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Understanding the Uprisings

The revolutions in the Middle East inspire campus reflections on global citizenship.

Finding God in all Faiths

A host of religious traditions find expression at Fairfield.

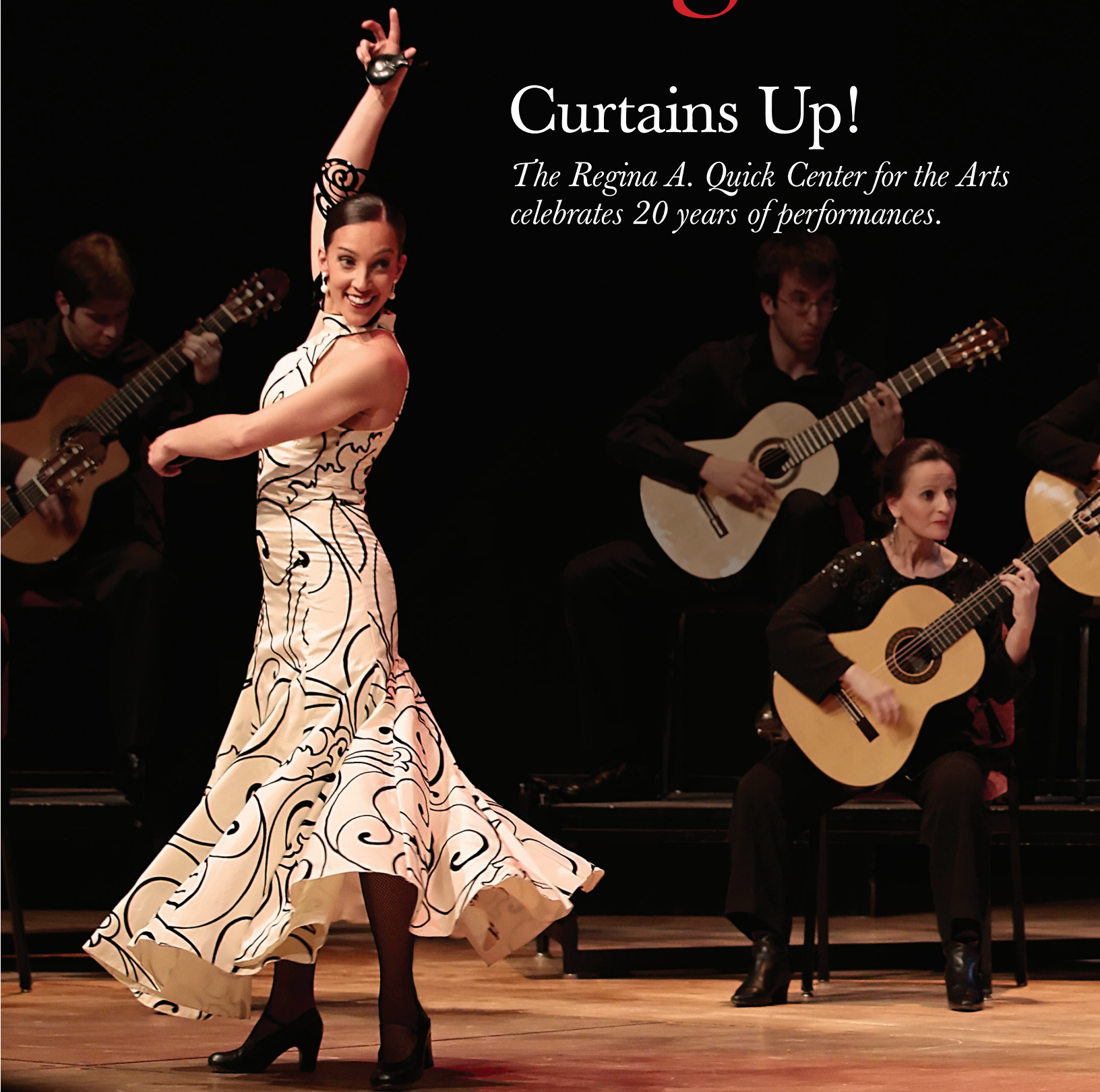
Courting Success

Fairfield's tennis teams are making an impact in the MAAC.

Fairfield UNIVERSITY magazine SUMMER 2011

Curtains Up!

The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts celebrates 20 years of performances.



The Glee Club
Photo by Jean Santopatre

The Fairfield University Glee Club performed during the 2011 Lafarge Convocation, in celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The keynote speaker this year was the Rev. Frederick "Jerry" Streets – Yale University's first African American and Baptist chaplain.

On the cover:
The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts presented the Guitar Orchestra of Barcelona on April 8. Twenty-five of Spain's most gifted guitarists, and a talented team of dancers, led by Director Sergi Vincente, performed classics from the traditional music of Spain.

Photo by Bob Handelman

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— CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, *director of International Programs*

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Curtains Up!

BY CAROLYN ARNOLD

The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts celebrates 20 years of performances.

Since its opening, the Quick Center has served as one of the premier performing art centers in Southern Connecticut, bringing music, dance, and the theater of the world to the Fairfield County community, while also serving as a forum of conversation and debate with some of the world's most significant and influential thinkers, politicians, and advocates. Now, with new director Gary Wood at the helm, the Quick Center is poised for even bigger things.



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Understanding the Uprisings

BY NINA M. RICCIO M.A.'09

The revolutions in the Middle East inspire campus reflections on global citizenship.

With the advent of new information technologies and the lightning speed transmission of news and information, events around the world make their impact felt immediately. This spring, when countries in the Middle East began to rise up against their political structures, students and faculty at Fairfield were quick to react, convening an impromptu seminar on the events, analyzing the complex political and cultural forces that have led to the “Arab Spring” revolutions.

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Finding God in all Faiths

BY NINA M. RICCIO M.A.'09

A host of religious traditions find expression at Fairfield.

The Rev. Gerald Blaszcak, S.J., Fairfield's new vice president for Mission and Identity is encouraging the formation of new communities of worship on campus: "One of my goals, building on the significant work of my predecessor the Rev. Jim Bowler, S.J., is to promote a campus environment that is integrally religious and faithful to its traditions in deed, worship, and thinking—while becoming diverse and alive with new religious energies."

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,



As I write, another academic year is drawing to a close. The campus is at its most beautiful now, with all the trees in bloom. Students and families will soon come together on the lawn outside Bellarmine Hall to celebrate commencement. It is an important transition that our graduates have before them, moving into the world of work, further study, and adult responsibilities, but I know that they have received something very special during their years here.

Time and again, when I meet with alumni of all ages, I am struck by how strongly they feel the bonds of our community. So many of our alumni remains friends for life. They will be bridesmaids and best men for one another. They will be godparents. They will be there for one another in good times, and in times of sorrow. We have much to proud of at Fairfield, but above all we are fortunate to be a community that understands how essential true relationships are to a full and authentic life.

During the current year, we have been thinking about community in a very intentional, and international, way on campus, particularly through the prism of what we mean by “global citizenship.” The world is more interconnected than ever. As was evident in the campus discussions we held on the events of the “Arab Spring,” our students and faculty are immediately concerned with how the wider world has an impact on their own lives. What the world needs are capable and energetic citizens who understand this, who appreciate what a community is, and can extend that sense of community to include the entire human family.

In this issue of *Fairfield University Magazine*, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts. For two decades the Quick Center has played an essential role in expanding our appreciation of this global family, bringing the cultural riches of the world to us. One evening it might be the Guitar Orchestra of Barcelona on our stage, or the Russian National Ballet Theatre, or tango from Buenos Aires, and that’s to take note of just a few of the performances we witnessed this year. Next year’s schedule is equally varied and exciting.

We are so fortunate to be a place for vibrant discussions and cultural events, and to be able to bring the world to the attention of our campus community, and the community around us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff von Arx, SJ". The signature is fluid and cursive.

JEFFREY P. VON ARX, S.J.
President

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Family therapy helpful in court

Please thank Meredith Guinness for her article on the MFT program (“Around the Table” *Fairfield University Magazine*, Spring 2011). A long overdue and heretofore unheard of component of the courtroom, even family law practitioners make huge mistakes in the concept of “the best interests of the child” when couples divorce. The agenda and the appeal of standing out (to earn a living) for counselors and attorneys is part of the problem. Earning a living: fine. Adding to the acrimony is not fine in terms of the human suffering, but invariably it is what one sees.

I graduated from Fairfield in 1959, became a clinical psychologist later in life, having only been degree’d with a Ph.D. for 20 years, but I am so pleased to find lawyers Loren Smith and Michael Becker bringing a ministerial advocacy to a terribly sick system. So often, it is filled with the hubris of persons with narcissistic traits who are apparently trained or coerced by prevailing forces to deny consciousness and compassion in favor of “winning” at all cost.

I am reminded of the very wise judge, who lectured to students of the law, that if anyone were contemplating divorce, they find other means than a courtroom to work through their differences. It is just so uplifting to find a middle-ground approach to the black-and-white of so much of our legal system. Thanks for bringing this important subject forward.

George Nicastro '59

Good Reasons to be Proud

Mr. Brian Hull’s recent letter to his fellow alumni, “Show Your Pride” (*Fairfield University Magazine*, Spring 2011), was a well-written and salient plea to encourage alumni donations. He writes wonderfully on the many reasons to have pride, the many benefits which the University derives from said donations, and the powerful

message we can send to society at large. I take issue, however, with Mr. Hull’s contention that our alumni giving rates somehow affect our reputation in the outside world.

We need to ask ourselves if it truly matters whether college ranking services matter to how we operate. One need look no further than Mr. Hull’s own letter to see the many wonderful ways in which we are judged:

- Students are drawn from among the top 20% of their graduating class
- Rated among top universities whose students go on to be Fulbright scholars
- Starting salaries surpass those of our closest competitors
- 21% of students are first in their family to attend college
- 79% of students receive financial aid
- The University provides over \$45 million in scholarships and grants

These are the numbers against which we should be judged, not our alumni giving rate. And in fact, these *are* the numbers on which the outside world judges us. Fairfield University and its alumni can hold their heads high.

I respect Mr. Hull’s letter and agree with his overall theme of why alumni should donate. I just hope that he and the other trustees don’t become too consumed by the opinions of college ranking surveys.

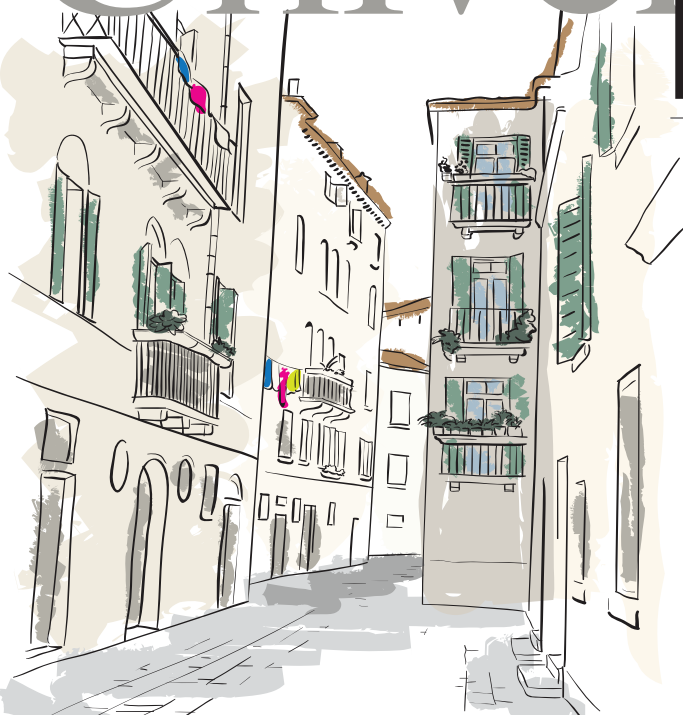
Joe Moylan '60

Correction

In the last edition of *Fairfield University Magazine* we mistakenly reported that Peter Allen '08 had married. We also misstated the new title of Eileen Rominger '76 who was named Director of the Division of Investment Management of the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C.

Send your letters to the editor of *Fairfield University Magazine* to Alistair Hight at ahight@fairfield.edu

University NEWS



Study Abroad gets recognition

Fairfield's popular Fairfield in Florence program was listed in Abroad101's first annual *Top Study Abroad Cities Guide*. Editors scoured more than 6,000 student reviews at the website Abroad101 (www.studyabroad101.com) to come up with the top cities and the top programs in those cities.

In 2010-11, the University had a total of 232 students, from Fairfield and elsewhere, in the Florence program, with another 100 planned for summer, said Alejandro Martinez, assistant director of international programs. "Florence is the perfect city in which to study abroad, including a great deal of cultural heritage, and a vibrant metropolitan environment," he said. "Our program's high quality academic components, commitment to service and community partnerships, and *cura personalis*, makes it a preferred study abroad option for Fairfield University students and students from all over the United States."

Students praised Fairfield's fun and informative orientation and the little extras that made Florence come alive. "To ease the stress at midterm time, finals time, holidays away from home, and down time during the semester, the program arranged dinners at nice restaurants in the city," said one student.

The average rating for the program was 4.7 out of 5 stars. 

JOHNSON TO LEAD STAGS

Sydney Johnson, who led the Princeton University Tigers to a 25-7 season and a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) berth in 2010-11, is the 12th head coach of the Stags men's basketball program. Johnson comes to Fairfield after spending the last four seasons as head coach for Princeton.

He was introduced to the Fairfield community, media, and fans at an April 6 press conference in the John A. Barone Campus Center.


"He leads by example, something that is quite visible when you see the passion and enthusiasm he brings to everything he does," said Athletic Director Gene Doris.

