



Members from the Class of 1955 took some time out during their Golden Jubilee reunion weekend to tour campus. Pictured above, in an Old Main classroom, are: First row (front to back): Robert P. Wagner '55, DDS; James P. Palisano '55, Second row (front to back): Stan E. Pacynski '55; Eugene S. Plewa '55; and Bernard D. Wiese '55, Third row: Mike G. Connelly '55.

The Salt of the Earth

CLASS OF '55 RAISES NEARLY \$300,000 IN CELEBRATION OF GOLDEN JUBILEE REUNION

A half-century ago, 209 men graduated from Canisius College ready to take their places as “the salt of the Earth” (*Azuvur*). Over the next 50 years, the Class of 1955 would fulfill this responsibility, to become leaders in their professions, their communities and at *alma mater*.

Most recently, the Class of '55 marked its Golden Jubilee reunion by raising a record \$300,000 for the college's 2004-2005 annual fund. The unprecedented contribution shattered a previous record set by the Class of 1950, which raised more than \$133,000 for its Golden Jubilee reunion gift.

For its unwavering efforts at *alma mater*, the Class of 1955 was recognized during the Annual Fund Office volunteer picnic in June, at which Reunion Co-Chairs Joseph J. Castiglia '55 and Richard A. DiVita '55 were presented with two awards: the first for achieving the greatest increase in participation (17 percent), the second for securing the greatest increase in dollars within a class (151 percent).

Breaking records is a common practice with the Class of 1955. For its 25th reunion, the committee set a lofty goal of \$25,000; the largest in the history of reunion giving. The class reached the milestone, only for the Class of 1956 to reach \$26,000 the next year.

“I don't know if our new record will be surpassed,” said DiVita. “I can only hope the Class of 1956 will do it again. If they are able to top us, it will only be good for the school.”

The generosity extolled by the Class of 1955 extends beyond reunion giving. Five members of the class have served on the college's Board of Trustees. Nine individuals have been recognized as Distinguished Alumni. There are also nine named endowed scholarship funds at the college, which have been established by members of the class. Graduates from 1955 also volunteer their time at Canisius. Many help man the phones in the college's call center. Others support the college's athletic teams. And even more assist the annual fund in its yearly efforts. Since graduation, the Class of 1955 has presented Canisius with nearly \$3 million.

“The statement made in our yearbook told a lot about who we were as a class; our backgrounds, cultures and work ethic,” stated Castiglia. “It still means the same today. Members of our class achieved great success and accomplishments, which is credit to those qualities.”

Annual Fund Exceeds \$2 Million Goal

John P. Rumschik, chair of the 2004-2005 Canisius College Annual Fund Cabinet, presented Canisius President Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., with a check for \$2,153,381.87, at the college's annual fund volunteer picnic in June. The check represents the earnings from last year's annual fund campaign, which exceeded its \$2 million goal. A total of 8,200 alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff, friends and businesses supported the annual fund this year. That is an increase of 1,155 donors over the previous year.

Gifts to the annual fund are critical to Canisius' financial strength. As a line item in the college's operating budget, every dollar given to the annual fund supports



JOHN P. RUMSCHIK, CHAIR OF THE 2004-2005 CANISIUS COLLEGE ANNUAL FUND CABINET PRESENTS FATHER COOKE WITH A CHECK FOR \$2,153,381.87, DURING THE ANNUAL FUND'S VOLUNTEER PICNIC, WHICH THANKS THE COLLEGE'S 300-PLUS FUND-RAISING VOLUNTEERS.

financial aid, faculty resources and retention, and general administrative costs including technology, facilities and community service opportunities.

The 2005-2006 annual fund is already underway. This year's goal is \$2,140,000. The campaign ends May 31, 2006.



Canisius President Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., presents Buffalo Sabres owner B. Thomas Golisano with the 2005 Board of Regents Distinguished Citizen Achievement Award, at this year's Regents Ball. The annual event raised \$90,000 for the college's Regents Scholarship Fund.

Donor Profile



Leadership Walkway

It just became more affordable to leave your mark at *alma mater*. In an effort to provide more people with an opportunity to create a lasting legacy at Canisius, the college has reduced the purchase price of bricks and pavers on Leadership Walkway.

Leadership Walkway is an impressive brick pathway in the Quadrangle, which connects the Koessler Plaza, behind Old Main, with Christ the King Chapel. An engraved brick or paver may serve as a personal legacy or honor a friend, student, parent – even a favorite faculty member. Memorial bricks or pavers may also be purchased as a personal tribute.

Pavers are available for \$500; bricks are \$250. Proceeds support the college's scholarship, academic and endowed programs. For more information or to purchase a brick or paver, go to www.canisius.edu/support/walkway or call 716-888-2715.



↓ (PICTURED L-R) MARILYN L. NEESON AND HER HUSBAND, HUGH M. '55, POSE WITH ELIZABETH A. WILSON, J. PATRICK GREENWALD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CAMPAIGNS FOR CANISIUS, AND KENNETH J. WILSON '69, PRIOR TO DINNER.



The Jesuit Influence

The Honorable James J. McLoughlin '47 and his wife, Nancy, have always had a special place in their hearts for Canisius College. Jim graduated *summa cum laude* in 1947 with a degree in history. Nancy's late son, Russell J. Digati '70, earned a sociology degree from the college.

Though each followed different paths, professionally, both men have credited the Jesuits at Canisius for helping them find fulfilling careers that also benefited the Buffalo community.

After earning a law degree from Fordham University Law School, McLoughlin taught history at St. Peter's College in Jersey City, NJ. He later opened a private law practice, which he held until 1967 when he was appointed senior deputy corporation counsel for the city of Buffalo. During his tenure with the city, McLoughlin became a widely-respected City Hall attorney. In 1988, Buffalo Mayor James Griffin appointed him interim City Court judge. When

his term expired seven months later, McLoughlin became a judicial hearing officer in Supreme Court. He has spent the last 15 years as a hearing officer with the New York State Retirement System.

In 2002, McLoughlin was diagnosed with colon cancer but that did not keep him from the work at hand. He continued to work with the Retirement System until July 2005, at which time he was no longer able to perform his official duties.

McLoughlin is proud of his work for the city and credits much of his career to his Jesuit education. A close friend and classmate of the late Rev. James Demske, S.J., McLoughlin says he admires the Jesuits as priests and human beings, and considers them "the gentlemen of Catholic education."

To honor the Jesuits for their influence on his life, McLoughlin and his wife have named Canisius College a major beneficiary of their personal estate. The couple also established an endowed scholarship in memory of

Nancy's late son, who died of AIDS in 1989. Digati was a social worker and supervisor for People Inc., and found great fulfillment serving those in need.

"The establishment of this scholarship", says Nancy, "will allow Russell's name to live on in perpetuity." It will enable students, who might not otherwise have had the financial means to attend Canisius, an opportunity to receive the same Jesuit education that both Digati and McLoughlin received.

"It is so wonderful to drive along the Main Street campus and see our money at work," says Nancy. "Canisius should be applauded for everything it is doing and will continue to do for the city of Buffalo."

Despite Jim's illness, the McLoughlins feel very blessed. Their affection and gratitude toward Canisius is what inspires them to give back and leave their family legacy to the college.