



From the Office of the President

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.

REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

**Mid-year correspondence to the St. John Francis Regis Society,
Ignatian Society, President's Council, and Board of Trustees
February, 2015**

As the Spring semester progresses, I am pleased to report to you, members of the St. John Francis Regis Society, Ignatian Society, President's Council, and Board of Trustees, several significant updates regarding the state of Regis University.

Before I start, I'd like to share a moment with you. Earlier this month as I walked through our Northwest Denver Campus on a cool and crisp yet sunny Colorado day, I noticed a group of students congregating at the Rueckert-Hartman Plaza. This particular spot, a location I often just pass through, was alive with student energy and gave me pause. As one of our campus's most contemplative sites, it features the statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola and Ignatian compass points exhibiting the key values of Jesuit education: *Magis*, Finding God in All Things, Men and Women for Others, Care for the Person, Contemplatives in Action, and Unity of Mind and Heart. Seeing our Regis students alive with dynamic vigor at this iconic spot reminded me of why I am so proud of this institution. Regis provides a truly exceptional educational experience – one that is holistic, relevant, and unique. Our students' lives are infused with the Jesuit values displayed prominently on the plaza floor. As alumni, they will make a positive impact on the world, and I could not be more grateful to you, our most loyal supporters and contributors, for helping make a Regis education possible for our students.

Regis University, like many other institutions, faces the changing landscape of higher education. Change challenges us, but change also helps us to rise and flourish. I am filled with pride for the work that we do and am pleased to share several relevant updates with you.

Enhancing our Jesuit, Catholic Spirit

As part of the comprehensive Regis Rising strategic planning process, our leadership and administration took time to discern what Regis should be now and in the future. It is increasingly evident that building upon the Ignatian principles and strengthening our Jesuit, Catholic identity are of the utmost importance – they are the pillars of who we are. At the core of the student experience is meaningful relationships with caring, committed faculty mentors, and we are privileged to have many hard-working professors who have made an impact on students. In line



with this strategic goal, we have developed an expanded New Faculty Development sequence which is now taking place over their first three years at Regis University. Elements of this process include a New Faculty Orientation Retreat, an Ignatian Summer Institute, and attendance at retreats, workshops, or seminars are sponsored by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. During these programs, new faculty will examine Jesuit foundations and history, Catholic Social Teachings and Intellectual Traditions, and creative examples from veteran faculty on how to link Jesuit, Catholic mission values to students' classroom and co-curricular experiences. To guide this expanded program, Regis has just initiated the Ignatian Faculty Fellows Project. In addition, Regis was awarded a grant of \$49,531, funded through The Council of Independent Colleges, which will help faculty mentor students in their vocational discernment in the Jesuit tradition.

College of Computer & Information Sciences Launch

It is my privilege to share with you a monumental milestone in the history of Regis University. In alignment with another strategic planning initiative, the new College of Computer & Information Sciences (CC&IS) was launched in September 2014, and a search for the academic dean is nearing completion. The college blends together three divisions of Regis University: the School of Computer and Information Sciences in the College for Professional Studies, the Computer Science program in Regis College and the Health Information Management program in the Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions. We are thrilled to be able to enhance our role in positioning students for success in this fast-growing field through our dedicated CC&IS. Made up of almost 2,000 on-line and on-campus students and 20 faculty members, the college aims to be greater than its competitors by transforming the next generation of technology students into competent and compassionate professionals who will change their communities. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the computer and information technology field is projected to add more than 800,000 jobs by 2020, and I am confident that Regis students will compete well and become leaders in their field. Already CC&IS has received several accolades reinforcing that we are on the right track. The College was recently recognized by USA Today as one of the top 10 schools for computer information systems, along with Carnegie Mellon University, Yale University, and Duke University. Additionally, CC&IS remains one of only eight institutions nationwide to offer prestigious ABET-accredited programs online. Regis was also chosen to host one of the premiere cyber events in the region, the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. This event brings together the brightest student teams from Colorado and surrounding states to test their knowledge and skills as they work to protect their information systems from threats. In the wake of so many massive security breaches throughout the nation, the need for cyber security experts is essential. It is an honor to host this event and play our part in teaching Regis students to become some of the best defenders of information in today's growing cyber universe.