Johnson said his goal is to win championships, to reach the NCAA tournament, and for Fairfield to play the kind of exciting games that are televised. "We're going to state that boldly," he said. "That is our goal. And we need the love and support of this tremendous University. I can't tell you enough how thrilled I am... and you'll see it. We plan to do great things."

Johnson replaces former Head Coach Ed Cooley, who took the Stags to a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) regular season title and the second round of the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) this year before accepting an offer to return to his hometown and coach the Providence College men's squad. The Stags ended the 2010-11 season with a school record 25 wins and high hopes for the future with nine returning players.

Johnson led the Tigers to the 2010-11 Ivy League championship and an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament. It marked the second straight season that the program advanced to postseason play.

Coach Johnson was named the Ivy League Coach of the Year by Collegeinsider.com after the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons.

A former student-athlete at Princeton, he helped lead the Tigers to the NCAA tournament in the 1995-96 and 1996-97 seasons. He was the 1997 Ivy League Player of the Year and won All-Ivy League first team honors in 1995-96 and 1996-97. 



Gene Doris, Athletic Director, and President Jeffrey von Arx S.J., present Sydney Johnson.



JESUIT COMMUNITY CENTER WINS DESIGN AWARD

The American Institute of Architects recognized New Haven's Gray Organschi Architects for the original and eco-friendly design of the Fairfield Jesuit Community Center.

Builder PAC Group of Harwinton and landscape architect Reed Hilderbrand of Massachusetts were also recognized for the center.

The three companies cumulatively won the 2010 Builders' Choice Award.

"It rescues damaged European beech from the site to fabricate altar furniture in such a way as to preserve the grain of wood and at the same time to celebrate the meditative simplicity of the whole," the judges wrote of the building. **E**

Gibson named DSB interim dean

Dr. Donald E. Gibson, professor of management and chair of the Management Department, has been named interim dean of the Dolan School of Business (DSB). He will take over the reins from Dr. Norm Solomon, who announced his decision to step down as dean in February.

Dr. Gibson has been asked to hold the post until the University conducts a national search for a permanent dean. As interim dean, he will lead the DSB through an assessment of its strategic direction as well as the re-accreditation process by the Association to

Dr. Gibson, who holds an MBA and a Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles, is a leader in his field of organizational behavior research. His work on anger in the workplace and the management of emotions in corporate organizations has received national recognition. Last year, he was named the University's 2010-2011 Robert E. Wall Faculty Award winner for his research, and received a Faculty Recognition Award for Extraordinary Excellence in Research and Scholarship. **E**

"Dean Solomon has well-positioned the School of Business to continue its upward trajectory. We have a solid foundation of excellent faculty, committed staff, and active students."

DR. DONALD E. GIBSON, *Interim Dean of the Dolan School of Business*

Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which is expected to begin in fall 2011.

Crediting Dr. Solomon for his outstanding leadership over the last 10 years, Dr. Gibson said, "Dean Solomon has well-positioned the School of Business to continue its upward trajectory. We have a solid foundation of excellent faculty, committed staff, and active students. I look forward to engaging these groups in propelling the school to a new level of academic achievement."



Dr. Donald E. Gibson

Teachers of the Year



John Miecznikowski



Wendy Kohli



Renee Strainge

The votes are in and Alpha Sigma Nu (ASN), the Jesuit Honor Society, has selected **Dr. John Miecznikowski**, assistant professor of chemistry in the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS), and **Dr. Wendy Kohli**, professor of curriculum and instruction in the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions (GSEAP), as Fairfield's undergraduate and graduate teachers of the year, respectively. In a separate selection, **Renee Strainge**, Marriage & Family Therapy (GSEAP), was named adjunct professor of the year.

Dr. Kohli, who has taught at Fairfield for nine years, is the University's first-ever graduate teacher of the year. Her work extends far beyond her classroom, particularly with her ongoing outreach efforts with St. Martin de Porres Academy in New Haven. Dr. Kohli received the 2010 St. John Neumann Award through the Hartford Archdiocese for her volunteer work training and advising young teachers through this Nativity/Miguel middle school, which provides tuition-free,

extended-day education to underserved children.


Dr. Miecznikowski was selected from a list of 75 undergraduate professors. Megan Kimmins '11, who headed the selection committee, said Dr. Miecznikowski, who came to Fairfield in 2007, makes his discipline fun through things like forensic discovery. "Students know he is always willing to lend a helping hand on a difficult subject like chemistry," she said.

"I know that I join some good company with some of the past recipients, who are highly regarded on campus for their teaching, advising, mentoring, and their involvement in student groups," said Dr. Miecznikowski, who holds a Ph.D. from Yale University.

Dr. Kohli, who earned a Ph.D. at Syracuse University, said she accepts the award on behalf of her colleagues. "I accept this award for all of us as the University continues to enlarge and embody its strategic commitment to graduate education."

The Rev. Charles Allen, S.J., executive assistant to the president, said the teachers


were selected because of their outstanding academic achievements, concern for their students, and loyalty to the Jesuit ideals of education.

Professor Strainge, M.S., LMFT, is a staff/clinical supervisor at the new Kathryn P. Koslow Center for Marriage and Family Therapy and has taught in the MFT program, from which she graduated, for about 16 years. Strainge, who has long taught courses on divorce, single-parenting, and remarriage and an introduction to substance abuse, supports the student treatment teams at the Koslow Center. "I enjoy working with our students who are embarking on new careers," she said. "They are enthusiastic learners who grow from being initially quite anxious neophytes to adept clinicians." 



PRINCETON REVIEW PRAISES DSB

Fairfield's Dolan School of Business is included in The Princeton Review's annual *The Best 300 Business Schools* for the sixth year in a row. In making the list, Fairfield joins the impressive ranks of Boston College and Fordham, Georgetown, Brown, Harvard, and Yale universities.

"This acknowledgment is especially gratifying because it is based in part on the opinions of our students," said Dr. Norm Solomon, dean. "I would like to emphasize that they have singled out the faculty yet again for their accessibility and expertise as well as for encouraging 'open-minded dialogue' in the classroom." 



OPEN VISIONS FEATURES CARROLL BOGERT

Carroll Bogert (far right), deputy executive director of Human Rights Watch, spoke at an Open VISIONS Forum lecture on the issue of American leadership around the world. On the stage with her were Dr. Gisela Gil-Egui, associate professor of communication, and Dr. Scott Lacy, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology. Bogert's visit was made possible through the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows Program.



SHOW YOUR PRIDE

IN FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY.

“One way Fairfield [helps students avoid fragmented lives] is by requiring freshmen to take classes with their dorm-mates, so that they live and study with the same group. Sophomores choose dorms with themes derived from Jesuit teachings, including justice, leadership, environmental stewardship and creativity. One with a religious focus offers monthly mentor meetings to discuss such questions as ‘Who am I called to be?’”

New York Times, APRIL 17, 2011

Fairfield University is setting the standard for the renewal of Jesuit education for the 21st century and our reputation for excellence is more widely appreciated than ever. It continues to be recognized nationally as an institution that makes a difference in the world; one that is committed to diversity and global outreach; a University with a transformative vision for the future.

Some recent highlights:

- Fairfield University’s 24th annual Awards Dinner raised **\$1.75 million** in April to **benefit the school’s Multicultural Scholarship Fund**, a record-breaking level of support.
- **Sydney Johnson**, formerly of Princeton University and the Ivy League Coach of the Year in 2009 and 2010, **has been named Head Coach of Fairfield University’s Men’s Basketball program**.
- According to *U.S. News and World Report*, our **School of Nursing is in the top 100 best graduate schools** in the country. The school has added three new doctoral programs in the last three years.
- Fairfield recently received a prestigious **\$400,000 grant from The Henry Luce Foundation’s Clare Booth Luce Program** to create a professorship for a woman scholar in mechanical engineering in the School of Engineering.
- This academic year, Fairfield University was awarded a **\$300,000 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development** to help train teachers in Senegal.

SHOW YOUR PRIDE IN FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT YOUR UNIVERSITY TODAY. GO TO WWW.FAIRFIELD.EDU.



Green website a go

With sustainability efforts going full steam ahead across campus, the University recently unveiled a new green website, where students, staff, faculty, and alumni can find information about existing efforts and ways to get involved.

"Red=Green: Sustainability at Fairfield" (www.fairfield.edu/green) was created by the Campus Sustainability Committee (CSC) and Web Communications, and it replaces the previous "From Red to Green" movement.

"What is most remarkable about Fairfield's sustainability movement is that it is campus-wide," said David Frassinelli, associate vice president of Facilities Management and CSC chair. "Environmentally conscious projects have been

implemented by all walks of life on campus, including the administration, students, faculty, and staff members. It seems everyone is on the same page."

And the efforts haven't gone unnoticed. Fairfield was listed in Princeton Review's 2010 *Guide to 286 Green Colleges*, and labeled a Sierra Club *Cool School* two years running. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) honored the University with a 2010 Energy Star CHP Award for its combined heat and power plant. The new website provides a snapshot of focus areas, such as teaching and research, living and learning, campus sustainability projects, and avenues to get involved. **E**



DOLAN LECTURE FEATURES BANK OF AMERICA CEO

More than 200 students from the Dolan School of Business had a special opportunity to hear from one of the industry's top executives, Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan at the annual Dolan Lecture. Charles Dolan, P'86, '85, sponsor of the annual lecture, was also in attendance. Moynihan's advice for students was to "take a job," and not be excessively particular about which job because it is easier to find one's way from within the job market. "Make sure there's something you're passionate about. It can be a non-profit, a for-profit, community service, religious studies, math or science – but you need to bring that passion with you."



UNDERGRAD RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

On April 28, Fairfield hosted a showcase of undergraduate student work – from research and service learning projects to capstones to innovative art exhibitions and performances. It was followed by the annual Sigma Xi Poster Session. The event was sponsored by the Office of Academic Engagement, the Center for Academic Excellence, and the Office of Service Learning.

"Undergraduate research is central to our institutional efforts to promote academic engagement," said Beth Boquet, dean, academic engagement. "Events like this one highlight the integrative nature of a Fairfield education while allowing us to celebrate and support the students, faculty, and staff participating in these transformative learning opportunities." **E**

Fr. Blaszcak named VP

University Chaplain **Gerald Blaszcak, S.J.**, was recently named to the new post of vice president for Mission and Identity and University chaplain. Fr. Blaszcak, who came to Fairfield in July 2009, will continue and build upon the work of the Rev. James Bowler, S.J., who served as facilitator for Catholic and Jesuit Mission and Identity for the past 11 years.

Fr. Blaszcak will assume his new duties in July.

"While I am saddened that the University is losing Fr. Bowler, I am pleased that Fr. Blaszcak has agreed to accept this new position and I know he will benefit greatly

from the accomplishments of his predecessor," said University President Jeffrey P. von Arx, S.J.

Fr. Blaszcak will work to strengthen and forward Fairfield's mission as a Catholic and Jesuit institution and communicate to the broader community the history and traditions of Jesuit education and the commitment to social justice. He will also serve on the Senior Management Team, represent Fairfield in collaborations with community religious leaders, and assist in fundraising. As University chaplain, he will continue to provide pastoral care and opportunities for spiritual development. **E**

Awards Dinner 2011

Fairfield Awards Dinner Sets New Record with \$1.75 Million for Multicultural Scholarship Fund

BY VIRGINIA WEIR

“WE ARE WORKING WITH focus and intention to transform Fairfield University into a diverse community that is more reflective of the larger world in which our students will live and work,” said University President Jeffrey P. von Arx, S.J., addressing the largest crowd ever to attend the annual Fairfield Awards Dinner. “Tonight is a celebration of these efforts.”

A feeling of pride and excitement permeated the ballroom at the Grand Hyatt in New York on April 6, when more than 600 alumni, parents, donors, and special guests gathered to recognize three members of the University community for their service and achievements.

“In some ways I feel silly receiving an honor for doing what I love to do, but what I do not feel silly about is raising scholarship money for students in need,” said William Egan ’67, P’99, who was honored with the Alumni Professional Achievement Award. “We have to do more to educate our most vulnerable – not only is it the right thing to do as a society, but it will make the world a safer, more economically secure place.”

A pioneer in the field of venture capital, Egan has identified and backed several of America’s leading growth companies in the information technology, life sciences, and communications industries. He is currently founder and general partner of Alta Communications and Marion Equity Partners LLC. He and his wife Jackie have endowed three named scholarships, and contributed to the building of the Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola on campus. Egan also served as a University trustee for 18 years.

Jeanne Novotny, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, was honored with the Distinguished Faculty/



Administrator Award. Under her leadership as dean the past 10 years, the School of Nursing has quadrupled in size to nearly 700 students and has received national recognition. She has facilitated numerous partnerships, and initiated new academic programs such as the Clinical Nurse Leader, Nurse Anesthesia, and Doctor of Nursing Practice.

In her remarks, Dr. Novotny credited the School’s advisory board, chaired by Nancy Lynch, P’95, for their tireless efforts in advancing the School. “The marriage between academics and advancement is one of the cornerstones of our achievement,” she said.

