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Neighbors

Linking Seton Hall University and the Community

Partnerships are Key

Seton Hall University and local communities collaborate on numerous exciting mutually beneficial opportunities

In November, 10 members of the *South Orange/ Seton Hall University Partnership Committee* sat together in a classroom on the University’s campus with one question in mind, “What is our mission?” Those in attendance included residents of South Orange, elected officials, students, and administrators who were there to define the purpose of a committee whose goal is to strengthen the relations between the University and the town. As each participant shared their ideas, residents began to see just how beneficial the partnership between the town and the institution can be.

For as long as current residents and businesses have thrived in South Orange, Seton Hall has existed as an integral part of the community. Students shop throughout the downtown, are employed in a variety of businesses, volunteer for numerous nonprofit organizations and reside as neighbors. South Orange residents work at Seton Hall, attend events on campus and participate in the cultural opportunities offered by the colleges. As a result, the University and the town have seen the inherent impact cooperative partnerships can make on both communities. At the monthly *Neighbor’s* community meetings, residents, business leaders, community organizers, and Seton Hall students and staff meet to network and share news and ideas.

Within the past few years, the partnerships between the University and the local community have expanded. New relationships have been created with the South Orange and Maplewood School District, the successful *After the Bell Rings* program is moving through its second year. (See Page 2 for more details.) In addition, Maplewood Green Day volunteers included the Seton Hall Village Liaisons, Ecology Club, and fraternity and sorority members who helped out with children’s activities.

In addition to volunteer work, many students and administrators sit on community boards such as Main Street South Orange, South

Orange Chamber of Commerce, South Orange Seton Hall Partnership, Maplewood Green Team, and the YMCA. Membership on these boards give students an opportunity to become more engaged in the community. Another opportunity for students to meet with their neighbors outside the gates has been the successful *Home Away from Home* program. The program is designed for residents to invite students into their homes for a home cooked meal and family conversation that might be missed by living at school.

These partnerships are just a few of the many ways Seton Hall and the surrounding communities have worked together to strengthen their relationships with one another. Both Seton Hall and South Orange will continue to benefit through new opportunities and stronger bonds in the future.



Notable Neighbor



Michael McLaughlin

South Orange Resident &
Student Government
Association President

"I want community members to know that students care about the town." These are the words of South Orange resident and Seton Hall student Michael McLaughlin. What makes Mike unique is that along with a normal academic workload, he is responsible for the needs and concerns of the entire Seton Hall student body. Mike, who calls Virginia home when he is not attending Seton Hall, is the Student Government Association president.

"Being a student of Seton Hall also means being a part of South Orange." Mike continued to explain the benefits that result from healthy relationships with residents. "My neighbors were excited to see young people move in next door. When they found out we were Seton Hall students, they asked about how the sports teams were doing and which events they could participate in. I encouraged them to come to campus."

There are countless neighbors like Mike throughout our community and most are just as interested to meet fellow residents. As for Mike, he hopes that in his role as President, he will be able to encourage more residents to take advantage of what Seton Hall has to offer them.

CAMPUS SNAPSHOT



After the Bell Rings

Seton Hall students have once again journeyed outside the gates of campus and into the classrooms of South Orange Middle School to volunteer for the second year of the *After the Bell Rings* program. The after-school program gives middle-school students an opportunity to explore their imagination while learning valuable lessons outside the traditional classroom setting. Some of the classes offered include *Computer Lab*, where students learn to build their own Web pages, and *The Fashion Institute of Fabulous* which introduces kids to the latest fashion styles and includes a little spa pampering. Students from Seton Hall assist the program's teachers and have a direct impact on the lives of the students.

Women's Conference

On March 27th, Seton Hall will host its annual Women's Conference. This year's theme is "Evolving: A Celebration of Women." The conference is an opportunity to educate, to implement change and to honor the achievements of women. Last year, over 200 people attended and even more are expected this year. The day is filled with informational sessions with a wide appeal to women. While the conference is about women, everyone in the community is encouraged to attend, present, and participate. For more information or to register, please contact Rosario Reyes at (973) 275-2137.



