A Message from the President

When I taught "Introduction to Philosophy" to Saint Peter’s sophomores in the mid-sixties, we began by pondering the paradox of change. How can the same thing be different? It must be, we reasoned, because the changing being is a metaphysical composition of accident, which accounts for differences, and substance, which accounts for sameness.

The evolution of Saint Peter’s has meant wonderful differences over 125 years. The campus began at Grand and Warren, reopened after World War I at One Newark Avenue, and settled at Montgomery and the Boulevard, adding Englewood Cliffs in 1975. The College has grown to 35 buildings, large and small. (In the process Collins Gymnasium, where so many of us spent hours and hours playing basketball, came and went.) Great people have walked its halls with names like Durant, Gannon, Shanahan, Yanitelli (both of them), Castán, Irving, McMullen, Benson, and Chryst (the last three still here and going strong). Over the years the College added to its full-time, liberal arts center: evening division, business, graduate programs. Meanwhile its student body has kept changing as the population of Hudson County and Northern New Jersey keeps changing. Finally, two key moments in the College’s history must be highlighted: coeducation (1966) and residence halls (1984).

But through it all the College has stuck to its mission: the delivery of quality education in the Catholic, Jesuit tradition. Thousands of graduates, in every generation, testify to the high ideals they had to measure up to, to the individual attention and respect they received. This is the substance of Saint Peter’s College — for the past 125 years, for the next 125 years.

I hope you enjoy this special issue of the College Magazine. Indulging your nostalgia is fine, but don’t miss the opportunity to review your metaphysics, to meditate on the mysteries of change!

Sincerely,

James N. Loughran, S. J.
President
Saint Peter's
The College Magazine
Winter 1996/97

The Jesuit College of New Jersey
A historical retrospective.

Remembering Father Vic
The fundraiser... the friend raiser.

The Million Dollar Faculty
Insights on the Jesuits of the 1930s who secured the rebirth of the College

The College on the Hill
Father Gannon and Father Dinneen pioneered the move from Grand Street to the Boulevard.

A Night to Remember
Saint Peter's 1968 win over Duke in the NIT put the College on the national sports map.

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A Jesuit Tradition of Service ..................... Page 28
The Jesuit College

By Nancy Benecki '97 and Jim O'Donnell '73

Saint Peter's College first split the cultural darkness in a gleaming spurt of Jesuit missionary adrenaline — luminous vision of systematized mind-training according to the proved canons of Greece and Rome and their medieval heirs. The date was April 3, 1872. What black robes and a Garden State charter endowed that day with the all-embracing academic authority of a university — in the name of the "Rock" upon which the Catholic church was founded — was a legal and historical freak. For despite the sweeping terms of that charter and the unshakable foundation represented by its namesake, there were no Saint Peter's College buildings or teachers — much less Saint Peter's College courses or students. In other words, Saint Peter's College, 1872, existed in fancy long-hand script on a slice of parchment paper, nowhere else.

Nearing the end of the 20th Century, Saint Peter's College is a presence in Jersey City, a distinguished landmark on Kennedy Boulevard. Four academic buildings, a recreational center with a bubble on top and six residence halls, in addition to a branch campus in Englewood Cliffs grew from the modest beginnings. Today, students not only from Hudson County, but from around the state, the country and world attend class on both campuses with the same quest for knowledge that was at the heart of the beginning of this remarkable institution of higher learning. However, the growth and development of Saint Peter's College was not always easy.

The Jesuits who founded the College were eager to get classes started. Seton Hall already was in operation but it served principally as a diocesan seminary. The Jesuits were certain that students would register at their Saint Peter's for either the classical B.A. or the commercial program. However, they did not take two major factors into consideration. First, there were not many local Catholic young men who could afford the $61-per-year tuition — which was a small fortune back in 1872 for those of you who don't remember. Also, most young men were not prepared for the rigorous work they were supposed to undertake. The Jesuits decided to postpone opening the College for one year, and they opened a Preparatory Department instead to prepare students for more difficult work.

Classes started on Monday, September 2, 1878 at 9:00 a.m. with Rev. George Kenny, S.J. as the dean, and Rev. John McQuaid, S.J. as president. Seventy-one students originally were enrolled, and that number grew to 123 by the year's end. Most of the students were Irish and came from families in the neighborhood. Ages ranged from ten to fifteen; none of them started off doing college-level work.

Father McQuaid, S.J., was appointed president in 1874. From 1888 to 1891, Rev. Peter Cassidy, S.J., was president. He presided at the College's first graduation on June 22, 1889. Four students received their degrees: Albert B. Bising, Thomas J. Fox, Patrick F. Kirwen, John J. Niven. The first high school graduation was in 1911, with twenty-three students receiving diplomas.

Rev. John Harpes, S.J., glided through one of the most architecturally constructive periods of Saint Peter's Parish, Jersey City, when he was president from 1891 to 1900. During Father Harpes's term, a new church was consecrated, a new school building was erected and the parochial school was enlarged. Also, in 1896, the Board of Regents of the State of New York approved Saint Peter's College, thereby certifying the training background of law and medical graduates.

Work began on the new school building on Grand Street in March, 1899. A cornerstone was fit into the building on June 12; occupation of the place started just after Easter. This building included Saint Peter's Hall — the site of most social functions for years to come — and was a tremendous lift for students and teachers who had been operating out of broom closet classrooms in the basement of St. Peter's Church.
pleased Father Gannon who championed tradition and dignity and academic style.

In 1900, four percent of America's college-age group was in college; by the start of World War II, it was up to fourteen. Saint Peter's College by 1900 had granted 63 BAs and 26 MAs. From 1900 to mid-1902, Rev. Joseph Zwinge, S.J., was president of the College. His successor, Rev. Joseph Fox, S.J., began work on the school's physical handicaps. Father Fox renovated the interior of Saint Peter's Hall and worked on the basement of the church. Between 1902 and 1905, Father Fox bought two lots adjoining the College and one of them was leveled off to make a playground.

Saint Peter's College was accredited by the New Jersey Board of Education in October, 1905. A clear-cut distinction was made that year between the College and St. Peter's High School; they had been operating in the same building under the same administration. The enrollments in both institutions were adequate — the school was easily accessible with trolleys in the area — and most graduates had settled down.

In an attempt to insure a boost in future enrollment, Father Fox decided to start a school that would train students for the work done in the College. In August 1905, he bought Manresa Hall on the corner of Summit Avenue and Montgomery Street. It became a private grammar school, and the seed of what was to become the Saint Peter's
College Reserve Officer's Training Program. This building eventually became the site of the Jersey City Armory years later.

From 1907 to 1911, Rev. Edward J. McGrath, S.J., endured one of the quietest presidential terms in Saint Peter's History. Succeeding him was Rev. Joseph A. Mulry, S.J., in 1911. Father Mulry oversaw the building of the Saint Peter's College "clubhouse" on the corner of Warren and Grand Streets. One reason he wanted the clubhouse was to make room for the expanding student body. Part of the building was equipped with makeshift classrooms for the high school students. The clubhouse was later called Mulry Hall.

Saint Peter's College and Prep were flourishing in 1913 with a combined enrollment of 415. The College had a football team — though not a very successful one by the tone of one priest's 1913 diary entry: "Yesterday — football game at Seton Hall. We were defeated as usual 14-6." But it seems Saint Peter's students offset their athletic inabilities by excelling in another area. Here is a headline from a Jersey City newspaper from 1913: "St. Peter's Prom Social Triumph of Winter Season."

Almost every historical sketch of Saint Peter's College ever written claims that the College closed down from 1918 to 1930 because of World War I. One edition of the school's yearbook, the Peacock Pie, gives the following dramatic account: "The classrooms went empty. The faculty closed their markbooks, and left for the battlefield. The students had thrown aside the academic black to don khaki for the flag that had floated above the school for two score years."

It is true that classes did officially stop in 1918, though three juniors of that year were permitted to return as seniors and graduate in 1919; and yes, Saint Peter's College did not operate again until September 22, 1930. But the reason the school closed down was not World War I. The real reason was that the Jesuits wanted to concentrate their strength on other colleges, such as Georgetown, Boston College, and Fordham.

Rev. James F. McDermott, S.J., Saint Peter's President from 1915 to 1921, had not even thought that his school was threatened. The Jesuit Provincial (chief) had promised a full faculty for Saint Peter's if Father McDermott acquired a new site with athletic facilities.

The College reopened in 1930 while the United States was knee deep in the great depression. Classes had to be held temporarily in the Chamber of Commerce Building at One Newark Avenue, Jersey City, turning the public stenographer's office into a library. The Physics Department claimed an old clothing store as its territory. May devotions were held on the building's sloping roof, around which a fence was constructed to keep students from falling off.

On August 16, 1930, 85 students registered for courses at Saint Peter's College. The first freshman class in twelve years opened on September 22 with six faculty members and a Mass. What was the student like? He considered a night on the town a
double-feature at the Rialto and a
double extra thick malted milk
shake. American Magazine took a
survey of young people and con-
cluded, “From the collective atti-
dude expressed, it would seem
that the youth of the Thirties
wanted nothing short of — or
more than — a life bounded on
the one side by the Boy Scout
Manual and on the other by the
Book of Common Prayer.”