The Alumni Service Award was given to John Meditz ’70, co-founder and vice chairman of Horizon Asset Management, Inc., for his longstanding commitment to Fairfield as a member of the Fairfield Awards Dinner Committee and a 15-year member of the University’s Board of Trustees, as well as his

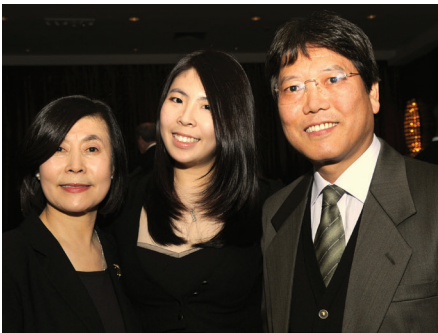
Above, Bill Egan ’67, P’99, receives his award from President Jeffrey von Arx, S.J. as Gavin O’Connor ’88, co-chair looks on.

many years of service to his New York City high school, Xavier, and his local community of Weehawken, N.J. His recent leadership gift to the University helped establish the new Bellarmine Museum of Art.

“We may tend to think of service in macro terms but service is really best performed in the micro-world,” Meditz said. “Being a caring and inspiring parent; teaching sportsmanship; being honest, diligent, and mentoring at work; being a participating citizen – these are the services for which all should be rewarded. And,” he added, “providing financial assistance in support of multicultural scholarships is an expression of service, too!”

*“With your support,
deserving young men
and women from many
different backgrounds
will have access to a
Fairfield education.”*

ROBERT OLLWERTHER '78, P'10, *Awards Dinner Co-chair*



Gavin O'Connor '88, co-chair, talks with Emmanuel Ephie '10. Bottom: Soobin Lin '11 with her parents – Kee Hyang Lin and Houn Do Lin.

At right (l-r) Bill Crean '91, Alumni Association Board president, John Meditz '70, Robert Ollwether '78, P'10, Dr. Jeanne Novotny, William Egan '67, P'99, University President Jeffrey P. von Arx, S.J., Gavin O'Connor '88, and Ed Cooley.



THIS YEAR'S EVENT RAISED A RECORD-BREAKING \$1.75 million for the University's Multicultural Scholarship Fund, bringing the total amount raised for the Fund since 1988 to over \$13 million. Event co-chairs Robert Ollwether '78, P'10, chief operating officer at Avenue Capital Group, and Gavin O'Connor '88, managing director of the CAO Investment Management Division at Goldman Sachs, announced the amount to a standing ovation.

O'Connor told the crowd, "We know that 'diversity' is not just a buzzword. In this global economy to embrace diversity is truly a business imperative. To succeed in any endeavor, we need to work side-by-side with the very best people for the job, and they come from every race and every background."

"With your support, deserving young men and women from many different backgrounds will have access to a Fairfield education – an opportunity that, without that support, may not have happened," Ollwether added.

Scholarship recipient, Soobin Lim '11, who came to the U.S. when she was 10 years old, spoke eloquently to the guests about the huge impact the Multicultural Scholarship Fund has had on her life. "I have felt accepted at Fairfield as one of a kind – both Korean and American... Fairfield has opened my heart to ask questions and search for multiple perspectives."

Ed Cooley, the University's former men's

basketball coach who led the Stags to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championships this year, was the evening's keynote speaker. He told the story of his own hardscrabble childhood. The crowd broke into applause when Cooley announced a \$50,000 scholarship to the University in his mother's name.

Cooley also recognized Fairfield's new men's basketball head coach, Sydney Johnson, who was in attendance, and thanked Fairfield for being such an embracing community, where he felt welcome right from the beginning.

It was a memorable night for Fairfield. "A great deal has changed in the past 48 years," Egan said. "What hasn't changed, and may in fact be even greater today is the Jesuit ideal of learning and service. What I did learn from Fairfield was the fun in giving. The joy of seeing how it affects people and institutions is there forever." ❸

Courting Success

Fairfield's tennis teams are making an impact in the MAAC

BY JOHN TORSIELLO



BROTHERS MARK KREMHELLER '11 and Erik Kremheller '13, members of the Fairfield University men's tennis team, are alike in many ways, but not in others.

"I'm definitely more intense. I get angry and nervous during matches," said Mark. "I can be semi-obnoxious at times and loud," he added with a smile.

"I'm more laid back," countered Erik, "and don't let things get to me much."

"Erik really helps calm me down during matches," Mark continued. "He knows what to say to keep me on an even keel."

While they may be a bit disparate in personality, the two Greenwich, Conn., natives share a common bond – Fairfield tennis. Both are fully committed to the program, which has become one of the best in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference under the sage guidance of Head Coach Ed Paige and his staff.

Last year, the Stags advanced to the finals of the MAAC Championship for the third straight year. The 2009 men's team set a school record for most wins in a season with 18, and earned a regular season MAAC title. A big part of the team's recent success is the result of bringing in quality players such as the Kremhellers.

"Erik is a key component of our team," said Paige, as he sat in his office in the Thomas J. Walsh Athletic Center on a spring afternoon. "He's a win machine for us and he just keeps getting better. He has things to learn, like how and when to hurt an opponent with a shot, but he's getting that as well."

Paige continued, "Mark has had limited playing time but he is our captain and it's one of the wisest moves I have ever made. He has the respect of the other team members and he isn't afraid to challenge them or point things

out that need to be talked about. His real value this year is his leadership.”

Erik, an accounting major, was a second-team All-MAAC selection playing number five singles in 2009-10 and was All-MAAC first team at number one doubles. He posted a 26-9 overall record, including a 5-1 MAAC mark. This season, he continued his excellence, playing at number three singles for the Stags. He was undefeated during his career at Greenwich High School, helping the Cardinals to four straight state championships.

Mark was also highly recruited before ultimately choosing Fairfield. Specializing in doubles while in high school, he helped his team win three Connecticut state titles, posted a 46-1 career record, and won a state doubles championship his senior year. He also is an accounting major who plans on earning a master’s degree in 2012.

Mark was All-MAAC second team at number three doubles in 2009-10 and was a member of the MAAC All-Academic Team. He played sparingly but well during his first two seasons at Fairfield and was always there to lend vocal and tactical support to his teammates.

MARK, A MEMBER OF THE DEAN’S List, says his decision to attend Fairfield was really quite easy.

“I was thinking of Fordham also but I liked the fact that Fairfield is close to home, the campus is beautiful and the business school is great and there is such support when you are looking for a job.” He already has a position waiting for him at the accounting firm Ernst & Young once school ends.

Other members of the Fairfield men’s team are Dennis Zlobinsky ’14 (Greenwich, N.Y.); R.J. Mirabile (Fort Washington, Penn.); Bjorn Merinder ’14 (Andover, Mass.); Reece Breault ’14 (Binningen, Switzerland); Mike Lessing ’12 (Islip, N.Y.); Joe Michalisin ’12 (Melville, N.Y.); Dan Sauter ’12 (Franklin Lakes, N.J.); and Rob Ferrante ’11 (Yorktown Heights, N.Y.).

Coach Paige joined the Stags program as head coach of both the men and women for the 2006-07 season after serving as an assistant coach for five years.

Prior to turning his attention full-time to tennis, he worked as a journalist, spending six years as editor at *World Tennis Magazine*.

“The Jesuit approach – faith, academics, community service, and diversity – are so important to our students’ all-around development.”

RYAN BERTHOD ’10, *Assistant Tennis Coach*



Above: Mark (’11) & Erik (’13) Kremheller;
left: Sharissa Ryan ’14

He was also editor of *Tennis USA*, the United States Tennis Association’s official monthly newspaper.

In addition to the men’s success in 2009-10, the women’s team won 19 matches, tying a program mark, and went 7-0 in the MAAC to capture the league’s regular season title. The women’s team also won their second consecutive MAAC Championship crown and earned their second-straight NCAA Tournament berth.

“We have enjoyed some nice success in recent years,” said Paige. “We’re getting good kids who can really play. We need to understand how to put points away instead of just rallying and hoping for a mistake, but that is coming along.”

The coach, who is assisted by Fairfield alumni and former Stags Marisa Voloshin ’09 and Ryan Berthod ’10, is also thrilled by what he sees taking place around him at Fairfield.

“Father [President, Jeffrey P.] von Arx has made a strong commitment to building a vibrant campus life and you are seeing that with the new dormitories that will be opening soon. The Jesuit approach – faith, academics, community service, and diversity – are so important to our students’ all-around development.”

PAIGE SAYS SHARISSA RYAN ’14, A FRESHMAN from Bedford Hills, N.Y., is just the type of young woman he wants to see more of at Fairfield.

“She is a phenomenal person on and off the court. She works so hard at her game and a lot of the things she does, she does on her own to get better.”

He added, “I recruited her and was at her house last October. She has wonderful parents and the first thing Sharissa asked about was academics. She wanted to go to Fairfield for all the right reasons.”

Ryan was a standout for the Fox Lane High School team in Bedford Hills, where she compiled a 73-7 career record, earned all-league honors six seasons and team MVP honors for five. In 2008, she became the first women’s tennis player from Fox Lane to earn a spot in the New York State Championships, advancing to the finals of the consolation round. She played in three International Tennis Federation tournaments.

During her freshman season at Fairfield, Ryan hit the ground running. In her first 15 singles matches, she was 4-1 at number one and 8-2 at number two. She split her first 20 doubles matches.

On her game, Paige commented: “She has an inside out forhand that she is consistent with, can go inside in when she has to, and can put away volleys when she attacks the net, which she isn’t afraid to do. She has a good serve and a strong defensive game. She’s learning fast.”

Other members of the women’s team are Monica Yajima ’14 (Greenwich, Conn.); Victoria Pirrello ’14 (Staten Island, N.Y.); Carolina Koladzyn ’14 (New York, N.Y.); Caroline Emhardt ’14 (Carmel, Ind.); Nikki Jackson ’13 (Hackensack, N.J.); Kristen Liu ’11 (Closter, N.J.); and Alyssa Ruiz ’11 (Glen Head, N.Y.).

*Klecker's blog has followers
from around the world,
including readers in Singapore,
Germany, and Cameroon.*



A Spring of Life

CHRISTINA KLECKER '10 is improving the water supply in Tanzania

BY MEREDITH GUINNESS

LOTS OF COLLEGE GRADUATES have blogs, but very few have entries like Christina Klecker's.

"I'm currently sitting in a tent in the middle of the Serengeti," Klecker '10 wrote one spring afternoon. "There are water buffalo chewing cud no more than 10 feet from my tent!! I'm a little nervous to step outside for dinner, but we'll see what happens."

Klecker has spent the last six months seeing what happens while on a service trip in Tanzania. After winning a Rotary Cultural Scholarship, she headed for the East African nation to put her mechanical engineering degree to use improving the country's ailing water collection and purification system.

The Rotary clubs of Zanzibar and Fairfield collaborated to install a system providing water to the small village of Machui, the population of which includes some Sisters of the Precious Blood. While it was a successful project, over time the villagers and the Sisters, who operate a school, haven't had the funds to fuel the generator. "It is heartbreaking to see children and young women who cannot attend school because they must carry buckets of water several kilometers to their homes each day," said Klecker, a New Fairfield, Conn., resident. She has spent time working with the villagers, so they will have the skills to maintain the system after she leaves.

Even when they get the water to their homes there's more work to do, as none of the water in Tanzania is potable. It must be boiled to ensure safety against bacteria and viruses, though sometimes people take their chances. "I saw one group of children drinking out of a muddy brown stream," she said of the dire conditions. "I'm not sure I'd even want to imagine what might have been in that water. Some groups of people have no options other than to drink the water, but they will ultimately fall victim to one of the

unforeseen water-borne illnesses."

In between work on this project, and another to bring running water to 30 schools, Klecker is living with a host family in Dar es Salaam, the country's largest city, getting a real feel for Tanzanian life and culture. "They have truly accepted me as a daughter and sister from the moment I stepped into the house," said Klecker. "All meals are eaten as a family and they even invite me to weddings and other social functions."

Klecker has taken two courses at the University of Dar es Salaam, where she

"It is heartbreaking to see children and young women who cannot attend school because they must carry buckets of water several kilometers to their homes each day."

CHRISTINA KLECKER '10

befriended three Fairfield students studying abroad there this year through a new University program. To get a sense of the people and their needs, she studied African civilizations and Swahili, which, along with English, is one of the national languages of Tanzania.


She also snapped up an opportunity to teach through the University. Her students are mostly woodcarvers who hope to improve their English so they can sell their wares to foreigners. Though their classroom consists of a few benches under a worn metal roof, Klecker said she is impressed by the group's positive attitude. "After a long day of work in the equatorial heat, they come to class so

eager to learn," she said. "Usually the power goes out once or twice a week and we just have conversations in the dark. These conditions don't stop the students from coming every night with a smile on their faces."

EVER ADVENTUROUS, KLECKER HAS MADE time for several safaris and a trek up Mount Kilimanjaro with her dad, who visited her this spring. The pair stopped at a Maasai village to learn about their lifestyle and talk to the warriors, some of whom had many wives. "Although I was focused entirely on their daily activities – survival in the midst of lions, rhinos, and cheetahs – my dad's main focus was a dowry," she said. "He tried selling me off to the Maasai warriors! I guess I should consider myself lucky being worth 40 cows, but huts made of mud/dung aren't really for me."

Klecker has been volunteering since she was a youngster through her church, the public library, a concert park, and as an EMT and exterior firefighter for the local fire department. At Fairfield, she started a Rotoract Club, raising money for cancer research and Haiti, and she completed service trips to Belize and the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. She credits her former area coordinator, Melisa Jaquez, and Christopher Johnson, director of international programs, with encouraging her to live out her philanthropic dreams.

Her blog, <http://ckleckerinafrica.blogspot.com>, has followers from around the world, including readers in Singapore, Germany, and Cameroon. Her lively posts include insights on her host family's dynamics, photos from her trips, even updates on some harrowing hospital trips after breaking her leg in March. "I didn't expect it would have such a large following," she said. "I hope they learn a bit about the lifestyle here."

