

Koessler Rededicated at Season Opener

Golden Griffins of Canisius' past joined 1,353 other Griff-fans in the stands November 23 when the college's basketball team tipped off its season in the newly renovated Koessler Athletic Center (KAC). Former players such as **James Salada '46, John DeLuca '51, Tony Masiello '69, Roger Brown '70 and Charles Clement Jr. '80** reunited for the rededication of the KAC, which recently underwent a \$1.2 million facelift that includes arena-style seating, refurbished hardwoods, new baskets and scoreboards and a new lighting and air handling system.

"You no longer feel like gym classes are held here. The renovations clearly make the Koessler an intercollegiate facility and create a nice home court advan-



Canisius President Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., presents Chester '01 HON and Diane Stranczek with a Golden Griffin jersey during half-time ceremonies November 23.

tage for the team," said Clement, a former Griffin guard who traveled from Harrisburg, PA for the rededication and game.

"The money put in to renovating the Koessler has really made it a great attraction for fans," added Salada, a former

forward and guard who has followed the Griffins over the years. "Back in the 40s we played in this very small gym. Now the facilities, especially the seating, are just wonderful."

Former players toured the renovated Koessler prior to the

game and then cheered the Griffins on to a 77-64 win against Bethune-Cookman.

"Griff-fans will be proud to support the team for years to come in the KAC," noted Masiello, currently the mayor of Buffalo. "The administration has stepped up their game and become a regional investor and competitor. I would love to have a comeback in this arena. Too bad there are no shots left in the arm," he jokingly added.

The Koessler renovation was funded, in large part, by a \$1 million gift from **Chester '01 HON and Diane Stranczek** of Crestwood, IL. The couple were recognized for their generous donation at a pre-game reception and during rededication ceremonies at halftime.

Canisius "Lands" JetBlue CEO for Commencement

Eugene ("Gene") F. Jankowski '55 will serve as keynote speaker at the college's undergraduate commencement exercises set for Saturday, May 17 in the University at Buffalo's Alumni Arena, while **David Neeleman**, CEO of JetBlue Airways, will be the featured speaker at graduate commencement on Wednesday, May 14 in the Koessler Athletic Center.

Cited by *Business Week* as one of the top 25 corporate managers, Neeleman

founded JetBlue, a low-fare air carrier, in February 2000. Since its inaugural flight, JetBlue has recorded a series of "aviation firsts," under Neeleman's management. It was the first to launch with more than \$100 million in capital; the first to offer 24 channels of live satellite TV; the first to install bullet-proof cockpit doors, and is currently the only U.S.



David Neeleman



Eugene "Gene" F. Jankowski '55

airline operating entirely by E-ticket. Neeleman developed the E-ticket airline reservation system when he was president of Morris Air in Salt Lake City.

Gene Jankowski is an advisor and managing director of Veronis, Shuler & Associates, a leading independent merchant bank dedicated to media, communications and information industries. He joined the firm following a 28-year career at CBS, during which he served 12 years as president and chairman of the broadcasting group.

Both Jankowski and Neeleman will be presented with honorary degrees at commencement. Honorary degrees will also be conferred on **Ramon E. Abarca, PhD**, professor *emeritus* of history at Canisius, and **Scotty Bowman**, former head coach of the Buffalo Sabres, Detroit Red Wings and Montreal Canadiens, and the most winning coach in the history of the National Hockey League.

Reserve Your Seat for the Regents Ball

The Canisius College Board of Regents is taking reservations for its 37th annual Scholarship Ball. Scheduled for May 3 at the Hyatt Regency, the event supports the Regents Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to promising young students.

The black-tie affair includes dinner, dancing and a live auction. The evening will also feature the presen-

tation of the Regents Distinguished Citizen Achievement Award to **Paul J. Koessler** for his social, cultural and economic contributions to the community. Koessler is the former president and COO of Greater Buffalo Press and Alpha-graphics' Western New York.



Paul J. Koessler

To reserve your seat, contact Valerie Warren, director of endowed scholarships, at 716-888-2715.

Four-Star General and Mideast Envoy, Zinni, to Speak April 3

Decorated Vietnam War veteran and retired four-star Marine **General Anthony Zinni** will serve as the featured speaker for the William H. Fitzpatrick Chair of Political Science Lecture Series on April 3. Zinni now serves as the U.S. peace envoy in the Middle East. Throughout his career, Zinni held one of the most demanding positions in the U.S. military as head of Central Command, for which he was responsible for all armed forces in the Middle East. In the 1990s, he oversaw U.S. military relief operations in Turkey and Northern Iraq following the Persian Gulf War.

He also led the U.S. force in Somalia, which was commissioned to protect aid supplies from warlords.

The Fitzpatrick lecture is scheduled for 8:15 p.m. in the Montante Cultural Center. The evening is free and open to the public but seating is limited.



General Anthony Zinni

International Business Major Introduced

Beginning in fall 2003, Canisius will introduce a new major in the emerging field of international business. This newest addition to the college's comprehensive curriculum was established to meet the growing corporate demand for employees who understand the functioning of international business activity.

The international business major will require students to study the traditional business core along with a unique set of courses specifically designed to examine the international dimensions



of basic business functions. The major also includes a modern language requirement and international field experience.

Graduates of the international business major will be prepared for work in the areas of inter-

national sales, support services, global logistics and freight forwarding. Additionally, students will be well prepared to pursue international MBA degrees or masters' in international business, international relations and international affairs.



Calvin Darden '72, senior vice president of United Parcel Service (UPS), presented Canisius College President Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., with \$50,000 from the UPS Foundation. The gift, which was presented in January, will be used to help fund the college's Learning Communities Program.

Pictured l-r: Derrick Hill, district manager of the West New York district of UPS; Cal Darden; Father Cooke and John J. Hurley '78, vice president for college relations and general counsel.

Emerald Excursion

A 25-year Canisius tradition continues this summer when Dr. Richard J. Thompson, professor *emeritus* of English, hosts a spectacular two-week excursion in Ireland.

Canisius alumni, family and friends are invited to tour the emerald landscape from June 26-July 11. Guests will travel north through Monaghan and Cavan, west to Connemara and Galway City, down the coast of Clare and across to the Dingle Peninsula. The trip will continue through the Kerry and



Cork mountains to the coastal town of Kinsale, onto the Viking city of Waterford and the medieval town of Wexford, before ending in Ennis.

For more information or to reserve your seat, contact Thompson at 716-836-5606.