



From the Office of the President

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.

REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

**Winter correspondence to the St. John Francis Regis Society, Ignatian Society, President's Council, and Board of Trustees
December, 2016**

As Regis moves forward in the new year with hopes, dreams and ambitions for our University and our nation, I find it is inspiring to reflect on the progress we have made. We have an abundance of things to be thankful for at Regis University, namely the generosity of our loyal supporters and a strong community ensuring the success of our students, faculty, staff and programs. This is a strong indicator for our future as we bring prominence to Regis as one of the top liberal arts colleges of the West and growing leaders in the Jesuit system of universities through a transformational education. I am pleased to report to you several relevant updates regarding the state of Regis University.

Regis in Key Community Collaboration

In keeping with Regis University's strong commitment to community engagement, we are working to further establish the University as an anchor institution in North Denver. In October, Sue Scherer, PT, Ph.D., was appointed associate vice president of community collaboration. In her new role, Scherer, who has been with the University for more than a decade as a professor and administrator in the Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions, will serve as a central contact for internal and external community members, and provide Regis faculty and staff with a resource for existing and future projects with our North Denver community. This position affirms Regis' commitment to deepening its roots in the community.

A key player in the anchor institution work at Regis is the Institute on the Common Good (ICG), dedicated to programs aimed at changing the world one dialogue at a time. ICG operates under the simple theory that through dialogue and trust building, major social change can occur. Paul Casey recently joined Regis University as lead community organizer in ICG. Before coming to Regis, Casey served as executive director for several nonprofit organizations focused on international development and community organization. His current role focuses on the University's anchor institution initiative and finding ways to further develop positive working relationships with the surrounding communities based upon common interests. Regis will build on these community engagement efforts, including our thriving community health initiatives Cultivate Health and Regis Neighborhood Health, our collaboration with the Urban Land Institute that focuses on the redevelopment of the Federal Boulevard corridor and launching the College of Business and Economics' Centers of Distinction.



Centers of Distinction

The College of Business and Economics' three Centers of Distinction are comprised of The Innovation Center led by Ken Sagendorf, Ph.D., the Workforce, Employment and Lifelong Learning (WELL) Center led by Eugene Wilkerson, Ph.D., and the Sustainable Economic and Enterprise Development (SEED) Center led by Beth Caniglia, Ph.D. These centers, inspired by the evolving economic, workforce and environmental challenges of our time, will bring together students, alumni, entrepreneurs and small businesses and community leaders. They are tasked with building businesses and non-profits as stewards of society, developing a workforce that honors the human dignity of all individuals and catalyzing economic and enterprise development that stewards natural and human resources through research, teaching and community partnerships.

Generous Donor Support Fortifies Regis' Future

It is an exciting time for Regis University as we enhance our student experience, faculty and staff opportunities, educational programs and campus facilities. It is with great pleasure that I share the most recent gifts made to Regis University to support these initiatives.

After experiencing the quality care of Regis nurses while battling Stage 4 cancer, Terry Young, along with his wife Nadine, were compelled to make a donation to Regis University. The couple have since given \$126,000 to Regis to create the Luke Daniel Young Excellence in Nursing Award, named in memory of their son. The award is given to nursing students who integrate spirituality and science in their practice for the purpose of helping with post-graduation expenses.

Regis also received a gift of \$1.1 million from a bequest made by an anonymous Regis graduate to establish the Donald E. Archer Endowed Chair in the College of Computer & Information Sciences. The funds for the endowed chair will go toward researching innovation in computer and information sciences, the ways technology impacts the common good and how the common good informs technological innovation.

Tim Lewis, RC '13, and Regis Trustee Derek Scarth, RC '95, worked closely with Regis to develop an innovative way to give back to Regis University through planned gifts. With the help of University Advancement, Lewis and Scarth set up legacy gifts by naming Regis University the owner and beneficiary of their life insurance policies. With annual tax deductible gifts to Regis, the policy builds cash values that, if needed, could be available to Regis in the future. This allows the gift to accrue over time and benefit generations of students to come.



