

# A Tribute to Dr. Karen E. Boroff

Interim Provost and Executive Vice President



FROM A BIRDIE



*"The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails." Maxwell*

*This book is dedicated to Dr. Karen E. Boroff, one who not only adjusted the sails but stayed the course as our Interim Provost and Executive Vice President from January 2017 until June 2020.*

*With our thanks and affection,  
Your colleagues and friends*

*Joel Boroff*

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*Karen,*

*My amazing wife!!*

*Covid-19 has put quite the asterisk on your "Interim" Provost job. I have seen first hand every day how your vast knowledge (management, academic, and common sense) and incredible work effort has contributed immensely towards a way forward for Seton Hall through these unprecedented times. Of course, none of this surprises me and you will leave with a clear conscience that you have done everything humanly possible. So now is the time for the deserved sabbatical and a new adventure before returning to your love of teaching. I can't wait!!*

*All My Love,*

*Joel*

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*Austen Boroff*

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*Dear mom,*

*Thanks for being a constant source of inspiration in our lives. Everyday I attempt to emulate you. Thank you for instilling in us your work ethic and dedication. We are so proud of all you have accomplished, and cannot wait to see what is next in your journey. It was a blessing to grow up with Seton Hall, and to have had the privilege of watching all of the University's successes, and in turn your successes. Without a doubt your presence and guidance has made a lasting positive impact on the Pirate family.*

*Go Hall!*

*Love,*

*Austen*

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*Alexander Boroff*

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Mom,

Seton Hall has been a big part of all of our lives. I still remember basketball camp, annoying you in your office, and even wondering why you were allowed to have a messy desk in your office, but at home I was not able to!

Seeing the people who looked up to you, and their incredible talents, made me appreciate what a special person you were in your own right. I know many students have benefited from you (to include myself!) and many more still will from you either directly, or through students who you have taught.

Anyone that I have ever interacted with that knew you professionally has only had positive things to say. The vim and vigor you bring to everything you touch inspires me to be better.

Love,  
Alex

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*Joan Guetti*

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Dear Karen,

I hadn't realized that the job responsibilities of the Provost include a bullet to expand the vocabulary set of your staff. Studying the word of the day posted on the refrigerator while brewing that first cup of tea was - settling. Your communication style, peppered with blithe allusions to dance steps, like tango and foxtrot, is a skill set I hope to emulate. I knew from the minute you walked in the door and said, "Let's redo the kitchen" that we would get along well. And we have.

Never the empress, but always the impresario, you lead by doing, by organizing, thinking outside that box. I recall the deans' meeting when you made us bell ringers for Christmas. It was just darned unfortunate that so few of those deans have any sense of pitch and timing. As I remember it, you offered praise, but that IS always your way - to encourage. Even when you asked us to make Derby picks to improve our understanding of odds and risk management, you didn't snicker when my sure bet stumbled coming out of the gate and finished last.

Speaking of getting out of the box, you've challenged us with new experiences - like having the retreat in an abandoned warehouse, i.e. artist loft. Never mind the so-called bathrooms or the lack of air conditioning, it was amusing to use our dramatic skills to impersonate famous people while problem solving or playing

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password by sketching the clues. (My personal issue was finding my way out of the building at the close of the day. Thankfully, Greg rescued me.) And the list goes on of the many ways you have continued to teach by gently prodding us out of the tried and tired ways of doing our work. Your efforts are never condescending, but rather, enabling. I thank you for all of it.

And as a leader, you've never asked us to work harder than you work yourself. (Maybe you missed that particular class in management when you were a student?) The many thoughtful touches - the little gifts on St. Valentine's Day, the candy for students on Halloween, and the ways you go about demonstrating care for others, are all part of what I have come to know as your unique style. You are someone who blocks and tackles everything, ready for whatever comes your way. I admire you and I am very pleased to think of you as my friend.

Have a wonderful sabbatical!

BRAVA!

Joan

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*Staysha Taylor*

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Dear Dr. Boroff,

What haven't we been through!!!!??? I think we have seen the good, the bad and the ugly, but at the same time have seen the beauty. The beauty in a partnership that has blossomed during the time we have worked together. We have learned from each other, shared stories together, laughed with one another, guided each other, in all, developing a close relationship.

I want to say thank you for all you have done for the University. No one will ever truly know the hard work, dedication and sacrifices you have made in making Seton Hall a better place. You have invested yourself like no other and should be proud of all you have accomplished. Aside from what you have done for the University, I want to say thank you for all you have done for me. Thank you for giving me an opportunity, for challenging me, encouraging me, and supporting me (and Saivien - for project ideas (JFK), educational trips, gifts when you traveled, and so much more).

I look forward to transforming the beauty in our work relationship to now a friendship. I am truly honored to have worked as your assistant. Reporting to the office will never be the same. Who will turn on the lights at 6:00 a.m.? :)

Be well, take care of yourself (!), and be happy. Please stay in touch.

Love,  
Staysha & Saivien

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*Bern*

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Dear Karen,

Wow! It really has been some ride. When I think back on my many years in the Office of the Provost, it was you, who had the greatest challenges, more than any other provost that went before you. The past three and a half years, the crises you led us through have been truly insurmountable and unprecedented. I watched you conquer all issues, big and small, with grace, determination, strength, courage, poise, and bravery. I have learned so many things working with you and I am so very much appreciative of all you have taught me. Your stamina and work ethic are like no other. You have given Seton Hall your heart and soul and I am so very grateful to you and all your hard work you have done for this great university. You will be truly missed. I wish you a great year ahead, hopefully with your family together! May God continue to bless you!

Fondly,  
Bern

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## *Anna Calka*

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"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." -Rosalynn Carter

Dear Dr. Boroff,

I feel so privileged and fortunate to have worked with you for the past three years.

