

Profiles



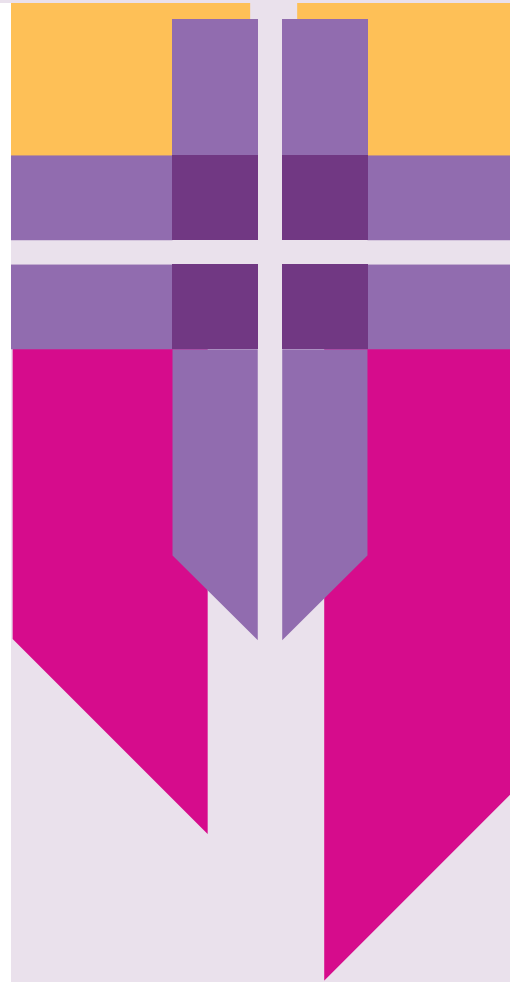
Rob Carlin

Porter Endowment Encourages Students to Learn About the World

BY JOYCE O'CONNOR DAVIDSON

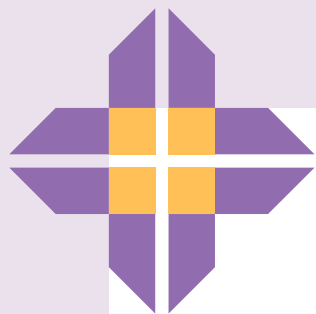
Former Holy Cross Trustee Timothy Porter '68 wants to encourage students to encounter and appreciate other cultures in what he calls “a diverse and increasingly interconnected and interdependent world.” Porter thinks students can become comfortable with other cultures by traveling abroad and by in-depth involvement in and study of other countries. To encourage student travel and study abroad, Porter has made a gift to the College to establish *The Ann and Timothy Porter Endowment in Honor of Ann Joyce, Harry Mahoney, and Gabriel Bennett*, three ancestors who reflect his family’s long association with the Jesuits and his own multicultural roots.

Porter, who is vice president of Labor, Employment, and Environmental Law at AT&T, has traveled extensively. Traveling for business and pleasure, he recalls his first international travel experience in 1972 and how it permanently changed his



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thinking about the world. At the time, Porter was working as an administrator for an African-American theatre company in New York's East Village. The company was invited to participate in the cultural portion of the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany, where it presented two plays over the course of a couple of weeks.

"We left Munich and returned to the States at the conclusion of the cultural portion of the Olympics, shortly before the games began," Porter remembers. "I had only been back in New York for a day or so when the Israeli athletes were taken hostage. Later they were killed by extremists who had transported the Middle East conflict to what was to have been a neutral international venue in the Bavarian capital. Like the rest of the world, I was stunned ...

One could not help thinking about the multiple currents from other parts of the world intersecting in that one place."

This experience contributed to Porter's view that "we must think globally and as citizens of a world that extends beyond our own borders," and that immersion in another country can be an important part of the undergraduate liberal arts experience.

The Porter Endowment was created to encourage students to study abroad by offsetting some of

the cost associated with travel. The fund is named in memory of three of Porter's ancestors, who symbolize his family's long involvement with and service to the Jesuits, and "who lived lives that were affected by the confluence of social and political events during an earlier period of global trade and expansion." These ancestors are also emblematic of "the complexity of issues related to identity and the resilience and adaptability of the human spirit in the face of radically changed circumstance and profoundly new cultural experiences." The three ancestors are: Ann Joyce, Harry Mahoney and Gabriel Bennett.

