M. (Education)
1962 Kathleen J. Sullivan (History)
1963 Charlene Loftus (Nursing)
1964 Sister Martin de Porres Smukowski, R.S.M. (Education)
1967 Sister Rita Marie Brennan, R.S.M. (Education)
1968 Sister Maurice Dolan, R.S.M. (Education)
1969 Mary Ragen (Social Science)
1972 Gertrude C. Woods (Nursing)
1975, 1988 Raymond J. Jachowicz (Biology)
Class of 1962 celebrates golden graduation

The Class of 1962 returned to campus during Homecoming 2012 to celebrate its golden graduation from Saint Xavier. Nearly 40 women from eight states renewed friendships, explored old haunts and enjoyed seeing the evolution of the University. President Christine M. Wiseman, J.D., welcomed them with a champagne toast followed by dinner in the Butler Reception Room.

In recent years these 50-year reunion graduates have commemorated their golden graduation with a gift in support of the University's endeavors. The Class of 1962 has graciously chosen to fund an endowment from an SXU Department of Education Title III grant that will support collaborative student-faculty research and creative projects across the University.

The University has the opportunity to allocate approximately $10,000 from its Title III grant to create this endowment, and the Class of 1962 is playing an important role in helping the University take advantage of it.

The fund will make an award in the name of the Class of 1962 every year in order to commemorate their support for this endowment. The award will be announced to the University community on an annual basis.
Alumni Achiever

Natalie Hoffman, ’06, stroke unit nurse and first member of the X-Club Giving Society

Natalie Hoffman ’06 knows that if you start giving back to your alma mater shortly after graduation, it likely will become a lifelong habit. Filled with gratitude for all of the opportunities Saint Xavier afforded her, Hoffman became the first member of the newly formed X-Club Giving Society, a group of loyal alumni who earned their bachelor’s degrees within the past 10 years and who annually support the Saint Xavier Fund.

“I’m from the South Side of Chicago, right by Midway, still live in the area,” she said. “I knew from about 5 years old that I wanted to be a nurse. And just with the reputation of the school, it was an easy choice to come to Saint Xavier. I can’t tell you how many times when I was looking for a job, I knew I had the job in two seconds after saying where I went to school. It was really kind of nice to have that security, knowing that my education opened so many doors for me.”

Hoffman had her first job lined up before she graduated, and today she works as a nurse on the stroke unit of Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park. “I like being more involved with the patient because you can see every day their progress from when they first came in the door. Sometimes they can’t talk, but by the time they leave me, we can have a full conversation.”

She said she loved her four years at Saint Xavier, where she made lifelong friends and participated in the Student Nurses’ Association. Giving back was an easy decision, she said, especially because she received financial assistance and now has a cousin attending SXU as an undergrad. “I feel like, not only am I helping the University, but in some way I’m helping my family member.”

All undergraduate alumni who graduated within the past 10 years and who make a gift of $30 or more each fiscal year are members of the X-Club. Members receive an exclusive listing in the annual report, an X-Club Giving Society decal, recognition from University Advancement staff and a profile of a student who benefited from gifts made to the Saint Xavier Fund.

Hoffman said that giving to Saint Xavier means a lot to her because “it means I am allowing someone to have the same and maybe even better experiences than I had. SXU has allowed me to do what I have wanted to do since I was a little girl – be a nurse. I get to help people every day and know that I am making a difference.”
The SXU community celebrated Homecoming 2012 with a “Cougars on Parade” contest, mirroring Chicago’s famous “Cows on Parade.” SXU departments and organizations adopted and decorated cougar statues in various themes, and the finished products were put to a vote. More than 72,500 votes were cast with the Office of Records and Advising’s horror movie-themed “Scaredy Cat” taking first place. This campus-wide endeavor culminated prior to the Homecoming game Sept. 29 as the marching band, cheerleaders and Paw Prints dance team escorted the statues across campus in the March of the Cougars. View the statues at www.sxu.edu, Keyword: Cougars on Parade.

First-year student Sophia Soumpholphakdy holds the sign that says it all before the marching band, cheerleaders and Paw Prints dance team escorted the finished cougar statues across campus in the March of the Cougars.

Alumni get in the spirit at the pre-game reunion celebration at Bruce R. Deaton Memorial Field.