Your support, kindness and advice helped me navigate my journey through this crazy roller coaster ride of a PhD. You were my inspiration through this time. Knowing your story and how you persevered as a woman with small child, kept me motivated in times when I wanted to throw in the towel. Many times I felt so lonely in this process and your kind word, advice and support made me stronger and kept me going. I don't think there is enough words to express my gratitude to you. As you know I did not have many strong female role models in my life, but you truly showed me that there is no limit to what a woman can do when she sets her mind to it. Thank you for that. Thank you for being an inspiration, a role model and a wonderful and kind human. I hope that one day I can inspire other women in a way that you inspired me.

You are an embodiment what a strong servant leader should be. I have learned from you so much over this time: how to make the right decision, how to stand my ground and do what is right, how to support others, especially women.

You are a true inspiration to me as a leader, woman and mother; your achievements have been remarkable. Your kindness, work ethic and dedication to Seton Hall

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Community is one of a kind.

I will miss seeing you everyday, and our early morning talks before all the craziness of the day started. I will miss sharing you all the adventures of Oliver. I will miss your wisdom, poise, positive attitude and fierce fearlessness! Provost Office will not be the same without you... You really made us feel like we are part of a family, not just employees.

Thank you for your dedication, leadership, guidance, wisdom and goodness of heart, I hope that one day I will be able to repay all your kindness and mentorship.

I hope that you will have more time to spend with your family and friends.

And looking forward to seeing you back on campus after your sabbatical and continuing our friendship.

Love, Anna

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*This Ph.D. was possible thanks to you!*

*Greg Burton*

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Dear Karen:

In your time as Provost, you have established and laid the groundwork for much that has made Seton Hall a better place, and that will continue to benefit us, if we are wise!

I learned a lot from you about fairness, rigor, precision, proper subsidiary and respect for appropriate challenges, and a consistent focus on our students and what has the potential to truly benefit them. Throughout, you sought to introduce something elevated to even the most routine or urgent of discussions, and some novel element whenever the circumstances allowed, from handbells to honey, and to keep all work conversations in a context respectful of the broader world of your colleague's outside interests and responsibilities.

Enjoy your well-earned sabbatical!

Greg

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*Chris*

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*Dear Dr. Boroff,*

*I wanted to write to express my gratitude and wish you all the very best. Thank you for your leadership and support these last few years. Your mentorship and guidance always meant a great deal. I wish you an enjoyable and peaceful sabbatical, and hope that we are in touch again soon.*

*Best wishes,*

*Chris*

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*Mary Meehan*

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*Dear Dr. Boroff:*

*The two plus years I worked with you were a time I will never forget. Your courage and unrelenting focus on doing the right things for the right reasons was an inspiration. You always took the high road and never the easy path -- often at your own peril. We had many chats about what it means to be a courageous leader and I never once witnessed you back away from your principles. We talk about servant leadership often at Seton Hall, but you embodied it. On days when I was tempted to take an easier road I always thought of you and that bolstered my resolve. You care -- really care, Karen. You never operated from self-interest and always wanted us "to do more, to do it better, and to do it with love." I wish you the joy and peace you deserve. With a grateful heart,*

*Mary*

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*Tracy Gottlieb*

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*Dr. Karen Boroff*

*Dear Karen, When I "bailed" in July of last year, I thought we had seen the hardest year ever. We wrestled with difficult issues as a team and came through strong and satisfied that we had done the best we could for our university. Who can believe that the 2019-20 academic year could top last year for stress and anxiety? Wow. Sometimes I feel guilty watching from the sidelines as the university forges its path into the unknown. But I have known that through it all, you have always given 100 percent. We might not have agreed all the time on how or what -- the details -- but we never questioned each other's dedication to our university and our students. Thank you for a job well done as provost. You have earned a rest. Enjoy it. I look forward to celebrating and feting you on the other end of this latest life challenge. All the best to you and yours. Stay safe. Love, Tracy*

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*Joyce Strawser*

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Dear Karen,

THANK YOU. It has been a privilege, once again, to work so closely with you. I have continued to learn from you and to be inspired by you. You are tireless in your goal of making things better. There is no one who cares more, no one who works harder, and no one who is more courageous than you. Whenever I am facing a difficult challenge, I can hear your voice saying, "there is an answer -- we don't know what it is yet, but there is an answer."

You have given so much to Stillman and Seton Hall. You are a terrific role model, a generous and honorable leader and a true friend. Your influence on my career and on my life has been truly profound. I wish you every happiness and success as you move on to the next challenge, which I know you will meet with enthusiasm and boundless energy.

With much love and gratitude,  
Joyce Strawser

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*Fall 2018 - NJCBAA Awards*



*Stillman Dean Team - Fall 2008*

*Brian B Shulman*

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Dear Karen-

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the years in your role as Interim Provost. I will always remember what a 'straight shooter' you have always been while, at the same time, an amazing listener. I am truly a better leader because of you. I have valued our many fruitful, productive, and always, frank conversations. Your academic wisdom on a number of topics always provided me with sound insights on how I approached initiatives and challenges over the years as Dean.

I wish you a very well-deserved vacation and productive sabbatical. Please know that I will miss your collegiality and support I have benefited from over the last 3 years.

May you be blessed with even greater success in the years ahead.

Stay well-

Brian

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## *Maureen Gillette*

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Hey Karen!

I had barely moved to New Jersey and started at Seton Hall when Larry and Gabe both left and I found myself with a new Provost and a new President! Wow! I could not have been luckier. I am sure that Larry and Gabe would have been great bosses. But, the opportunity to work for/with two smart, competent, savvy and funny women was a dream come true.