At the re-opening Mass in
September of 1930, Rev. I. Robert
Gannon, S.J., dean, told the stu-
dents: “We specialize in educa-
ing the undergraduate and our whole
idea of education is distinctively
different and much more simple
than medieval methods. We are
medieval enough to think that
there is more education in a few
subjects thoroughly taught than
in a multiplication of courses.”

Dean Gannon molded the
academic, ecumenical, moral and
spiritual character of Saint Peter’s
College. He favored liberal arts
study over science and business
and envisioned Saint Peter’s as a
below 600 student liberal arts
Academy that would sail along
smoothly without big-time
sports. In 1930, this character
was consummate — students, lay
teachers, Jesuit instructors and
administrators mirrored it.

Sixty years later, however,
those ideals have been
changed drastically. Science
and business are two of the most
popular majors at Saint Peter’s
College. Each incoming fresh-
man class for the last five years
has boasted more than 600 stu-
dents. The current mission state-
ment for the College states:
“Committed to academic excel-
ence and individual attention,
Saint Peter’s College provides
education, informed by values,
primarily in degree granting pro-
grams in the arts and sciences
and business, to resident and
commuting students from a vari-
ety of backgrounds.”

Father Gannon brought
several important traditions and
symbols to Saint Peter’s College.
The Michaelmas Convocation,
which was a tradition at the 13th
Century University of Paris,
became a part of Saint Peter’s
College when Father Gannon
suggested it in 1931. Then, the
Michaelmas Convocation was a
gathering on the feast of St.
Michael for a Mass of the Holy
Ghost. Today, students gather
every September for an awards
ceremony where medals in the
different academic areas are pre-
sented to day and evening stu-
dents while the faculty dressed in
their academic garb.

In mid December, 1930,
Father Gannon picked the
peacock as the Saint Peter’s College
symbol. He chose the peacock
for a number of reasons.
Mythologically, the peacock com-
mitted itself to the flames of a
funeral pyre and then was reborn
bestowed with even more beauty.
To Father Gannon, the myth
apparently seemed a recherché
parallel of Saint Peter’s College,
which to the public had “died” in
the flames of World War I and
now “rose” again in blue and
white, hopefully with even more
academic embellishment, or
“beauty.”

The titles of some Saint
Peter’s College activities and soci-
eties go back to the peacock
myth, including the highest aca-
demic society, the Most Noble
Order of Peacock; the yearbook,
the Peacock Pie; and the once-
popular Juno Symphony Club.

In 1931, the first sopho-
more class of the recently resur-
rected Saint Peter’s made the
freshmen wear blue and white
beanies, and submit to
“Freshman Rules.” A clipping
from a 1931 newspaper tells what
the rules were: “Although the
freshmen are not allowed to
smoke in the smoking room, they
must be supplied at all times with
matches to light the cigarette or
pipe of a dignified sophomore. . . .
Freshmen must at all times give
way to the wishes of the lordly
sophs and must answer with a
respectful ‘Yes, sir’ or ‘No, sir’
when spoken to.”

By September 20, 1931, the
College was working out of the
fifth and sixth floors, as well as
the fourth, of the downtown
Chamber of Commerce Building.
Although uncertain where it was
going to build, Saint Peter’s
launched a drive for building
funds at an Alumni Banquet on
May 14, 1931. About 500 gradu-
ates attended the banquet in the
grand ballroom of New York’s
Hotel Astor. Mayor Frank Hague
assumed the role as the head for
the building-fund drive, saying “I
have never lost a fight in my life.”

The College purchased its
present site for $200,000
from Mr. Edward Young on
October 9, 1933. Its Boulevard
frontage was 303 feet; depth was
510 feet down Montgomery
Street, and 125 feet down
Glenwood Avenue. The deal was
$100,000 down, balance to be
paid in two years at three percent
interest.

On January 11, 1934,
Father Dinneen started the “Buy
a Brick” campaign to fund the
College’s first building. The catch
was that the first Saint Peter’s
College building was not going to
be a lecture hall or a library. The
first building was to be a gym —
Collins Gym, named after Rev.
Patrick Marley Collins, S.J., a
teacher and prefect at the College
from 1879 to 1934. He was the
golden link” between the old
College and the new. And why
was the first Saint Peter’s College
building a gym? It would offer
the best space to hold future fundraising affairs. The cornerstone for the gym was placed on November 24, 1934. The building cost $55,000.

A series of card parties were held to get Gannon Hall built. "Before long," according to Father Gannon, "just by putting one card party on top of another, two more buildings were added to the gymnasium and preparation set on foot to take possession during the summer months."

Collins Gym opened with a junior prom on February 5, 1935. The event signaled the two-mile move from Newark Avenue to a permanent home on the Boulevard. Classes started at the present site on September 24, 1936. Four hundred students convened at Gannon Hall and the Arts Building on the Boulevard with 20 Jesuits and 20 lay teachers. The Gannon structure is four stories of colonial brick and limestone on a steel frame. The Arts Building was one floor of temporary classrooms; students called it "Railroad Hall" and "The Bowling Alley" because of its long waxed tunnel-like corridor. Today, Gannon houses science labs and lecture halls. The Arts Building was demolished in the mid-1950s to make room for Dinneen Hall.

The Young estate had a more suburban look before Dinneen Hall and McDermott Hall were built.

Cushing House Was Not Always Alumni’s Home

It was a small space in Gannon Hall, just off the hall to the right past the front entrance. When we had a board meeting, we had to put chairs in the hall."

Fred Jacques was talking about the birth of the modern Alumni Association in the early 1950s. Rev. James J. Shanahan, S.J., President of the College, had asked Jacques, a member of the Class of 1934, to head up the association. "I think Father Shanahan wanted to find me some more room, but I was teaching chemistry at the time and I was very much at home in Gannon Hall."

A bigger space was found for a short time in the early 1960s when the Alumni Association moved to a classroom on the second floor of Dinneen Hall. That was home until 1964 when Jacques moved the operation into what is now the Cushing Alumni House at 45 Glenwood Avenue.

"It was a doctor's house and was on the market for a while," Jacques recalls, "I think the College paid about $40,000 for it. And when Cardinal (Richard) Cushing visited the College in 1963, he gave Father Edward F. Clark, S.J., a check for $25,000 to renovate the property. "That was what we had to fix the place up," Jacques said, "and I think we came in under budget."

"One fact that may not be forgotten or ignored," notes Rev. Denis J. Comey, S.J., who became President of the College in 1937, "The 1937-1943 period of my incumbency was marked and marred by two external factors over which we had no control: widespread economic depression and World War II." During this period, the College was in severe debt. Relief was brought through sources such as donations from different sodalities and gifts. During World War II, College enrollment dwindled to 90, most of them taking an accelerated program in order to earn a degree before going off to war. By October 30, 1942, more than 500 alumni were in the service. Students were regularly taking physicals in front of the stage in Collins Gym.

In 1943, Rev. Vincent J. Hart, S.J., became president of the practically bankrupt Saint Peter's College. What gave Hart hope about keeping the College alive was the net profit the parish was pulling in per week in Bingo. The $2000 per week was to be split three ways, Prep-Parish-College. The game literally kept the College alive.

Women students officially may have been permitted to attend Saint Peter's College in 1966. However, in 1944, 35 women were enrolled to keep the College occupied. After all, most of the college-aged men were off fighting in World War II.

On September 1, 1944, Saint Peter's acquired a building across the Boulevard from the College to use as a Jesuit residence. In 1945, the College had its lowest number of graduates since 1916 — nine. That, however, was about to change with a jolt.

When the war ended in 1945, soldiers came back to be students again. Enrollment tripled. Many students were taking advantage of the G.I. Bill. The increase and enthusiasm of these students was tremendous. A Paau Wow article from October, 1946 stated that these GIs were tired of explaining their college in relation to Fordham. They wanted to put Saint Peter's College on the map. However, there wasn't nearly enough room to fit this sudden increase of bodies.

McDermott Hall and Memorial Hall were erected in 1949 and 1947 respectively. In 1947, the most prestigious organization was the school's debating team. The team qualified for the West Point Debate Tourney, a type of Super Mindbowl of college debating, between 1950 and 1962. The Student Council was established in 1948. Its function, according to the Paau Wow, was, "to run all student activities outside of lecture halls and labs."
Before the end of the 1940s, two interesting additions were brought to the College. Two live peacocks were brought onto the campus. They spent the majority of their day roaming the runway between Gannon Hall and the Arts Building, periodically fanning out their tails to bedazzle the members of the College. More importantly, on December 2, 1949, with 1852 students enrolled, Rev. James Shanahan, S.J., became president.

The student of the 1950s dressed for school in plain-toed black or brown leather shoes and dark socks. A thin tie circled the collar of his white button-down cloth shirt. His jacket was maybe a Harris Tweed, until 1956, when it became a $32.50 Navy blue virgin wool blazer with the school seal knitted on the upper left pocket. On Wednesdays, his dress changed to dead-grass green military. The freshmen still wore their blue and white beanies, and seniors wore sleeveless black knee-length robes.

