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The *Canisius College Magazine* is published four times a year (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) for alumni and friends of Canisius College. Views expressed in the magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or the policies of Canisius College. Periodical postage paid at Buffalo, N.Y.



President's Perspective



Welcome to the inaugural edition of the *Canisius College Magazine*! This magazine replaces the *Canisius Chronicle* that has been coming to your home since 1970. We think that it is appropriate to begin the new millennium with a brand new look for our Canisius publication. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Our first issue focuses on the future. For some "predictions" on what life will be like in the new millennium, we enlisted the help of the Canisius community.

What are my predictions for the future of Canisius College? When we developed a name and theme for our successful capital campaign, we chose *Imagine Canisius: A Future Secured*. We had in mind a campaign that would capture the imagination of our alumni and friends and provide the resources that would help secure the future of Canisius.

The future I envisioned is taking shape right now and in many ways is happening sooner than many of us expected. So, it is not a bold prognostication to say the Canisius of the future will be increasingly **residential** (we have about 1,400 students living on or near campus and we are planning to build

housing for 300 more), **technological** (we are renovating Old Main and Lyons Hall to provide more than 60 state-of-the-art technology classrooms) and **cultural** (with the Montante Cultural Center and fine arts facilities in Lyons Hall). These are the safe bets.

In the years ahead, our students will be brighter, more numerous and diverse. We have about 2,800 full-time undergraduates now, but with increased residence halls, that number could safely grow to 3,300 without sacrificing the quality of the education. Our McGowan Learning Community Scholarship Program (see page 18) is the latest in our efforts to reach into our Western New York community and attract a more diverse student body.

In the classroom, I do not see us straying from the essentials of our liberal arts core curriculum, nor do I foresee a reduction in our requirements for philosophy, English or religious studies. We will continue to develop new majors that are responsive to the needs of tomorrow's students and our faculty will be challenged to deliver information in new ways, such as distance learning.

Finally, in light of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, it will be important in the months and years ahead for our Jesuits, trustees, faculty, staff and alumni to explore what it means to be a Catholic, Jesuit college in the 21st century. There is already much work underway and I am very encouraged by the way in which our community has embraced the task.

I hope that your New Year is filled with peace and prosperity.

God Bless,

Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J.
President

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