The first thing that impressed me about you was that you showed up in my office to meet me in person well before you started in the position. That small act spoke volumes about the caring leader with high standards who would teach me so much. The next thing was that the first few times I asked you a question, you said, "let's look it up in the faculty guide." I had been told that this was the "Bible" but I saw how you were able to maneuver over, under, around, and through the "rules" of the guide to always do the right thing. That is the next thing that came shining through - your ethical leadership. You are a true servant leader who is guided by strong values and ethical principles. You use them to lead, bringing a deep respect for the practical world in which we operate and in which people make choices. Your unwavering commitment to students and the good of the university is inspiring. You are able to be fair, firm, have high expectations, and bring compassion and a concern for the individual into focus in your deliberations. Best

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of all, we always have found something to laugh about in every meeting. Even in the darkest times, given all of the different and similar things we both have been through in the past three years - there is always laughter. I will miss that the most. When I tell all of my friends about you, I share the story of the two of us walking out of the Teacher and Researcher of the Year Awards two years ago. You were saying that you had several more meetings that day. I tentatively shared that I was leaving early to get my hair cut and colored because my appointment had been cancelled in that freak snowstorm that shut the entire region down for two days. Without a blink, you said - "Go! You can't miss a cut and color!" You are able to blend the personal and the professional in a way that makes me want to work harder because you make it so enjoyable.

Karen, you have taught me so much! I am a better dean and a better person for having worked with you, even for three short (although most of the time it felt long) years. Thank you for all that you have done for me and for the university. I have always felt your support, no matter what the situation or the decision. Even if you had to tell me "no," I knew that you had my back and would be there when I needed you. I will miss you greatly and look forward to a glass of wine on the deck. Enjoy the well-deserved sabbatical!

Love, Maureen

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*Marie Foley*

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Dear Karen,

It is with great reticence that I say goodbye to you as Provost. The past 3 1/2 years working for you have been one of the best experiences during my time as Dean. I have such great respect for you, your values, ethics and unending energy. There have been times when the workload seemed overwhelming; however, knowing you demand the same of yourself made me push through and in the end gave me a sense of accomplishment.

Thank you for your support of the College of Nursing and of me personally. I knew I could go to you with any question or concern and you would advise me well, not always what I wanted to hear, but what I needed to hear. I appreciate your coming to your first "nursing event" (not for the faint of heart), when I received the DIVA award. It touched my heart that you were there, and brought Joel to be bored as well!

Some of my favorite experiences were going to West Point with the leadership students. I was never inside the gates and it was such a moving experience to meet the cadettes and better understand their experiences. The other was Washington DC last year. I loved going to Howard, it is such a beautiful University and I did not expect such a gem in the middle of the city, perhaps I should visit Catholic next time. Spending time with the Black Men of Distinction was such a pleasure, I had never met them before, we do not have many men in nursing, and they are so articulate and professional, I was truly impressed. But my favorite part was keeping up with you as we literally ran through DC, only to be followed by meeting your son!

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Expanding the Buccino Leadership program to all undergraduate students was visionary. To see the excitement in our nursing students as they participate in this program is heartwarming. I know that would not have happened without you. Watching Kathy grow as a faculty and a mentor is an outcome which may not have happened without this program. I know our students will become nurse leaders in their careers and always continue to make SHU proud.

It is unfortunate that the end of your tenure as Provost is colored with this pandemic, but I could not have imagined a better leader to get us through these difficult times. Dealing with uncertainty is not easy and people want answers which we cannot always provide; however, your transparency was helpful to get us through. I must confess, it does scare me somewhat thinking you will not be steering the ship as we navigate through to the end.

I wish you well on your sabbatical, I know you will not be sitting idle, but hopefully you will take some time to relax and regroup. I am sure sitting home is not the kind of vacation you might hope for, but sometimes being forced to slow down and stay home can be renewing.

I for one am very thankful that "God made you perfect!" Thank you for your leadership, mentorship and hard work!

With gratitude,  
Marie

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## *Karen A. Passaro*

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Dear Karen,

So, I presume it is safe to say that you would never have planned to receive a Thanks and Farewell book as the Interim Executive Vice President and Provost in 2020!

We have known each other in numerous roles and for so many years, that it may be difficult to keep an order or separation to some thoughts. I know that you appreciate the written word so hopefully, you will find nuggets somewhere within. As I near the nifty fifty on the shared DeMarco patriarch birthday, I am reminded of a Stillman dance, perhaps the inaugural or an early version in NYC, where you and Joel celebrated a birthday quietly among your second family. But back even longer, closer to 30 years ago, I was introduced to the Karen Boroff work ethic in Managerial Negotiation. It is the nature of your education and corporate career to carefully set the stage and tone for work sessions then and now, and it was clearly demonstrated in that Fahy Hall classroom and later in the Exxon Room where final negotiations took place. All of the students realized that your preparation was far more intricate and deliberate than that of graduate students and many other faculty members. Seeing the grades posted on your office door (probably by ID/SSN listed publicly!), I remember the proud feeling of earning an "A". Sadly, my trek into current office quarters, while creating nostalgic moments and the phantom odor of smoke as I pass Ray Wagner's office, is somewhat of a downer, but this issue fermented before your turn in Presidents Hall... and who could have imagined the social distancing dilemmas we now will face. It's actually a lucky time for a sabbatical most will say!

For more personal matters, I do recall that I shared this story when introducing Gordon Bethune at an early Convocation. I asked Associate Dean/Professor Boroff why I might choose to come back to work at alma mater, and on Seton Hall, you shared your belief that it is the type of place where one has the opportunity to see her work be implemented and have an impact. Many years later, just after my third AACSB visit, I asked Professor Boroff/Dean Emeritus, what she thought about the new opportunity

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presented to me to resurrect the former Seton World Wide. As expected, I did catch the slight tightening of the jaw, likely a result of the nightmare of the online MBA debacle, but after a pause of deliberation, she said that there are big challenges there. "But, if anyone can make it work, you can." We can only hope that the new KP in town can help lift the sails on this ship of opportunity. From all great depressions and tragedies in the world, innovation and spirit help the rebound. Playing an important role in our great University's survival, I have been buoyed by the work and contingency scenario fatigue, I mean planning, and I appreciate the faith you have placed in me during this critical time.