Business-Minded Beginnings

With the launch of the new CC&IS underway, we look forward to accomplishing another strategic goal through the formation of the new College of Business (COB). We are so proud of our great tradition of business education at Regis and in response to today's changing world, the new COB will continue to prepare students to make a positive impact through ethical leadership and action. Blending together two divisions of business from Regis College and the College for Professional Studies School of Management, as well as the University's Nonprofit Management program, the new COB is planned to launch in the Fall of 2015. Currently comprising 3,350 students and 29 faculty members, the new COB will combine resources and faculty talent to better serve students of all ages and will enable Regis to further market and advance the unique mission of Jesuit higher education through its business programs. The new COB's commitment to the development of ethical leadership framed by Jesuit values will differentiate Regis among its competitors. With many recent ethical business failures across the globe, the need for principled leadership is more essential and valuable to society than ever before and Regis is committed to preparing students who are eager to succeed with moral direction. So many of our alumni are living examples of this, and the Spring issue of the Regis University Alumni Magazine will showcase several of these exceptional individuals. As we search for a motivated, ethical, and capable academic dean to lead this college, we continue to work tirelessly to put this extensive plan into action and look forward to elevating and enhancing undergraduate and graduate business education at Regis University.

Cultivate Health Promotes Strong and Healthy Communities

Cultivate Health, the bold and innovative project jointly sponsored by Regis University and Aria Denver, continues to move forward. In late January, 11 Regis faculty members from several disciplines were named as Founders of Neighborhood Health, the clinic portion of the project. Together the Founders will develop the model by which the clinic will provide integrated, coordinated, holistic and comprehensive primary care to those who live or work within the Cultivate Health service area. Earlier this year, Dr. Janet Houser, academic dean for both the Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions and the College for Professional Studies, and Fr. Dirk Dunfee, S.J., were warmly received as they described the clinic to members of the University's Board of Trustees, which is scheduled to open late summer. This exciting development will allow our interprofessional team of nurse practitioners, physical therapists, mental health specialists and pharmacists – together with Regis students and community partners – to collaborate and provide coordinated care and preventive services to neighborhood residents and University employees and students. Not only will this new clinic provide service and experiential learning opportunities for our healthcare students, but it will also make a profound difference in the health of our community members. This is a one-of-a-kind flagship initiative that will help us develop strong partnerships and give Regis more opportunities for visibility and service.



Enrolling in a New Era

Regis University continues to strategically and proactively evolve its overall enrollment marketing and management efforts to increase the number of enrolled students in all of our colleges. In the 2014-15 academic year, we saw a significant improvement in enrollment from the prior year in our Regis College traditional freshmen class, welcoming 481 new freshmen as well as 91 new transfers. In the Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions, the School of Physical Therapy expanded its Doctor of Physical Therapy class size from 64 to 80 students with more than 1,000 applications considered. Enrollments in all healthcare programs leading to licensure reached enrollment capacity. In alignment with the strategic planning initiative to strengthen our Jesuit, Catholic character, enrollment management leadership developed and implemented a strategy to embrace and promote our Jesuit heritage with the adult student markets. The marketing campaign, “Look Outward. Inquire Within.” has resonated effectively with the adult student audience. Looking forward, we aim to build upon these successes and continue them into next year. Students are the lifeblood of our University, and the entire Regis community – donors, alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, and students – can continue to support this great institution and ultimately contribute to our future enrollment success.

Put our Financial House in Order

As we continue to implement Regis Rising Strategic Plan, we are working diligently to ensure that its success will result in a strong and stable financial base. We are fortunate that students, families and employers continue to see the value of a Regis University education. To serve our students, we have taken very deliberate steps and are committed to make sure our financial house is in order. Through careful planning, we have been very intentional in adjusting our operating budget by \$5.4 million this year. I challenged the entire Regis community to help identify efficiencies with a goal of maintaining or enhancing quality while lowering operating costs. Our faculty and staff consistently rise to meet the challenges higher education institutions continue to face as the industry reimagines its future. Our future depends on attracting and retaining excellent faculty and staff and investing in Regis people is key to our continued success. This is what motivated me to provide a gift of time this past Christmas and closed the campus so they were able to enjoy more time with their family and friends. In addition, we provided a modest one-time bonus in January, and, effective May 1, a 1% salary increase. As we move forward, we continue to look internally to see what improvements can be made to keep the University financially strong. With growing interest in our programs, I am confident that our future is bright. You are our most loyal supporters and I hope you have the same confidence that I do about investing in Regis University.