The 1950s ushered in Saint Peter's College's most influential non-academic figure, basketball coach Don Kennedy. He brought the College's varsity basketball team, which was ranked 356th in the nation, into the elite top 100.

In 1951, the College had 852 students combined in their day and evening sections. Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) was compulsory for freshmen and sophomores. A Public Relations Office was established in January of that year. Saint Peter's College and Saint Peter's Prep were separately incorporated on February 10, 1955. One year later, on February 22, 1956, the College broke ground for Dinneen Hall. Twelve hundred students were enrolled in the school, and all of them had to take 24 credits in philosophy and 12 in theology. Dinneen Hall, which was three times larger than the Arts Building it replaced, opened for classes in 1957. In 1957 and 1958, the College's varsity basketball teams made it to the National Invitational Tournament. Each time, the students gave the team a

The graduates of 1897 are as follows: James Bannon, Thomas Baxter, Joseph Brandt, William Carlin, Hugh Coyle, Joseph Dolan, Joseph Finn, Jr., James Hamill, Edward Kanaragh, Joseph Moran, James Mullin, Michael Mullins, Mark Sullivan.

1897: Twenty five years later

By Alan Delozier, College Archivist

Commencement exercises for the class of 1897 were held at the Academy of Music in Jersey City on June 22nd before a sold-out audience of 2,000 educators, parents, and friends. A total of 13 graduates received the Bachelor of Arts (A.B.), degree at this ceremony. Although small in number, this class made significant contributions to society once they entered the workaday world. A majority either pursued advanced degrees, entered the priesthood, or engaged in business and financial ventures upon graduation.

The administrative hierarchy of Saint Peter's in 1897 was headed by College President Rev. John Harpes, S.J. who served as the chief executive from 1891-1900. Approximately 80% of all faculty and staff members also belonged to the Society of Jesus.

Taken collectively, the overall Saint Peter's experience in 1897 can aptly be described as firmly structured and quite intensive by contemporary standards. Instead of making a choice from one (or more) different major(s) and elective course options, a student in those days was bound to follow the rarely flexible seven-year core curriculum plan.

The Liberal Arts curriculum of Saint Peter's in 1897 was based primarily on the text: Ratio Studiorum (1599), and stressed the long-standing Jesuit model of vigorous study in Classical Language, Modern Linguistics, and the Humanities.

Saint Peter's followed a two-semester per year schedule in 1897. This system of regimentation also extended to maintaining peak attendance and academic performance. A student at Saint Peter's in 1897 could only be excused from school legitimately with written proof of serious illness from a parent or guardian, but otherwise it remained: "...attendance from the very first day, attendance every day, and attendance the whole day" as the accepted rule. In terms of measuring achievement levels, the Saint Peter's student was graded on a scale from zero to one hundred. Those who achieved a final average between 90-100% (per class) received "First Grade" honors, while those compiling an 85-90% won "Second Grade" recognition, and so forth.

Aside from classroom anxieties, the well-rounded Saint Peter's pupil of 1897 could find solace by partaking in an extra-curricular activity. Senior class members with talents of both a loquacious and intellectual nature congregated on alternating Wednesdays as part of the Debate Society. Those with more pious leanings belonged to such religious societies as the Sodality of the Holy Angels or the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception. Both met weekly in the school chapel, but on respective Mondays and Saturdays. Amateur theatrics took center stage in June as some students participated in the drama: "Merchant of Venice". Still others joined the Athletic Association to play baseball, football, or ran track.
motorcade on the Boulevard; each time the team lost its opening
game at Madison Square Garden.

On February 20, 1959, the
College bought a garage near the
corner of Montgomery Street and
West Side Avenue. Today, that
building is known as Rankin Hall,
and it houses art studios as well as
the College radio station, WSPC.

The 1960s breezed through
Saint Peter's College without a lot
of the mayhem that was sweeping
the rest of the country. Our rela-
tively calm students rebelled by
getting rid of their senior robes
and complaining about student
apathy in the school paper.

Highlights of the 1960s
included a visit to the cam-
pus by Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr. and the lay teachers join-
ing the American Association
of University Professors. Also in 1965,
Rev. Victor Yanitelli, S.J., became
President of the College and one of
its most beloved figures.

In 1966, in the most rad-
cal change to hit Saint Peter's in
the decade, women were admit-
ted to the College. This was not
an easy change for the male stu-
dents to make. The men took to
wearing buttons proclaiming,
"THIS IS A MAN'S SCHOOL!"
However, the women of the class
of 1970 were surely equal to their
male counterparts. They all were
in the top one-third of their high
school classes and 26 of them,
according to a Pauw Wau article
from April, 1966, were ranked
either first or second. Maybe it
was the realization that these
women belonged in this school
just as much as the men did, or
they enjoyed the increased
prospects of getting dates, but
the men's protests that began
the academic year of 1966 quieted
down within two weeks.

The varsity basketball team
made it to the NITs at Madison
Square Garden three times in a
row, beginning in 1967. In
October, 1968, Richard Nixon
visited the campus. Students held
the first ever peace demonstration
in November of that year, which
also saw the end of the dress code.
Before the 1960s were out, ROTC
became voluntary for the first
time in the College's history.

Rev. Edmund Ryan, S.J. joins in welcoming the first co-eds to the College in 1966.

** Durant and the Jesuits **

They were tremendous teachers, those Jesuits. And when I
think of it, they've been tremendous teachers through hun-
dreds of years. They are without doubt the greatest teaching orga-
nization this world has ever seen and probably the greatest teach-
ers that I've ever known.

Historian Will Durant '07 spoke these words in 1979 after
Saint Peter's College President Rev. Edward Glynn, S.J., conferred
honorary degrees on him and his wife Ariel. That was 72 years after
he received his Bachelor's degree from Saint Peter's as just one of
three members of his graduating class. Durant graduated second in
his class. He recalled that he "almost" finished first. He also recalled
that he almost didn't graduate.

"I had my wild spirits and wild affairs while I was a sopho-
more, I think about 1905, when somebody came to Jersey City and
made a strong and brilliant attack upon the Socialist Party," Durant
explained. "Well, I wrote a letter to the Jersey City Evening Journal
saying that was unfair, that these Socialists weren't such terrible
fellows. Well, Father Patrick Marley Collins was shocked that one of
his boys should be a Socialist and he brought me in and said, 'I
have serious doubts as to whether Saint Peter's can graduate you.
We don't want to be associated with the Socialist Party in any way.'
But the poor man forgot about it, and there I was in the great big
graduating class of 1907 — three of us."

Will Durant, the historian-philosopher died in November of
1981 after spending the better part of his last 50 years writing his
life work called *The Story of Civilization.* "If I had known the enter-
prise would take 11 volumes and 46 years," he said, "I would have
turned and fled."

The 1970s opened with a
new building and a new depart-
ment — Pope Hall and an Afro-
American Studies Program with
Abukuse Mbirika as its chairper-
son. A Black Collegiate Cultural
Society established itself in 1969.
A "Life Center" was established on
Pavonia and Summit Avenue.
This signaled the College's com-
mittance to concentrated and
steady urban involvement. In
1972, Father Yanitelli helped take
the lead in steering Saint Peter's
College towards urban activism.
"I really feel that socially and
within the context of the educa-
tional mission, this College has
got to become part of this town.
We must become a part of this
change. We must give new direc-
tion to the liberal arts so they
have meaning in the urban con-
text and a technological society," said Father Yanitelli in 1972.

In 1972, Saint Peter's College
celebrated its Centennial
birthday in style. More than
75 political and multicultural
events were organized through-
out the year. Highlights from the
Will Durant earned this diploma in 1907 before he and Ariel (left) received honorary degrees in 1979.

program included two performances by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and a gala benefit concert held at Carnegie Hall. The long list of speakers included William Buckley and a then young WABC newscaster named Geraldo Rivera. President Yannelli said he thought the Centennial Celebrations, “Gave the College a sense of renewal.” Dr. James Pegiotti, the Director of the Centennial Celebrations said that the year, “Transmogrified Saint Peter’s College into Lincoln Center on the Boulevard.”

After the Centennial year celebrations were over, Saint Peter’s College focused on moving ahead into the future. Changing the face of the campus became a priority in 1975. The old grass Quad, which used to connect the original three campus buildings, was transformed into the concrete Quad that we now see every day, complete with trees and park-like benches. The first proposal for the new Quad came in February, 1975 from Professor (now Doctor) Donnelly’s Methods of Social Research class. Their design cost an estimated $225,000. The new Quad was finally finished over the summer of 1976.

The next major addition to the campus was a new house for athletics, because Collins Gym was quickly becoming too small for the growing enrollment at Saint Peter’s. Groundbreaking for the Recreational Life Center was in the Spring of 1973. The build-
ing was proposed to be a place where students could participate in "life sports," as well as enable the College to expand and improve its intercollegiate and intramural athletic programs for men and women. The Rec Center, as it is fondly called today, brought an Olympic sized swimming pool to the Peacocks, as well as three basketball courts and multi-purpose rooms. The most unique feature of this building is the huge air-supported bubble that rests where the roof should be. The "Bubble" covers indoor tennis courts and a running track in addition to providing an interesting change in air pressure. Make sure your ears pop before you enter.