We had the fun of passing GO! and never going to jail, while working on the foundation of today's Stillman School for many years. While not as intertwined these last years, there still is a great personal and professional comfort in our mental telepathy in group meetings where just a few more questions need to be asked, and the subtle raise of an eyebrow or widening of the eyes gives the cue. It has been some winter and spring, and I am not over that I had vacation planned to go to see Myles and the team in a repeat of my freshman year at the Final Four. You have given an extraordinary amount of time and sweat equity to all of your positions and constituents at the Hall and this is no real way to exit such a prestigious run for you either. Because of your steadfastness, we are prepared to stay the steady course for survival of The Hall. So, my homage for a contingency program working title would be "The Pirate Pivot... This Ship Ain't Goin' Down."

In closing, please enjoy the well-deserved sabbatical, and make sure that Joel has enough support roles to keep him moving, now that you will have a little bit of a slower schedule.

Be well and God Bless. Go Pirates!

With love and respect,  
Karen Passaro

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*Deirdre Yates*

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Dear Karen,

On the professional side, your guidance, wisdom, and support have been immeasurable. Your willingness to embark on something new and your tireless energy to make something better, cannot be matched. I so admire your commitment to truth and fairness. Your first thoughts are always about equity, inclusion, and integrity - such a testament to your stellar character.

You have given me amazing strength and confidence and taught me so much. Your humbleness doesn't allow you to accept the praise but, I would never have been able to do this job without your mentorship and example. Thank you!

On the personal side, your buoyant spirit is so welcoming and joyous. You are always quick with a positive comment and continually look for the 'good take' on a situation. Your laugh and twinkle are so endearing. You are a caring, nurturing person with an enormous amount of faith and grace. I am elevated by knowing you.

"What is past is prologue" ... Wm. Shakespeare's The Tempest

With great respect and love,  
Deirdre

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*John Buschman*

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Dr. Boroff,

I want to write in two "voices." My first voice is institutional - as the Dean of University Libraries. Thank you. You put resources and thought into your leadership in our corner of the University, and it showed. It meant a lot to the organization and allowed us to continue our momentum for the last three-and-a-half years. It was important. It helped students. It will help students. And whether they know it or not, it tremendously helps our faculty colleagues.

My second voice is personal: your direct, cut-through-the-noise (I actually wanted to use another word there ...) thinking didn't favor me, didn't disfavor me, it simply called it like it was. I value that immensely, and for that support you have my sincere personal thanks. I'll also miss your direct and less-filtered observations - those help too!

All my best - John

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*Courtney Smith*

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Dear Karen,

Please let me join a chorus of voices thanking you for your service to Seton Hall, in particular your work as Interim Provost over the past three and a half years. Your efforts helped guide the University through a critical period of leadership transitions and unprecedented challenges. No decision was easy, but your approach made them more manageable, and we all benefited as a result.

On a more personal note, I am grateful for your faith in me to lead the School of Diplomacy this year. The process by which you approached our transition was unprecedented, and very much appreciated by all of us in the School. I will always remember your advice to never act like an acting dean, and I have tried to embody that approach throughout the year, both before and during our shift to remote learning. Handling such challenges is always easier when you have mutual respect and trust with those around you, and I feel fortunate to enjoy these, both above and below.

Best wishes for a restful and well-deserved sabbatical, and for a rewarding return to the classroom thereafter. It is very fitting that the University will continue to benefit from your presence in the years to come.

Thank you,  
Courtney Smith

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*Bonita Stanton*

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Dear Karen

It is my hope that either while you are on sabbatical, if you do so in the area, or when you are back on campus at SHU, we might finally have the opportunity to engage in an activity that we both enjoy and at a time that we are both awake: let's plan for a bird walk at sunrise in some park in the area. (I don't often meet early morning people -- and that you are!! and I rarely meet birders. So to find both attributes in one person is a real treat.)

But whether we do or do not do this, please do be certain to enjoy your well-deserved sabbatical and thanks for all of your hard work and effort as Interim Provost. I appreciate and hope we shall continue to build interprofessional programs at the Nutley Campus. I greatly appreciate your trying to develop effective pipeline programs for under-represented minorities desiring to attend medical school. We shall continue to build upon the ground work you have laid. and, of course, we shall miss your sense of humor.

Bonnie Stanton

With warm regards,

Bonnie Stanton

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*Peter Shoemaker*

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*It was an honor to "learn the ropes" of Seton Hall and deanship from you. You were tough, fearless, and supportive as you lead our Academic Affairs pirate ship through uncharted waters. As you retire (again) from University leadership, I wish you the best during your sabbatical and beyond. I'll see you around the Green!*

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*Kathy Suga*

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May 8, 2020

Dear Karen,

It is simply impossible to put into words the depth of my love, respect, gratitude and admiration for you. There are so few who embody pure goodness and integrity in every act and word as you do. Your presence in my life during the last several months, which have been a pretty dark and grim time, has comforted and inspired me.

I know that you have faced your own challenges, but you have always managed to rise up with grace, dignity and generosity of spirit. At the same time, and I don't know how you always do it, that brain of yours is computing at warp speed. It's like watching a three-dimensional chess game!

Many years ago, I had the occasion to speak to Joel. I think I called you at home and he answered. For some reason, you couldn't come to the phone and we got to talking about you. I could hear the love and pride in his voice when he described how you were a superstar back when you were in business (which I think is where you two met?) and before you came over to academe. Having now had the pleasure of spending more time with him and your children, the abiding love and devotion you all have for each other is more than uplifting.

So this is all to say that it has been a joy to work with you - as a colleague (who has made me think harder and write better), Executive Cabinet mentor, hostess with the mostest, fashionista, friend and confidante. Truly you deserve only the best and I can't wait to see you when you return from your sabbatical.

Love always,  
Kathy S.

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*Paul Fisher*

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Karen, from saving an accreditation, packing the Honda with equipment and schlepping out to Brooklyn to extend the reach of Seton Hall's educational experience, to COVID-19 response, and everything we have done together in between, you have been an inspiring leader, a colleague and a friend.

Thank you for your leadership, your ability to throw some of the craziest ideas over the transom, and your ever pushing my own "guardrails", challenging me to solve problems and rise to the occasion, always.

Thank you for ALWAYS taking the time to listen, to take a phone call in the midst of everything on your plate to just give direction or a bit of affirmation for a few minutes means more than you could know.