Frank Loulousis ’04 (Art/Education) was the artist who designed and painted the winning cougar entry, “Scaredy Cat.” He teaches art and drafting at St. Laurence High School in Burbank, Ill.
Congratulations to the recipients of the 2012 Saint Xavier University Academic Distinguished Alumni Awards. Bottom from left, Brian Radakovitz ’08, ’11, of Orland Park, Distinguished Alumni Award, School for Continuing and Professional Studies, Jennifer Drake ’02, ’08, of Chicago, George K. McGuire Award, School of Education, Betty Kosky ’86, ’92, of Worth, Distinguished Alumni Award, Graham School of Management, Charlene Bermele ’05, of Evergreen Park, Distinguished Alumni Award, School of Nursing, and Daniel Brown ’78, of Palos Park, Distinguished Alumni Award, College of Arts and Sciences. Behind them are, from left, Leslie M. Petty, Ed.D., dean of the School for Continuing and Professional Studies, Beverly Gulley, Ph.D., dean of the School of Education, John Eber, Ed.D., dean of the Graham School of Management, Gloria Jacobson, R.N., Ph.D., dean of the School of Nursing, and Kathleen Alaimo, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The 2012 SXU National Alumni Association Award winners are Patrick “Andy” Devine ’75, of Oak Forest, Spirit of Saint Xavier Award, Kevin Clark ’78, of Oak Forest, Sister Dorothy Marie Peschon ’19 Award, and Bernada Baker ’04, of Chicago, Rita A. Ford ’98 Faith in the Future Award.

The Rev. Mark Schramm, S.V.D., director of field education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, celebrates an outdoor Liturgy of the Word.

Shalonda Young ’11, left, Sarah Wilson ’08 and Alex Barone ’11 enjoy Homecoming festivities.
SOMEONE you should know

Nick Pesek had been getting ready this summer for the upcoming Saint Xavier football season. He was a junior, and the running back had been working out and looking forward to seeing his teammates again.

Then, on the second day of football camp in early August when all players had to undergo mandated physicals, the unthinkable happened.

“That’s when the doctor found the lump inside my right testicle, and it was very small, and I had no clue about it.”

Pesek, 20, of Oak Lawn tells the story of his cancer with uncommon candidness, describing what happened after that meeting with the sports doctor. After talking with his family, he immediately went to an oncologist who confirmed the small mass on the inside of his testicle was Stage 1 cancer.

Doctors operated the next day.

“At first I was scared – very scared,” he says. “My family has a history of cancer. My mom was talking to me, saying you’re not going to die, that this type of cancer is very curable.

“Doctors actually cut me open right below my belly button and it’s there that they removed the testicle.”

The surgery only lasted an hour, and he went home from the hospital the same day. He said it took a week or two to recover – it was hard to walk, he said – but he was back on the team and playing by the second game of the season in early September.

Pesek knows he’s lucky, that his chances for recurrence have been dramatically lowered. He also knows, though, that his chances for getting prostate cancer or colon cancer have risen, and he will be closely monitored by doctors for the next five years. After that, it will be a lifetime of vigilance.

“It’s bad that it happened to me, but the way I view it now is God has different things with everybody and he makes things happen for a reason. What I get out of it is, it only makes me stronger. Out on the field, my dad would joke around with me and a couple of his buddies, ‘Hey, you’re not going to get hit harder than you were ever hit before. There’s no defensive player that’s gonna hit you harder than you were hit.’

“I’m just moving forward,” he says.

Pesek, a secondary education and biology major, is openly telling his story because by doing so, he wants to prevent anyone else from going through what he had to. He says that despite his youth and physical fitness, he was not immune from cancer, and that’s why he is encouraging people to get regular check-ups.

“In my situation, if that doctor never found it – because I was having no symptoms at all of this cancer – I never would have thought to check myself regularly. I never heard of anyone else around me who had it,” he says.

“I want people to be aware of it. You don’t hear about testicular cancer a lot because a lot of males who have cancer – especially testicular cancer – don’t talk about it. You can be the most healthy person in the world or the most unhealthy person in the world, it doesn’t matter. It can happen to anybody.”
Bank of America supports community health outreach at SXU

Saint Xavier University received a $10,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to support community health efforts in the University’s Health Center and the Ludden Speech and Language Clinic.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life in the communities it serves, and this grant represents an important investment in the health of underserved residents of the Far South Side of Chicago and the south suburbs.

The Ludden Clinic provides diagnosis and treatment for a wide variety of communication disorders for children and adults and serves more than 1,000 community clients per year through its services and early-detection programs.

The Health Center, a nurse-managed primary care facility, provides affordable health services, education, wellness activities and preventive care for students and community members. Approximately half of the center’s patients come from the local community.