"Sometimes it feels like I'm in a completely different world." 

The Regina A. Quick Center
for the Arts celebrates
20 years of performances

Curtains



Photography by Bob Handelman

**RIGHT: The Guitar Orchestra
of Barcelona performed the
music of their home country
in a "uniquely new format" at
the Quick Center on April 8.**



Up!

BY CAROLYN ARNOLD

While chatting with Gary Wood, the new director of the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts, about his first semester at Fairfield University, the topic naturally fell to what performances he was looking forward to in the next academic year. He eagerly shared details (see sidebar), but couldn't divulge one big event because negotiations were not complete. All he would say was that he was thrilled about it and hopefully could announce it soon. In the meantime, he was happy to discuss his first semester at the Quick Center and his hopes for the theater's continued growth.

“It has been a joy, a complete joy,” Wood said of his new position. “I feel like the luckiest person in the world to be here. The Quick Center has such a great history and I’m coming into a situation where there is such opportunity. It is so wonderful to work for a place that is healthy, has a staff that is so adept at what they do, and has an excellent reputation.”

After 20 years the Quick Center has indeed established itself as a hub of creative and compelling performances. That’s a pretty formidable achievement considering its humble beginnings. It was actually formed almost as an afterthought when it was found to be more cost-effective to create a new Center for the Arts rather than upgrade the intimate Fairfield University Playhouse, now the PepsiCo Theatre.

Tom Zingarelli, the first director of the Quick Center who retired in 2010, recalled the birth of the Center.

“At the time I was the artistic and producing director [of the Playhouse], responsible for six to eight shows a season.” He said that Leslie Quick (P’82, ’79, ’77), the center’s primary benefactor and husband of Regina A. Quick, had attended a performance of *Godspell!* in which their daughter had a role. Quick expressed interest in helping the Playhouse, and Zingarelli told him that he wanted to cut a hole in the low ceiling to hang lighting instruments higher.

After looking at costs for improvement, Quick ultimately decided that it made more sense to build a new arts center. Zingarelli didn’t mind the change in plans. “Three years and some \$7 million later the Quick Center opened. I recall telling the audience at the dedication the story and saying that I never really got what I wanted: a hole in the ceiling to hang some lights. But I was certainly pleased with the consolation prize!”

The new “consolation prize,” went on to host many great performances. Zingarelli recalled standout shows like a solo concert by Itzhak Perlman. “Other notables included Ray Charles, who called me ‘darlin’ the whole evening; Della Reese, who brought brownies;

and Leon Redbone, who sat at the piano on stage long after the crew and equipment had departed, giving us a bit of a private concert.”

Some of the most touching performances to Zingarelli over the years included student creations. “Watching each new group of talented and sometimes starry-eyed students as they filled the stages, the gallery, and the support spaces chasing their dreams, I think, are the most indelible memories I’ve taken away with me.”

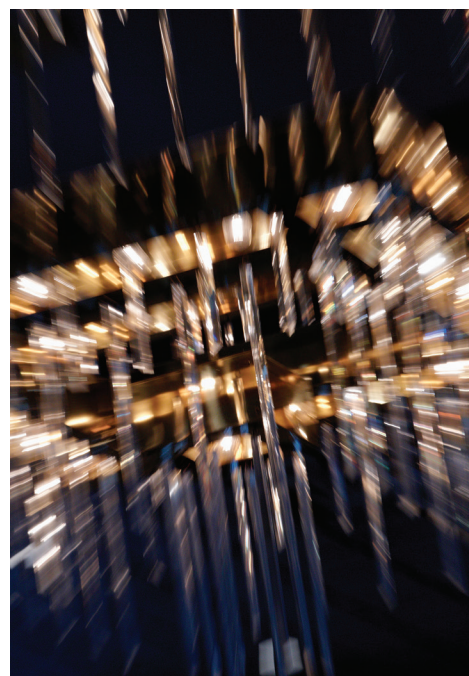
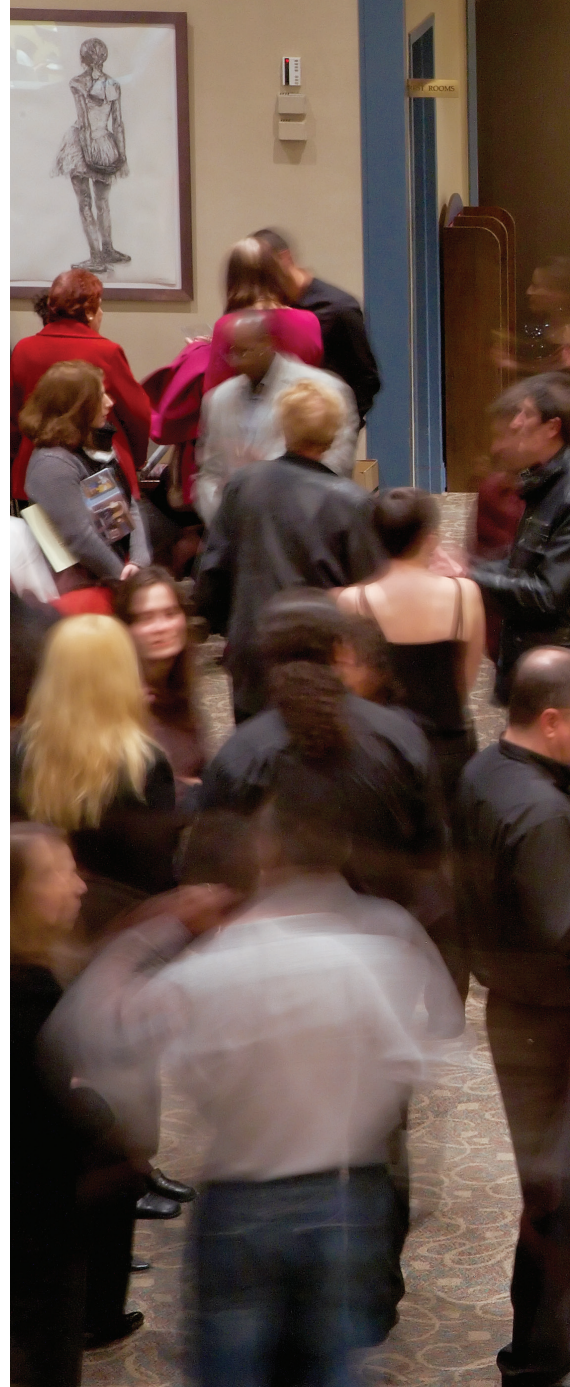
SINCE ITS OPENING, THE CENTER HAS become known for its casual, elegant design and splendid acoustics. Patrons say that there is not a bad seat in the house and as the years go by the programs continue to expand and cover a variety of genres including theater, music, dance, voice, lectures, readings, student performances, operas, visual arts, galas, and high definition live broadcasts from around the globe.

A theater is only as good as its staff and community support, of course. Both Zingarelli and Wood credited much of the Quick’s success to its dedicated staff, students, and volunteers. And as the reputation of the Quick Center grew, the audience grew as well. The first “mini-season” in 1990 included a total of six events. At its 20th anniversary season, there were hundreds. What began as an experiment in town-and-gown rapport evolved into a relationship of people from surrounding communities, bound by their shared devotion to the arts.

Now in 2011, Wood is excited to continue the Quick’s traditions and help usher it to new levels of success.

Wood came to the Quick after serving as the president and chief executive officer of the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science in Sioux Falls, S.D., which hosts more than 300,000 patrons and approximately 300 annual performing arts events. He also served as president and CEO of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), leading the conservatory for arts education through a redesign of the entire curriculum and performing arts offerings after Hurricane Katrina.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota with a bachelor’s degree in music education and a master’s with an emphasis in woodwind





Above: Patrons of all ages enjoy the variety that the Quick Center offers. Lauren Salerno '14, said of the Open VISIONS Forum lectures, "Most of the OVF that I have attended were suggested by my professors, in an attempt to bridge the gap between our class discussions and actual global issues. With this year having an academic focus on global citizenship, OVF offers students an opportunity to experience global issues facing our generation. For example, OVF speaker Carroll Bogert shared her experiences of promoting human rights worldwide, while working with Human Rights Watch."

"We need to be an exhilarating place of learning. I think that everyone is a learner and seeking something new and fresh. Arts & Minds, to me, suggests that there should be something thought-provoking in every performance." — GARY WOOD, *director of the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts*

Since its opening, the center has become known for its casual, elegant design and splendid acoustics.



performance and educational practices, he was a music teacher for 10 years before he decided that he wanted to try something new. “I discovered the world of arts administration,” he explained, “and I was fortunate enough to find wonderful positions in that field.”

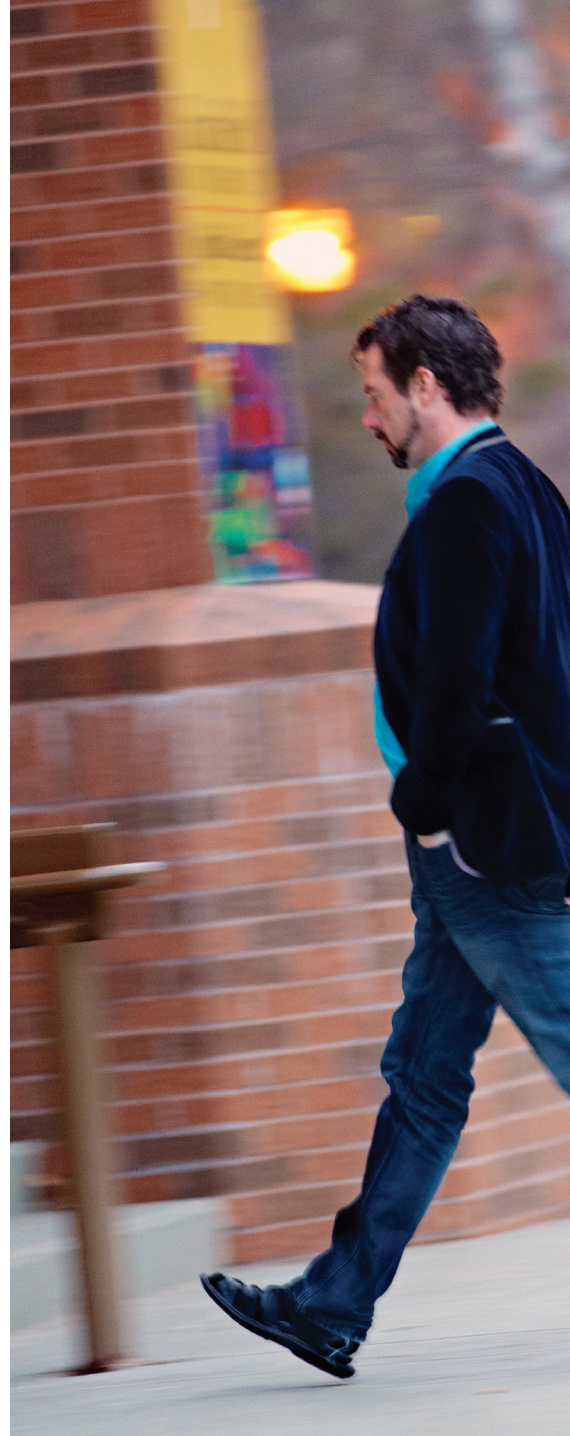
Wood considers it a mission to provide learning opportunities to patrons, whether they are traditional students or not. As part of Fairfield’s Arts & Minds offerings – to provide the population of southwestern Connecticut with a wide array of opportunities to enjoy the arts and enrich their lives through study and performance, appreciation and thought – Wood said that the Quick Center should play a vital role. “We need to be an exhilarating place of learning. I think that everyone is a learner and seeking something new and fresh. Arts & Minds, to me, suggests that there should be something thought-provoking in every performance.”

That includes offering opportunities for people to experience new things. “Whether people come for enrichment, enlightenment, for the soul or the brain, I hope our audience has faith that they will have a good experience. Even if

they’re not a jazz lover, for example, our goal is to continue to develop the reputation that the center will bring something that they can appreciate, or even pique a new interest.”

By the end of the interview, when asked for a hint of next year’s events, Wood began pulling up information when an e-mail referencing the as-of-yet unconfirmed special performance came in. Good news: the contract was agreed upon and Wood gleefully announced that John Malkovich will be here in November to perform a one-man show called *The Infernal Comedy*. “This is a unique and remarkable opportunity for many reasons. In addition to being one of the most highly recognized and gifted actors today, John will engage in a conversation about the creative process with students and faculty.”

All in a day’s work for Wood and the staff. As they continue (as Wood joked) their none-too-lofty goal of gaining a national reputation, they’re keeping the focus on remaining a vibrant, active element of the campus and community, and seeking to inspire, delight, and enlighten patrons. **F**





Upper left: The Guitar Orchestra of Barcelona. Above: Patrons arriving for the show. Left: Gary Wood, Director of the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES SCHEDULED FOR THE 2011-12 SEASON

OCTOBER 1, 2011

Luciana Souza

Grammy Award winner Luciana Souza has proven to be one of today's most inventive and stylistically far-reaching jazz vocalists. Her voice has been described as "...sensual musical poetry," *Boston Herald*.

OCTOBER 21, 2011

Sierra Hull: Singer, songwriter, and mandolin player

Hull debuted her first album, *Secrets*, at age 16. Wood said of Hull's talent, "If you want to see a unique, charming, and amazing young musician, this performance is worth every penny."

NOVEMBER 15, 2011

John Malkovich performs *The Infernal Comedy: Confession of a Serial Killer*

A serial killer (Malkovich) presents his autobiography in a public reading while two sopranos and an orchestra of period instruments provide musical accompaniment.