Seton Hall is a better place as a result of your leadership and love of the place. Thank you for all of your personal sacrifice in the advancement of Pirates everywhere. You simply embody the slogan Hazard Zet Forward. Best of luck in the next chapter, I can't wait to be a character in it.

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*Msgr Robert Sheeran*

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Dear Karen,

I write to express my own deepest gratitude to you for all the outstanding service you have rendered to the Seton Hall community over these past 31 years.

Personally, I have witnessed your years of dedicated and compassionate teaching; then, your impressive tenure as dean of the Stillman School; and, most recently, your days at the helm as Seton Hall's provost.

I thank you most especially for our good friendship and our work together, certainly during my years as president.

Thanks for all that you have achieved but also for the qualities you have brought to your leadership positions -steadiness, loyalty and a sharp eye for the common good.

Most importantly, thank you for who you are: a woman of intelligence and heart with indefatigable energy, and an abiding faith in Seton Hall, and in your Lord.

May God bless the new chapters you will certainly now write.

Warmest regards, and a blessing!

Your friend,  
Monsignor Bob Sheeran

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## *Kathy Childers*

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Dear Dr. Boroff,

First off, congratulations on a job well done and being able to leave knowing you did your best for Seton Hall, and it shows. You have seen the University through some trying times, changes in administration, protests and sit-ins, and you still managed to set an example of how to weather whatever storm came our way

You maintained grace, an outward appearance of calmness (even though at times I am sure you felt anything but calm) and managed to keep a sense of humor though it all. The fact that you believed that everything could be handled made everyone else feel the same.

You fostered a sense of togetherness for your whole building, not just your staff and that made a difference. The breakfasts and lunches where we got the chance to get together, the little raffles, were all just touches that helped bring us all together in a great way and made it a more pleasurable way to work with each other. I can only image others that have interacted with you throughout the University have the same experience.

On a personal note, I will miss seeing you when I come in early in the morning! Aside from the fact that I will miss being able to use the back staircase (lol), I will miss our brief conversations when we ran into each other and just knowing you were there working tirelessly made me fee better. I enjoyed talking about weddings, families and life at Seton Hall with you and will miss it.

I wish you only the best and hopefully, some relaxation. I hope you enjoy seeing your legacy here live on for years to come and may God bless you in your future years and may they be whatever you dreamed they would be.

Sincerely,  
Kathy (Childers)

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*Amy Timmes*

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Dear Dr. Boroff,

Although you and I didn't work closely together at Stillman, I always felt a sense of knowing you -- through Carol Flynn, through Peg Conroy, through reading your case studies, and even seeing you on occasion in Chatham. And, of course, there's the day you gave me a ride home and showed me the "Mushroom House!"

Many years ago when Ed and I were having dinner with the Conroys and another couple, Peg said to me, "You work at Seton Hall? You might know my good friend, Karen Boroff. She's the Dean of the Business School." At the time, I worked for Greg Burton in Presidents Hall, so I hadn't yet met you. As soon as I transferred to Stillman to work for Joyce, I couldn't wait to seek you out!

Ever since, each encounter I've had with you brings me joy. You greet me with a big smile and the occasional hug whenever we meet, and it truly means a lot to me. I'm thankful that I got to know you, even a little, and I hope when you return from sabbatical we can get to know each other better. I look forward to reading more of your case studies, too!

This note is just to say a big "thank you" for everything you've done to make SHU a better place to work. I wish you all the best during your sabbatical. Stay healthy and well. Hope you return to Stillman refreshed and ready to enjoy what you do so well: teaching and bringing joy to all of us who appreciate you!

All the very best,  
Amy Timmes

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*Stephen Graham*

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*The word "interim" will never have the same meaning for me again. From day one, over three and a half years ago, Dr. Boroff never approached her role as Provost as an interim. Karen tackled the tough issues and pushed long term strategies at every turn. Karen's achievements were numerous and well earned. Karen was the best Provost I have partnered with in over 20 years in higher education. Any accomplishments I may have achieved over these past several years were due to the teamwork and leadership displayed by Karen. Thank you Karen! Seton Hall is lucky to have you in any capacity. I am very happy this is not a good bye letter. Best of luck in your next phase of your career.*

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*Shawna Cooper-Gibson*

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*Dear Karen,*

*Thank you for welcoming me to the Seton Hall Community and for your collaboration in my on-boarding. I have appreciated your wisdom and advocacy in supporting students on campus. Your partnership and care have been instrumental to enhancing the coordination of our faculty engagement efforts. I am grateful for all that you have done and continue to do.*

*Shawna*

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*Fr. Anthony Ziccardi*

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*Karen,*

*I have had the pleasure of knowing you for more than two decades at Seton Hall. You have given yourself completely to the service of the University, your colleagues, and your students. You have worked tirelessly and intelligently. You have given it your best effort. You should be proud of what you have accomplished until now because we have all benefitted greatly from you. I myself have learned much from you, and I look forward to being your colleague for many years to come. I am confident that your future contributions to this community will be invaluable.*

*With deep gratitude,  
Anthony*

---

*Adam Warner*

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*Karen –*

*THANK YOU for your hard work and all that you've  
done for Seton Hall!*

*Also, thank you for helping me get my start at  
Stillman. Still loving it.*

*Wishing you the best in whatever is next...*

*Adam Warner*

---



*Happenings at the Market Research Center... :-)*

*Anselm LeBourne*

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*Dr. Boroff, Thanks for all that you have done for me, it's highly appreciated. I will always be grateful to you for your support and kindness. It would be impossible to count all the ways that you've helped me in my career at Seton Hall University. Thank you so much for all that you've done – I only hope I can return the favor sometime in the future. Thanks for being a good mentor and for guiding me on the right path. I admire the way you describe things with such clarity, style and attention to detail when I sat in your class to learn from you. You are a super role model for me the epitome of professionalism. I often wondered if I would ever be so skilled and respected. All I know is that I'm still playing catch up!*

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*Tony Loviscek*

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Dear Karen:

Rather than saying "farewell," I wish that you "fare well" in your next steps in life's journey. (I am close behind you.) I look back fondly on our journey together to raise the profile of the University. Here is a sample of highlights that have lifted and continue to lift the Seton Hall experience:

1. Ribbon-cutting ceremony that opened the Center for Securities Trading and Analysis
2. Victories in the NYSSA/CFA Research Challenges
3. Deal making for Bloomberg terminals
4. Ringing the opening bell at the NYSE
5. On-boarding new, research-driven, forward-thinking faculty
6. Publishing in elite finance journals
7. Being awarded "Teachers of the Year"
8. Carving out a space on Wall Street for Seton Hall graduates
9. Recruiting ever-brighter students and from the floor of the NYSE
10. Forging forward with a new mission "from concept to practice"

I think we can say that we have shown the world how special Seton Hall is.