Both the clinic and the Health Center serve a large number of economically disadvantaged, uninsured and underinsured clients. This grant will help to enhance the quality of life for community members who might otherwise lack access to needed services.

SXU RECEIVES GRANT TO CREATE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF FINANCIAL MARKETS AND DERIVATIVES

A $100,000 grant from the CME Group Foundation will enable students in the Graham School of Management to use real-world applications to gain an in-depth understanding of trading, risk management and other financial concepts.

The grant will be used to create the Center for the Study of Financial Markets and Derivatives, which will have portable equipment for in-class demonstrations and a hands-on laboratory where students will work on projects such as simulated financial portfolios. Ultimately, students will manage a real-time investment portfolio for the Graham School of Management.

The center will also provide collaborative research opportunities for students and faculty and will strengthen SXU’s ties with the community by enhancing the consulting work that Graham School faculty and staff do with local businesses. The center will work with local school districts to introduce high school students to financial concepts.

The CME Group Foundation enhances economic opportunity by supporting academic initiatives and activities in the Chicago region, including those that promote research, teaching and learning in financial markets, futures and derivatives.

“We are grateful to the CME Group Foundation for their advocacy on behalf of Saint Xavier University,” said SXU President Christine M. Wiseman, J.D. “We appreciate the foundation’s efforts to increase student and community understanding about finance and financial markets and are pleased to have their support in developing this exciting new center.”
SXU receives $645,000 scholarship grant for disadvantaged students

Money provides $15,000 scholarships for 43 nursing students

The School of Nursing received a $645,000 scholarship grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The HRSA Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students grant will provide 43 $15,000 scholarships for the 2012-2013 academic year. Saint Xavier also has been recommended for funding at this level for an additional three years, subject to the availability of funds and progress of the project.

SXU’s grant is one of 99 made nationally to support students in a range of accredited health professions programs, and one of four in Illinois. SXU is also the only private university in Illinois to receive funding through the program this year.

“This grant will have an enormous impact on our students’ ability to complete an excellent nursing education program at SXU,” said School of Nursing Dean Gloria Jacobson, R.N., Ph.D. “The ability to award 43 of these generous scholarships will mean that, for strong nursing students, family income is less of an obstacle to earning a degree.”

The grant will provide scholarships to full-time undergraduate SXU nursing students from disadvantaged backgrounds who demonstrate financial need. The initiative promotes diversity among nursing students and practicing nurses in the health care community; most SXU graduates remain in the Chicago area to contribute to the health care workforce.

Recognizing that the strong academic preparation required for a rigorous nursing education may not be readily available in schools serving low- to moderate-income communities, recipients of the HRSA Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students grant at SXU also will benefit from intensive mentoring and academic counseling resources to promote their successful completion of the program.

SXU has an ongoing and historic commitment to vulnerable and underserved populations that is supported by its core values of diversity, excellence and respect for persons. Approximately one-third of SXU’s freshman class is racially diverse, and more than half of the incoming freshman class are eligible for Pell grants, which are awarded to students who demonstrate a high degree of financial need.

In its review of SXU’s program, HRSA noted the strength of Saint Xavier’s commitment to the education of disadvantaged students and to increasing graduates working in medically underserved communities. HRSA also noted SXU’s work to address the Special Health Needs identified nationally by the Department of Health and Human Services.

One hundred percent of the program costs of $645,000 for this academic year are financed by a federal grant from the HRSA; no nongovernmental funds contribute to this program.

SXU’s School of Nursing is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and is also one of only 17 programs in the country designated as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing.

Andrew Foundation supports student success

The Aileen S. Andrew Foundation made a $20,000 grant to the University’s annual scholarship fund, marking the foundation’s 32nd consecutive year of support for Saint Xavier and making it one of the University’s longest-standing donors.

In addition to its ongoing support for student scholarships, the foundation has also made generous contributions for a lecture hall in the Graham School of Management, construction of the Shannon Center and construction of the Andrew Conference Center.

Victor Andrew started the Andrew Corp. on the Southwest Side of Chicago in 1947. The maker of communications equipment later relocated to Orland Park, Ill. It became the site of Saint Xavier’s first courses in the Orland Park area when the company allowed the University to use its premises to offer classes for employees and local residents.

The foundation is named in honor of Victor Andrew’s wife, Aileen.