DECEMBER 16, 2011

Away in the Basement: a Christmas musical comedy

"Complete utter goofiness," Wood laughed. Dedicated ladies make the cookies and dinners for a church party, but something has gone haywire and the ladies come together to stave off potential disaster. "It's very funny. It's a family holiday winner, with a *Prairie Home Companion* feel."



Luciana Souza

JANUARY 8, 2012

The Pacifica Quartet

This Grammy-winning quartet has been called one of the finest chamber ensembles performing today. Wood said, "They fit the young artist who already plays at the exceptional level, but are still emerging." This, he noted, would be a good introduction for those unfamiliar with chamber music.

MARCH 9, 2012

Celtic Nights -Journey of Hope

The remarkable impact on the arts scene of contemporary (and traditional) Celtic music continues with the "un-missable two hour spectacular (that) has brought audiences to their feet all around the world" (*The Guardian*, England).

For more information, go to www.fairfield.ed/arts



John Malkovich in *The Infernal Comedy: Confession of a Serial Killer*

UNDERSTANDING THE UPRISINGS

THE REVOLUTIONS IN
THE MIDDLE EAST
INSPIRE CAMPUS
REFLECTIONS ON
GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP





BY NINA M. RICCIO, M.A.'09

When the first protesters took to the streets and city squares, it was so sudden that most of us in the West were caught off-guard. But as Tunisia's Ben Ali, then Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, fell in rapid succession from their entrenched dictatorships, Fairfield's faculty pulled together a symposium – held just five days after Mubarak's sudden resignation – that would shed some light on the issues rolling through the Middle East.

“Our goal was to inform students about what was happening, look at the spillover from one country to the next, and examine the implications for the rest of the Middle East,” said Dr. Marcie Patton, professor of politics in the College of Arts and Sciences, who spearheaded the conference, titled “Political Turmoil in the Middle East: The End of Authoritarian Regimes in the Arab World?”

Participating faculty members included Drs. Eunsook Jung (politics), Martin Nguyen (religious studies), Ali Yaycioglu (history), and Gisela Gil-Egui (communication). “We discussed the uprisings in light of history and geopolitics,” Dr. Patton continued. “Why are the people of this region so frustrated? What did their colonial experiences have to do with their situations today? What are the ramifications of the Iraq invasion, the Palestinian situation? All these issues create a context for these uprisings, and there’s an undercurrent of similar frustration among all Arab youth regardless of the country.”

While some in the audience brought up the oft-quoted theory that social networking fanned the flames of revolution, Dr. Gil-Egui was quick to caution against “easy causalities.”

Internet penetration for the region as a whole is about 25 percent, she noted, and



“WE WOULD BE UNWISE TO ASSUME, DESPITE OUR BEST HOPES, THAT THE DEVICES OF DIGITAL DISOBEDIENCE ARE INHERENTLY AND INEVITABLY DEMOCRATIC.”

ABOVE: Over 60 students, faculty, and staff joined in February’s interdisciplinary dialogue on the uprisings in the Middle East. **ABOVE, at right,** Dr. Ali Yaycioglu of the history department, with Dr. Gisela Gil-Egui, associate professor of communication in the background.

while a few countries such as Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have a higher rate of Internet use, they are not the nations with the greatest unrest. “Yemen, for example, is far less ‘connected’, yet is still boiling,” she said.

“While it’s flattering for the West to think that technology developed in this part of the world has been a decisive factor in recent uprisings in the Middle East, many other forces must be considered when analyzing these events,” Dr. Gill-Egui said.

In the case of Egypt and Tunisia, “Broadcast TV distributed via satellite, not Twitter or Facebook, has played a more important role in ‘spreading the revolution’ in the region, and Al Jazeera dominates that broadcast news activity in the area,” she said. Al Jazeera is not perceived as serving an American bias, and its reporters can understand nuances that give them an edge over American reporters. “Not surprisingly, Al Jazeera was the only foreign news outlet that was completely shut down by the government during the early days of the turmoil in Egypt.”



ADDING THEIR VOICES TO THE PANEL

were students with some first-hand experiences of life in the Middle East.

Recently back from a semester in Amman, Jordan, Julianne Whittaker ’11 admitted she could never have predicted the upheavals among Jordan’s neighbors, though it was clear that there was simmering discontent in every country she visited. While overseas, she was struck by the fact that all of the young people she spoke to laughed when she asked if they were going to vote in an upcoming election. “To a person, they all said their votes don’t matter, whether because of corruption or because the same people from the same tribes get elected over and over. They were sick and tired of the *wasta* culture,” a slang word for “the idea that who you know gets you your job, your position, everything.”

Iraqi student Ali Abdul-Majeed ’12 described his feelings of pride as he watched the revolutions from afar.

“It was a movement begun by the youth, and they were so persistent. I have great optimism for the future,” he said. Abdul-Majeed, a biology and math major, was also able to dispel some common misconceptions. “Most people [in the region] don’t want to be divided by religion. In Egypt, you saw Muslims and Christians marching and praying together. We dream of and demand the same things that everyone wants — democracy, freedom of speech — not a government run by religion. Most Americans don’t understand that.”

SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE ARAB SPRING

BY MICHAEL SERAZIO, *assistant professor of communication*

PREPARING STUDENTS TO NAVIGATE

the cultural differences and geopolitical realities of the world is one reason that the University has been engaged in a year-and-a-half long focus on global citizenship. The events in the Middle East this spring have been a fertile area of exploration with that focus in mind.

In March, students were treated to a weeklong visit by Carroll Bogert, deputy executive director of Human Rights Watch, who was on campus as a visiting Woodrow Wilson Fellow.

Bogert, a journalist and activist, visited a number of classes throughout the week and spoke to the greater community at an Open VISIONS Forum lecture about Human Rights Watch as an advocate for those who have no voice because of political oppression, violence, or their social standing. She stressed the U.S.'s leadership role in advocating for human rights.

Dr. Renée White, professor of sociology and coordinator of the University's global citizenship focus this year, said her class was quite impressed with both Bogert's message and her approachability. "She told students to open their minds to learning about the world and to finding out what they don't know," said White. "After listening to her talk, they really understood how and why the rest of the world perceives problems differently than Americans do."

Because a global understanding is more important than ever, the University's Study Abroad office has been trying to encourage more students like Whittaker to spend a semester in less traditional locations. While political realities have limited these programs (a possible program in Egypt was recently put on hold), "We definitely have more student interest in the Middle East," said Christopher Johnson, director of International Programs, who listed several students who have gone to Jordan and Turkey. "The numbers are still small, but for those students who want to be challenged, the opportunities are there." ❸

Riding in the back of a cab in Boston recently, I witnessed up close the giddy rush of cyber-utopianism that has accompanied this year's "Arab Spring."

Asked about the unfolding unrest in his homeland, our driver, a Syrian immigrant and, as it turned out, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad loyalist, kept one hand on the wheel and the other on his laptop in the passenger seat as he eagerly queued up Facebook paeans and YouTube odes he'd uploaded on behalf of the repressive, embattled leader.

Such effusiveness over the participatory potential of Web 2.0 calls for a note of caution — and not just in the case of cab drivers careening across late-night roads to exhibit their user-generated accomplishments.

Technologies do transform societies in ways as profound as they are nuanced; yet technologies are not, in and of themselves, a guarantor of democracy or autocracy, despite our aspirations and anxieties that often cast them as such. Social media in particular is, without question, ushering in dramatic changes to our world, yet its role in the political uprisings of the past year is, as yet, a more mixed bag than we new media enthusiasts might care to admit.

To cite but one example, even as Western pundits and media outlets breathlessly touted 2009's "Twitter Revolution" taking place in Tehran, later analysis found that only .03% of Iranian population had Twitter accounts registered there. Moreover, the theocratic regime proved as cyber-savvy as its dissidents in utilizing the Web to identify and track down protestors in addition to disseminating propaganda and counterrevolutionary fervor.

Our Syrian cab driver-cum-digital activist is but one anecdotal example of how social networking need not be intrinsically aligned with democratic agitation.

If anything, a slightly older technology — transnational satellite television — probably deserves as much praise or blame (depending on your penchant for regional stability). The revolution has, by and large, still been televised — namely by Al Jazeera, which has been a thorn in the side of many a strongman since its inception and has helped foment the tide of upheaval in contrast to the servile state broadcasting systems of the Middle East.

None of this is to say that, when the history of the Arab Spring is definitively written, social media will not play a starring role. Web 2.0's capacity for self-broadcasting and decentralized group organization is breathtaking. But history is only a foregone conclusion in retrospect; we would be unwise to assume, despite our best hopes, that the devices of digital disobedience are inherently and inevitably democratic. ❹

For more from Dr. Michael Serazio, go to www.theatlantic.com

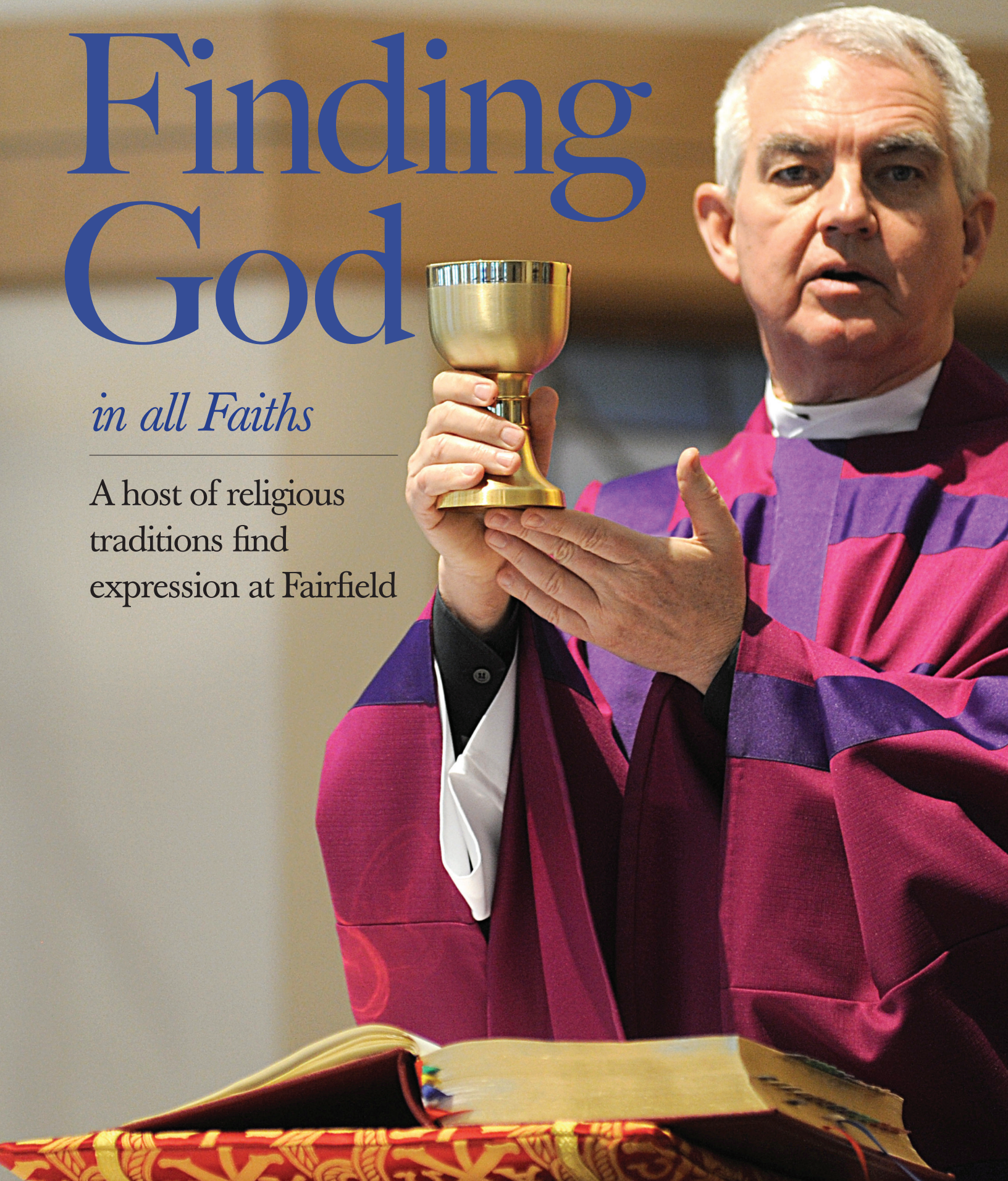


ABOVE: Communication major Nadia Younes '05 returned to her native Cairo after graduation. She spent 18 days in Tahrir Square, "witnessing something that we never thought we'd see in Egypt in our lifetime."

Finding God

in all Faiths

A host of religious
traditions find
expression at Fairfield





BY NINA M. RICCIO, M.A.'09

THE 60 OR SO STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY members at the Friday afternoon service on April 1 were by turns somber and joyful as they gathered to worship in a chapel located in the former Jesuit residence on Bellarmine Road.

There were candles, some singing, and the occasional subdued laughter typical of most informal services. But while there was a priest in attendance, he was not up on the altar but sitting in the first row. Rabbi James Prosnit was leading this worship: one of Fairfield University's first Kabbalat Shabbat services.

"Jesuit universities should be places where people on campus notice and appreciate the religious diversity that exists," says the Rev. Gerald Blaszcak, S.J., the University's new vice president for Mission and Identity. "We are better off if religious people of all traditions share in a conversation about the religious roots of morality and responsibility. One of my goals, building on the significant work of my predecessor, [the Rev.] Jim Bowler, S.J., is to promote a campus environment which is integrally religious and faithful to its traditions in deed, worship, and thinking – while becoming diverse and alive with new religious energies."

