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Most gifts to Holy Cross arrive as paper—generally in the form of checks. But several recent donors have given gifts that share their passions with the College in steel, aluminum, watercolor, vinyl and felt.

STEEL DREAMS

This past fall, Gerald Good ’54 donated two 12-passenger vans to Holy Cross. Retired owner of Good Brothers Ford in Randolph, Mass., he spoke with classmate and former athletic director, Ron Perry, who mentioned how much the College could use a passenger van. Good’s son, Jerry, who runs the business now and whose daughter, Laura, is a first-year student, agreed. Two silver Ford Club Wagon XLTs came up for auction, and Good’s son purchased them for Holy Cross. “It’s very unusual to have Club Wagons come through auctions,” Good notes. “It was good timing all the way around.”

One van transports temporarily disabled students around campus, freeing up public safety personnel (and vehicles) who previously shouldered that responsibility, according to vice president of student affairs and dean of students, Jacqueline D. Peterson. This van service also creates a new job opportunity for student drivers, who complete a special training course with Lt. Thomas Foley before getting behind the wheel.

The second van serves academic purposes. “This gift enables students to experience cultural events and link them to what they’re learning in the classroom,” notes associate dean, Mary Morton. “We couldn’t be more grateful for this resource that makes good teaching easier.”

Consider the van’s maiden voyage. In early December, Associate Professor Nancy E. Andrews took 11 classical mythology students to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to search for interpretations of myths. Students surprised Andrews, finding them in architectural details of the building itself, in statuary and on the ceilings. “I was delighted at their perceptive observations and their obvious desire to share their discoveries with classmates,” comments Andrews.

Biology Professor Robert Bertin looks forward to using the van to transport his lake laboratory class to Lake Quinsigamond next fall. Equipped with a trailer hitch, the van can tow a flat-bottomed boat so the class may conduct depth profiles. The class will also travel to Rhode Island to examine Jamestown’s rocky shore and inter-tidal zones. “I measure my success in lab by how many days we spend outside,” says Bertin.

(On previous page, Biology professor William Sobczak and students try out the new van.)

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS

Memories inspire certain gifts. James Stroud ’80 donated 12 painted aluminum panels in his “Linear Strategies” series, titled “Phoenix Rising,” in memory of Irene Cole. A staff member known for her creativity and historical knowledge of the College, she worked for more than a quarter century as assistant to several senior administrators and in the visual arts department, where she knew Stroud. His work is in a sunny area.
BIOLOGY PROFESSOR Robert Bertin looks forward to using the van to transport his lake laboratory class to Lake Quinsigamond next fall. Equipped with a trailer hitch, the van can tow a flat-bottomed boat so the class may conduct depth profiles.

near the religious studies department in Smith Hall.

The late Professor John Paul Reardon, co-founder of the department of fine arts with Father Mears in 1954, wanted students, staff and faculty to enjoy original art in their workplaces. In 1991, he contributed 228 of his own watercolors and drawings, which brighten offices across campus. Upon his death last spring, the College received several more paintings. Outside Cantor Art Gallery Director Roger D. Hankins’ office are six works representing Reardon’s artistic range. (Reardon’s obituary appears on Page 68.)

VINYL HISTORY

When William E. Hennessey, M.D., ’55 was a student at Holy Cross, he started building a record collection reflecting his love of opera and other orchestral music. In 1990, he entrusted more than 8,000 vinyl LPs, 45s and 78s to the College and added more later. The Hennessey Collection includes several private recordings unavailable elsewhere, as well as lesser-known works, such as Fromental Halévy’s La Juive and Karl Goldmark’s Die Königin von Saba. Particularly strong in Italian opera, the Hennessey Collection also contains many recordings of French and German opera and recital recordings. Dinand Library patrons enjoy this cultural resource, especially voice students directed to listen to a specific singer’s approach. Some compare translations of an opera’s libretto or study one work in several languages.

EDUCATIONAL ARTIFACTS

Upon his retirement last spring after 25 years of teaching, Associate Professor George N. Kostich gave his eclectic Russian artifact collection to the modern languages and literatures department for educational use. Considered a “please touch” collection, the items help students understand Russian culture and feature Kostich’s notes. The model of St. Basil Cathedral reminds students that Ivan the Terrible blinded the cathedral’s Italian architect, “so he could never create a more beautiful building.” A plate comes from a Moscow restaurant visited by Chekov, Turgenev and Stanislavsky. A pair of felt boots (valenki) resists cold “down to -60 degrees Celsius.”

“These tangible gifts reflect people’s desire to share their personal passions with today’s students, faculty and staff,” says Carolyn Flynn ’97, director of planned giving. Alumni interested in donating items in keeping with the mission of the College are encouraged to contact her at (508) 793-2482.