Petersheim Academic Exposition

In April, Seton Hall University will feature the annual Petersheim Academic Exposition. Named in honor of its founder, Matthew Petersheim, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, who passed away in October 1998, the exposition celebrates the sights and sounds of knowledge and the academic achievement of undergraduate and graduate students at the University. The weekend of events will include a series of lectures, symposiums, and arts presentations. For more information or to register, please contact Rosario Reyes at (973) 275-2137.



SHU 500+

SHU 500+ has been an annual tradition at Seton Hall since 1997. Originally referring to the 500 students who went out into the community to experience selfless giving, the program now includes 800 participants. This year, groups were sent throughout South Orange and Maplewood to locations such as the South Orange Environmental Commission, Columbia High School, the YWCA of Essex, the South Mountain Conservancy, and Marylawn of the Oranges to volunteer. The program celebrates the mission of the University by gathering students, staff and alumni to serve in any way possible -- from painting and cleaning, to tutoring and feeding the hungry. If you are involved with an organization that may be in need of volunteers for future SHU 500+ events, please contact the Division of Volunteer Efforts (D.O.V.E.) at (973) 761-9702.



The Art of Community

Two years ago, the South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC) opened its doors to the public for the first time. Now in its third season of performances, SOPAC has settled into the community.

The SOPAC development project began in 1994, when South Orange purchased the land from NJ Transit for the construction of the new facility. The next several years were invested in planning for the project, and construction began in 2004. The building process carried through 2006, and the center was opened in early November of that year.

Seton Hall became involved in the project in 2004 when it contributed \$1 million to the cost of the project. The University contributed not only funds and lent expertise to help optimize the live performance hall's design. The University's funding increased the seating capacity from 300 to 415. Since the project's completion, Seton Hall's Arts Council has staged numerous productions and partnered with SOPAC to bring performances to South Orange. Theatergoers have seen Shakespeare, *The Dead*

Man Walking Theatre Project, and the world premiere of *Nephew Fred*, an original play written by Seton Hall graduates.

The establishment of SOPAC and its partnership with the Seton Hall Arts



Council has changed the cultural life of Seton Hall. World-class performances, award-winning authors, artists and musicians, and critically acclaimed films and performances are now a regular component of the academic curriculum and the University's culture. Outside productions also bring the students and Seton Hall staff downtown to embrace the arts of South Orange and its residents.

With student productions performed downtown, the community has the

opportunity to see the highlighted talent and enthusiasm of the University's students. Students are able to draw larger audiences to their productions and get a feel for the setting of a professional stage. Kaitlyn Delengowski, alumna of the Theater and Performance program at Seton Hall, noted, "Theatre students now have the opportunity to perform not only in the Theatre-in-the-Round on campus, but on a professional, traditional proscenium stage as well. The curriculum would not have been as realistic to us without the availability of a facility such as SOPAC."

Both the University and SOPAC look forward to many years of the shared success. The Center brings together the two communities as one—to share their common appreciation for the arts.

For more information or to order tickets go to www.sopacnow.org or call the SOPAC box office at (973) 313-2787.



The Office of Community Relations is proud to announce the recent establishment of a program for students interested in earning a Certificate in Community Relations. The program is based on a point system, requiring involvement in four aspects of community relations: leadership and involvement, experiential learning, community service, and a final community capstone project. The program incorporates the first-hand knowledge of various community leaders, while working to engage students looking to be future leaders in their own communities. The initiative is the first of its kind at Seton Hall and those who complete it will be awarded a formal certificate upon graduation.