Photography by Jean M. Santopatre, M.A.'09

LEFT: The Rev. Gerald Blaszcak, S.J., celebrates a weekday Lenten Mass.



LEFT: **Kabbalat Shabbat**

"As a university, Fairfield welcomes students from all religious backgrounds, yet in the past has done little to create for non-Catholic students opportunities for spiritual self-expression," says Dr. Ellen Umansky, director of the Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies (far left). "To help create such an opportunity for Jewish students, in an environment welcoming to non-Jews as well, was extremely gratifying." This Shabbat service took place on April 1.

RIGHT: **Greek Liturgy**

Over 20 students and Fairfield University community members participated in an Orthodox ceremony celebrated by Fr. Dennis Rhodes last March.

BELOW: **Understanding Islam**

Chaplain Heba Youssef of the Hartford Seminary speaks with students after one of the Muslim prayer services this year. After each service, which generally attracts about 50 people, non-Muslim students are free to ask questions to get a better understanding of Islam.



"Catholic campuses should be a laboratory of religious learning aimed toward respect and understanding."

— REV. GERALD BLASZCZAK, S.J., *vice president of Mission and Identity*

RIGHT AND BELOW:

Giving Thanks

Having a Muslim prayer service on campus “really makes me feel accepted,” says Bayan Abunar ’14, vice president of the Muslim Students Association. “And I like that others come to see and understand what the service is about.” This spring, Campus Ministry also held the University’s first Islam Awareness Week, with speakers, films, and entertainment, culminating with a Friday (Jummah) prayer and picnic.



BELOW: Sing it!

The highlight of Palm Sunday’s Mass in the Egan Chapel was the joyous singing of the University’s brand new Gospel choir, under the direction of TaVon Brown from the Cathedral of Praise in Bridgeport.





LEFT: Fr. Blaszczak during mass at a faculty and staff retreat this spring.

“We are better off if religious people of all traditions share in a conversation about the religious roots of morality and responsibility. One of my goals, building on the significant work of my predecessor, [the Rev.] Jim Bowler S.J., is to promote a campus environment which is integrally religious and faithful to its traditions in deed, worship, and thinking – while becoming really diverse and alive with new religious energies.”

– REV. GERALD BLASZCZAK, S.J., *vice president of Mission and Identity*

Creating a campus atmosphere where all students – as well as members of the greater Fairfield community – feel included is important to Fr. Blaszczak, who has taught at Le Moyne and Fordham universities, as well as Hekima College in Nairobi, Kenya. Prior to joining Fairfield, he was pastor of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York.

At one time, it might have been considered problematic for a faith-based University to celebrate religious pluralism. But Fr. Blaszczak says that today, our more serious problem is the radical decline of any kind of faith background or sensitivity. The challenge today is not religious conflict so much as it is religious indifference, the lack of a religious culture of any kind.

“Students should be encouraged to mature in the practice of their faith,” said Fr. Blaszczak. “Catholic campuses should be a laboratory of religious learning aimed toward respect and understanding.”

To that end, Fr. Blaszczak has focused on making Fairfield’s overwhelmingly-Roman Catholic campus a more welcoming place for those of other faiths. It’s a vision that ultimately serves the mission of the University as a whole, broadening the education of all students and encouraging their understanding of other faiths. And it’s a mission that doesn’t begin and end with a religious service, Fr. Blaszczak stresses. “Sensitivity to other faith traditions is needed across the University. Religious diversity is not achieved by retreating with bland religious language which is vaguely but inoffensively Christian.” **F**

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Grants & Gifts

Science & Engineering

Dr. Mark Demers, assistant professor of mathematics, will direct a three-year research project in dynamical systems and ergodic theory with \$130,000 in funding from the **National Science Foundation**. Dynamical systems—the field that gave rise to “chaos theory”—studies the evolution of systems that change over time and attempts to understand the stability and predictability of such systems. In addition to supporting conference travel and summer research, the grant includes funds to support undergraduate research.

The Formal Technical Review (FTR) has been known as one of the best-practice techniques to find errors and ensure the quality of software products, but is usually still done

on paper. A web-based, online FTR Log Tool has been developed and successfully tested in a Fairfield University capstone project course. A grant of \$7,500 from the **University of Hartford/Connecticut Space Grant College Consortium Program (CSGCP)** will support adaptation of the tool in other software engineering classes for students to practice the entire FTR process in the classroom environment. Dr. Wook-Sung Yoo, associate professor of software engineering, is the project director.

An additional grant of \$16,000 was also awarded by CSGCP for a research project under the direction of Dr. Amalia Rusu, assistant professor of software engineering, entitled “Rapid Simulation Environment for Rotorcraft.” The project investigates concept simulation for aircraft using a virtual environment of rotorcrafts and the algorithms that support such rotorcrafts.

Arts & Culture

The Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies received renewed funding of \$55,000 from the **Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation** for the Center’s programming for the upcoming year. The grant supports faculty forums, class trips, cultural events and celebrations, and public lectures. Dr. Ellen Umansky is the project director.

Scholarship Funds

The **William Randolph Hearst Foundation** has contributed \$75,000 for the William Randolph Hearst Community Partnership Scholarship Program, which helps reduce financial barriers confronting low-income students in targeted high schools who are academically prepared to attend college. Nakia Noble, associate director of Admission, oversees the project.

Other

Funding of \$32,322 from the **Wheeler Clinic Connecticut Health Campus Initiative** will support two alcohol reduction programs on campus. “Freshman Class Officers,” which will station public safety officers in the freshman residence halls on Friday and Saturday nights, will focus awareness and enforcement efforts on freshmen. Also, faculty will bring information and interventions about alcohol use and related behaviors into the classroom. Dr. Susan Birge, assistant vice president and director of Counseling & Psychological Services, directs this project.

A gift of \$10,000 was received from **Pierre Bognon**, a member of the University’s Center for Faith and Public Life Advisory Board, to support service learning work in Fairfield’s new Tanzania Study Abroad program in partnership with the University of Dar es Salaam. **E**



Students perform with Alula Tzadik. This performance was part of the 2010-11 Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies programming. Funding from the Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation make events such as this one possible.

Donor PROFILE

MAUREEN AND GEORGE LAWRENCE '69, M.A.'71, P'06

Profession

George Lawrence likes to say his profession is a “marriage of love”—his love of golf and painting. Lawrence’s portraits and realistic paintings of fairways from around the globe have been exhibited in country clubs and galleries across the country, and in magazines such as *House*, *The Met Golfer*, and *Golf Digest*.

After earning a B.A. in English in 1969 and a M.A. in American Studies at Fairfield, Lawrence took a job at Metropolitan Life Insurance. “It took 14 years before I realized that the huge corporate world was not for me. And, although I had no idea at the time, my undergraduate experience at Fairfield was very effective in preparing me for my future business and social responsibilities.”

He and his wife Maureen developed a fulltime venture renovating and reselling houses. The flexibility of the business gave him more time to paint. “I’ve always been drawing or otherwise involved in art ever since I was a kid,” Lawrence says. His professional art career started in 1987 with a commission for a large mural from a friend. The requests grew through word-of-mouth, and eventually Lawrence was painting full-time.

Lawrence is currently the president of the Academy of Golf Art, a non-profit organization founded to create an

awareness and appreciation for golf art. (The executive director is his former Fairfield golf teammate, Kevin O. Kammerer '69.) George and Maureen Lawrence are both Eucharistic Ministers at their parish, Immaculate Conception of Westhampton Beach, N.Y., where he also serves as chairman of the finance committee. He is a member of the Village Planning Board and the Westhampton Country Club board, where he is also chairman of the Admissions Committee.

George and Maureen Lawrence have known each other since grammar school in New York. Together, they have travelled to 84 countries, and last year they celebrated their 41st anniversary. “We are each other’s best friend,” he says. Their daughter, Julie, is a graduate of the Class of 2006.

Most Influential Fairfield Faculty

George credits the late Professor of Art Palko Lukacs for encouraging him in his art career. “I took every class I could from Lukacs. The Jesuit-in-residence, Father [William] Carr [professor of philosophy] was a friend, and I also really enjoyed the classes of Dr. Leo O’Connor, professor of American Studies.”

First Gift to Fairfield

\$45 in 1982



“So very much of what I have accomplished in my life can be traced back to my time at Fairfield—learning to live in a community, becoming a good reader and writer, and developing a spirit of volunteerism. It gives Maureen and me a great sense of satisfaction to be able to give back to Fairfield some of the fruits of our success.”

Most Recent Gift to Fairfield

George and Maureen Lawrence have made Fairfield the beneficiary of a percentage of the residue of their estate.

Also Supports

- Little Flower Children’s Services, Wading River, N.Y.
- Immaculate Conception Parish, Westhampton Beach, N.Y.
- Metropolitan Golf Association
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Mount St. Mary College, Newburgh, N.Y.
- Southampton Hospital

The Lawrences will host a gathering at their home on Saturday, August 13, in West Hampton, N.Y., for alumni, parents, and friends in the area.

The program will include a Mass and a talk entitled “Leadership in the Jesuit Tradition – inspiring others to follow their hearts, their conscience and their reason.”

Alumni NOTES

1960

'63 | **C. Donald Cook** received the Outstanding Sportsman award from the Greater Bridgeport Oldtimers Athletic Association.

Dr. Ken Maiocco was selected by *Westport Magazine* as one of their "Top Doctors".

'66 | **Rev. Robert J. Levens, S.J.**, has been serving as rector of the Jesuit Community at Campion Residence and Renewal Center in Weston, Mass., since Aug., 2010.

'68 | **William Coffin** has recently accepted a position as executive director at IDEALS.*

1970

'70 | **Dr. Cosmo Filiberto** was selected by *Westport Magazine* as one of their "Top Doctors".

'71 | **Hon. Anthony J. Depanfilis** was re-elected in November as Judge of Probate for the Norwalk-Wilton District.

'72 | **Francis Foley Jr.** is the newest principal at Saint Joseph Central High School in Pittsfield, Mass.

'76 | **Margaret (Keavey) Kozel** has authored the book, *The Color of Atmosphere: One Doctor's Journey In and Out of Medicine*, published by Chelsea Green Publishing in 2011.*

Thomas Krywinski was named partner-in-charge of the Tax Department at the Shelton, Conn., office of BlumShapiro, a New England regional accounting, tax, and business consulting firm.



LINDSAY (SAMPSON) '04 AND EVAN BISHOP '04 were married on July 24, 2010 at the Egan Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola. The ceremony was officiated by the Rev. Francis Hannafey, S.J., and over 30 alumni attended the celebration.

Share your news! Simply log on to the FREE Alumni Online Community and post your Class Note. Not a member? Registration is easy — www.fairfield.edu/alumncommunity. Sign up and log on today.

'77 | **Dr. Julio Ramirez** was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring from President Obama on Jan. 27, 2011.

Winston van Buitenen was hired as a managing director as part of the expansion of ABS/MBS capabilities in commercial real estate finance within Knight Capital Group, Inc. in Jersey City, N.J.

'79 | **Joseph DeSantis** received an Outstanding Athletic Achievement award from the Greater Bridgeport Athletic Association.

David Zamary was recently elected by the Connecticut Mortgage Bankers Association as second vice president for its board of directors.

1980

'82 | **David Murphy** was appointed associate provost and University budget director at the University of Chicago.

'83 | **J.R. Pagliarini** was chosen to serve as chief of staff to Providence, R.I., Mayor-elect Angel Taveras.

'84 | **Dr. Marsel Huribal** was selected by *Westport Magazine* as one of their "Top Doctors".

'85 | **John Delio** joined Fairfield County Bank as a senior loan officer.

Garry Johnson was appointed as senior vice president and chief technology officer (a newly created position) within BioClinica, Inc.

'86 | **Robert Loesch** joined the law firm of Tucker Ellis & West LLP as a partner in the firm's Business Department in the Cleveland, Ohio, office.

Jackie Meiluta co-runs the Volunteers in Medicine of Cape May County Clinic in Cape May Courthouse. She co-leads a team of 100 volunteers that provide medical care, social services, and other support to uninsured residents.

'87 | **Kevin Quick** recently accepted a position as broker at William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty in Stamford, Conn.*

'88 | **Kevin Dean** recently accepted a position as vice president, IronHealth Claims at Ironshore.*

Kathleen Kiley was hired by ConnectedIn Media Inc. to offer advice to divorcing and separating couples through her blog "Kathy's Reflections."

Lisa Maloney has been appointed to the Board of the Irish American Business Chamber & Network, Inc., a nonpartisan business organization promoting the interests of its members and the development of economic and educational relationships between the United States, Ireland, and Northern Ireland.*

Suzanne Mayes was recognized as one of the "2010 Most Powerful & Influential Women in Pennsylvania" by the National Diversity Council at their inaugural Diversity and Leadership Conference in Philadelphia.

'89 | **John Phelan Jr.** was named to The Bender Financial Group's 2010 Leaders Club (Bender Financial Group of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network).

Kristen Van der Linde co-authored a chapter on Florida law in "Insurance Bad Faith – 2010: A Compendium of State Law," published by the Defense Research Institute.

PATRICK KELLEY '76, P'13, M.D.

Serving the World

BY CAROLYN ARNOLD

WE LIVE IN A GLOBAL world. This phrase is repeated often, particularly as it relates to the increasingly fast-paced movement of people, ideas, and products. But globalization also includes the movement of things such as viruses and bacteria, and Patrick Kelley '76, P'13, M.D., DrPH has been working and conducting research on the issue for more than 30 years.

