THE MCCALEN SOCIETY
is a community of generous alumni, benefactors, and friends who demonstrate their commitment to the values of St. Vincent de Paul by including St. John’s University in their estate plans. It was named in honor of Rev. Thomas J. McCallen, C.M., whose vision helped St. John’s relocate to Queens, NY in 1955.

The Society’s planned gifts fund scholarships, programs, and initiatives as well as University enhancements and facility upgrades needed to ensure student success. For members, the benefits are academic, cultural, and social. Members are invited to an exclusive annual luncheon hosted by Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P., President of St. John’s University. In addition, the members are invited to exciting off-campus events.
Dear Member,
I normally write a reflection on the past year. However, in light of the stresses of the pandemic, it is best to look forward to what lies ahead. Please be assured that St. John’s University certainly appreciates your support and generosity during this past year.

At St. John’s, we are hopeful for our future with the appointment of our eighteenth president, Rev. Brian J. Shanley, O.P, Ph.D. Father Shanley brings 15 years of presidential experience. During Fr. Shanley’s tenure at Providence College, he was widely credited with making substantial improvements to campus facilities and student services, hiring large numbers of new faculty, diversifying the student body, and strengthening the college’s national profile in academics and athletics. He is already being proactive by meeting with alumni and donors in the tri-state area as well as meeting the members of The McCallen Society at the Annual McCallen Society Recognition Luncheon which took place in September.

In September 2024, St. John’s will be adding a new Health Sciences Center (HSC) that will transform the learning and landscape of the campus. The HSC will allow St. John’s to educate our future caregivers at a time where the focus is shifting to opportunities in healthcare.

As an indication of more positive news, our students will be returning to class in person and fully vaccinated. The student body will be able to resume their normal college life and create cherished college memories. Please pray for their health, safety, and good grades.

The theme for this year’s Impact Report is Today’s Dream, Tomorrow’s Legacy. St. John’s is rightfully hopeful for its future, and as you look at the cover of this report, you will see how far we have come thanks to the generosity of the members of The McCallen Society. This dynamic group of supporters has provided tremendous resources for our students and the St. John’s community at large. All of us at the University are truly grateful for your leadership, loyalty, and philanthropy.

I am hopeful our McCallen membership will continue to grow because of your incredible demonstration of love and benevolence for your alma mater. I ask that you assist me in recruiting your fellow classmates to join this outstanding society, for which you will receive the honor of being named McCallen Ambassador. I thank all of our McCallen Ambassadors for their school spirit!

I look forward to spending happier times with you in person at the many special events that are planned for the 2021-2022 academic year. Till then, your St. John’s family will be praying for the safety and health of you and your loved ones.

Warm regards,

Susan M. Damiani ’87CBA

‘All of us at the University are truly grateful for your leadership, loyalty, and philanthropy.’
There are **60** individuals on the Board of Trustees, Board of Governors and in the Founders Society who are McCallen Society members.

*This reflects Board Emeritus members.*

There are **760** McCallen Society Members.

In 2020-21, The McCallen Society contributed **$9,281,003** to St. John’s University.

**THE MCCALLEN SOCIETY REPORT CARD**
57 McCallens are endowed scholarship grantors. Their gifts totaled $8,713,883.
O HEAVENLY FATHER,

We are forever in debt to you. Without your love, mercy, and direction, we would be lost. Help us all to continue to live as disciples of Christ and making this world a better place. Give us the strength and courage to continue to do so. We thank you for all the blessings we have received, and for those to come. Watch over us and protect us. May we live in Christ’s name, Amen.

Prayer from Jason Wright, St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Class of 2023 at The McCallen Society Recognition Mass and Luncheon
For Jason Wright, St. John’s College, Class of 2023, the decision to attend St. John’s University was never a foregone conclusion. As someone who had been educated within the Catholic schools system his entire life, his religious attachments were important, and he wanted to continue his education at a Catholic university. He also wanted to be geographically close to New York City, and although he didn’t hear about St. John’s until his senior year in high school, once he visited the campus he was convinced that the University was the place for him.

“Visiting St. John’s was my last of several college visits that week. I was tired and I really didn’t want to be there. But as soon as I arrived I immediately felt the warmth and welcoming attitude of everyone I met. The atmosphere was so special, that it immediately felt like home from the first second that I got onto the campus. That’s all it took.”

Right from the start, Jason got involved with the life of the campus. In addition to exploring research opportunities available to him as a Psychology major, for the past two years he has worked as a student aide in the Office of Gift Planning, a position which has allowed him to participate in the many initiatives and activities that are available to the alumni who have made or are considering making planned gifts to the University. It has also given him an opportunity to meet many of the generous donors who have reached out to make a difference for deserving students like him.

“Working in the Office of Gift Planning has opened my eyes to how important St. John’s is to the alumni who have gone before us. They do so much for us as students, and I’ve come to realize that we, the current students, are allowed to have dreams because of our alumni.”