Seton Hall Calendar of Events

For more information about events at Seton Hall check our Web site at www.shu.edu or call the Office of Community Relations at (973) 378-9816

January

- 03 M B-Ball vs. West Virginia
W B-Ball vs. Notre Dame
(South Orange Night)
- 06 M B-Ball vs. Villanova
- 12-Feb.13 **The Art of Subtraction**,
art exhibit
- 10 W B-Ball vs. Marquette
- 20 W B-Ball vs. Pittsburgh
- 21 **Citizen King**, film
- 22 M B-Ball vs. Providence
Neighbors Community Meeting
- 24 W B-Ball vs. Providence
- 25 M B-Ball vs. Georgetown
- 27 **Vince Giordano and the
Nighthawks**, jazz concert
- 28 **Who Killed Dr. Martin Luther
King?**, film
- 29 M B-Ball vs. Rutgers

February

- 01 W B-Ball vs. St. John's
SHU Gospel Choir, concert
- 04 **The Murder of Fred Hampton**,
film
- 05 M B-Ball vs. St. John's
- 07 W B-Ball vs. Villanova
- 11 **Revolution '67**, film

- 14 M B-Ball vs. Connecticut
- 18 W B-Ball vs. Rutgers
- 19 **Neighbors Community Meeting**
- 20,21,22,27,28, & Mar. 1 **Taming
of the Shrew**, SHU Theatre
- 25 M B-Ball vs. USF
Mandingo, film
- 29 M B-Ball vs. Pittsburgh

March

- 02 W B-Ball vs. Georgetown
- 02-Apr. 10 **WSOU 60th
Anniversary**, arts exhibition
- 03 **The Brentano String Quartet**,
classical concert
- 04 Baseball vs. Albany
Prof. Frank Mehring, lecture
- 09-14 **SHU Spring Recess**
- 11 **On Orientalism**, film
- 13 Baseball vs. NJIT
- 14 Baseball vs. Northeastern
- 15 Baseball vs. Iona
- 17 Baseball vs. Stony Brook
- 18 Baseball vs. Manhattan College
- 19 **Neighbors Community Meeting**
- 21 Softball vs. Syracuse (DH)*
- 22 Softball vs. Connecticut (DH)
- 25 Baseball vs. Monmouth
Verdict on Auschwitz, film

- 27 Baseball vs. Louisville
Women's Conference
- 28 Baseball vs. Louisville
- 29 Baseball vs. Louisville
Softball vs. Louisville (DH)
- 31 Baseball vs. Rider
Sumo Hot Pot, film
**Dick Hyman & Ray Kennedy
Piano Duo**, jazz concert

April

- 01 **Yunagi City, Sakura County**,
film
- 03 Baseball vs. Connecticut
- 04 Baseball vs. Connecticut
- 05 Baseball vs. Connecticut
- 07 Baseball vs. Fordham
- 14 Baseball vs. Princeton
- 15 Softball vs. St. John's (DH)
- 16 Softball vs. Fordham (DH)
- 18 Softball vs. Pittsburgh (DH)
- 19 Softball vs. USF (DH)
- 20-24 **Sight and Sound**, art exhibit
- 22 Baseball vs. Farleigh Dickinson
Softball vs. LIU (DH)
The 11th Hour, film
- 23 **Neighbors Community Meeting**
- 24 Baseball vs. Georgetown
- 24-26 **Gods Favorite**, SHU Theatre

- 25 Baseball vs. Georgetown
- 26 Baseball vs. Georgetown
- 21 Softball vs. Sacred Heart (DH)
- 28 **East Coast Chamber Orchestra**,
Classical concert
- 29 Baseball vs. St. Peter's

May

- 01 Baseball vs. St. John's
- 02 Baseball vs. St. John's
- 11 **Commencement (tentative)**
- 21 **Neighbors Community Meeting**

*(DH) - Double Header



Color Code

Sports

Arts

SHU Schedule

Community Meeting



OFFICE OF
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

457 Centre Street
South Orange, NJ 07079

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