Currently the director of the Board on Global Health at the U.S. National Academies and director of the African Science Academy Development Initiative, Kelley has dedicated his life to ensuring that scientific information is available for governments and people to make wise choices about health issues.

Both Kelley and his wife, Michele Reilly-Kelley '76, P'13, graduated from Fairfield University as biology majors. "I wanted to go to medical school and was conscious of Fairfield's track record of acceptance," Kelley recalled.

After graduating from Fairfield, Kelley went to the University of Virginia for medical school and decided to apply to the Army, Navy, and Air Force so he could use the scholarships to pay his way. He accepted the Army's offer. "It was the best option in the long run because it shaped my ultimate career in global health," he said.

Kelley noted that the Army has a rich tradition of research into infectious and tropical diseases. After several years of service, he was persuaded to remain in the Armed Services when the Army offered to send him back to school for a second doctoral degree. This time he went to the John Hopkins's school of Public Health for a doctorate in public health (in infectious disease epidemiology).

Later in his Army career, he was named as the founding director of the Department of Defense Global Emerging Infectious Surveillance and Response System, a program that tracks disease emergence around the world. He also served as the editor of a

two-volume textbook on military preventive medicine. "This was a way to capture all of that institutional memory especially for the benefit of the less-experienced young physicians," said Kelley.

Currently Kelley directs two boards at the National Academy of Sciences, which is the premiere science organization in the U.S., and advises the country on matters of science, engineering, and medicine. His decision to leave the army was because his son, John, had graduated high school and wanted to go to Boston College. "I had a great job in the army, but decided to send my retirement pension to BC with my son," he joked.

As director of the Board on Global Health, Kelley and his team has a major role in advising the country on health-related policy questions. The Board on African Science Academy Developments was created from a \$20 million grant from the Gates Foundation and its mission is to help strengthen young science academies in Africa so they can provide their government with evidence-based health services.

When reflecting on global health, Kelley said that in recent years the U.S. government has come to realize that there are no boundaries where disease is concerned. An outbreak or infection in one part of the world can quickly become a global issue.


But, he added, "it's not just for our own benefits and safety that we care. People have realized that global health is a great reflection of our humanitarian values," he continued. "Health is a universal value. Every ideology values health, so in some ways it is a commonality we share with people from every religion, political perspective, and every stage of development."

Universities around the country, including Fairfield, have invited Kelley to speak about global health. Fairfield's School of Nursing, recognizing his wealth of experience and knowledge, invited him to join their Board of Advisors where he has served since March 2010. Last October, Kelley cemented his role as a contributing and valued member of the



"Health is a universal value. Every ideology values health, so in some ways it is a commonality we share with people from every religion, political perspective, and every stage of development."

alumni network by visiting Fairfield's campus to talk with faculty across the University about questions related to the role of academic institutions in preparing professionals to reduce health disparities around the world.

Kelley, who was on his way to Africa with a stop in Barcelona so that he and his wife could visit their daughter Maureen Kelley '13, a Fairfield junior who is studying abroad, is adamant that global health is not just for physicians. "Huge and valuable contributions are made from people from almost every field," he said. "In my own work I have worked with legislators, lawyers, communication experts, journalists, and theologians. Virtually every discipline can find a niche under the umbrella of global health." 

Alumni NOTES

1990

'92 | Paul Leary Jr. recently spoke at the American Conference Institute's Trucking Litigation conference. Paul serves as co-chair of Cozen O'Connor's (Philadelphia, Penn.) transportation industry group.

Todd Trautz was promoted to the position of vice president of research services within the Custom Marketing Research team of InsightExpress.

'94 | Thomas Gegeny II was named 2010-2011 immediate past president of the American Medical Writers Association. Tom is a team leader with Envision Scientific Solutions, Inc., part of the UBC-Envision Group in Southport, Conn.

'95 | Eric Dinnocenzo recently started his own law firm in New York, N.Y., representing plaintiffs in bad-faith insurance denials and personal injury cases.*

Nicholas Hanke was recently promoted to the position of program manager, Incident Management Division at Customs & Border Protection, Field Operations Headquarters in Washington, D.C.*

'96 | Christine (Loftus) Collins earned the right to use the CFA designation in September 2010.*

John Power was recently promoted to vice president of casting at Warner Bros. Television.*

'97 | Daniel Lorig is the COO of Honeydrop Beverages, which manufactures a line of ready-to-drink, pure honey-sweetened teas and juices that are sold across the country.

'98 | Jessica Grossarth was named a member of the firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC. Jessica practices in the firm's Litigation Department in the areas of bankruptcy and creditors' rights.

'99 | Fernando Muniz has recently been promoted to the position of chief of quality and planning at the Department of Children and Families.*

Carolyn (Abbanat) Villafane ran in the 115th Boston Marathon to raise money for her employer, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP), a nonprofit serving homeless individuals. Carolyn is a nurse practitioner at BHCHP.

2000

'00 | Jennifer (Mazzo) DeVenuti recently accepted a position as associate attorney at Picciano & Scatill, P.C.*

Mitchel Sollenberger authored the book, *Judicial Appointments and Democratic Controls*, which was published by Carolina Academic Press in 2011. In 2010, Mitchel also published an article in *Congress & the Presidency Journal* entitled "The Blue Slip: A Theory of Unified and Divided Government," and another entitled "Statutory Qualifications on Appointments: Congressional and Constitutional Choices," which appeared in *Public Administration Quarterly*.*

'01 | John Pacifico III has been appointed president, chief executive officer, and member of the Board of Directors at ORTHOCON in Irvington, N.Y.

Amy Thompson was promoted to the position of senior account executive at Mintz & Hoke Communications Group in Hartford, Conn.

'02 | Ellen Miller was one of five recipients to receive the 2011 Father Rufin Compassionate Care Award presented by Bishop Lori. Ellen was recognized for her service to parish and community.

'03 | Megan Bell is the new executive director of the Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation in Rochester, N.Y.

John Chenier performs improv comedy regularly with "Kitsch In Sync" in Brookline, Mass. He will also receive a masters degree in higher education administration from Cambridge College in 2011.*

'05 | Michael Bond recently accepted a position as an account executive at Blattell Communications in San Francisco, Calif.*

Joshua O'Connell recently accepted a position as senior digital interface developer at Pixafy.*

Justin Littell was named one of Long Island's 2011 Top Young Professionals by the Huntington (N.Y.) Chamber of Commerce.

'06 | Brian Douglas started a self-serve frozen yogurt lounge in Boca Raton, Fla., called Eco Yogurt Lounge with his family and was recently registered to franchise in 32 states in the United States.*

Michael McCarthy is the new director of the regional Connecticut office of Colliers International in Stamford, Conn.

'07 | Jennifer Stedman received a master's of public health degree in epidemiology from the Boston University School of Public Health in 2010. Jennifer will receive a master's of physician assistant

studies degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences in 2013.*

'08 | Michelle (Alviso) Matheis recently accepted a position as manager at Ferguson Public Library. Michelle will receive a Ph.D. in business administration in management from Northcentral University in 2016.*

David Guerrero and Peter Otoki have teamed up to start "The Guanxi Connection," a career consulting group and blog dedicated to helping college students find and secure top jobs through the power of networking.*

Sarah Kopac was awarded a Graduate Fellowship on Jan. 11, 2011, sponsored by the Connecticut Space Grant College Consortium to fund graduate students researching topics related to astrobiology. Sarah has also published "A Theory-based pragmatism for discovering and classifying newly divergent bacterial species" in *Genetics and Evolution of Infectious Diseases* (2011).*

2010

'10 | Darryl Brackeen recently accepted a position as CollegeCorps coordinator at New Haven Promise.*

Traci Dantoni accepted a position as an associate and web editor at the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants* at Haymarket Media, Inc. in Montvale, N.J.*

Tara Flaherty has signed a contract to play professional basketball for Basketball Club "ZKK Pula" in the first division in Croatia.

Robert Gariano was selected in the 36th round of the 2010 MLB Draft by the San Diego Padres.

DR. PETER BONGIORNO '90

Healing the Mind, Naturally

BY JOHN TORSIELLO

WHEN DR. PETER Bongiorno enrolled at Fairfield University, he entered as a pre-med biology major solely with aspirations to go to conventional medical school. But his life took a more complicated path.

Now considered a preeminent practitioner of science-based natural medicine, a lecturer, teacher, and budding author, he looks back fondly on those formative years at Fairfield.

"I believe Fairfield helped prepare me for my present career," he said. "Although I did not directly learn anything about natural medicine, my time at Fairfield was influential in terms of transforming my thought from an immature teenager to someone who made it a priority to follow his dreams."

A double major in medicine and English literature seemed an offbeat mix, but it turned out to be a combination that has served Dr. Bongiorno well. After graduating in 1990, he spent several years pursuing yet another odd

"My time at Fairfield was influential in terms of transforming my thought from an immature teenager to someone who made it a priority to follow his dreams."

mix – that of musician and researcher.

"During my college experience, I volunteered in hospitals and spent time working in conventional medical doctor offices. Although I enjoyed the medical aspect, I found the experience to be unappealing," he said. "For me, it was not inspiring and confused me enough to decide not to take the medical school exam in my senior year."

Instead, he said with some sarcasm, he did

what "any immigrant Italian parents would want their son to do" – join a group of Fairfield friends to pursue music in a rock band for some seven years.

"My fondest memories were of playing the drums with my bands, Johnnie and the Favorites and When I Woke. These bands were comprised of great friends and we played the Sea Grape, and, of course, in the townhouse basement."

In 1992, he accepted a position at Yale University in an affective disorders unit. The research work eventually led to pre-doctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, a world-renowned government medical research facility. There, he began to study the neuro-endocrine axis, and how the middle of the brain (the hypothalamus) worked as a communication station for the nervous, hormonal, and endocrine systems.

With a love for this field and conventional medical school back in his sights, his life took a turn when a close friend was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

"We were both 25 years old when she was told by her third neurologist 'to go out and get a wheelchair while you still can.' A friend introduced me to a 'naturopath' who worked out of a basement and used natural remedies to heal. Skeptical, but curious, I decided to bring my friend for a visit. This doc suggested things I'd never heard before.

"I had a hard time believing it, so I decided to visit the National Library of Medicine, part of the NIH. I found a 40-year study published by an investigator named Roy Swank. He found that patients with multiple sclerosis who followed a diet with less than 17 grams of saturated fat and who took certain vitamins had virtually no increased problems. The experience changed my life. Not only did I learn a little about neurology, but I learned what I needed to do with my life: study natural healing."

Dr. Bongiorno decided to forgo conventional medicine and attend Bastyr University in Seattle, where he learned the basics any conventional medical doctor learns as well



as studies in holistic and integrative care. He graduated with a doctorate in naturopathic medicine.

"As far as I know, I am the first graduate of Fairfield University to become a naturopathic physician," he said.

He is currently co-director of the InnerSource Natural Health and Acupuncture, P.C. in New York and is a highly sought-after lecturer and speaker and an adjunct faculty member at New York University. He regularly teaches at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and is on the faculty of the Natural Gourmet Institute for Food and Health.

Dr. Bongiorno somehow found time to contribute to several books on natural medicine and recently authored the 398-page *Healing Depression: Integrated Naturopathic and Conventional Treatments*.

"I returned to New York to practice after my training and noticed most of my patients were depressed or on depression medications. I also noticed there was no textbook for clinicians that explained the options for the depressed patient, and there were almost no natural medicine supports for the patient who wanted to safely wean off medications," he said. "It seemed doctors were taught to help patients start medications, but there is very little information to help patients get off medications."

Dr. Bongiorno lives and practices a simple axiom, one very much in tune with the Fairfield University ethos.

"All body parts are connected somehow, and to help a patient achieve full health, you must address the whole person – mind, body, and spirit." ■

Alumni NOTES

Anthony Johnson signed a professional basketball contract with a team in Cyprus, Greece. Johnson will place with Keravnos in Cyprus this season.

Christina Klecker headed to Africa after graduation in May 2010 to help improve water collection and purification systems in Tanzania. (See story on page 14.)

Jessica Lavine passed her NCLEX exam and is working on a neurology floor at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Brendan Monahan was promoted to reporter at ABC40/FOX6 in Springfield, Mass.

Robert Patronaggio is working as an actuarial assistant at Chartist Insurance.*

Christopher Staysniak was accepted into the doctoral program in history at Boston College.

Marriages

Dr. Christopher Herbst '98 and Rebecca Simmons – April 17, 2010.

Elizabeth Lewis '98 and **Matthew McCloskey, M.A.'07 (GSEAP)** – July 3, 2010.

Karin Gebhard '00 and Timothy Birmingham – Oct. 2, 2010.*

Sarah Boyle '01 and Michael McGlone – June 26, 2010.

John Chenier '03 and Amanda Lobdell – July 4, 2010.*

Lindsay Sampson '04 and **Evan Bishop '03** – July 24, 2010.*

Kimberly Valenzuela '04 and Louis Mancini – May 22, 2010.

Diana Polzer '05, M.A.'07 (GSEAP), CT'08 (GSEAP) and **Keith Whamond '04** – July 17, 2010.

Lisa Sbarra '06 and Joseph Sanzari Jr. – Nov. 6, 2010.*

Abby Sheehan '06 and Jonmathew Swienton – Oct. 10, 2010.