Thank you for who you are and all that you have done and will continue to do.

With prayers and peace sent your way...

...TL

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*David Gelb*

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*Dear Karen,*

*We missed you here at the Business School and are looking forward to having you back with us!*

*Congratulations on your success in yet another phase of an impressive career. I hope that you will be able to rest up a bit!*

*Best,  
David*

---

*Penina Orenstein*

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Dear Dr Boroff

I am looking forward to you returning to our end of the corridor and continuing our early morning chats about family, research and academic aspirations. Seeing you hard at work when I arrive for my 9:30 AM class has always been an added bonus for my personal inspiration.

The heart of my current research is almost entirely due to a side comment about exploring a less known aspect of Bloomberg data which came precisely from one of those early morning chats. This is clearly one of the hidden benefits of academia and one I have enjoyed since the day you signed me in as a new-hire, back in 2006. Your drive and tenacity as demonstrated by your progress through the ranks of member of the faculty, dean and interim provost which, when coupled with excellence in research can serve both as an asset for you to treasure as well as a quality for us to admire. Thank you for your daily example of leadership and constant encouragement.

Dr Penina Orenstein  
Stillman School of Business  
Department of Computing and Decision Sciences  
Seton Hall University

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*Lee Miller*

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*Dear Karen*

*It has been a pleasure working with you all these years. The school has been fortunate to benefit from your talents in all the capacities in which you have served. Enjoy your sabbatical and I look forward to working with you when you return to the Management Department.*

*Best*

*Lee*

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*Michael Reuter*

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Dr. Boroff

Karen,

Thank you, my very dear friend, for all that you have done and continue to do for our students, faculty and administration and our beloved University.

Thank you for the extraordinary opportunity you provided me to serve our students, Leadership Program and Seton Hall as we brought it to national prominence. Most importantly, it was you who had the foresight of institutionalizing this work university-wide leaving a legacy for which you will always be remembered, and for which students now and those to come will be eternally thankful.

Karen, thank you for you, and all that you do. You are the best... and your best is yet to come!

Have a beautiful day and a highly successful and joyous journey ahead!!!

Michael

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*Steven Lorenzet*

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Dear Karen,

Congratulations on the conclusion of a very successful run as Provost! Thank you for always thinking of the needs of the students, faculty, staff, alumni and everyone else. It has been so nice to know that there was such a talented and effective leader in the Provost's Office who was focused on the best interests of the University and its many stakeholders.

I also want to thank you for being willing to temporarily leave your post in the faculty to serve as Provost. It seemed to me your life in the faculty was going exceedingly well, so your willingness to leave it for awhile in order to lead the division of Academic Affairs is all the more appreciated.

You have shown yourself to be a servant leader who is passionate about institutional success, as well as the success of the students, faculty, and staff. Thank you so much for all of your energy and passion.

I hope you look back on your time as Provost with a great deal of pride and satisfaction. For sure you will be able to point to the many accomplishments that happened under your watch as evidence of the indelible mark you have left on our amazing University.

Congratulations, enjoy your sabbatical and we look forward to having you back in the Management Department for 2021-2022!

Warm Regards,  
Steve Lorenzet

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*Jason Z Yin*

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*You are proof that good things  
come to those who are willing  
to sacrifice to reach a  
worthwhile goal. Words can't  
express how I am proud of you  
and how much I appreciate the  
friendship we have.*

---

*Pamela Dungee*

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Dear Karen,

I have been blessed to work with you twice during my time at Seton Hall, initially in your role as dean and now as interim provost. When I think of the Stillman School and the University, so many words and phrases come to mind such as Integrity and Professionalism, Concepts into Practice, Servant Leader, Ethics, Community, Pirate Pride and of course, Hazard Zet Forward. When I think of you, I love that the very same words and phrases come to mind.

Thank you for serving as interim provost - taking on the role and serving the University when we needed you most.

I hope you have a wonderful sabbatical, and I am happy that you are returning to the Department of Management, which means we may work together again, for a third time. Be well.

Pamela Dungee

"Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colors. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving." Terry Pratchett, *A Hat Full of Sky*

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*Pamela Adams*

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*From the first day I met you in your office, you made me understand your vision of what excellence is. And how much Seton Hall means to you.*

*Thank you for all that you have done to show just how much you meant that. We are so happy to welcome you back into the Department.*

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*Linda Karten*

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*Dear Karen,*

*I just wanted to thank you for your leadership as Interim Provost of Seton Hall. You did a terrific job leading us through the best of times and as well as our most challenging days. I am particularly grateful for inspiring us to open our hearts and minds and come together around the issues of diversity and inclusion. We are a better community because of it. The work you began will continue. Best wishes and I hope you enjoy the journey ahead.*

*Sincerely,*

*Linda*

---



*Dr. Boroff and friends at Inclusion Dialogue with UCLA's Jerry Kang*

*Mark Schild*

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*Dear Karen,*

*From the moment I arrived at Seton Hall in 2016, as an adjunct, you made me feel welcome. I still remember a FASB meeting where you singled me out by thanking me for attending. Fast forward to my competitive drive to beat you to campus in the morning (a losing battle). Regardless of the stress of your position and how busy you were, you never failed to have a smile and a moment to speak and offer up valuable thoughts and suggestions.*

