LIFT HIGH THE CROSS | Campaign Section

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Adam Musser '05
ate on the eve of his second trip to Kenya with the Holy Cross Arrupe Immersion Program, Adam Musser '05 sat down to record the first of several reflections about the journey ahead. Wide awake and full of anticipation, he pondered what it meant to “live with” or “live for” his brothers and sisters around the world. He felt he had experienced both—living with poor and disease-ravaged communities during his first trip to Kenya the previous year, and living for those same communities while working as a Lilly Ministry intern with International Partners in Mission in his hometown of Cleveland, Ohio.

“Neither is ‘more’ nor ‘greater,’” he concluded. “Each plays its necessary and equal part in the Christian’s call to serve love.”

Still, Musser wrote, he felt eager to return once again to Kenya. Over the next four weeks, he lived with the children of a Nairobi orphanage whose parents had died of AIDS. He volunteered with a primary school, whose mission was to rescue Maasai girls from early forced marriages and provide them with a home and an education. He also prayed, reflected and spent time simply listening to those he met.

“Despite some of the terribly sad things I saw, I felt such gratitude for having this experience,” he says. “It was just what the Gospels are all about—living with and loving the poor.”

A faith-based program sponsored by the Chaplains’ Office, the Arrupe Immersion Program offers Holy Cross students the opportunity to live with poor and marginalized communities in Jamaica, Kenya and Mexico each year. Led by a chaplain and, in some instances, a faculty member, the trips are designed to promote reflection, prayer and opportunities for experiencing fellowship in a deeply meaningful way.

“Arrupe Immersion offers an experience quite distinct from traditional service missions,” explains Katherine M. McElaney ’76, director of the Office of the College Chaplains. “We want our students not to feel that they have to march in and do something but, rather, to consider what they are learning from the people they meet and to contemplate
how we are called to live in our first world as Christians.”

To help more Holy Cross students experience this unique call to service, John ’79 and Diane ’80 Fisher recently made a gift of $100,000 to the Arrupe Immersion Program. Made in honor of their 25th reunions, the Fishers’ gift will provide scholarship funds to offset the costs of the program’s trips, which range from $1,200 to $2,400.

“The Fishers’ generosity will help us realize two of our most pressing goals,” says McElaney. “First, we will be able to lower the cost of participating in the program for all students and, second, we will be able to offer full scholarships for those who could not attend any other way. We are all very excited because so many students will feel the impact of this gift.”

“John and I feel strongly that programs like Arrupe Immersion represent what a Catholic education is all about,” says Diane Fisher. “They expose students to different people and different ways of life around the world—and the spiritual component adds so much more to the experience. We have heard Holy Cross students talk about their experiences with service, and we have been so inspired by their sense of spiritual mission.

“I attended Holy Cross on a crazy quilt of financial aid,” Fisher adds. “I worked every summer, so I would not have been able to afford the cost of going on one of these trips. John and I are thrilled that our gift will make that experience possible for someone else.”

The Fishers reside in Pittsburgh, Pa., with their four sons. John Fisher is president of the institutional sales division of Federated Corporation, one of the nation’s largest investment management organizations. He is the son of Richard Fisher ’47. Diane Fisher, a full-time mother, serves on the boards of several organizations. The Fishers support many Catholic institutions, including Holy Cross, the Little Sisters of the Poor and their local parish.

The Arrupe Immersion Program has grown in both scope and popularity since it began 17 years ago with a single trip to Mexico. Last year, a total of 41 Holy Cross students participated in the three programs. “When people ask me about the program, I tell them that it is something they need to do right now,” says Musser. “Even if you are the most educated, most well-read person, you can’t really understand what’s happening in the world until you see it for yourself. To be able to build friendships, and put a face to problems you only hear about on the news, will change your perspective forever. That’s what the Arrupe Program does best—it puts a face to the world that you will never forget.”

Sarah O’Brien Mackey is a freelance writer from Cambridge, Mass.
he defining experiences of my young life, outside of family influences, which have primacy, were the years I spent as a student at Holy Cross and as an officer in the United States Navy,” says John T. Sinnott ’61, whose naval service included a tour at sea aboard the USS Investigator, a radar detection ship, during the Cuban missile crisis.

“Holy Cross prepared me to think, to cultivate an appetite for knowledge, and the Navy taught me to lead,” says Sinnott.

Those attributes came to the fore as Sinnott led Marsh Inc. through 9/11 when 294 of its employees perished. For the past 41 years, Sinnott has served in a variety of leadership roles at Marsh & McLennan Companies (MMC), where he has spent his entire professional life. In 1995, he was named chief executive officer and, in 1999, chairman & chief executive officer of Marsh Inc., MMC’s largest operating company and the world’s leading insurance broker. He oversaw 38,000 employees serving clients in more than 100 countries. After retiring as chairman and chief executive officer in 2003, he assumed the role of senior adviser to MMC.

In 2003, Sinnott also joined the Holy Cross Board of Trustees, where he now serves on the committees for finance, investment and institutional advancement. A longtime member of the President’s Council, Sinnott and his wife, Eileen, recently made a pledge of $500,000 to the Lift High the Cross campaign.

“Jack Sinnott has an admirable record as a highly respected, effective and principled business leader,” says College President Rev. Michael C. McFarland, S.J. “He is a marvelous example of the kind of graduate we seek to produce at Holy Cross. We are grateful for his great generosity to his alma mater, both through his scholarship gift and through his service on the Board of Trustees.”

