



There is a tendency to think of Canisius as the college with approximately 5,000 students enrolled at any one time plus our faculty and staff which numbers more than 900. Indeed, most of our day-to-day efforts are focused on delivering the best possible education and related services to our students and that is a significant undertaking.

The Canisius family, however, includes our nearly 35,000 living alumni and close friends. And when you begin to think about retired faculty and staff, current and former trustees and the many individuals whose lives we have touched in some way, it is clear that the Canisius enterprise is significantly larger. Engaging members of this larger Canisius family in the day-to-day work of the college is a challenge.

We are fortunate that our alumni respond so willingly. In just the past few months, I have been reminded again and again of the important roles alumni can play in the college. We had 6,851 alumni participate in the college's annual fund that just concluded. That is an increase of 1,003 alumni donors over last year and helped boost the alumni participation rate in the annual fund to 27.8 percent, a very respectable figure. Participation rates matter in many ways, perhaps the most public of which is the *U.S. News & World Report* annual rankings of colleges and universities.

We welcomed our Alumni Association Board of Directors and the leaders of our many regional chapters to campus recently for a two-day leadership workshop. There they discussed ways to make alumni involvement a bigger priority for more of our ranks. In June, we welcomed more than 800 people to campus for our Alumni Weekend.

Alumni are giving generously of their time and talent in many other ways, most notably on the college's Board of Trustees, Board of Regents and Alumni Association Board. But there are many other advisory boards and councils operating at the college. Some of our medical alumni have agreed to serve on a Medical Advisory Board to assist the college and its pre-med students with the pre-med program. Several people interested in government and lobbying are assisting the college in developing its government relations strategies. Our Council on Accountancy is well-established and provides our accountancy program with assistance on curriculum, job and internship placements, and financial aid. Our Wehle School of Business Advisory Council brings alumni and friends together to address key issues that face our entire business education programs. Individual alumni are also involved in student recruitment and career counseling and placement, two key priorities of the Alumni Association.

I am tremendously grateful for these many gifts alumni bestow on *alma mater*. Your involvement is making Canisius a stronger institution.

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features

6



Student Spotlight Outstanding Seniors

Each year, the Canisius College Alumni Association bestows its Distinguished Senior Award to up to three graduating students. This year's recipients are recognized for their exceptional leadership and involvement with the college.

8



Faculty Focus MexiCanisius

For five weeks each summer, a unique academic program brings together a college, a country and its culture to further the business of international relations.

12



Cover Story Coping with Humor

Communications Professor Melissa B. Wanzer, EdD, takes a serious look at the effects humor can have in health care, in the workforce and in the classroom.

28



Alumni Profile Deal Broker

As owner of one of the leading investment real estate brokerage firms in one of the nation's busiest markets, Joseph V. Siemienowski '76 is used to closing on million dollar deals. Rarely though does he forget the circumstances from which he came, the resolve it took him to get where he is today and the role his Canisius education played in that success.

departments

4 BLUE & GOLD BRIEFS CAMPUS NEWS AND NOTES

18 CANISIUS DEVELOPMENTS DONOR NEWS AND NOTES

20 CANISIUS CONNECTIONS ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

32 AS YOU WERE STORIES FROM THE PAST