*It will be a pleasure to have you back at Stillman, after your well-deserved rest. Thank you again for all you do. Best regards, Mark*

---

*Lisa Metz*

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*Dear Dr. Boroff,*

*It has been a great honor to have you lead as our Provost. You have my sincere admiration and respect for your strength, wisdom, boundless energy and compassion that you have demonstrated so clearly.*

*My best wishes to you for future days full of happiness and rich in blessings.*

*Sincerely,*

*Lisa*

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*Susan Scherreik*

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*Dear Karen,*

*Mahatma Gandhi said: "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." Your energetic leadership, wisdom, and caring have made Seton Hall University a better place. God bless!*

*Warm wishes,  
Susan Scherreik*

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*Joe Guasconi*

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Dear Karen,

To say that you are one of the most impressive people I've met at Seton Hall is an understatement. I've always admired your intelligence, dedication, creativity and commitment to intellectual honesty. You understand the importance of setting goals and then executing relentlessly in pursuit of them, a trait which is essential to achieving success at anything which is important in life. You lead by example in everything you do, and always hold yourself to a higher standard than anyone else.

And then there's the warm and softer side of you which I've very much enjoyed seeing in your interactions with important donors like Sylvia Tencza which allow people to feel very comfortable in sharing their stories with you.

Karen, you've performed another important job at Seton Hall exceptionally well, yet again. We are grateful for your remarkable service.

I wish you good health and great joy as you pursue your next adventure. Thank you for truly being the best you can be and inspiring others to follow your example. It's been an honor to work with you.

God bless you,

Joe

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*Brenda Polanco*

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*Dr. Boroff,*

*Thank you for your dedication to students,  
colleagues, and the entire Seton Hall family. You  
will be missed – cheers to new adventures!*

*Sincerely,  
Brenda Polanco*

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*Sarah A. Andrews*

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*Dear Dr. Boroff,*

*Thank you very much for your time and dedication to our students, faculty, and staff. The work you have done has personally impacted me, as we have been able to create more support for our international students at The Career Center. I have also enjoyed chatting with you on occasion at the Open Houses. Thank you for being a strong female leader, a figure I looked up to.*

*Thank you very much,*

*Sarah A. Andrews, Assistant Director, Career Services*

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*Darrell W Gunter*

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*Dear Dr. Boroff,*

*First off thank you for all that you have done for Seton Hall over the years. I am very thankful for you providing me the opportunity to be an adjunct faculty and launching of the sales course here at Seton Hall.*

*Time after time you have responded to the call to be of assistance to Seton Hall. I am so glad that this is not goodbye but hello to a new chapter of you being of service to Seton Hall.*

*May God continue to bless you and your efforts to continue to be a servant leader!*

*Sincerely,*  
*Darrell W Gunter*

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*Yonah Wilamowski*

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*Hi Karen:*

*I know that you were doing important stuff for the last few years, but I nevertheless missed our "word for the day" when coming to school in the morning. Looking forward to having you back on a more personal level and again having a chance to grow our vocabulary. Enjoy your sabbatical.*

*Yonah*

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*Jacqueline McGlynn*

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*Thank you for always being a beacon of integrity and sharer of sage advice, and most of all for teaching by example how to "be attentive to the voice of grace." I am ever grateful for the time I spent working with you. Hazard yet forward!*

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*Frank G. Cannata*

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Karen,

You had an amazing career in building a first class Business School. What was your greatest asset in achieving all that? Without question was your ability to reach out and take advantages of any opportunity that presented themselves to build a better program. I recall writing to you about Ann Mulcahy former CEO of Xerox. Ann's accomplishment was her ability to take the CEO position when the company had a debt of \$7 billion. She held a giant press conference in Chelsea Piers and invited the entire business press core to brief them in the morning and lay out her plan. In the afternoon the industry press heard the same presentation and was one of the fortunate ones to be invited. She delivered on every promise she made that day. I shared that story with you and you assigned a couple of Graduate students to due a study of that Xerox turnaround. Immediately after that you asked me about inviting Ann to speak at the Hall. Ann could not make it but, she indicated Ursula Burns the Executive Vice President was available. I know you will remember Burns appearing and how the students responded to her. You enriched the curriculum with real world experiences that I know the students profited from. Well done!

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*Mark P. Holtzman*

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Dear Karen:

It seems like not too long ago that you called me on a Friday afternoon, while I was driving. I still remember: I was driving on I-80, and had just crossed the GW Bridge. I pulled off at the nearest exit so I could focus on this important phone call. You extended me an offer to join the faculty of Seton Hall University.

That was in 2002. Eighteen years later, I feel fortunate to have worked with you, to have learned from you, and to count you among my friends and my confidants.

Thank you for how you've helped me join the faculty at Seton Hall and advance to my current position. Without you, I would not be where I am.

And thank you for stepping up to the Provost's office when you were called for, and for sticking with this job through thick and thin. When you agreed to take this job I don't think you would have ever imagined achieving record enrollments and SAT scores while working under three presidents.

I look forward to having you working again down the hall from me, us shmoozing about the big and the little issues in life.