Ann Joyce, Porter's maternal great-grandmother 11 generations back, was an indentured servant of Irish descent who arrived in Maryland in the 1600s, in the service of the Calvert family. Her family's indenture was later transferred to the Jesuits. Harry Mahoney, a descendant of Ann Joyce, was Porter's great-great-great grandfather. While engaged by the Jesuits at St. Inigoes Manor in southern Maryland, Mahoney is credited with playing a major role in preserving some of the property of the Manor during a raid by British forces in the War of 1812. By this time the family was of both African and Irish descent.

Gabriel Bennett was Porter's maternal grandfather's brother, and Mahoney's great-grandson. He and Porter's grandfather came to Woodstock, Md., shortly before the turn of the 20th century, to work at Woodstock College, the Jesuit theological seminary there. Bennett worked at the college until he was 90 years old. He died in 1974 at the age of 102, two weeks after Porter graduated from New York University Law School. Bennett's more than 50 years of service to Woodstock College marked some 300 years of continuous service by Porter's family to the Jesuits in the New World.

Porter hopes his gift to the College will help undergraduates prepare for life in the world: "Those who are comfortable functioning in a diverse environment, who embrace it and are not afraid of other cultures and other ways of seeing things, have a much greater chance of contributing to and thriving in today's world."

Porter and his wife, Ann, live in New York City. Their children are Timothy and Lauren.



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TIMOTHY PORTER '68
vice president of labor, employment,
and environmental law at AT&T

Celebrating the Rich History of the Wills Family and the Jesuits

The foundation of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus begins the story of Catholicism in the United States. Historical accounts describe how Rev. Andrew White, S.J., celebrated Mass on a small island in the lower Potomac near the Maryland shore, blessing a new colony in March of 1634. Fr. White was accompanied by a few other Jesuits and by English Catholics seeking, among other things, religious freedom. Among those first colonists who joined the Jesuits in southern Maryland were ancestors of the Wills family.

To this day, the life and education of the Wills family in southern Maryland has been interwoven with the history of the Jesuits, especially with St. Ignatius Church at Chapel Point, the oldest Catholic parish in continuous existence in the United States. The cemetery there overlooking the Potomac River is the final resting place for many of the early settlers and their descendants, including recently J. Eugene “Gene” Wills ’53,

P’83, and his father, Benjamin “B.B.” Wills ’22.

Gloria Wills P’83, who married Gene in 1957, recalls “B.B.” hosting alumni dinners at his home in Spring Valley in Washington, D.C., which were attended by former Holy Cross president, Rev. Raymond J. Swords S.J., ’38, Rev. John E. Brooks, S.J., ’49, president emeritus; and Joe Perrotta ’28 (secretary to the president of Holy Cross from 1929-72). Gloria fondly remembers these events and some of the Holy Cross alumni from the ’20s and ’30s.

Gene and Gloria had five children, of whom only Victoria ’83 followed her father and grandfather to Holy Cross. Victoria married Gene McMahon ’84, and the two are active



William H. Boswell

St. Ignatius Church at Chapel Point

alumni in Milwaukee, Wis. One day, in 1991, while Victoria and Gene were leaving Mass at Holy Trinity, the Jesuit parish in Georgetown, they encountered Brian Kane ’85. Kane and McMahon had known each other at Holy Cross, where both were on *The Crusader* staff. Victoria and Gene introduced Brian to Victoria’s sister, Olivia, and two years later Brian and Olivia met at Holy Trinity again—this time at the altar.

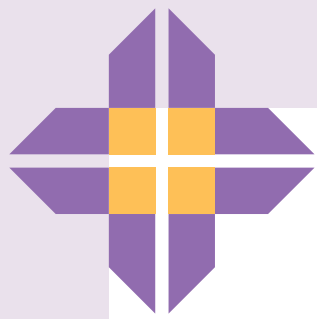
As the time of Gene Wills’ 50th reunion from Holy Cross approached, Gloria Wills decided she wanted to recognize and remember the interwoven and rich history of the Wills family and the Jesuits that began in the 1600s and continues to this day. She did so by making a significant “family-oriented” gift to the Holy Cross Fund.

J.O’C.D.



Holy Cross Archives

left to right:
Benjamin “B.B.” Wills ’22, J. Eugene “Gene” Wills ’53 and Victoria (Wills) McMahon ’83



A Blockbuster Reunion

BY MARIA HEALEY



Photo by Iris Schneider, copyright, 2003, Los Angeles Times. Reprinted with permission.

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or Barry Reardon '53, returning to Holy Cross for his 50th reunion this past June was hardly a traditional visit back to his alma mater. In fact, he hadn't been back to campus since he graduated. With an economics degree, and the ambition and confidence typical of Holy Cross graduates, Reardon went west after college, spending the next 21 years in Los Angeles, working for Warner Brothers, where he was president of distribution and marketing.