In May, 1975, Saint Peter's College opened its branch campus in Englewood Cliffs. The Cliff's facilities, a two-story modern building with a library, gymnasium and classrooms, were previously a part of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Peace in Englewood. The Sisters worked with the Jesuits in Jersey City, establishing the connection that made the acquisition of this campus possible.

Englewood's first semester was modest. Only 65 students registered, many of them taking advantage of the tuition free courses for spouses of Saint Peter's Alumni. The opening of this school represented the first time in the College's history that the physical presence of the campus was disassociated from Hudson County.

Dr. Katherine Restaino has served as the Academic Dean at the branch campus for 21 years. This school caters to the special needs of adult and working students by offering three semesters, called trimesters, between September and May. One of the largest programs to grow in Englewood is nursing.

In a January 3, 1978, letter Father Yanitelli announced that he was stepping down as the President of the College to become the school's first Chancellor and focus on fundraising. During his tenure, Father Yanitelli presided over the College's greatest growth periods. Enrollment had doubled during his presidency, degree programs were expanded, three new buildings were constructed, and the branch campus opened.

In May, 1978, the Board of Trustees chose Father Edward Glynn, S.J., to become the next president of Saint Peter's College.

During the 1980s, one of the biggest and most notable changes in the College's history took place. In an attempt to get an increased enrollment and broaden the student population, Saint Peter's College finally acquired student residences. In an October 1983 battle with the local residents fought out in the City Council of Jersey City, a 6-3 vote in favor of converting the 146-152 Glenwood Avenue apartment complex was what the College needed to start a residential student population.

Resident students have become part of the backbone at Saint Peter's College. The option to house students increased the cultural diversity at the campus immensely. It also helped the College get a life after 3:00 p.m. Student-run activities often take place in the evening, giving resident students the chance to get involved campus activities and giving commuting students events worth staying on campus for.

Registration was computerized in the 1983. Computers took over the long process of using color coded cards and manual student records.

If student residence halls signify the 1980s for the College, expansion signifies what has been taking place during the 1990s. That expansion and growth has to be attributed to Rev. Daniel A. Degnan, S.J., the twentieth president of Saint Peter's College. During his tenure, the College expanded by leaps and bounds.

Expansion and enrollment made dramatic increases under Father Degnan. Freshman enrollment increased by 50 percent, enrollment in the graduate programs grew by more than 60 percent, and enrollment of resident students doubled by 1995.

One of the reason for the increase in enrollment was due to the increase in residence halls acquired by the College. Whelan Hall, the first designed exclusively as a dormitory, began housing freshmen in the fall of 1993. Saint Peter Hall, previously the Jesuit Residence, now houses underclassmen as well, establishing the area on campus known as the East Campus.

A gift from former Congressman Frank J. Guarini Jr. enabled the College to buy Guarini House on the corner of Montgomery and the Boulevard and establish the Guarini Center of Governmental Affairs.

Under Father Degnan, Lee House became a part of the College and now houses the Admissions Office. McIntyre Lounge in Dinneen Hall, got a makeover in 1992.

Rev. James N. Loughran, S.J., who taught philosophy at the College more than 30 years ago, became the 21st president of Saint Peter's College in 1995. In the 1960s, Father Loughran served as the moderator for the Peacock Pie and was the first women's basketball coach. He now will lead Saint Peter's College into the 21st Century.
Fr. Degnan's 'Master Plan'

On Thursday, May 7, 1992, more than 100 people gathered on the lawn adjacent to Saint Peter Hall to witness an event that was groundbreaking—both literally and historically—for Saint Peter's College. With years of improvisation and renovated housing to use as inspiration, College President Rev. Daniel A. Degnan, S.J., along with Thomas Whelan '68, and Chair of the Board of Trustees Jack Collins '58 planted shovels into the earth where the first custom-built student residence would stand.

Whelan Hall — named in honor of the parents of Mr. Whelan, who, through a generous gift, enabled the College to build the four-story residence brought student housing full circle. Until 1983, when Veterans Memorial Court opened, students who lived "on campus" were actually residents of various buildings in the neighborhood.

"I lived in three different apartment buildings when I was a student here," recalls Bob Leckie '69. "Being here all the time enhanced my college experience. It made me a more responsible person, enhanced my study habits and certainly taught me a lot about getting along with people."

The influence of Saint Peter's College in the neighborhood was enough to rename a section of Jersey City—albeit unofficially. Alongside rooms for rent in the 'Heights', 'Hudson City', and 'West Side' one could look in the local papers and see apartments for rent under the listing of 'Saint Peter's College.' By the time the construction of Whelan Hall was announced, 140 Glenwood Avenue and Durant Hall were added as student residences. But the College still lacked a traditional student hall. That was to change under the leadership of Father Degnan.

Whelan Hall was the centerpiece of what became popularly known as the "Master Plan." Approved by the Board of Trustees in December of 1992, the Facilities Master Plan ushered in a period of expansion that rivaled any era of growth at the College.

Mr. Whelan, a Sociology major, viewed the new student residence as an important social undertaking. "With the new dorm, Saint Peter's can attract people from a greater geographic area, but more important, the suburban kids can learn from the city kids and the city kids can learn from the suburban kids."

The construction of Whelan Hall would be the edifice that displayed the College's growth. Following the opening of Whelan Hall, Saint Peter Hall was renovated into a student residence and Jesuit Court, a picnic area with a field large enough for an impromptu touch football game was developed. Student presence would no longer be confined to one side of the Boulevard.

The commitment to expanding the student resident population was vital to Father Degnan’s vision for the College but it was only one part of the overall plan. The physical renovation and expansion of the entire campus was also a hallmark of the Degnan years. Virtually no corner of the campus was left untouched.

Among the many projects undertaken during Father Degnan's tenure: the repavement and decoration of the Quadrangle, new fencing and signs throughout campus, and centralized Residence Life, Financial Aid, and Health Services offices. Large-scale developments included the acquisitions of Lee House and Guarini House; the renovation and remodeling of McIntyre Lounge, Hudson Room, and College Store; and enrollment growth that resulted in Freshman admissions growth of fifty percent, graduate enrollment growth of sixty percent, and a student resident population that doubled in size.

Whelan Hall formed the foundation of a stronger student community. Though alumni have fond recollections of their days as students living at the College, bonds were strengthened mainly in the classrooms. Today, students from many backgrounds live as well as learn together. More than ever before, a Saint Peter’s education not only develops the whole person through the liberal arts and community service but through the classroom of life: students learning while living together; sharing what is common among them while learning and understanding the differences.
Remembering Father Vic

By Mildred Brennan '83

Victor R. Yanitelli, S. J. arrived at Saint Peter's College in 1963 much like a bolt of lightning. He lighted the skies. The sound of the thunder followed soon after.

The eighteenth President of Saint Peter's College was a unique man. He was equally prolific both as a fund-raiser and as a friend-raiser. The many friends he made for the College helped to reshape the look of the campus.

Father Yanitelli thought of himself as an urban activist, but he is best remembered as a builder. During his 13 years as president, the growth of the College included the building of Pope Hall, the O'Toole Library, the Yanitelli Recreation-Life Center and the McIntyre Lounge addition to Dinneen Hall; the purchase of Henneberry Hall at 104 Glenwood Avenue; the addition of the Englewood Cliffs campus; and the transition of a previously all-male college to a co-ed institution with the addition of 121 women in 1966.

A mention of these accomplishments would cause the man to blush. His focus usually was on others. He was a charmer.

The first time I met Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J., a party was in progress. It was a festive occasion. There was a lot of laughter and a lot of happiness. Father Vic, in his clerical garb, was working the room. He waltzed around the room shaking hands, embracing and hugging people as if they were long, lost family members and not just faces in a crowd.

I remember turning to a friend and asking: "Who is he?" I soon learned he was the President of Saint Peter's College. I also felt a pang of emotional hunger. I did not know this charismatic man and probably would be deprived of his warmth. Yet, when he passed by me, Father Vic displayed the widest grin and

Helen Hayes was the star of the show in 1975 when Father Vic presented her with an honorary degree.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., received an honorary degree in 1965.
said “Hi Ya.” I was tremendously impressed with his sophisticated earthiness.

When I arrived at Saint Peters College in 1972, the second day I was working here, I was taken on a round of the various offices to be introduced. When I arrived at the president’s office, Father Vic popped out of his door and was dashing off to an appointment; his energy was forever in motion. But he stopped to say hello to me, he clasped my hand and gave me one of his trademark smiles. He generated a feeling of well being.

Father Vic came to Saint Peter’s in 1963 as Director of Student Personnel Services. He succeeded Leo McLaughlin, S.J. as president in 1965 and held onto that job until 1978 when he became Chancellor. He loved his work. He loved the people he worked with. And he loved Jersey City. He could have been mayor.