The University is deeply grateful for the important role that the foundation has played in the success of Saint Xavier students for more than 30 years. Contributions from committed and generous donors like the Aileen S. Andrew Foundation help us strengthen our programs and touch the lives of students who might otherwise be unable to achieve their dream of a college education. Ninety-five percent of Saint Xavier’s undergraduates rely on financial assistance to complete their education.
STATE RENEWS SUPPORT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

The Illinois State Board of Education renewed its support for the School of Education’s Birth to 3 program with a $97,814 grant.

The Birth to 3 program is a unique prevention initiative serving children in the local community who are at-risk for learning and success in school. Its goal is to promote the development, as well as the social and emotional growth, of at-risk infants and toddlers in order to prepare them for a successful transition to preschool and special education programs.

The program provides developmental screenings and assessments, individual parent consultations, resource referrals, and parent education and support activities. Parent-child groups engage participants in activities that strengthen the parent-child relationship and help parents learn about community resources. The groups cover topics such as early reading and math literacy, sensory issues, fine motor skills, music education, socialization and language development.

Birth to 3 serves about 75 children and their families each year.

BIG SHOULDERS, SXU PARTNERSHIP IMPROVING EARLY MATH AND LITERACY EDUCATION

School of Education faculty members David Bell, Ruth Rohlwing and Maureen Spelman are continuing SXU’s collaboration with Big Shoulders schools with a new program this fall.

The program, Early Intervention in Literacy and Mathematics: Building the Capacity for Catholic Elementary Schools to Sustain a Response to Intervention (RtI) System, was funded with a grant of $76,426 from the Big Shoulders Fund as part of its Opening Doors to All program. It will provide intensive professional development and coaching to K-3 teachers at the Academy of St. Benedict the African, Our Lady of the Snows, Pope John Paul II and Saint Turibius elementary schools, all on Chicago’s South Side.

Project personnel will also train teachers in grades 4-8 in the use of AIMSweb educational assessments. The project aims to significantly improve early childhood at-risk student achievement in literacy and mathematics.

The Big Shoulders Fund and Saint Xavier’s School of Education have a significant history of partnering to support high-quality education in Catholic schools in some of Chicago’s neediest inner-city areas.

SXU HOSTS CHICAGO WOMEN IN COMPUTING

Saint Xavier hosted the two-day 2012 Chicago Celebration of Women in Computing conference in October that attracted undergraduate and graduate women studying computer science at colleges and universities in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Missouri.

Young women from local high schools attended the second day of the program.

Chaired by Florence Appel, professor of computer science at SXU, and featuring prominent keynote speakers Mary Fernandez of AT&T and Tanya Berger Wolf of the University of Illinois-Chicago, conference activities included educational and career development, student presentations, social opportunities, a daylong résumé consultation station, and a career and graduate school fair.

The University is grateful to the corporate and association sponsors whose generous support kept student registration fees low and provided scholarships for student registration and travel costs. At press time, sponsors included the Association for Computing Machinery, the Anita Borg Institute, Microsoft Corp., National Science Foundation, Raytheon Corp. and ThoughtWorks.

Saint Xavier welcomes the opportunity to work with corporate and community partners. More information on partnership opportunities can be found at www.sxu.edu, Keyword: corporate.

“Thank you for all the assistance you provide to students at Saint Xavier. You are truly making a difference for students like me each and every time you donate to our school.”

— Andrianna ’15
The holiday season is upon us!

In the hustle and bustle that comes with the holidays, don’t forget about our students at Saint Xavier University. We are proud that our students are diverse and bright. Many come to Saint Xavier from underserved backgrounds. We provide them with the opportunity to pursue and achieve their dreams. But they would not be here without the support of donors! Help our students this holiday season. Visit Saint Xavier’s online gift registry – registry.sxu.edu – to see how your gift can directly impact our students.

Your gift, regardless of size, will make a difference for our students this holiday season!

UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES DONORS AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

More than 200 members of the Saint Xavier community attended the Celebration Dinner for Benefactors and Scholars at Ridge Country Club in Chicago in October.

This event recognizes President’s Club and Named and Endowed Scholarship donors who provide significant gifts in support of the University and its mission. The generosity of these donors makes it possible for the University to offer the financial assistance that strengthens the tradition of academic excellence at SXU and puts a Mercy-inspired education within reach of talented students who seek to transform their lives. At this year’s dinner, special recognition was given to the donors who have contributed $500,000 or more throughout the course of their relationship with Saint Xavier.

