

## President's Perspective

WE ARE COMMEMORATING the end of a busy, productive and intellectually challenging spring semester on campus with our year-end celebrations, the Academic Convocation and Commencement.

We hosted on campus an impressive array of speakers in nearly every field this year. As we gather again and again in our Montante Cultural Center, I am not the only one wondering how Canisius survived all these years without this magnificent facility. Day after day, our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends in the Buffalo community were treated to the very finest in speakers, musical performances, panel discussions and events.

The war in Iraq emerged as the central issue on campus this spring just as it has in this issue of *Canisius College Magazine*. All semester, our students and staff grappled with difficult issues presented by the conflict in Iraq. We were fortunate to have a debate on the meaning of the just war theory; an address by USMC General Anthony Zinni (Ret.), who expressed his reservations about the wisdom of pursuing the military option with



Iraq; and a day devoted to peace, in collaboration with our sister Jesuit colleges and universities across the United States.

Unfortunately, there was a tendency of some in the media to confuse honest inquiry and debate about the war with a lack of patriotism or support for our troops in Iraq. I was pleased that our students rallied behind their fellow students who were called into active service during the conflict even while debate about the merits of the war continued.

This is an important time in the lives of our students and as we prepare them for future leadership roles, we must teach them to become engaged on the important issues of the day, explore them fully, and reach conclusions and opinions based on sound methods of inquiry and shaped by our Catholic Jesuit tradition.

I continue to marvel at the contributions that our alumni are making and the extraordinary promise shown by our students.

With all personal best wishes from the campus!

*Vincent M. Cooke, S.J.*

President

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