In 1971, a number of Jersey City political figures, including the mayor, were indicted for wrongdoing and a reform group called the Community Action Council (CAC) began looking for a candidate for mayor. All eyes shifted to Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J. Father Vic gave the idea serious consideration but the Jesuit Superior General in Rome didn’t.

Jersey City’s loss was Saint Peter’s good fortune. “I think Father Yanitelli was about the warmest person I’ve ever met, recalls former College President Rev. Daniel A. Degnan, S. J. “I think everyone also experienced that. He was also a great president of Saint Peter’s. He was devoted to educating city students as well as suburban students.”

I think Father Vic looked at Yanitelli also was responsible in 1965 for forming the College’s Board of Regents and he served on the Board until his death on January 2, 1993. During his presidency, the College also held its first Business Symposium on November 21, 1971, and established a masters’ degree in Education, and the associate’s degree program in 1972. And the College entered the electronic age during his administration when data processing facilities became available for administration with the arrival of the IBM 1401 computer.

Father Vic never forgot a face. That wasn’t always the case with names. I remember an ecumenical gathering after he left Saint Peter’s to do parish work in New York City. A face in the crowd challenged him: “If you can remember my name I will give you a million dollars.” While I was wondering if he would share the money with the College. Father Vic looked at the lady sheepishly and confessed: “Looks like I just saved you a lot of money.”

When Father Vic died the skies dimmed, and the rain of tears fell from many.

"Only love can teach us what things are really important, love expressed in our love for others.”

-Victor R. Yanitelli, S.J.
125 YEARS AS THE JESUIT

1870's

College is founded on April 3, 1872.

Trustees purchase land at Grand Street and Van Vorst Street on July 26, 1872.

Bishop Michael Corrigan lays cornerstone on May, 1878.

Classes begin with 71 students on September 2, 1878 with Rev. George Kenny, S.J. as college dean. Tuition is $50.

First Mass of the Holy Spirit held on September 4, 1879.

1880's

Rev. John McQuaid, S.J. is appointed president in 1880.

The Alumni Association is formed with Robert F. McCoobery as first president, April 17, 1887.

Rev. Peter Cassidy, S.J. is appointed president in 1888.

First class graduates on June 22, 1889. Albert B. Bising, Thomas J. Fox, Patrick F. Kirwin and John J. Niven receive degrees.

1890's

Fox and Niven receive masters' degrees in 1890.

In 1896, the Board of Regents of the State of New Jersey approved Saint Peter's College, thereby certifying the training background of law and medical graduates.

Cornerstone for a new school building on Grand Street was laid on June 12, 1899.

1900's

Manresa Hall, a private grammar school, with Fr. Edward Brock, S.J. as Headmaster opens on September 11, 1905.


Will Durant, the famous historian and author graduates from Saint Peter's College in 1907.

1910 - 1920's


Saint Peter's College closes on June 19, 1918.

Bishop Walsh obtains permission from the General of the Jesuits to reopen Saint Peter's College, August 4, 1929.

1930's

College classes reopen on Fourth Floor of Chamber of Commerce Building, September 22, 1930. Robert I. Gannon, S.J., Dean, 6 faculty, 85 students.

Hudson College founded September 1932. It offered courses in Commerce, Finance, Pre-Law, and Education. 41 students enroll, some of them women. Faculty of 7 with Fr. Gannon Dean of the Evening Division.

Saint Peter's College purchases the Young estate located between Glenwood Avenue and Montgomery Street, October 1933.
COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

1940's
Opening of the Comey Residence for Jesuits at 2652 Hudson (now Kennedy) Boulevard, with 13 Jesuits in residence. September 4, 1944.

Hudson College graduates its first post-war senior class. Six graduates, June 8, 1947.

The name Hudson College is changed to Saint Peter's College, School of Business Administration in 1948.

1950's
First classes held in McDermott Hall, February 17, 1950.


Chemical Corps Unit to start in September.


Dinneen Hall is built in 1956.

1960's
Saint Peter Hall is built, 1960.

Women admitted to the Day Session in 1966.

51 Glenwood purchased, June, 1967.

O'Toole library built and an addition to Dinneen Hall. Work begins on Pope Hall, 1967.

Saint Peter's goes coed.

1970's
First Business Symposium held November 21, 1971.

Saint Peter's College celebrates its centennial year, 1972.

Establishment of the Cliffs Campus, 1975.

Yanitelli Recreation Center opens, 1975.

Will and Ariel Durant receive honorary degrees May 22, 1979.

1980's
Reintroduction of Graduate Programs, 1980.

Alpha Sigma Nu, national honor society of Jesuit Colleges and University is reactivated in 1982.

Acquisition of apartments on Glenwood Avenue as student residences, 1984.

Durant Chair is established in 1985.

1990's
Opening of Whelan Hall and expansion of the "East Campus" with Jesuit Court in 1993.

Saint Peter Hall, former Jesuit Residence, acquired for student housing, 1994.

125th Anniversary Celebration, 1997.
Over the past 125-years, there have been many names, events, and slogans that, for a moment, best represented Saint Peter’s College. Some of them endure today and help shape images of the College’s history: Draneen, Gannon, and Yanitelli. Run, Baby Run, Buy A Brick, and the Million Dollar Faculty share this distinction. The last entry, however, is the subject of the most passionate debate.

The Million Dollar Faculty is the term conceived by Rev. Robert J. Gannon, S.J., Dean of the College from 1930-36, to describe his original staff of six Jesuits. Though Father Gannon used this title to communicate the College’s commitment to the best education by the best educators, the members of this distinguished group have been altered by fond recollections to include personal favorites. Strong-willed views of who comprised the Million Dollar Faculty continue to offer opportunities for lively discussions.

Father Gannon was clear from the beginning that moving to Hudson Boulevard was vitally important to the progress of the College. But, he believed, it was the Jesuits who stood in front of the classrooms that ultimately would secure the College’s existence. Reflecting on the reopening of the College, Father Gannon said: “The location (moving to Hudson Boulevard) was a valuable asset, but it was on the basis of the second tangible that the blueprint of a new College was drawn up. This asset consisted of a staff of six Jesuits which came to be known in the local press, after a suggestion from the Dean’s Office, as Saint Peter’s ‘Million Dollar Faculty’.”

The nation was mired in the grasp of The Great Depression on August 16, 1930, and certainly was not prospering, but 85 students registered for courses at the College that day. The first freshman class in 12 years convened on September 22, with six faculty members to greet them and a
Mass to celebrate the occasion. The six Jesuits who greeted the group of young men were Father Gannon, Rev. Mr. William J. Gleason, S.J., Professor of Latin, English, and Spanish; Rev. Atlee F.X. Devereux, S.J., Professor of Philosophy and Theology; Rev. Arthur J. Hohman, S.J., Professor of Organic Chemistry, Rev. Paul J. Swick, S.J., Professor of Latin, Greek, and French; and Rev. Mr. John P. Smith, S.J., Professor of Mathematics.

Frank Walters arrived at Saint Peter's College in September of 1933 and was a member of the first class to graduate from the “new” campus on the Boulevard. “We were very aware of the history of the College and the fact that we were taking part in its rebirth,” Walters remembers. “The sense of community and spirit moved with us uptown and we knew we were part of a special time. We were favored with a tremendous faculty that prepared us for a very tough world. Facing a terrible depression in the country and a lack of opportunities, a Saint Peter’s College education was top-notch. At times I would apply for a job and receive polite explanations why things were tough and being hired would be difficult. But, I remember the interviewers saying ‘I see you’re from Saint Peter’s College.’ That meant something. It (the College) had a lot of respect and carried a lot of weight.”

Walters explains that the College’s modest beginning was the reason for a “Million Dollar Faculty.” “It needed to boost enrollment and spur interest,” he said. “The Million Dollar Faculty came about when a search was conducted throughout the entire Maryland province of the Society of Jesus to bring top people to Saint Peter’s in order to establish a reputation for offering the finest Jesuit educators.”

Some of the Jesuits who are now commonly included in the Million Dollar Faculty arrived soon after the reopening and others came to Saint Peter’s College two years after the College emerged from its hiatus. Rev. George F. Johnson, S.J., Professor of Greek and Latin arrived in 1931. Rev. Thomas B. Chetwood, S.J., Professor of Psychology, and Rev. Richard Rush Rankin, S.J., Professor of Senior Ethics (and a member of the Class of 1899) entered the College in 1933.

“Those really were outstanding teachers,” recalls Fred Jacques whose own version of the Million Dollar Faculty is Gannon, Hohman, Johnson, Chetwood and Rankin. “I have to admit to personal prejudice with Father Hohman because he was a chemistry teacher,” confesses Jacques who also taught chemistry at the College.

Father Gannon called Hohman “a first-class chemist, who was a splendid teacher with very high scholastic ideals.”

Regardless of their date of arrival, these three men were important figures in building the solid academic foundation that was central to the vision of Father Gannon and College President Rev. Joseph Dinneen, S.J. Today, the work and influence of Fathers Chetwood, Johnson, and Rankin are evident by the buildings, rooms, and honors that are named after them and the fondness for them indicates the mark they left on their students.