Steven J. Murphy, Ed.D., executive director of development, was the master of ceremonies for a program that included remarks by President Christine Wiseman, J.D., and three endowed scholarship recipients – Sa’Rah McNeal, Kelly Mihalik and Maha Barakat – who explained the impact of scholarships on their lives.

“We are not defined by words on a page, but instead by who we educate, how we educate and who we educate our students to be,” Wiseman said.

McNeal is a senior biology/pre-med major and a recipient of the Margaret “Kay” Halper ’50 Biology Scholarship. “With three kids in college, it has been quite a struggle for my parents to finance my education,” McNeal said. “There was even a point where I had to take a semester off due to insufficient funds. Due to this scholarship, it was not necessary for me to work an extra part-time job. Consequently, I have more time to devote to my studies and extracurricular activities.”

A senior nursing major, Mihalik is the recipient of the Cynthia Martin Chase ’74 – Sophia Steinhardt Scholarship. Neither of Mihalik’s parents is able to work because of medical problems, leaving her solely responsible for her college education. “Without this scholarship, paying for school this year would have been quite difficult, and it was truly a blessing to my family and me,” she said. “This scholarship not only lifts the stress of paying for college off my shoulders, it also eases the hearts of my parents because they would do anything to see my brothers and me succeed.”

Barakat, a senior English and industrial psychology student, is the recipient of the Thomas Deegan Memorial Scholarship. “My family and I can’t express how much we appreciate this scholarship. It’s truly made a difference in our lives,” she said. “And while I may not have an exact career path mapped out yet, Saint Xavier has afforded me many opportunities, and I’ll have many different avenues I can explore. The greatest gift you can give anyone is a chance, and with your donation you’ve helped give me the chance to seamlessly finish my education at SXU.”

Online Gift Registry

Scholarship recipients from the School of Nursing: Back, Nursing Dean Gloria Jacobson, left, Satin Smith, Anne Copeland, Kelly Mihalik, Nikita Daniels, Tara Becker, Rocio Carrillo, School of Nursing faculty member Darlene O’Callaghan ’69. Front: Rachael Dean, left, Kristin Duewerth, Gianna Pinto, Lauren Hennessy

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SISTER MARY PAULINE FIELDS, RSM, ‘77, 1927-2012

The Saint Xavier community mourns the loss of Sister Mary Pauline Fields, RSM, a manager of the SXU Bookstore for 36 years. She was 85.

Sister Pauline entered the Sisters of Mercy in Chicago in 1945. She worked as a nurse’s aide from 1948 to 1953 and held various convent duties for the next 10 years. She received a certificate in theology from Saint Xavier in 1964 and a degree in business administration in 1977.

In 1964, she began working for SXU as the manager of the campus bookstore, a position she held for 36 years. Loved dearly by the staff and administration, she received many awards and accolades for her leadership and hard work. She retired in 2000.

Funeral services were held in July.

THE REV. JOHN LYNCH

The Saint Xavier University community mourns the loss of former campus minister the Rev. John Lynch, who died in July. He was 70.

Lynch was a priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago for 45 years and most recently served as associate pastor at Saint Margaret Mary Parish in Chicago. He served as SXU’s campus minister from 1975 to 1977.

ROY NELSON, 1942-2012

The Saint Xavier University community mourns the loss of Roy Nelson, a maintenance electrician, friend and Air Force veteran who died in September. He was 70. Nelson worked at SXU for 33 years.

1846 Loyalty Society established for donors

Since our founding in 1846, many individuals, foundations and corporations have demonstrated their commitment to Saint Xavier University by consistently supporting our mission and our students.

It is these alumni, friends, corporations and foundations who have helped thousands of students graduate from college and work in the field of their choice. Our students are able to become successful, well-rounded professionals because of the opportunities they were offered at Saint Xavier – opportunities that they otherwise would not have received. Our loyal donors see the greatness that lies at SXU and, regardless of amount, we are so grateful for their generosity.

Because of our appreciation for these donors, we have created the 1846 Loyalty Society, a recognition society that honors donors who consistently support the mission and values for which we stand.