When Jason hears the stories of the University’s donors, many from the individuals themselves, he is both moved and motivated by their nearly universal theme that were it not for St. John’s, these dynamic and successful individuals would not be whom they are today, neither personally nor professionally. As a scholarship student himself, hearing those stories and meeting those donors makes him want to give something back to the next generation.

“There’s a domino effect involved, and by helping one person, that person helps another person, and it moves along like that,” he noted. “We’re all a family at St. John’s, and like all good families we help each other. I intend to be a part of that when I have the resources to do so. The Vincentian mission of making a difference for others is something I absolutely believe in and cherish. I will always try to do whatever I can to bring out the best in people and I’ll continually strive to make this world a better place, one day at a time. That’s the St. John’s way, and it’s also my way.”
POWER HOUR SERIES

In light of the pandemic, the Office of Gift Planning is determined to keep our McCallen family safe and connected while living through these challenging times. The creation of the Power Hour Series is one powerful way to provide comfort, support, and companionship to our McCallen Society members. The series covered an array of topics which are relevant and newsworthy. The recordings are housed on the Gift Planning YouTube Channel; For more information visit www.stjohns.edu/powerhour.

This past year, every Tuesday at 1 p.m., we all came together to learn and share ideas in friendship. We witnessed the generosity and love of our alumni and neighbors who came to our aid as guest speakers and shared their expertise with our St. John’s family. Our heartfelt thanks to our speakers who enabled us to ‘Power Up!’ We lived, we laughed, and we loved – one step at a time while living out the Vincentian mission.

“I enjoy Josephine’s classes very much. She has been an exercise instructor for over 40 years and takes the time to fit the exercises to the class needs. In most cases she gives several ways to do the exercise so anyone can participate.”

—Clare M. Byrne ’76C, ’80MBA, ’06MLS, ’12APC McCallen Society Member

ART AND LIFESTYLE - 12 POWER HOURS

Speakers included 7 faculty members and 9 alumni

Faculty/Admin
Prof. Antoinette Collarini-Schlossberg
Owen Duffy, Ph.D.
Alyse Hennig ’11MLS, ’16G
A. Andrea Licari-LaGrassa, D.P.S. ’72CBA, ’73MBA
Prof. Nicole Mussenden
Susie J. Pak, Ph.D.
Susan Rosenberg, Ph.D.

Alumni
Erin K. Cusack-Jones ’88SVC
Elizabeth F. De Feis ’56UC, ’58L, ’84HON
Richard J. Feil ’99MBA
Gerard Fernandez, Jr. ’50L
Alina Gainetdinova ‘18G
Gloria F. Henn ’64Ed, ’65GEd
Norman V. Jardine ’69C, ’73MBA
Dr. Elizabeth A. Mulvihill ’62Ed
Geraldine Ruggieri DiPersia ’65Ed, ’67GEd

FINANCE, ESTATE PLANNING, AND RETIREMENT - 6 POWER HOURS

Speakers included 4 alumni

Alumni
John Ceparano ‘85CBA
Sara Finkelstein ‘87CBA
Donna Furey, Esq. ’01L
Robery B. Moy, Esq. ‘88L
FITNESS, HEALTH AND WELLNESS - 35 POWER HOURS
Speakers included 5 faculty members, and 2 alumni

Faculty
Christopher Bazinet, Ph.D.
Nicole Bradley, PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP
Harlem J. Gunness, Ph.D., MPH
Yuman (Yumi) Lee
Stacey Singer-Leshinsky MS Ed, RPAC

Alumni
Matthew Kirschenheiter ‘21Ed
Caitlin Winkler, LMHC, NCC

RELIGION, POLITICS, AND ATHLETICS - 3 POWER HOURS
Speakers included 3 faculty members and 1 alumni

Faculty/Admin
Mike Cragg
Jeremy V. Cruz, Ph.D.
Diane J. Heith, Ph.D.

Alumni
Fr. Kareem R. Smith ‘12C

TRAVEL AND FOOD - 8 POWER HOURS
Speakers included 3 faculty/administrator and 5 alumni

Faculty/Administrator
Gregory Bruhn
Douglas Cantelmo ‘10C, ‘14G
April Merenda ‘13CPS Leadership Masters

Alumni
Paula Caruso Annarumma ‘83CBA
George Kurth ‘87SVC

Martin Whelan ‘84CBA
Natasha Williams ‘99CBA, ‘03MBA
Sally Xu-Plants ‘94G, ‘97MBA

SEMINARS AND PANELS - 3 POWER HOURS
Speakers included 2 faculty and 15 alumni

Faculty
John P. Clarke, ‘55CBA, ‘57L
Barbara Cozza, Ph.D.