One of the most respected executives in the movie industry, Reardon was presented with the ShoWester award in 1998 by the National Association of Theatre Owners, naming him the best there is in marketing movies. It was the first time the association had given the award to someone outside its own organization, and the recognition is a testament not only to Reardon's success but also to why he hadn't been back to Holy Cross for previous reunions—because they fall during the same week big summer movies hit the screens.

"The big summer blockbusters always open in May or early June. So I was always in California, too busy to leave," says Reardon, who in the course of his career guided big commercial successes, such as the three *Superman* films, the four *Batman* films, *The Green Mile* and *The Fugitive*, as well as more critically acclaimed "award pictures," including *The Color Purple* and *Chariots of Fire*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1981, and *Driving Miss Daisy*, which won Best Picture in 1989.

After retiring in 1999, Reardon moved to Vero Beach, Fla., where he lives for eight months out of the year. (He spends the summer and early fall in Vermont.) It was here that he coincidentally "returned" to Holy Cross, meeting fellow classmates Jack Magnier, Bill Glavin, Bud Kielley and Jack Scully, all of whom live in Vero Beach as well. The group has breakfast once a month at Toojays, bringing each other up to date on what's going on at the College. With the 50th reunion coming up, the group encouraged Reardon to go.

"It was just nice to see fellow classmates you hadn't seen in 50 years and hear how they'd fared since graduation," Reardon says. "It was nostalgic seeing that Alumni Hall, where I lived, is still in good shape. But overall it was great to see how the school has changed. I think Fr. McFarland is doing a terrific job running the school through an ever-changing period. It's certainly not an easy task, trying to placate the body of graduates.

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BARRY REARDON '53

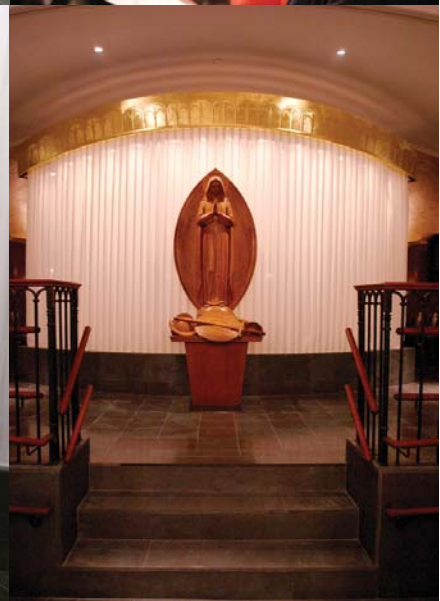
"A Holy Cross education is a well-rounded one," Reardon continues. "It has a great impact on how you conduct your professional life in the business world, especially these days. It's the best education you could possibly get." And to help make that education available to others, Reardon has established a scholarship fund in tribute to his time at Holy Cross.

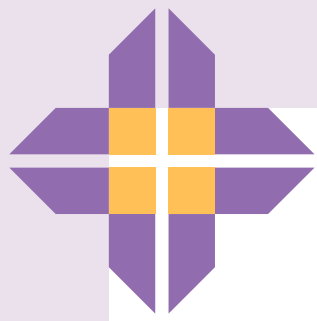
MC COO EY CHAPEL DEDICATION, SEPT. 14

The blessing and dedication of the *Robert H. McCooey '52 Memorial Chapel* took place on Sept. 14. In attendance at the liturgy were: (right) Most Rev. Daniel P. Reilly, D.D., Bishop of Worcester, who presided; the McCooeys, including Robert Jr. '87, Kristina (Grimm) '89, (and their children), Timothy '91, Kevin, Mary, Michael, Mary Catherine McCooey-Dodman '92, Patrick Dodman '90, and Mark '89; John '52 and Marietta McGarry; students; and John '59 and Pat Figge P'93, '91, '88, '83 with Fr. McFarland and Mary McCooey.