Consecutive-year gifts to any of these funds qualify for membership in the 1846 Loyalty Society:
• Saint Xavier Fund
• Class Gift
• Golf Classic
• Mary’s Circle
• Student Relief Fund
• Named and Endowed Scholarships
• Cougar Club
• Scholarship Ball

Membership levels and benefits:

Charter Level – Giving consecutively for two to four years
Official member car decal, special recognition in the annual report

Milestone Level – Giving consecutively for five to nine years
Official member car decal, special recognition in the annual report, SXU address labels

Pillar Level – Giving consecutively for 10-19 years
Official member car decal, special recognition in the annual report, SXU address labels, personalized SXU notepad, invitation to special events for 1846 Loyalty Society members

Lifetime Level – Giving consecutively for 20 or more years
Official member car decal, special recognition in the annual report, SXU address labels, personalized SXU notepad, invitation to special events for 1846 Loyalty Society members and lifetime membership

For more information, please visit www.sxu.edu, Keyword: 1846, or contact Kendyl Lyons at klyons@sxu.edu or (773) 298-3907.
Golf Classic raises record $112,000 for students

Saint Xavier University hosted its most successful Golf Classic in the event’s 16-year history at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park. The event raised more than $112,000 with all proceeds supporting SXU student scholarships.

“We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the donors and sponsors who helped provide scholarships for Saint Xavier University’s most deserving students through this wonderful event,” said Executive Director of Development Steven Murphy, Ed.D., who spoke along with President Christine Wiseman, J.D.

The event featured several raffle prize packages, including The Chicago Downtown Package, Get Out of Town Package, Chicago Sports Tailgate Package and Golfer’s Package. Other raffle prizes included an Apple iPad 3, a flat-screen TV, a Trek mountain bike, a Kindle Fire, a Weber portable gas grill and various golf items.
Catherine the Weary and the Willing, Pray for Us

Saint Catherine McAuley

Though believing the truth of the word “saint” even as we pursue the cause of Catherine’s canonization, I find the word somewhat stiff and distancing. To so many of us, she is simply and affectionately, Catherine. Yes, we love her accomplishments and admire her centeredness in God. Yet we also remember her struggles, enjoy her humor and acknowledge her foibles. We connect with her as real, as human, as feminine, as somehow familiar.

Why is that? Recently, as I was looking for a specific detail into Catherine’s life, I ran my finger down the subheads of that topic in the index of Mary Sullivan’s book, *The Correspondence of Catherine McAuley, 1818-1841*. Here is some of what I found:

“bitterness of … broken arm of … builds public laundry … confined to one room … cough of … diagnosed with lung disease … disappointments of … eyesight of … family of … fatigue of … falls down stairs … financial difficulties of … fondness for nonsense … gum disease of … has a ‘surfeit’ of traveling … hides from subpoena … imitates dialects … impatience of … journeys of … marriage proposal to … and music … nieces of … nephews of … nervous or uneasy … as a patient … playfulness of … proposes ‘nonsensical club’ … resentment of … respect for local needs and preferences … sense of humor of … sexist attitudes toward … skills and experiences of … stiff fingers of … takes the pledge of temperance … tears of … turns her ankle … weariness of … walking of….”

Such human and mundane glimpses of Catherine’s life. How those entries belie the nostalgic “life was simpler then.” The span of 160-plus years fades to irrelevance in the face of such shared human experiences.

Does this list hold the secret of Catherine’s strong appeal to contemporary women, I wondered. Do we have here, perhaps, a new prayer from and to Catherine McAuley – a litany of sorts: You who knew bitterness, pray for us. You besieged with a cough, pray for us. You worried about nieces and nephews, pray for us. You worried about nieces and nephews, pray for us. And so on.

Yes, the other entries are there: “affection for her sisters … compassion and love for the poor and suffering … confidence in the providence of God … founds House of Mercy … founds Sisters of Mercy … humility of … leadership of … love for children … prayer of … prudence of … resignation to God’s will … self-effacement of … willing to go to Newfoundland … writes the rule…” But somehow, I think, it’s the former list that makes Catherine approachable and gives us hope as we aspire to the qualities of the latter list.

Catherine the playful, pray for us. Catherine the prudent, pray for us. Catherine humble and hiding from a subpoena, pray for us.
Claudia Smalley is an award-winning, published artist whose parents emigrated from Poland to Chicago in the 1970s. Her work ranges from portraiture and still life to abstracted interpretations of historical art. She was recognized by the State of Illinois as an Illinois Artisan and has shown work extensively throughout Chicago. Smalley has been featured in local, national and international publications such as the Chicago Reader, CBS Chicago, Business News Daily and La Republica (the national newspaper of Italy). She also participated this year on an episode of TLC's *Craft Wars.* “Art is absolutely a critical part of my life, one that allows me to stay connected with my creative roots, as well as with my community,” she says.

View more of her work at www.claudiasmalley.com, and “like” Claudia Smalley, Artist, on Facebook.