Your Giving Spurs Success

I am very pleased to report to you, our contributors, that private giving from Regis alumni, friends, parents, corporations and foundations is growing significantly this year. Eight generous estate gifts



ranging from \$10,000 to \$1.6 million will provide lasting legacies at the University. Our endowment, selected scholarships, and other Regis funds will grow even more through these gifts. We are also seeing continued increases in friends and alumni investing in Regis. More than 2,950 donors gave their gifts by year end, a 6.3 percent increase over December 2013. Both these welcome increases in donors and dollars raised the total for gifts and new financial commitments to \$8.8 million by December 31. Along with the impact of these estate gifts, this total represents a 226 percent increase over December 2013. These dollars are hard earned and generously given by you, and we must continue to invest wisely for the University. Investment returns as of December 31, show growth of 1.7 percent since May 1, and the endowment grew by 5.3 percent to \$55.8 million. Please know that more than dollars raised and investments earned, the impact of your private gifts is profound. Your giving is truly an investment in our global future. Words cannot express how much I appreciate your leadership and financial commitment to our university.

Taking our Talent to the Top

It is essential to the success of Regis University that the right people are in place to help lead us into the future. We are searching for two such leaders to drive our two new colleges – the new COB and the CC&IS. I look forward to the day when we can welcome these individuals into our Regis family – a family that is already contributing remarkably to our students’ education. Our Regis faculty members are nothing short of exceptional. Not only are they educators and mentors, but they push our students to take their learning beyond the classroom and grow from experiential learning opportunities. One faculty member, Fred Gray, Ph.D., received a grant from the National Science Foundation to support his work. As part of the Muon Project, he took his undergraduate researchers to Switzerland last year to conduct experiments with the Large Hadron Collider – known around the world for driving scientific discovery. Dr. Gray is one of many Regis faculty members making a significant impact on our students, and in turn, in their fields. Lonnie Porter, Regis’ legendary men’s basketball coach, will retire at the end of the 2014-15 college basketball season. For 38 years, Porter nurtured the athletic, academic and personal success of the 132 students who graduated during his tenure. Fortunately, Porter’s post-coaching retirement career at Regis will continue as he transitions to an ambassador role with the university, focusing his efforts on leading the Porter-Billups Leadership Academy (PBLA) with Colorado basketball legend, Chauncey Billups. The PBLA is a three-week academic program held each summer on our Northwest Denver campus that provides at-risk youth (ages 8-18) from the Denver area the skills to become leaders, combat negative peer pressure, graduate from high school, and attend college. These students are learning from the best. I thank Porter for the impact he has made, and will continue to make, on Regis and in our communities.



A Lasting Legacy

Regis University recently said farewell to Leonard Pomponio, a man whose generosity and passion propelled science education at Regis University into a new era. In 2006, Leonard and his sister, Rosemary, gave \$9.5 million to Regis – the largest single gift in the institution’s history. Their generosity paved the way for a major renovation of the science building on our Northwest Denver Campus that helped strengthen not only the science programs in Regis College, but also helped enhance nursing programs and aided in the establishment of the School of Pharmacy.

Leonard’s passion for Regis University went hand-in-hand with his commitment to forming capable and ethical leaders in the sciences. The lasting impact of his and Rosemary’s generosity will enable multiple generations of Regis students to benefit from a distinctive educational experience that prepares them to confront the challenges of the 21st century. We sincerely miss Leonard’s presence around campus but are eternally grateful for his lasting legacy.

I thank you for your continued commitment and leadership with Regis University. Your support helps us move forward and ensures that the education we provide is relevant, distinctive, and rooted in the Jesuit tradition. Next time you are on campus I invite you to visit the Rueckert-Hartman Plaza and take a moment to appreciate the vision of St. Ignatius of Loyola that guides us day by day. Should you wish to contact me with questions or comments, you can reach me at president@regis.edu. I welcome hearing from you.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.'.

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.
President