ALLISON CHISOLM is a freelance writer from Worcester.
Another Round of HOPE

Richard F. Burke ’57 of Rye, N.Y., has established The Burke Family Scholarship Fund with a gift of $100,000. Preference in awarding the scholarship will be made for qualified graduates of the newly-opened Nativity Model School in Brooklyn, N.Y., called Brooklyn Jesuit Prep.

Brooklyn Jesuit Prep opened in September 2003 to provide a Jesuit education to economically disadvantaged boys and girls in fifth through eighth grade. The school features small class sizes; an extended day, including afternoon and evening study sessions; an extended year, with a summer leadership camp; academic and financial support through high school; and eventually, assistance with the college application and financial aid process. It is at this point that graduates will be able to take advantage of the scholarship established by Burke if they apply and are admitted to Holy Cross.

Burke says he was excited to see the Jesuits return to Brooklyn after 30 years and open a new school. The original Brooklyn Prep, which Burke attended, closed in 1972, though its graduates continue to hold a sold-out reunion every year. After celebrating his 50th Brooklyn Prep reunion, Burke had the idea to establish a scholarship that would benefit both the students of Brooklyn Jesuit Prep and Holy Cross. “The kids who attended the original Brooklyn Prep were the children and grandchildren of immigrants. The kids who are now attending Brooklyn Jesuit Prep are also, mostly, the children of immigrants. I hope The Burke Family Scholarship gives hope to a new generation of children of immigrants that they can attend college.”

Library Acquisitions

History Enhanced

In a paper that he wrote last spring on Academic Excellence, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College, Stephen Ainlay, explained that the Library is in urgent need of support—especially during these financially challenging times. “Within the Library, this (the costs of doing business) is most evident in the area of periodicals, where we have experienced price increases of 10 percent a year. We have not been able to keep pace with these increased charges, which forces us to cut our collections. This has a negative impact on students and faculty who rely on these journals and magazines to do their work.”

One recent gift made by an alumnus—to establish a History Fund at the Library—is helping the library to reverse the deficit. James Hogan, director of library services, said a $100,000 gift was
JOHN J. RYAN HONORED by Classmates

Friends and classmates of John J. Ryan ’78, who was killed on Sept. 11, 2001 in New York City, gave a total of $100,000 to fund 10 Holy Cross Fund scholars in his name. Ryan’s wife, Pat, said she is thrilled by the way John’s classmates chose to remember him. “John would have been so honored,” Pat says. “It’s really inspirational and means a lot to us.” The Ryan family, including children, Colin, Kristen and Laura, live in West Windsor, N.J.


made that will allow him, with the history department, to make an acquisition plan to buy scholarly journals and periodicals with the knowledge that the necessary funding will be there.

“It is the journal literature that keeps our faculty and students in touch with the very latest research and thinking in their respective fields. It is in journals that ideas are first tested and scrutinized by the scholarly community,” Hogan says. This gift will have an immediate and lasting impact on history students and faculty at the College.
The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the President’s Council took place in Kimball Hall on October 4th. Robert Kraft, founder and chairman of the Kraft Group and owner of the New England Patriots was the featured speaker. Among the President’s Council members and their guests were: (top left, left to right) Jeffrey ’95 and Jennifer Putt ’95; Bob Kraft and Rev. Michael McFarland, S.J.; Paul La Camera ’64; Michael Spillane ’98 and Cara Corbett ’98; Natalie Esposito, Stephen Ribaudo ’01, Thomas ’74 and Donna Ribaudo; Roger St. Germain ’50 and Connie Tarro; and Justin DeBenedectis ’02, Carolynn Cavicchio ’02, Denine Pagano ’02 and Thomas Cadigan ’02.
New members of the Cornerstone Society were inducted at the second President’s Council dinner, held November 15th in the Hogan Campus Center for distinguished, regent and benefactors circle members. Awards were presented for the first time to donors being recognized as members of the Fitton ($100,000+) and Fenwick Societies ($500,000+). (top, left to right) Rev. John Brooks, S.J. ’49, Rebecca P’03, ’94, ’88, ’87 and John Halleron ’60, Sally McNally P’91, and Rev. Frank Miller, S.J. ’46; Tom ‘70 and Kathleen Sullivan P’96, ’95; Bill McCall ’55; Matthew Chmura ’03 and Jessica Greeley ’03; John Power ’80 and Mary Figge Power ’83.

The inductees into Cornerstone were: John ’59 and Patricia Figge P’93, ’91, ’88, ’83; Fr. McFarland; Don ’49 and Claire ’90 Burns (with Chair of the Board of Trustees Michael Collins ’77); John Flavan ’53; and Jack ’54 and Cynthia Rehm P’88, ’85, ’81.