“Father Johnson was a tough man,” according to Walters. “I was among a group of men who did not learn Greek in high school. To Father Johnson, we were ‘adulterated art students’ because we had not studied Greek to complement Latin. We were a step down from the top flight boys.”

Walters remembers Father Gannon as “a dynamic, nationally respected teacher and orator who embodied discipline.” He said that Father Rankin “was a dominant force at the College. A little man but dynamic.”

In retrospect, The Million Dollar Faculty was more than the Jesuit Fathers who headed the classrooms. It was a state of mind. A commitment to the tenants of Jesuit education and the vision of a college that offered youth a chance to help themselves and others.
The College on the Hill

Fr. Gannon, Fr. Dinneen pioneered the move

By Fred Cranwell

"It was amazing what Father Gannon could create."

— Fred Jacques

In 1930, Robert Ignatius Gannon, S.J. created a college. Actually, he recreated Saint Peter's College on the top two floors of the old Chamber of Commerce Building at One Newark Avenue. But his vision was up the hill to the Boulevard, a vision that was responsible for the continued survival of The Jesuit College of New Jersey.

"Father Gannon was a great promoter," recalls Jacques, a member of the College's first class when Saint Peter's reopened in 1930. "He was the best P.R. man Saint Peter's ever had. "He created all the signs and images of the College. The use of the Peacock as the College symbol was his idea."

So was the need to expand on the Boulevard.

Under the guidance of Father Gannon, who was the Dean, and Rev. Joseph P. O'Reilly, S.J., who was the president, the restless silence that was Saint Peter's College ended in 1930. And the advance of the young College was uncannily rapid. Saint Peter's re-opened its doors at the nadir of one of the world's worst depressions. There were three lecture rooms and a laboratory on one floor of the very unacademic Chamber building with just 85 students — all freshmen — and six professors. By June of 1936 there were almost four hundred students and forty instructors.

The College had purchased property on the Boulevard and Belmont Avenue with a plan to build a high-rise building that would be an academic landmark. Eventually — in 1933 — the Young estate on Montgomery Street and the Boulevard was obtained for $200,000 and construction of Collins Gymnasium began in 1934 at a cost of $55,000.

"I was a student at the time so I really didn't know what the Jesuits were up to," recalls Jacques who remained at the College as a chemistry professor, Director of Alumni Relations, and as Assistant to the President.
"We had phy-s ed classes on the roof of the Chamber building when it wasn’t raining or too cold, so when plans were announced to build a gym, it was wonderful. We were going to go inside where it was warm."

The "roof-age" had ended but Father Gannon and Rev. Joseph S. Dinneen, S.J., who became president in 1931, had other ideas for Collins Gym. It was a boon to the students and came into immediate use for sports and social affairs. But it also was the site of many fund-raisers as Father Gannon began a drive to build a classroom building.

"It was amazing what these Jesuits could create," said Jacques. "Gannon always managed to get people together and Father Dinneen convinced them to give money to the College. They ran dinners and card parties and anything else that could raise money."

Father Dinneen started the fund-raising for what would be Gannon Hall with the Grand Peacock Radio Card Party in Easter Week of 1934. The night of the broadcast, on radio station WNEW, simultaneous fund-raising card parties were held in 65 towns throughout the New York and New Jersey area. As returns from the parties came in, they were reported on the radio.

Jersey City Mayor Frank Hague was a supporter of Saint Peter’s in those early days but “Father Gannon never really let him get too much of a hold on the College," according to Jacques. "Hague asked Father Gannon what were his needs and said he would answer all of them," recalls Jacques. "But Father Gannon was a Republican," Jacques laughs. "So that answers that question."

In February of 1936, Saint Peter’s received recognition from the Middle States Association and was able to borrow the money to begin construction of Gannon Hall.

But Saint Peter’s College was more than just buildings. "Father Gannon created tradition and ideals," Jacques says. Fresh from graduate studies at Cambridge University in England,
Father Gannon brought with him the tradition of academic gowns for seniors and faculty members. He inaugurated the annual Michaelmas Convocation and the Mass of the Holy Spirit. He founded the Argus Eyes dramatic society, the Peacock Pie, the Most Noble Order of the Peacock honor society and the Pauw Wow. In addition to all this, Father Gannon was a member of the College’s famed “Million Dollar Faculty.”

I am not sure if I would have gone to college, if it hadn’t been for Father Gannon,” recalls Jacques. “I had graduated from the Prep in 1929 and I was managing a miniature golf course in Brooklyn. The summer ended and I was out of work. A few of my friends were going to the new college that just opened and suggested I do the same. But it was October and classes already had started. So I went to see Father Gannon and he told me he would give me a ‘sporting chance’ to make it. He said if I managed good grades for the first quarter, he would admit me.” Both men made good on their promise.

“Gannon was amazing that he could attract enough students to build a college in those tough times. As you went through the four years, you began to see his ability,” recalls Jacques.

But Father Gannon was a disciplinarian as well. “I remember when we graduated,” Jacques said. “Ralph Reo, who was the editor of the Pauw Wow, showed up for the ceremonies wearing white shoes. Father Gannon didn’t think it was at all dignified and told Ralph that he wouldn’t graduate unless he changed his shoes. Ralph lived in Bayonne, but he went all the way home for different shoes. Father Gannon’s word meant that much.”

Jacques says that Saint Peter’s became a place where 80 to 90 percent of the Prep graduates went to college. “The rest came from places like Brooklyn Prep and Fordham Prep. It was a place where you continued your Jesuit education.”

The last school year at the Chamber of Commerce Building was 1935-36. The freshman class that year was recruited from 32 cities, towns and villages and many of them spent extra travel time going up the Boulevard to inspect the buildings on the new campus. Some classes were being held downtown even after Gannon opened its doors to students in 1936. But “some of the Jesuits didn’t like that walk up the hill,” says Jacques.

College President Denis J. Comey, S.J. completed the move to the Hill in 1943 when he purchased a large Victorian house on the Boulevard, across from the College, as a residence for the Jesuits. “It was a very comfortable place,” recalls Rev. Aidan McMullen, S.J., who arrived at Saint Peter’s in the early 1950s.

Father Gannon, who left Saint Peter’s to become President of Fordham University in 1936, was a frequent visitor in those days.

He liked the place.
The 'Shanahan Hilton'

When James J. Shanahan, S.J. came back to Saint Peter's College in 1949 as president, most of the more than three score of Jesuits in the community were living in an old Victorian mansion on the boulevard. Others were quartered in a wooden frame house on Montgomery Street that was known affectionately as Lower Slobovia. "They were crowded but comfortable," recalls Fred Jacques, "but there was always a fear of fire."

Father Shanahan had just planned the construction of Dinneen Hall in 1955 when fire destroyed the Jesuit residence at the Shadow Brook Novitiate and Juniorate in Lennox, Mass. It was a devastating blaze. "A couple of Jesuits were killed in that fire," remembers Rev. John F. Wynn, S.J., Rector of the current Jesuit community.

That fire was seed that became Saint Peter Hall.

Father Shanahan's primary concern at Saint Peter's College was the students. He agreed wholeheartedly with Rev. Robert J. Gannon, S.J., who argues that "our first interest is the advancement of learning among the undergraduates. The college man is our chief concern." But it was good times for the Jesuit College of New Jersey and a new residence hall for the Jesuit community seemed in order.

"The College was booming," Jacques recalls. "The student population was good, the war on Korea had ended and people were going to college."

Saint Peter's College was in a building mode.

Father Shanahan was a visionary. He inaugurated an ROTC program in 1951; he started Counseling Services in 1950; a Placement Office in 1953; and a modern Alumni Association in 1955. He was determined that the building of Saint Peter Hall would be equally important.

"Father Shanahan spent countless hours planning the design for the Jesuit resident," Jacques recalls. "You could say he was the second architect of the building." His efforts were not in vain. The new building was so impressive on completion that it was immediately dubbed the "Shanahan Hilton."

However, he had plenty of support from the College community.

Saint Peter Hall was built at a cost of $940,000. More than $35,000 came from 110 members of the College family. "It was a tribute to the affection and the admiration the people who worked for him had for Father Shanahan," Jacques says.

The cost could have been higher. Father Shanahan gave much thought to central air-conditioning for Saint Peter Hall. But the idea was not embraced by his Jesuit superiors. They agreed with Father Gannon who said "We should feel it a mockery of our vocation to sacrifice the advancement of the boys to our own development or comfort."

Father Shanahan first arrived at Saint Peter's College in 1933 as a scholastic and taught Theology. His tenure as president was from 1949 to 1960 after which he became Provincial of the Buffalo Province. He since has become a permanent part of the College. The Shanahan Society, a planned-giving group that has more than doubled the College's endowment, was formed in 1984, and a building at 39 Glenwood Avenue was dedicated as Shanahan House in 1988.

Saint Peter Hall survives today as a student resident hall and has been one of the cornerstones of the College's plan to expand its student residence population. It houses the Jesuit Center and the College chapel.

The 15th President of Saint Peter's College passed away last year on February 12 at the age of 88. His vision lives on.