The youngest of three brothers to attend Holy Cross, Sinnott, while still committing some of his time to MMC, says that the best part of being retired is the flexibility it allows him to devote time to his family and philanthropic activities. In addition to Holy Cross, he serves on the boards of Northern Westchester Hospital, The Risk Foundation, and Rippowam Cisqua School. He is also a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Company Advisory Committee and a director of The James River Group. The Sinnotts have four children and 10 grandchildren.
Something He Never Forgot: Brian McNeill ’77

It was 1973—the spring of his final year at Boston College High School—when Brian McNeill ’77 received good news from the Admissions Office: he had been admitted to Holy Cross. An acceptance letter, however, was no guarantee that McNeill would ever join the Class of 1977. “It wasn’t until I received my financial aid package that I knew I’d actually be able to attend Holy Cross,” he explains. “I was only 17, but I knew that the generosity of others was something I’d never forget—and I always told myself that if I was ever in a position to do so, I would try to make a Holy Cross education possible for someone else.”

Today, McNeill has done just that by establishing the Brian and Margaret McNeill Scholarship Endowment at Holy Cross. The McNeills have also funded a Holy Cross Fund Scholar. A former economics major, McNeill is a founder and managing general partner of Alta Communications, a leading private equity firm in Boston that specializes in identifying and managing media investments. He and his wife, Margaret, have two young children. A rugby player at Holy Cross, McNeill continues to follow Crusader athletics and has made several gifts to support the men’s basketball program.

If financial aid made his Holy Cross experience possible, McNeill says, his friendships made it unforgettable: “When I think of Holy Cross, I think immediately of the close friends I made and all of the good times we had together. Because of those friendships, Holy Cross was not just a big part of my education, it was, and continues to be, a big part of my life.”

SO’BM

A Gift with Dual Benefits

George H. Grimm Jr. ’56, P85, 88 and his wife, Eileen, made a $500,000 gift to Holy Cross through a gift annuity, in honor of his upcoming 50th reunion. When Grimm met with classmates to discuss fund raising for their class gift, he learned about a variety of planned giving vehicles. A gift annuity was the one that made the most sense to him when he saw the dual benefits to his family and the College.

“We feel a strong personal obligation to give back to Holy Cross in some way for the many benefits I enjoyed as a student and alumnus,” Grimm explains. “Because the annuity will ultimately benefit an endowed scholarship, I know that my gift will have a lasting effect. A gift annuity, starting at $15,000, is a great way to move assets out of your estate, maintain income, and make that important and meaningful gift to Holy Cross.”

“A gift annuity is an ideal way to make a gift that benefits the donor and his or her heirs—and Holy Cross—for years into the future,” adds Carolyn Flynn, director of planned giving. “Many alumni have been able to make more substantial gifts to the College than they thought possible, while retaining an income for the rest of their lives. The donor benefits by retaining fixed payments for a lifetime, and receives a tax deduction and capital gains savings. Holy Cross wins as gifts like the Grimms’ secure the financial future of Holy Cross.”

The Grimms, who live in Hobe Sound, Fla., have three grown children. George is the retired managing director and executive vice president of Westpac Pollock Government Securities in New York.

For more information on gift annuities, please contact Carolyn Flynn at (508) 793-2482 or by e-mail cflynn@holycross.edu.
President’s Council Dinner in Kimball Hall on October 2: Nearly 500 guests attended the first of two annual black-tie dinners held for President’s Council members. Joseph Califano ’52, founder and CEO of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA), and formerly President Lyndon Johnson’s Assistant for Domestic Affairs and President Carter’s Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, was the keynote speaker. Among those present were (top, left to right): Jason Tauches ’97 and Kathleen Kroll ’97; Kathleen Mulligan ’02 and Christopher Weldron; Joseph Califano; Maura ’94 and Gene ’93 Fredy; John and Ann Mallin P07; John ’87 and Laura Hartnett; George Cahill ’49 and George Kafkan ’49; Beth ’86 and Mark ’87 Smiley, Thomas ’87 and Ellen ’88 Conte; Jonathan Borella ’00 and Paulette Malusis, Catherine Fegan and Christopher Curley ’00; Robert and Margaret Post P04, P07, Joan Golden ’04 and Charles Post ’04; and Tom ’70 and Kathy Sullivan P95, P96, Joseph ’52 and Hilary Califano, Michael McFarland, S.J., Maryellen and Michael Collins ’77, P07.
This year's Donelan Lecture took place at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, Mass., where an exhibit of the work of Robert and Shana ParkeHarrison titled The Architect's Brother is being held through January 2, 2005. Professor Robert ParkeHarrison of the visual arts department, who collaborates with his wife, Shana, creates photographs which, in his words “tell stories of loss, human struggle, and personal exploration within landscapes scarred by technology and over-use.” The ParkeHarrisons' artwork is shown in galleries around the world: (top left, left to right) Burn Season; Rev. Jim Hayes, S.J. ’72, William Connors ’72 and Beth Le Duc; Nancy Po0, P99 and Vito Virzi ’70; Martha Wallace ’04, Francis Donelan, Chris Donelan, Nancy Donelan and Joseph Donelan ’72; and the artist in the gallery.