

Montante Family Commits \$5.1 Million to Canisius

Gift is the largest in Canisius history



Pictured are (l-r): Laura (Montante) Zaepfel '86; Carl J. Montante Jr. and his wife, Wendy '89; Michael J. Montante '91 and his wife, Alejandra; Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J.; and Carol Ann and Carl J. Montante.

Monday, February 6, 2006 was a historic day for Canisius College. That was the day the family of **Carl J. '64** and Carol Ann Montante committed \$5.1 million to Canisius for the creation of an interdisciplinary science center on campus. The gift is the largest in Canisius' 136-year history.

"Today, we take a giant step towards making the science center a reality," said Canisius President Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., at the public announcement. "Our interdisciplinary science center is an essential project that will allow us to capitalize on the phenomenal strength of our undergraduate science programs and develop state-of-the-art academic spaces so we can continue our ascent among the top regional comprehensive universities in the United States."

The interdisciplinary science center will bring together, in one location, the college's biology, chemistry, biochemistry, bioinformatics, environmental science, physics, psychology, computer science and mathematics programs. In addition to classrooms, laboratories, offices and other support space associated to accommodate faculty with research programs, the building will also have five interdisciplinary research training groups in bioinformatics, quantitative sciences, cellular molecular biology, analytical chemistry and neuroscience.

"I consider our family's gift for the science

center to be an excellent 'investment,' " said Carl Montante. "It positions Canisius at the forefront of the effort to address the shortage of scientists, mathematicians and engineers the United States now faces. I am convinced the completion of the center will attract the best and the brightest, and advance the Canisius vision to become one of the top regional universities in the United States."

The interdisciplinary science center will be developed in what is presently the BlueCross/BlueShield headquarters and parking pavilion at 1901 Main Street, in the heart of the campus. The building is best known as the site of the former Sears Roebuck store, which operated there from 1920-1980. It consists of a four-story building with 237,000 total square feet (170,000 net usable square feet) set on three and a half acres. It includes a three-level parking ramp with a total of 1,350 spaces.

The college is scheduled to acquire the building in late 2007 and construction will begin soon after. The anticipated cost for the project is \$47 million. In addition to gifts from alumni and friends of the college, Canisius is also seeking support from federal and state sources, and national and regional foundations and corporations.

"We see the development of an interdisciplinary science center as a way that Canisius can play a key role in the emerging life sciences

economy developing at the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus," added Father Cooke.

"Canisius is a place where the talent necessary to drive this new economy will be developed."

In 1998, Carol and Carl Montante donated \$1.5 million dollars to the college's *Imagine Canisius* campaign for the renovation of the former St. Vincent de Paul Church. Dedicated as the Carol and Carl Montante Cultural Center in 2000, the building serves as the college's primary performing arts center and auditorium. The renovation project for the building has won several major national and state awards for historic preservation and restoration.

"We are very pleased with our family's 40-year history with Canisius College," stated Carl Montante. "This most recent gift is a measure of our family's appreciation and deep affection for Canisius, which has provided an excellent educational background for me and for several members of the family. We are also pleased with the significant impact Canisius College continues to make on our Western New York community; the community we call home."

Carl J. Montante is founder (1974) and president of Uniland Development Company, the largest developer of commercial real estate in Western New York (see *Cover Story*, page 16). He has undertaken numerous leadership roles in the community and at Canisius, serving as chair of the Canisius College Board of Trustees from 1997-2001.

Carol Ann (Lyons) Montante serves with the Canisius College Scholarship Associates, a volunteer fund-raising group for the college. Carol and Carl Montante were recognized in 2001 as the Western New York Philanthropists of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Western New York.

Their family includes **Laura '86** and Greg Zaepfel, **Wendy '89** and Carl J. Montante Jr., Alejandra and **Michael J. Montante '91**, and Timothy I. Montante. Laura Zaepfel is a current trustee of Canisius, and has also served as president of the college's alumni association and as a leader for the college's annual fund. Michael Montante has been active in several aspects of the college's annual fund as well.

Men's Hoops has New Head Coach in Parrotta

Tom Parrotta signed a four-year contract with Canisius in April to become the 22nd men's basketball coach in the 103-year history of the program. Parrotta comes to Canisius from Hofstra University, where he spent the last five seasons under Head Coach Tom Pecora.

"Following a thorough national search, we found Tom to be the best fit to

lead our men's basketball program," said Athletics Director **Bill Maher '89**. "He has progressed through the coaching ranks at Nazareth, Niagara and Hofstra to earn this head-coaching opportunity at Canisius. I am confident he has the passion and energy to help us toward our goal of winning Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championships."

Parrotta joined the Hofstra staff as an assistant coach in May 2001 and was promoted to associate head coach last September. During his five-year tenure, the team compiled an 81-72 record, including a 47-16 overall mark in the last two campaigns with 26 wins coming in conference play. Last season, Hofstra tied a school record



with 26 victories against seven losses and earned a berth in the NIT, where the team posted the school's first two Division I post-season victories before falling to Old Dominion in the quarter finals.

"I am excited to become a part of the proud tradition of Canisius basketball," said Parrotta. "This is an excellent opportunity for me not only to become a head coach of a first-rate Division I basketball program but to return to the MAAC, a league filled with

quality institutions with whom I am very familiar."

Prior to his stay at Hofstra, Parrotta spent six seasons as an assistant coach at Niagara University under Jack Armstrong and Joe Mihalich. He was a four-year letter winner at Fordham University from 1984-1988, when the team competed in the MAAC. Parrotta was also a second-team, all-conference selection and earned All-Metropolitan Team honors in his senior season. He ranks in the top-30 in career scoring and in the top-10 career rebounding at Fordham.

Parrotta replaces Mike MacDonald, who was released by the college in March following his ninth season as the Golden Griffins head coach.

Two New Members on College Relations Team

College relations welcomed two members to its team this spring. **Kate Fitzpatrick** is the new assistant director of alumni relations at Canisius. Fitzpatrick comes to the college from the Roswell Park Alliance



Foundation, where she was a development coordinator.

Canisius alumni and friends will be able to meet Fitzpatrick at the various regional chapter events that she will help coordinate. Fitzpatrick will also edit *Canisius On-Line*, the alumni newsletter, and assist in the implementation and management of the college's local, regional and national alumni relations program.

John Prizner joined the college relations' staff as a development officer. A 1997 alumnus of Canisius, Prizner's most recent position was executive director of the Youth



Lifeline Foundation in Rochester. He worked previously as vice president of marketing for Global Signs and Graphics in Ohio and as marketing partnerships coordinator with the Buffalo Bills.

Accounting Program Earns High Marks

The Canisius College Accounting Program earned high marks from the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, in relation to passing rates on the New York State 2004 Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam.

According to the association, Canisius College undergraduate accounting majors who sat for the CPA Exam, during the 2004 exam cycle, had the highest percentage passing rates in all four subject areas and overall for schools with 10 or more candidates. The five categories are: financial accounting and reporting; auditing; regulation; business environment and concepts; and all sections passed.

For all New York State schools, regardless of the number of candidates, Canisius ranked

number one in three of the five categories (financial accounting and reporting, auditing, and all sections); second in the category of business environment and concepts; and third in the regulation exam category.

"The Accounting Department is very proud of its graduates," said Ian J. Redpath, JD, LL.M., chair of the Accounting Department. "These results continue the long tradition of excellence of our graduates and are an exclamation point to the quality of an accounting education at Canisius – where leaders truly are made."

Canisius College had 17 undergraduate accounting majors sit for the CPA Exam, during the 2004 exam cycle.