Alumni
Crystal Andrews Banks ‘04CPS, ‘05G
Micaela Brown ‘06G
Paula Caruso Annarumma ‘83CBA
John Ceparano ‘85CBA
Jennifer Daniel ‘07TCB
Rose M. Elefante, Esq. ‘96L
Donna Furey, Esq.’01L
Andreia Gibau ‘18CPS
Kathleen McGovern ‘88CBA, ‘91L
Teresa A. Mason, Esq. ‘79SVC, ‘02HON
Barbara Perry ‘76NDC
Charlene Prounis ‘89MBA
Linda Sanford ‘74Ed, ‘98HON
Patricia A. Shea ‘62Ed

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† Denotes Deceased Member


When James Spero ’69C, ’71G first arrived on the campus of St. John’s University in 1965, it was as a student in what was then known as the Junior College. Little did he know that more than a half century later, he would reconnect to the University that gave him his initial entry into the world of higher education.

“I’ve always been grateful to St. John’s for offering me that exceptional opportunity to begin my college career,” he remarked. “I earned my two-year Associate’s degree, then went on to the four-year program, after which I continued on to my Master’s degree. I still talk about that, because it was a great opportunity for me, and for so many others like me.”

There were many aspects of St. John’s that appealed to this intelligent and energetic young man right from the start. He was captivated by what he learned in the classroom, but it was the people at the University who really made a difference in his life.

“Everyone at St. John’s, whether student, staff member or professor, was very genuine. They were also sincerely religious, and worked hard to instill a moral compass into the students. I thought that was important back then, and I still think so today. It’s one of the things that makes St. John’s so unique.”

After graduation Spero spent nearly three decades in county government in Suffolk County on Long Island. He worked in the Office of the County Executive, then initiated the county’s Child Support Enforcement Bureau and moved on to the Office of Budget Review for the county legislature, ultimately becoming its director.

A number of years ago Spero decided that it was time for him to focus on his estate plans. It wasn’t something that he took lightly, he finally made some decisions that he felt best represented his affiliations and interests, for today and for the future. Touring campus for the first time after graduating 50 years ago, he was amazed at how the University had changed. What was an entirely commuter school when he was a student was now a world class university, with more than 3,000 students from more than 100 countries living on campus. That dynamism was something that this loyal alumnus wanted to be a part of.

“I wanted to do something positive with my assets, and decided that I wanted to give back to St. John’s. My wife and I set up an endowment in which half of the assets will go to needy students and the other half will go to support capital projects. It was a way for me to help kids and help the University as well.”

By making a difference for those in need, Spero is the embodiment of the Vincentian mission and values. He believes that St. John’s fills an important need by providing educational opportunities for working class students. It’s a philosophy that he embraces and strongly wants to be a part of.

“The University’s mission is as strong today as it was on its first day in 1870,” he noted. “I came back to St. John’s after 50 years, and immediately felt right at home. I’m both happy and grateful for the chance to be a part of something so special.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Gift</th>
<th>How to Make Gift</th>
<th>Benefit to You</th>
<th>Benefit to St. John’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bequests</td>
<td>• Name us in your will or living trust</td>
<td>• Donation exempt from federal estate tax</td>
<td>• Bequest will be held in perpetuity or can be put to immediate use and invested to fund the University’s needs as designated by the donor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outright Gifts</td>
<td>• Simply make one of the following donations:</td>
<td>• Income tax deduction</td>
<td>• Perpetual income or immediate impact</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Cash</td>
<td>• No capital gains tax on appreciated gifts</td>
<td>• Interest impact used by the University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Stocks/securities</td>
<td>• Removes property from estate</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Real estate</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Insurance</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Gift</td>
<td>• Establish a charitable gift annuity contract with us that</td>
<td>• Current and future savings on income taxes</td>
<td>• Upon the death of the donor or last surviving annuitant, the remaining assets provide income for the University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuities</td>
<td>pays a set amount for life</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable Lead</td>
<td>• Create a charitable trust that pays fixed or variable</td>
<td>• Reduces your taxable estate</td>
<td>• Income for duration of trusts helps the University meet educational and social needs that exceed its current capabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusts</td>
<td>income to us for a specific term of years; principal is</td>
<td>• Property kept by your family, often with reduced gift taxes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>retained for heirs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable Remainder</td>
<td>• Create a trust that pays income annually; principal is</td>
<td>• Variable or fixed income for life</td>
<td>• The University receives substantial future gifts to support the University’s growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusts</td>
<td>retained for charitable organization</td>
<td>• Immediate income tax charitable deduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement Plan/IRA</td>
<td>• Name us as the beneficiary of the remainder of the assets</td>
<td>• Allows you to make the gift from the most highly taxed assets, leaving better assets for family</td>
<td>• Significant gift upon death of donor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>after your lifetime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance Policy</td>
<td>• Make a large gift with little cost to yourself</td>
<td>• Current income tax deduction</td>
<td>• The University receives full face value of policy upon death of donor, or may receive current surrender value prior to donor’s death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Possible future deductions through gifts to pay policy premium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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