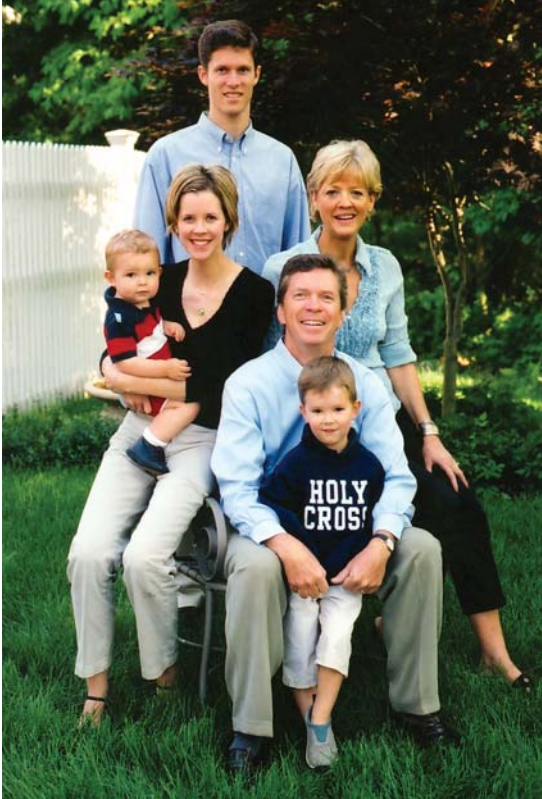


photos by Dan Vallancourt





Ellen Dublin



The Murray Family

■ Providing Access to Holy Cross a PRIORITY FOR MURRAY

When Robert C. Murray '68, P'93, was a student at Holy Cross, the student population was "mostly Irish-Catholic men from the Northeast," he says. And though Murray believes that the College has made great strides toward increasing diversity on campus, he also thinks there is still "a ways to go." When he decided to make a gift to the campaign—to give back to the school that had equipped him with the skills to lead a meaningful life—he asked that the money go toward efforts being made on campus to increase diversity.

With that in mind, Murray established *The Ellen and Robert C. Murray Scholarship Fund* with a \$100,000 gift to the College. Preference in awarding the scholarship will be made for African-American students with great financial need.

Murray, a retired partner at Morgan Stanley & Co. and chief financial officer of Public Service Enterprise Group, says he is a "big believer in the value of diversity." He learned in the workplace that the best decisions are made by diverse groups of people. He also got a gentle nudge from his wife, Ellen, and his daughter, Erin Murray Marra '93, both clinical social workers who have worked with underserved populations in the New York City area. Both women helped Murray see the unique challenges faced by economically disadvantaged people of color and suggested that his gift to Holy Cross be targeted to help them.

The Murrays, who live in Irvington, N.Y., have two children, Erin and Griffin.

■ MAGUIRE Campaign Update

Holy Cross Archives



Dean Joe Maguire

The campaign to honor the longtime commitment of the late Dean Joseph H.

Maguire '58, to the students of Holy Cross has reached the \$800,000 mark. The effort, led by Ed Ludwig '73 and Bob Brennan '81, intends to raise enough money to endow a senior faculty position in the department of education, about which Maguire cared deeply. Under Maguire's leadership, the Teacher Certification Program was created and a strong relationship with the Worcester Public

■ BROWSING ROOM Gets New Name

Joseph R. Levis '64, P'98, jokes offhandedly that he didn't spend much time in the library as a student. But study or not, Levis has done quite well in the years since he graduated from Holy Cross. Levis is president and chief executive officer of Crusader Paper Co., Inc., a company he founded in 1967 in Lawrence, Mass. Crusader

Paper, which is now located in North Andover, employs 65 people and supplies cut paper and paperboard to the industry.

It is no coincidence that Levis' company shares the name of his alma mater's moniker. Levis and his older brother, Richard '62, both attended Holy Cross—a fact that made their father very proud. When trying to

come up with a name for his business, Levis says his father suggested the name "Crusader," and it caught.

In gratitude to Levis for his recent gift to the campaign, Holy Cross is naming the Dinand Browsing Room after him. Located in the lower level of Dinand Library, the area will be known as The Joseph R. Levis Browsing Room. The room is a multi-purpose space—used as a meeting place for faculty and for seminars—and is a comfortable spot for studying. Levis said he made his gift because "of my love for Holy Cross. I felt a desire to give and was very happy to be able to do so."

He and his wife, Judie, live in Andover; together, they have eight children.

Dan Vallancourt



Joseph Levis at home

School System—where many Holy Cross student-teachers intern—was established.

More than 250 supporters have already contributed to the effort to endow the education professorship, which Ludwig and Brennan hope will serve as tangible evidence of the impact that "Dean Joe" had on the lives of countless students. The goal is to reach the \$1.5 million total before the first anniversary of Maguire's death in December. Those who wish to participate may contact Brian Davis '79 in the Development Office at (508) 793-2306 or bdavis@holycross.edu for more information, or may send a donation marked for the Campaign for Joe Maguire '58.