Main Hall Receives Donor-Funded Renovation for Phase I

From generous donors, \$1.2 million was dedicated to renovating Main Hall's second floor this past summer. In addition to following up on exterior upgrades, including a new roof, windows and masonry work, the interior of the historic building improvements involved a new ceiling, lighting and flooring. Upgrading Main Hall is part of a multi-phased project that will continue through 2020 as an effort to revitalize a historic and memorable symbol of the Regis campus. I look at the beautiful new surroundings and think of how committed members of our community made it possible. I invite you to stop by to see the progress. We are currently seeking supporters for phases II through V that will make Main Hall as relevant as ever in our heritage.

2017 Opus Prize

Last spring we proudly announced that Regis University was selected to host the prestigious Opus Prize Foundation Humanitarian Award ceremony. The Opus Prize Foundation celebrates and honors the unsung heroes serving communities in need, encouraging social entrepreneurship, sustainable change and transformational leadership across the globe. Regis has been chosen to carefully and diligently select the individuals or organizations that represent champions of faith-filled change to accept one \$1 million prize and two \$100,000 prizes.

Finalists for the prizes will attend a week-long celebration on the Northwest Denver Campus from Oct. 8-11, 2017, where they will engage with Regis faculty and students in discussions, dialogue and presentations. The official award ceremony will be held on Oct. 11, 2017, at the Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center. It is my sincerest hope that you are able to join us for this incredible and life-affirming event. Please find more information at regis.edu/opus.

The Big Table Project - Cultivating Relationships for Enrollment

This fall, the Office of Admissions introduced an innovative enrollment program called The Big Table Project, inviting the entire Regis University community to play a role in recruiting prospective students to Regis. The Big Table Project is an inspiring conversation starter kit that includes strategies and materials to help cultivate relationships with prospective students in order to provide new seats at the Regis table. I invite you to join us in this effort. To order your Big Table Project kit please contact bigtableproject@regis.edu.

I'm also pleased to report that for fall 2016 we welcomed 493 new freshman for the class of 2020. Looking ahead to the incoming class for fall 2017, we have already admitted 155 percent more students compared to this point in time last year.



Serving Military Families and Veterans

Men and women who serve this country have been an integral part of the Regis community for decades. Currently there are 1,280 veterans, active duty and reservists enrolled at Regis. We are proud to announce additional efforts to make a quality Jesuit, Catholic education accessible and effective for these honored members of society. Associate Provost Janna Oakes, Associate Director of the Center for the Study of War Experience Nathan Matlock, RC '04, and military veteran and Regis alumnus David Pond, CBE '16, co-founded the Military Scholars Fund to provide financial support to veteran students and/or dependents of service members who perished in the line of duty. The fund will fill the gap between GI Bill coverage and the actual expenses associated with degree completion. Contributors to the fund have already raised more than \$22,000, with a goal of \$50,000 raised by Memorial Day 2017.

Likewise, the Division of Counseling and Family Therapy in the Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions officially launched a post-graduate certificate in Counseling Military Families. The certificate is presented in a completely online learning format and is dedicated to broadening the education of professional support for military families. Regis' Colorado Springs campus counseling center continues to provide a confidential, low-cost, supervised setting for advanced counseling students to work with individuals, couples and families as well as child and adolescent play therapy and military-specific therapy. In addition, the Thornton campus opened a new 7,000-square-foot counseling and family therapy facility with free counseling services conducted by graduate students.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence

Regis' mission and heritage makes us a natural leader in providing solutions to the diversity challenges in our communities and our world. This year, we aim to increase conversation on campus about what we as a community stand for with respect to privilege, access to education, academic success for all students, race relations, matters related to sexual orientation and gender identity, immigration and poverty. For the growing number of first generation students attending college, the University offers one-credit seminars intended to support their transition to college life.

Continuing our commitment to social justice, Regis formed the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence, led by Stephanie Colunga Montoya, associate director for student engagement, reporting to Provost Janet Houser, Ph.D. We are currently preparing to search for an associate vice provost for diversity for this office. Regis University is committed to providing a welcoming place where the success of each individual is a priority. Our mission calls for it and our commitment to social service urges us forward.



A Globally Conscious Regis

The newly established university-wide Office of Global Education (OGE) opened its doors in August. Located in Clarke Hall, OGE is charged with three fundamental priorities: 1) foster a global educational experience through curriculum and opportunities such as study abroad; 2) ensure that the Regis campus is a welcoming place for students from other cultures who matriculate here; and 3) carefully recruit international students who will respond well to the programs we offer. Leading the office is Dean Amy Rell, Ph.D., Regis' founding senior international officer, who is responsible for establishing vision, providing leadership, direction and growth to shape the University's strategic expansion of global learning.