Father Shanahan personally took charge of the building of Saint Peter Hall which is now a student residence.
Okay, it has been 29 years. I can finally 'fess up to Mr. Casey, sophomore English teacher at St. Peter's Prep. My dog really didn't eat my copy of "Huckleberry Finn." I didn't even have a dog. Instead of preparing for that English test, I was at the St. Peter's College-Duke NIT game on March 18, 1968, the most memorable event in the history of what became my alma mater.

No, I didn't cram up on Huck and Tom and Jim and Aunt Polly. Like the rest of the basketball galaxy, including a then-record Madison Square Garden crowd of 19,500 (19,499 had I stayed home and studied), I was cheering my brains out for Elnardo and Harry and Pete and Tom and Bobby. I was up in the blue seats, nosebleed country, with guys who no doubt today are Vinnie from Brooklyn and Joe from Bayonne, calling WFAN to suggest the Nets trade Yinka Dare and Khalid Reeves for Hakeem Olajuwon.

And, nearly 30 years ago, that trade didn't seem as preposterous as considering a St. Peter's victory over Duke. No one expected this team of midgets from Jersey City, champs of the Metropolitan Conference, a team loaded with guys like Sam DePiano and Walter Wilk and Mark Drew, all wearing horn-rimmed glasses and looking more like chess club nerds than basketball players, to even stay on the court with all-powerful Duke. Ranked No. 10 in the country, the Blue Devils of Duke were already preparing their acceptance speeches for the tournament trophy. No one really gave the Peacocks a chance. No one except a legendary coach and 12 guys who got most of their previous publicity because a lady doc sat on the bench with them.

Sure, they had beaten Marshall and All-American candidate George Stone. But that took a superhuman effort by Elnardo Webster, who set Garden records in a brilliant 51-point torch job. In double-overtime no less. Now the Peacocks were facing Duke of the mighty ACC. After being upset in an ACC tourney slowdown game thrown at them by North Carolina State, the Blue Devils were the class of the NIT field, as Oklahoma City learned in a first-round rout. Now in the quarterfinals, the little Peacocks who could — and eventually did — stood in the way of the team captained by 6-7 All-American Mike Lewis. No way Duke and coach Vic Bubas would lose another slowdown. But all of Jersey City, friends and foes, Democrats and Republicans (all six of them) joined together in a vigil of hope in the anxious days before the game.

"That whole week leading up to the game was just amazing to me," Tom MacMahon recalled. "I can't believe that there ever was a city anywhere in the world that was as excited about a team as Jersey City was toward us. It was incredible the support we received. And then the Garden, the screaming and hollering and yelling..."

"It made every hair on my body stand on edge during the layup line," was Bob Leckie's recollection.

No lie. The Garden was as pumped as it has ever been, Knick playoff games with Spike Lee in front or Hulk Hogan versus The Undertaker in a Loser Leaves Town For The Weekend match notwithstanding.

When the 40-minute sprint finally subsided, Duke's supposed thoroughbreds looked like tired nags as the Peacocks reveled and celebrated in their preposterously easy 100-71 victory.
"Of the game," MacMahon recounted, "what stands out most were how many charges Bobby Leckie drew and how completely unprepared Duke was to play a team with our speed. It was unbelievable how quickly we understood that we could not play with them, but play and beat them. Once we got ahead, we never looked back. They just never recognized how quick and how fast we were."

Unprepared? The Colts and Orioles were better prepared for the Jets and Mets the following year.

And it didn't take long for the 10 1/2-point underdogs (and some felt that was a kind line) of coach Don Kennedy to get on top of Duke, who enjoyed at least a two-inch advantage, usually much more (Leckie was 5'9, don't forget) at every position. The Peacocks with their beloved 'Run, Baby, Run' motto, ran, baby, ran behind the late Pete O'Dea's rebonding, the marvelously swift Harry Laurie's ball-handling and the crowd-pumping Webster's finishes to leads of 15-3, 38-20 and halftime's 50-29. When the 40-minute sprint finally subsided, Duke's supposed thoroughbreds looked like tired nags as the Peacocks reveled and celebrated their preposterously easy 100-71 victory.

"I wanted to get it over with as fast as I could," said Bubas, who watched in horror as Lewis was rendered utterly ineffective through foul trouble, drawing three in the first 2 1/2 minutes, earning his fourth after Duke had no option but to reinsert him to try to stem the surging Peacock blue tide late in the first half and earning his fifth and final before the second half was three minutes old.

"The thing just snowballed and we couldn't stop it," Bubas said. "We never thought they could run like that."

But everything went as planned for the Peacocks who had three pre-game aims: run, get Lewis in foul trouble and then run some more.

"We knew we had to get Lewis early," O'Dea, a 26-point, 11-rebound contributor said afterwards. "We had to get him out of the game."

Enter Leckie, flopping. Leckie, described as St. Peter's 'kamikaze ballhawk' in one report at the time, stood his ground against the 6-7 Lewis and took an early charge that nearly placed him...
in the gift-wrap section of Macy's.

"It felt good when I got up," Leckie claimed.

Duke never felt so good. It's hard to have a good time when you're getting your butt kicked and your lungs vaporized.

"Playing Duke was like playing 5-on-2 basketball," Webster claimed. "Every time I went past one of their big guys, he was huffing and puffing."

Foul trouble was a bane for Webster, too. He picked up four in the first half, but unlike Lewis he hung around until the end. Actually, he did more than hang around. He walloped Duke for 29 points, personally outscoring the Blue Devils' massive front line by four points. But he had to be a little cautious around the boards, to avoid joining Lewis on the sidelines to discuss medieval agrarian history.

"For the rest of the game, I played defense like an innocent bystander," Webster claimed. "I said to Harry (Laurie), "You've got to get them off the boards from now on."

Done. Laurie, in addition to scoring 16 points and handing off six assists, used that imposing 6-1, 180-pound body to haul away 11 rebounds. He was everywhere, but usually sprinting past Duke defenders.

"No one hogs the ball," Laurie said, explaining St. Peter's success. "We don't have the height but we look for the good shot and we don't take it until we get it."

And that night against Duke, St. Peter's did everything necessary to get it.

"One time, I looked behind me and saw a belt buckle," O'Dea told reporters. "I figured it was one of those big guys from Duke. But it was just Harry."

And from the bench, Ken Grant and DePiano and Tom Schwestermade important contributions. Finally, all that remained was a celebration that turned Journal Square into a scene reminiscent of VJ Day in Times Square.

Thousands crowded into every nook and cranny of the Noo Joizee version, awaiting their heroes to arrive on the PATH. The players arrived a little late ("We all went out to celebrate. We got a dollar or two meal money to eat. The school really didn't have very much," MacMahon said).

But what the school had was the undying love and appreciation of their fans whose emotional, gut-wrenching cheering and stomping whipped the Peacocks into a game-time frenzy, shattering Duke ear drums the way Peacock speed shattered Duke pride. And it wasn't so much that the Peacocks won — they were a darn good team — but it was the WAY that they won. Utterly, Convincingly.

So when the players finally arrived, they were hoisted on shoulders and carried through Journal Square in a chillingly wondrous and spontaneously electric display of affection. The Peacocks had done the impossible. They had beaten Duke. The only harder task would be for fans to come up with tickets for the semifinal game against Kansas.

But that was another night. A night I should have stayed home and studied.
The College Seal

By Alan Delozier, College Archivist

The seal of Saint Peter's College has maintained consistent themes over the past 125 years. Offered here is a look at the five crests that have been used in the College's history.

The earliest of these images (1) first adorned the cover of the 1888-89 Student Handbook. It is a basic pattern that closely mirrors the Society of Jesus insignia. The Jesuit motto: “Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam” (“For God's Greater Glory”) is imprinted around the upper circumference of the inner circle. Below the centered Latin cross is placed the legend: “I-H-S” or “Jesus Hominum Salvator” (Jesus, the Savior of Man). The crucifixion of Christ is collectively represented by a crown of thorns and guiding light ring encircling three nails.

The second seal appeared around the closing years of the nineteenth-century. The Latinized spelling of the school name: “Collegium Sancti Petri Caesariense” (Saint Peter's College of [New Jersey] debuts as does the name “Petri” (Peter - "Prince of Apostles"), derived from the Aramaic term: “Cephas” ("rock"). In terms of locale, English settlers founded the colony of New Jersey in 1664, and the Latin equivalent of “Caesariense” (or Jersey, Isle of - England), became: “New Caesarea”.

The border of the second seal features interlocking shamrocks. Perhaps this was used to honor the strong Irish presence on campus or continued adherence to the Holy Trinity. Inside the circle is a wreath of laurel on the right, and oak on the left symbolizing classical accomplishment and civic merit respectively. Standard tools associated with school work - a quill pen and parchment are featured. Upon the top is a five pointed star designed to serve as the: “true light of learning.” This design retained popularity until around 1911.