Amanda LeClair '07 and **Stephen Teti '07** – Oct. 16, 2010.*

Sarah Regan '07 and **Matthew Castillo '07** – Sept. 18, 2010.*

Births

Tiffany and Mario Perciballi '94, son – Justin Joseph, May 2, 2010.*

Cristina (Buonocore) '95 and **Daniel Kelly '94**, son – James Daniel, March 21, 2011.*

Jeanne (Marier) '95 and Michael Cronin, son – Michael Paul, Nov. 2, 2010.*

Kerry (Postler) '95 and Michael Moakley, daughter – Olivia Ann, Oct. 16, 2010.*

Julie (Charsky) '96 and Will Christman, daughter – Megan Kathleen, April 14, 2010.*

Linda (Crowe) '96 and Will Dunlea, daughter – Meghan Kate, March 12, 2011.*

Christine (Loftus) '96 and Noel Collins, son – Kieran Patrick, Jan. 17, 2011.*

Lisa (Tracy) '96 and James MacDougall, twins, son – Matthew James, daughter – Megan Tracy, Dec. 1, 2010.*

Colleen (Mooney) '96 and Neil Slattery, son – Luke Brendan, Jan. 31, 2011.*

Maureen and **Robert Stanley '96**, son – Jack Thomas, April 8, 2011.

Dawn (Bowers) '97 and **Bryan DiRoma '99**, daughter – Elena Marie, Aug. 19, 2010.

Jenna (Cardone) '97 and Kevin O'Keefe '95, daughter – Caitlyn Elizabeth, Dec. 10, 2010.

SHARE YOUR NEWS



DEANNA (PAVONE) ASCENSO '04 kisses her son, **Anthony Fernando**, born on Jan. 20, 2011.

Share your news! Simply log on to the **FREE Alumni Online Community** and post your **Class Note**. Not a member? Registration is easy – www.fairfield.edu/alumniconnunity. Sign up and log on today.

Denise (LeBlanc) '97 and Sean Gilligan, twins, son – Thomas Charles, daughter – Eve Margaret, Oct. 18, 2010.*

Kathi (Twilley) '97 and Jordan Fialkoff, son – Riley Robert, Nov. 9, 2010.*

Andrea and **Thomas Cotter '98**, daughter – Emelia May, Dec. 14, 2010.*

Megan (Giese) '98 and William Smith, son – William Edward, Sept. 22, 2010.*

Heather (Guerriero) '99 and Michael Westhead, daughter – Avery Elizabeth, Oct. 7, 2010.*

Lauren (Keating) '99 and **Michael Carey '99**, son – Myles Keating, Oct. 8, 2010.*

Christine (DeStefano) '00 and **Matthew Brunelli '00**, daughter – Emilia Jacqueline, Jan. 10, 2011.*

Casey and **Ronald Castillo '00**, daughter – Mila Elizabeth, March 24, 2011.*

Jessica and **Jeffrey Kochiss '00**, daughter – Reid Madeline, Nov. 25, 2010.*

Juliana and **Mitchel Sollenberger '00**, son – William Austin, Dec. 31, 2010.*

Jaime (Turner) '00 and **Joseph Bruderek '00**, son – Turner Joseph, Oct. 27, 2010.*

Christina (Biagioli) '01 and Robert Acampora, daughter – Lucia Noelle, Dec. 17, 2010.*

Michele (Bowman) '01 and **Mark McGunagle '00**, son – Ryan Bowman, Dec. 28, 2010.*

Jackie and **Salvatore Farenga '01**, son – Anthony Felix, Jan. 24, 2011.*

Leslie (Pusateri) '01 and Brian Ciruna, daughter – Allison Therese, Jan. 12, 2011.*

Kerry (Schardien) '01 and Michael Ricci, daughter – Caroline May, Sept. 16, 2010.*

Danielle (Savino) '02 and Daniel Scarola, daughter – Gabriella Nicole, March 7, 2011.*

Lindsey and **Stephen Edison '03**, son – William Walker, Feb. 8, 2011.*

Erica (Meyer) '03 and Michael Boucher, daughter – Annalise Rose, May 17, 2010.*

Deanna (Pavone) '04 and Fernando Ascenso, son – Anthony Fernando, Jan. 20, 2011.

Nicole (Trapilo) '04 and **Robert Weckesser '04**, daughter – Madison Grace, Jan. 30, 2011.*

AMENDA LEGROS '08

A Global Citizen at work for the UN

BY VIRGINIA WEIR

IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF January 12, 2010, Amenda Legros '08 was just getting off work in her hometown of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, when the earth shook for 35 seconds, killing an estimated 316,000 and devastating the lives of millions.

Legros' family survived, although friends and relatives had to dig her mother out from under the rubble of a four-story cement building. "I don't know how to describe the feeling of seeing everything that was supposed to keep you safe crumble, in seconds," Legros reflected. "The earthquake changed my mentality towards life. I'm not afraid of anything anymore – nothing scares me. I now know that there is nothing that is placed on my path that I cannot handle."

In Port-au-Prince, Legros made use of her undergraduate degree in communication working as a communications manager for an import/export company. "I did market research and product proposals, keeping contact with their existing contractors. It required a lot of cross-cultural 'savoir-faire'."

As an undergraduate, Legros did a lot of research on multicultural and cross-cultural communication. Last fall, with encouragement from Dr. Gisela Gil-Egui, assistant professor of communication, Legros decided to return to Fairfield to pursue her masters in integrated marketing. "I felt it was the right time to take advantage of the exposure to intercultural communication. Dr. Gil-Egui has always pushed me to do better, to strive for more. She has always believed in me."

With a lead through Dr. Janie Leatherman, director of international studies and professor of politics, Legros had a unique internship opportunity last fall in New York in the offices of UN Women (formerly UNIFEM), the branch of the United Nations addressing issues in women equality and empowerment.

"Every day at UN Women was a learning experience," Legros said. "I met fascinating people with unimaginable knowledge who are so passionate about justice; people that are so dedicated to what they do and work with a kind of remarkable abandon! I also got to participate in some of the events that expose them to this kind of knowledge."

One of those events, which Legros helped organize, was a celebration of the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325, a document which recognizes the leadership role of women as a crucial part of the peace process in conflict and war-torn countries. Four influential women from Africa and Nepal spoke of their experiences in a panel discussion. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other influential United Nations representatives were presented and asked what more they could do to help. "It was a mind-blowing experience for me to see a powerful woman such as Hilary Clinton there to listen and offer help," Legros reported. "It was truly humbling."


While an undergraduate, Legros said, she became a great admirer of the Jesuits, what they do, and their philosophy. "To value knowledge and be devoted to others. To have, but also to give. To strive for excellence. To accept. To understand. To stand up. To bring justice, if not to the whole world, at least to the part of the world you occupy. These are important values."

But there is no doubt that life in Haiti, which was always hard, is even more difficult since the earthquake. Although Legros won't complete her master's degree until 2012, she already feels unsure about whether she will return. "I hate to hear the comment 'What can Haiti offer you?'" she said. "I had always said that I would return home to my family after school. I would not be living up to everything that I believe and stand for if I



Legros helped organize the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325, a document that recognizes the leadership role of women as a crucial part of the peace process in conflict and war-torn countries.

stayed away from home. But now I'm torn. It breaks me!"

Whatever she decides to do, Legros believes her graduate degree will help to open doors for her. "Intercultural communication is a relatively untouched field, even here in the U.S. If I stay I feel I can be a great asset to any company with the ever increasing trend of globalized business." 

Alumni NOTES

In Memoriam

Eugene Fahy, ALND '51 –
March 15, 2008.

Arthur C. Laske, Jr. '51 –
March 11, 2011.

Edward C. Leonard '51 –
Dec. 14, 2008.

Eugene J. Magi '51 –
March 31, 2011.

Francis H. Orlowski '51 –
April 14, 2011.

William J. Clifford '52 –
March 3, 2011.

James F. McGuire '52 –
Nov. 22, 2010.

**Rev. Herbert J. Clarkin,
ALND '53** – Dec. 29, 2010.

Emanuel F. Ondeck '53 –
Feb. 24, 2011.

Russell T. Keeler Jr. '54 –
March 28, 2011.

Paul V. Cochrane '56 –
Jan. 4, 2011.

Edward J. Hogan '56 –
Aug. 26, 2009.

Robert P. Wasco '60 –
Jan. 5, 2011.

Theodore L. Maguder Jr. '61 –
April 13, 2011.

Richard H. Pruchnicki '61 –
April 23, 2010.

Nicholas G. DiCerbo '63 –
April 5, 2011.

William Keegan '63 –
March 1, 2011.

William Gaines '64 –
Jan. 25, 2011.

John D. Duffy '65 –
Feb. 26, 2011.

John P. Sullivan '65 –
Jan. 8, 2011.

Mark B. Patten III '69 –
April 21, 2011.

Robert Allison '70 –
March 7, 2011.

Bill Dziezyc '73 – April 2, 2011.

Russell M. Spencer '73 –
Jan. 23, 2011.

Joan Case '74 – Feb. 27, 2011.

James R. Frulla '76 –
Jan. 12, 2011.

Michael B. Finn '78 –
March 16, 2011.

Anthony Gee '80 – Jan. 21, 2011.

Jennifer Dean Burke '81 –
Dec. 25, 2010.

Laura (Christen) Neufeld '81 –
April 9, 2011.

Regina J. Sudell '81 –
April 5, 2011.

Edward S. Solosky '84 –
Feb. 15, 2011.

David P. Hann '85 – Jan. 6, 2011.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Ellen Harris, M.A.'94 (GSEAP)
principal of Harris Counseling LLC of
Danbury, Conn., has opened an office
in Stamford, Conn.

**Jonathan Stark, M.A.'03
(GSEAP)** has recently been promoted
to the position of assistant dean of
graduate student/postdoctoral affairs at
Columbia University - SEAS.*

Marriages

**Diana Polzer '05, M.A.'07
(GSEAP), CT'08 (GSEAP) and
Keith Whamond '04** –
July 17, 2010.

**Elizabeth Lewis '98 and
Matthew McCloskey, M.A.'07
(GSEAP)** – July 3, 2010.

In Memoriam

**Emanuel F. Ondeck '53, CT'70
(GSEAP)** – Feb. 24, 2011.

**Raymond J. Buzak, M.A.'55
(GSEAP)** – Dec. 19, 2010.

**John L. Corning Jr., M.A.'57
(GSEAP)** – Jan. 12, 2011.

**Barbara Abernethy, M.A.'59
(GSEAP)** – March 6, 2011.

**Sr. Michael Joanne Shea, SND,
M.A.'61** – Feb. 22, 2011.

**Rev. Douglas Hawkins,
M.A.'62 (GSEAP)** – March 3, 2011.

**Eileen Inglis, M.A.'64, CT'69
(GSEAP)** – Jan. 24, 2011.

**Robert J. Lynch, M.A.'66
(GSEAP)** – Feb. 6, 2011.

**Everett Walens, M.A.'66
(GSEAP)** – April 1, 2011.

**Robert J. Garofalo, M.A.'67
(GSEAP)** – Jan. 14, 2011.

**Sr. Rose J. Regan, M.A.'71
(GSEAP)** – Dec. 21, 2010.

Robert Cooley, M.A.'72 –
Feb. 19, 2011.

Walter F. Meads, M.A.'73 –
March 25, 2011.

**Alfred Cipriani, M.A.'66, CT'75
(GSEAP)** – March 12, 2011.

**Robert A. Guidone, M.A.'77
(GSEAP)** – Feb. 24, 2011.

Rise Scharf, M.A.'87 (GSEAP) –
March 23, 2011.

Roger Manning, M.A.'89 –
Feb. 12, 2011.

Your news could be featured in
an upcoming issue of *Fairfield
University Magazine*! Submit
your updates through Class
Notes within the Online
Community and don't forget
to include a photo! Go to
www.alumniconnections.com/olc/membersonly/FRF/networking/.

Arts & Minds

SUMMER 2011 FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts

For the 2010–2011 Quick Center Season visit www.quickcenter.com or call the Box Office at 203-254-4010 or toll-free 1-877-ARTS-396.

SEPTEMBER 17, 8 P.M.

Ballroom! Night of Champions!

Featuring international champions Dmitri and Svetlana Ostashkin and more.

SEPTEMBER 23, 24,
8 P.M. AND 3 P.M.

Radio Dramas

Live recreation of vintage radio with live music and sound effects.

National Theatre Live in HD

Reserved seating. Tickets are \$22 adults, \$20 seniors and \$15 children/students.

JUNE 4, 2 P.M.;

JUNE 10, 7 P.M.

Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Brian Bedford stars in this flawless classic comedy, filmed live on Broadway.

JUNE 30, 2 P.M. 7 P.M.

Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*

With Zoë Wanamaker as Madame Ranevskaya. Directed by Howard Davies.

Open VISIONS Forum and Selected Lectures

SEPTEMBER 19, 8 P.M.

Chuck Todd

Chief White House Correspondent for *NBC News* opens the season.

Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery

JUNE 19-JULY 16

Director's Choice

Works by five Connecticut Artists: Dr. Anthony Santomauro, John J. Rosito, Stefan Buda, Robert Buda and Duane Corey.



Chuck Todd

The Bellarmine Museum of Art, Bellarmine Hall

Summer hours: Museum is open by appointment only.

JUNE 2-10

Illuminating the Gospel Values

An exhibition of the work of schoolchildren from the Diocese of Bridgeport in response to the Book of Kells.

JUNE 11, 12-5 P.M.

Family Fun Day at the Bellarmine Museum

Crafts, story time, and tour for children.

JUNE 15-SEPTEMBER 15

Ekphrasis i

Poet Jeanne Delarm-Neri (MFA '12) responds in verse to the museum collection.



Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest

SHOW YOUR PRIDE

IN FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY.

Please turn to page 8.