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President's Perspective



This past summer was a time for taking stock and giving thanks here at Canisius. We are taking stock of how far we have come in our quest to move Canisius into the top ranks of regional colleges and universities in the Northeast. And we are giving thanks for the tremendous loyalty and generosity of our alumni and friends who have helped us come this far.

As we look back over the past five years, we see a period of unprecedented growth and change at Canisius fueled by a renewed commitment to quality, historic fund raising results and a strong stock market. Here are the highlights:

- We have doubled our endowment from approximately \$30 million to \$60 million.
- At the same time, we have started or completed \$60 million of capital projects giving the campus a completely new look.
- We completed the *Imagine Canisius* capital campaign with \$38.8 million raised, nearly 30 percent over goal. All fund raising at the college, including *Imagine Canisius*, the annual fund and grants, totaled more than \$55 million during this period.
- Our student body is larger and exceptionally well-qualified. This fall, our freshman class numbers 825 students (up from 647 in 1997). High school averages

and SAT scores continue to climb. Our graduate school, led by programs in our School of Education and Human Services, is also achieving high enrollments.

■ We are making the transition to a residential student body. In the freshman class, 57 percent of the students live in campus housing. We have just broken ground for a 325 bed townhouse development on the site of the former Delavan Armory.

Yet as we take stock and celebrate the accomplishment of objectives that seemed overly ambitious just a few years ago, new challenges are emerging. We are starting to look closer at the top-ranked schools in the Northeast. We see that they have more resources from their operating budgets and endowments, more selective admissions criteria and better fund raising capabilities. But the competition is within our sights now and we are planning our next moves.

In the meantime, we take the opportunity in this issue of the *Canisius College Magazine* to thank those alumni and friends who have supported our annual fund in the fiscal year that concluded May 31, 2000. The annual fund provides a critical component of the college's operating budget each year and for that I am very grateful. This year's annual fund is now underway and I encourage all our alumni and friends to respond generously. The realization of our goals is within our grasp!

With all personal best wishes from the campus!

Vincent M. Cooke, S.J.

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Canisius Correspondence

Joe Hassett's "As You Were" triggered some memories of my own ... the day the lights went out in J.T.'s classroom. He never missed a beat. He kept on lecturing as though a blackout was an everyday occurrence or at the very least, something for which he was prepared.

Dick Slattery '64

A very interesting account on the rear cover of the summer *Canisius College Magazine* by Joe Hassett on Father J.T. Clark. Both are after my time and I am sorry I missed Fr. Clark. I did experience Fr. Francis Bowen and it was worth far more than the four years tuition in today's dollar. I would hope these two great minds crossed paths at some point.

P.A. Baumann '39

An outstanding job by Joe Hassett that revived a vivid memory — I took Fr. Clark's philosophy course in my last semester, 1967. The arm raising was brought back — I can see it now. And perhaps what I clearly remember as his closing statement in the final class — advice which turned out pretty astute a month later in my new job. He said simply (or profoundly), for the rest of your life, "... if someone asks you a question and you don't know the answer, keep your big mouth shut. Don't pontificate until you've been consecrated!"

Mark Carroll '67

Write to Us!

Care to comment on a story or share a memory of your *alma mater* with the *Canisius College Magazine*? We welcome your letters and encourage you to contact us. Here is how:

Write to us:

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E-mail the editor:

Audrey R. Browka, at browkaa@canisius.edu.



I really enjoyed Joseph Hassett's tribute to Fathers Joe Clark and Stewie McGovern. Both were certainly unique and effective in quite different ways. I actually went and dug out an old midterm blue book from Fr. Clark's "Philosophy of Science." About a week before the exam he told the class we could write on anything we wanted — no specific question to answer. When I read over that old test, I could hear him again and see his input in the language I used. This was one of the few old tests I've saved over the years. Father McGovern, on the other end of the spectrum, used to give daily quizzes and occasional midterms (or "tigers" as he would call them), where the emphasis was on memorizing. There's a lot to be said for both techniques and when used in conjunction, probably more effective. Both of them are unforgettable educators.

Jan Stribula '70

* Letters may be edited for space