Study abroad is one pillar of OGE, comprised of 100 programs in 88 locations worldwide. These programs encourage students to venture beyond our borders to experience cultures, landscapes and lifestyles that will forever change the way they think. Regis is among a select number of institutions that ground students' international experiences in a pre-departure and post-program course dedicated to providing the tools needed to develop intercultural skills and broaden cultural perspectives. We are particularly excited to launch a faculty-led "Regis in Ireland" program this year, where students study under Regis faculty for a semester at Maynooth University in Ireland. In pursuing *cura personalis*, we have an obligation to educate our students to be global citizens; to think critically, creatively and collaboratively about local, domestic and global challenges and to understand themselves and how they can contribute to a world with fewer boundaries.

Faculty Announcements and Awards

Our faculty and staff continue to be a cornerstone of this great University. Their tireless efforts to educate our students to be leaders of tomorrow while also seek to enhance their respective industries, never ceases to amaze me.

Join me in welcoming **Maureen O'Brien, Ph.D.**, as new dean of the Loretto Heights School of Nursing. O'Brien comes to us from Marquette University and is enthusiastic about the opportunity to bring her understanding of the mission, vision and values of the Jesuits to the dean's role. She has been with Marquette since 1984. Her role as associate dean and her work on the leadership team of the College of Nursing give her the breadth and depth of experience needed to lead our outstanding nursing school.

Rebecca Moote, Pharm.D., associate professor for the School of Pharmacy, was named 2016 Pharmacist of the Year by the Colorado Pharmacist Society. This is the highest award of the Society and it is presented to a pharmacist member who has demonstrated dedication to the profession of pharmacy, contributed time and effort to various professional organizations, furthered the profession of pharmacy through community service and embodied those qualities of attitude and leadership which exemplified the profession.



The works and professional papers of **Tony Ortega**, associate professor of painting, design foundation and drawing at Regis University, are now digitally archived in the Smithsonian Archives of American Art in our nation's capital. Ortega was selected for this prestigious honor by Josh Franco, Latino Collections Specialist for the Smithsonian Archives of American Art, who came to Colorado to acquire personal papers and historical records to substantially increase the Smithsonian's archival resources concerning Latino art and artists. Included in the Smithsonian collection are many of Ortega's professional papers such as letters, interviews, reviews, announcements, children's books and catalogs. More information on Ortega's artwork can be accessed at: tonyortega.net.

Eric Fretz, Ph.D., associate professor of peace and justice studies at Regis University, was awarded a Fulbright grant to study and teach in Romania this fall. He becomes the ninth Fulbright Scholar at Regis. His course work in Romania will focus on how violence and nonviolence shows up in American literature, and how the authors dealt with it. Some of the anticipated course work will look at Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man," Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried," among others.

Physical Therapy Receives Grant

The School of Physical Therapy at Regis University recently received a \$700,000 grant for a three-year period from the Department of Defense Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine Research Program to conduct research to aid military service members injured in the line of duty. More than 1,570 military service members have sustained major amputations since the conflicts in the Middle East began in 2001. This research, led by Regis School of Physical Therapy professors **Brian Baum, Ph.D.**, and **Erika Nelson-Wong, PT, DPT, Ph.D.**, along with Anne Silverman of Colorado School of Mines, will help civilian, military and Veterans Affairs populations with lower limb amputations who wish to run. Returning to running is the main goal of many military service members who want to reach their highest level of function and/or return to duty. This study aims to determine whether amputees: 1) perform better and 2) reduce their risk of injury when running with running specific prostheses or traditional prostheses designed for walking. Over \$200,000 in new equipment and software will be purchased for the School of Physical Therapy. This equipment will enhance teaching and additional research opportunities and will significantly increase opportunities for future grant funding.

It is because of you and your unwavering support that we move forward in making Regis an outstanding University. Please know how you have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of our students. We are profoundly grateful for you. On behalf of this institution, I hope you share the pride and joy we have for Regis University.



May bountiful blessings be bestowed upon you and your loved ones this holiday season.

Gratefully,

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

John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.
President