The next edition (3) unveiled by Saint Peter's was the most intricately detailed seal ever produced by the College. This shield partially replicates the House of Loyola insignia also employed by several other Jesuit-affiliated institutions across the United States. Within the upper left quadrant is a pair of gray wolves keeping vigil over an open fire. This depiction is used to show the virtues of charity as alluded to in the proverbial saying: "...keep the wolf from the door of the poor..." The slanted bands of scarlet and gold situated on the lower third quarter represents Ignatius of Loyola and the Society of Jesus.

A pair of crossed keys ("Keys to the Kingdom") are introduced for the first time as a symbolic tribute to Saint Peter. The “S.P.C.” ("C.S.P." in Latin) denoting the College initials were printed in maroon (the school color at that time), and placed upon a white field. A show of patriotism came in the form of a spread American eagle on the crest, and a miniature star-spangled banner. This served as the last emblem used by Saint Peter's before the closure of operations in 1918.

With the re-birth of Saint Peter's in 1930, a new seal (4) created by the Dean of Students, Rev. Robert I. Gannon, S.J. reflected this spirit of renewed life. Father Gannon is also credited with suggesting the Peacock, a mascot that has endured in familiarity and popularity to the present day. The bird serves as a symbol that reflects: "resurrection and eternal life". It also has ties to the evolution of Jersey City where the Saint Peter's campus is located. Originally settled by Dutch explorers during the seventeenth century, the area was christened: "Pavonia" ("Pauwonia" in Dutch), or the "Land of the Peacock".

Listed are three of the most important dates within the annals of school history: “1878”, “1918”, “1930”, and they represent the first year classes were offered, the closing, and re-opening respectively. The enduring motto of teaching moral and religious values: “In Perpetuum” made its first appearance within this logo as well. This particular design was used until approximately 1947.

The present coat of arms (pictured above) is in many respects similar to its immediate predecessor as the "I-H-S" emblem, College name in Latin text, and presence of the peacock remain in-tact. A new feature displayed is "1872", the official charter date of the school under New Jersey law.
### Honorary Degrees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Honorees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Rev. Thomas H. McLaughlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Ferdinand A. Orhen '19</td>
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<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>James E. Reynolds '19</td>
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<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Rev. Thomas B. Chetwood, S.J., James F. Norton</td>
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<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Sr. Marie Jose Byrne</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>John F. X. McGhee</td>
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<td>1951</td>
<td>Thomas E. Murray</td>
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<td>1952</td>
<td>Arthur T. Vanderbilt</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Dr. Vincent P. Butler '14, Hon. Edward J. Hart '13, Hon. Frederick J. Gassert '17, Most Rev. Martin W. Stanton '19</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Most Rev. Austin J. McCarthy</td>
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<td>1958</td>
<td>Thomas F. Meany '88, Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis, Michael J. Delehanty</td>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>Marston Morse, Most Rev. James A. McNulty, Dr. James E. McCormack '35, Rev. Francis J. Shalloo, S.J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Marcus Daly, Rt. Rev. Msgr. James A. Hughes, Margaret E. Sewell</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Most Rev. John Joseph Dougherty, Dr. John Coleman Bennett</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>His Eminence Stephen Cardinal Wyszynski, Dean William Hughes Mulligan, Dr. Lena Frances Edwards, Senora Licia Albanese, His Eminence Julius Cardinal Doepfner</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>Earle W. Clifford, Fortune R. Pope, Paul N. Ylvisaker, John T. Connor</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>William F. Buckley Jr., Milton F. Lewis</td>
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<td>Vincent T. Lombardi, Thomas J. Stanton, Jr., Austin J. Tobin</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>Mrs. Catherine Richichi Pope, Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., Roy Wilkins</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>David B. Chase, Jack Twayman, Dr. Choh Hao Li, Cyril Ritchard</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>Rev. Dr. Leon H. Sullivan, Alan Alda</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Dr. Ruth M. Adams, Miss Helen Hayes, Nicholas Marcalus, Phelps Phelps</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Rene Dubos, Helen Francesca Frantziol, Boehm, Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety, Donald S. MacNaughton, Dr. Thomas J. White, Dr. William Garfield, Wilkerson, Hon. Dominick V. Daniels</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Most Rev. Joseph A. Francis, Dr. Norman C. Francis, Joseph W. Leimert, Hon. Patricia Q. Sheaheen, Pope Shenouda, David A. Werblin</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Jacquies D'Amboise, Matthew F. McNulty, Jr., Sr. M. Ambrosina, Dr. Cleirdt Brooks, Melvin Blaus, Jim Bishop</td>
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<td>Robert Colles, Ariel Durant, William J. Durant '07, Miriam Colon Edgar, T. Edward Gavin '45</td>
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<td>Dr. Seaver Ochoa-Del Albornoz, Rolland Smith, John Thompson</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Stanley Fozzynski, Hon. Marie Garibaldi, William Earl Short</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Commodore Grace Murray Hopper, Fred J. Jacques '34, Yotaro Kobayashi, Charles McCarthy, L. Dickle McLean, Paul Volker</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>Malcolm Forbes, Hon. Thomas E. Kean, Frank E. Rodgers '86</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Sam C. Diero, William R. Howell, David T. Kearns, Lena Genser, Dennis James '38, Sr. Alice McCoy</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Charles Osgood</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Mary Higgins Clark, Robert C. Winters</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Hon. Frank J. Guarini</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Rev. Daniel A. Degnan, S.J., Dr. William A. Gutsch '67, Sr. Maeva B. McDermott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Hon. Robert Mendez '76, Adrian M. Foley, Jr., Esq., Sr. Patricia Lynch, Robert L. Marcalus</td>
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</table>
We enjoyed our historic moments

College President Joseph S. Dinneen, S.J. presented a proclamation to Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1936 when the President of the United States visited Jersey City to help Mayor Frank Hague (right) put the cornerstone into a new edition of the Medical Center.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy received honorary degree in 1967.

Presidential candidate Richard M. Nixon made the College a stop on his 1968 campaign trail.

A Jesuit Tradition of Service

By Edward J. Heavey, S.J.

Anniversaries provide us with the great opportunity to look back on the past and look forward to the future. As we celebrate the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the College we relish the chance to exercise that privilege.

The pages of this magazine highlight the names of only a few who accomplished great things. They were assisted throughout the years by thousands of men and women who participated in the educational apostolate. Jesuit, clerical and lay, they gave immediacy to the five centuries of Jesuit education in following the vision of Ignatius that saw God in all things. His love as an overwhelming fire calls for a response, a return of love through love for and service to others. We salute all from the past.

Anniversaries invite us to look ahead. The challenges of delivering a quality Catholic, Jesuit, liberal arts education to students from a variety of backgrounds remains the vision of the College as we approach another century. We must build on, even enhance, the accomplishments of the men and women of the past. The goals of the capital campaign, the increase in the number and quality of the student body, the demands of an ever-developing technology, all must take place within the framework of a college that glories in the tradition that transforms our students spiritually, intellectually and socially. We speak often of the phrase “people for others” and we translate that into service to others, a quality that must be key to any Jesuit education. The faculty, administration and staff continue to move toward the future as proud followers of their predecessors.

The past has been glorious; the future is bright with great promise. Let us celebrate Saint Peter's.

The words of Saint Ignatius Loyola can be found on Mc Dermott Hall.

Alumni Chaplain Rev. Edward J. Heavey, S.J., is celebrating his fiftieth year as a Jesuit. A graduate of Saint Peter’s Prep Father Heavey came to the College in July 1971 as Assistant Dean of Students.

Rev. Edward J. Heavey, S.J.

The Presidents of Saint Peter’s College

1. Victor Beaudevin, S.J. April 3, 1872
2. John McQuaid, S.J. July 31, 1874
3. Peter Cassidy, S.J. July 1, 1888
5. Joseph Zwinge, S.J. August 26, 1900
6. John W. Fox, S.J. July 24, 1902
7. Edward J. McGrath, S.J. January 21, 1907
8. Joseph A. Mulry, S.J. October 10, 1911
10. Thomas F. Graham, S.J. July 7, 1921
11. Joseph P. O'Reilly, S.J. September 30, 1925
15. James J. Shanahan, S.J. December 3, 1949
17. Leo P. McLaughlin, S.J. June 13, 1965
19. L. Edward Glynn, S.J. July 1, 1978
SAINT PETER'S COLLEGE

James N. Loughran, S.J., President

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS AS THE JESUIT COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

1872 - 1997

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Tradition
of Excellence

For 125 years, Saint Peter's College has been educating students in the Jesuit tradition. Your gift to the 125th Anniversary Annual Fund will continue to provide a value based education to today's students - tomorrow's leaders. Make your gift today.

Future
of Promise

Along with our Anniversary, Saint Peter's College celebrates ambitious plans for the future. Consider planning a trust or estate gift to strengthen the College endowment. Your support ensures the progress and preservation of the Jesuit College of New Jersey.

Please clip this form, complete and mail to: The Development Office, Saint Peter's College, 2641 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, N.J. 07306 or fax to (201) 915-9209.

☐ Enclosed please find my contribution of ______ to the 1996/97 Annual Fund Drive.
☐ I have provided for Saint Peter's College in my estate plans.
☐ Please send me information on ways to contribute to Saint Peter's College.

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
_____________ Phone _______________

\[Signature\]