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President's Perspective

Spring arrives on the Canisius campus. While I have written and spoken often about the excitement of fall on a college campus, spring in Buffalo is an equally exciting time. The warmer weather and longer days encourage all of us as we try to bring the year's work to a close.

It has been a very eventful year at Canisius. We announce in this issue the appointment of Dr. Joe Alber as the new dean of the Wehle School of Business as we say thank you to Dean Richard Shick for his 23 very productive years as dean. We note with sorrow the passing of our colleague, friend and dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Dean Jim McDermott. The promise of Easter consoles us at Jim's passing but he will be very difficult to replace.

And the building continues apace. Phase II of our enormously successful Delavan Townhouse project, encompassing an additional 130 beds to the 196 bed units that opened last September will be completed shortly. New seating and lighting have been installed in the Koessler Athletic Center, thanks in large part to a \$1 million gift to Canisius from Chet and Diane Stranczek. This summer, the Quadrangle will be excavated to improve

drainage. The new Quad will feature wider walkways and a connection with the new Koessler Plaza at the rear of Old Main. Work will begin on Campion Hall on Main Street as it is converted from a small apartment house to a 48-bed residence hall.

While we celebrate our accomplishments, we have our sights trained on new challenges that we are addressing through a new round of strategic planning at the college. Having done so much to improve the college's physical plant over the last nine years, we need to

identify the next projects, like the expansion and renovation of our Health Science Center, home to our biology and psychology programs, two of the most popular undergraduate programs at Canisius. We need to plan for construction of additional residence halls as 73 percent of the applications for the fall entering class came from students who want to live on campus. And we need to build our endowment for academic programs to improve the intellectual life of the campus and for scholarship assistance.

In higher education, as with so many things in today's world, if you are not moving forward, you are falling behind. At Canisius, we do not plan to be left behind.

Vincent M. Cooke, S.J.



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