



President's Perspective

REV. VINCENT M. COOKE, S.J.

THE FALL SEMESTER has been a busy and productive one. Our freshman class numbered 885 well-qualified students, 60 percent of whom reside in the college's residence halls. This, coupled with improving student retention among the undergraduates, has made for a larger and more residential student population. For the first time, Canisius stopped accepting deposits in June and established a waiting list. As I write this, our residence halls are filled to capacity and a few students still reside at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo while they await beds for the second semester.

If we are going to have challenges, these are good challenges to have.

I think that our efforts of the past 11 years are bearing fruit. The word is out that Canisius is a high quality institution and demand is strong. We are constantly trying to raise the bar here at the college in terms of the programs, facilities and people.

This fall, the college welcomed 11 new faculty members, which brings the total number of full-time professors to 205, of which 96 percent hold PhD or terminal degrees. The School of Education and Human Services instituted its first Faculty Fellowship, as a way to further diversify the teaching perspectives of students in the education program (page 7).

Canisius also continues to improve its academic facilities. The first floor of the Health Science Building recently underwent a \$1.5 million renovation. Five new classrooms were constructed and wired with the same state-of-the-art technology as in Old Main.

On Eastwood Avenue, Eastwood Hall, a 270-bed residence hall is taking shape. The concrete for the superstructure of the building will be poured by early December and interior work has begun. The completion date is next August.

We recognize donors to the college's annual fund in this issue (page 28). I continue to stress the importance of our annual fund to all alumni and friends I meet. Participation in the annual fund is a very big priority for the college. Outside funding agencies look at alumni participation rates as a signal of the alumni's commitment to and involvement with the institution. *U.S. News & World Report* uses participation rates as one of the criteria in ranking colleges each year. Thank you to all of those who made last year's campaign such a success. Thank you in advance for answering the call from one of our volunteers or students during this fall's campaign.

Vincent M. Cooke, S.J.

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