Mark Holtzman

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*Carol Flynn*

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*Karen, I have known you since you first started at Seton Hall (when Alex was born) and it's been a pleasure. I always enjoyed working with you and I know you will be sorely missed in the Provost Office, but the students will be the lucky ones to have you back at Stillman.*

*Let's keep in touch!!!*

*Carol Flynn*

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*Richard Liddy*

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*Dear Karen,*

*Thank you for the open door! I appreciate your  
listening and all the ways you have helped the  
Center for Catholic Studies, Seton Hall – and me!  
Deep prayers for you, Joel and your children –*

*(Msgr.) Dick Liddy*

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*Jayson Singletary*

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Dr. Boroff,

As I stepped onto the campus of Seton Hall University, I most assuredly would not have been able to forecast the successes I would see individually or as a part of what I believe to be a first class organization. Unequivocally, I must say I owe a sizable amount of that success to our relationship. Thank you for making Seton Hall a home for myself and a host of other young men who never thought their stories would be heard. Thank you for uplifting the voices of young men who just wanted to improve their own life outcomes and those around them. Thank you for expecting the best from a group of young men who many doubted and worked against. Your ferocity and passion to see people like me succeed truly warms my heart and gives me the strength to continue to inspire and achieve. I am truly grateful for you setting the foundation for my professional career that started in the Human Resources office on campus. The thing although that I want to thank you for the most, is the fact that you were yourself and genuine in every exchange that we have ever had. From the meals that we have shared, the moments in prayer and late night travel I thank you for the laughs, wisdom and mentor ship. Truly, the difficulty in penning this letter is the dilemma I have believing that another Provost could mean to students what you mean to me. As you embark on new endeavors at Seton Hall and beyond I wish you many blessings and that you will always be guided by your faith and passion. I will forever celebrate our two paths that have crossed and will hope for the continuance of it. Thank you for everything, God bless and Hazard Zet Forward!

With Immense Gratitude,  
Jayson A Singletary

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# MEETINGS OF











*Gerald J Buonopane*

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Dear Dr. Boroff,

First, I hope that you and your family are safe and well in this time of the Covid-19 crisis.

Second, thank you very much for all of your hard work and service to Seton Hall as our interim Provost. You are indeed a true servant leader.

I wish that after serving as Provost you can get some well-deserved relaxation and downtime.

On a personal note, I am very grateful for your support.

May God bless you and yours with peace, health, and joy.

Sincere best wishes,

Fr. Gerry Buonopane

Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry

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*Shereea M Gaskin*

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*Dear Dr. Boroff,*

*Thank you so much for your unwavering commitment to helping others and being a driving force for personal and professional development. I have an abundance of gratitude for the immense impact you have had on my life. Your kindness is such a beacon of light to everyone you encounter and your commitment to service inspires me to be a light to others. I am very proud of the legacy you will continue to sow and I am wishing you a very prosperous journey.*

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*Dave Rosenthal*

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*Karen,*

*I want to sincerely thank you for your work as Provost. While I am sure there are faculty who don't appreciate your work and results, there are many that do, of course including me. And talk about trial by fire. First the sit-in and then the COVID crisis.*

*I hope you can enjoy your sabbatical in these difficult times. I am glad to hear that come the fall of 2021 you will be where you also shine, in a classroom.*

*Thanks again,*  
*Dave Rosenthal*

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*Bryan Price*

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Dear Karen,

Where do I start? I guess I can start with the West Point Parents Club of NJ and the dinner where I first met you and your husband. Who would've thought that this dinner would lead me to South Orange and working with you.

Although I've only served under you for two years, I've been extremely impressed with your ability to get stuff done, to juggle multiple balls at once, and to do it all with a smile on your face. In short, you lead. You put the mission first. You do what's best for the organization, even when you know that doing so is going to ruffle feathers, and make some folks upset with you.

I have had some phenomenal leaders during my career - BG Cindy Jebb being one of them - and I put you right there with the best of the best. There is no way that this leadership institute gets done without you, your vision, and your commitment to making it happen. I will be eternally grateful.

Enjoy your sabbatical and I look forward to seeing you around the halls of Jubilee in 2021!

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*Provost Boroff, the Deans, and Bryan Price at the first-ever Buccino Leadership Institute end-of-year celebration*



*Nancy Enright*

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*Dear Karen,*

*It's been really great working with you these last few years. As I have gotten to know you, I have come to deeply appreciate your kindness, honesty, and integrity. You have been very supportive of the Core and of me, personally. And I will never forget that. But you also are leaving a legacy of connection with local faith-based communities and the HBCU pipeline. All of this is extremely important to me, and a joy to share in it with you. I know sometimes the burdens of this job were a lot to deal with (an understatement), and I pray that you enjoy some well-deserved peace and actual fun! God bless you, always.*

*Nancy*

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*Father Joseph R. Laracy*

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*Dr. Boroff:*

*Thank you for all your support of my priestly  
ministry at SHU. May God continue to bless you and  
your family abundantly.*

*With a prayer,  
Father Joseph R. Laracy*

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*Anca Grecu*

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*Dear Dr. Borroff,*

*Please accept my sincerest gratitude for your willingness to serve during a very difficult period. I was always impressed with the grace you displayed during your entire tenure as interim Provost. Your honesty and openness changed the standards of interaction between faculty and administration. Your steadfastness in protecting the high standards of SHU raised our expectations of what we can and should want to achieve. We all expect more now and I strongly believe that makes our University a much better place for our students.*

*Thank you!*

*Anca Grecu*

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## *Alphayaya Habib Barrie*

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For the past few days, I've been trying to find the right words to describe how truly appreciative I am of you. In 2011, I was at home watching President Obama speak at West Point's graduation ceremony. In this speech, he spoke about the academy's first all-female command and he mentioned a young lady by the name of Austen Boroff. If you would have told me on that day almost 9 years ago the woman who raised that exceptional military officer would change my life, I would have called you a liar. For over four-plus years, You have grown from my teacher/mentor to my family. You brought the best out of me in and out of the classroom, and even as your intern, you never stopped teaching me life lessons. You restored my confidence, You showed me that I can lead but most importantly you taught me how to lead. You pushed me to be great and be passionate about what I do. Most importantly, you taught me that every man/woman has a part to play in the success of an organization and no one person is bigger than the team. I've had Influential people in my life but, you rank at the top of the list. You are beyond an amazing person and I can go on and on about you. In my own selfish way, I wish this chapter did not have to come to an end, but then I remember one of your many lessons, "you have to make way for new ideas and constant growth so there can be continued success". Thank You for your mentorship, Thank You for your friendship, Thank You for your devoted leadership, but most of all thank you for giving myself and countless others someone to look up to. This world would be a better place if it had a fraction of what the Heavenly Father created in you. Many may come, but there will never be another quite like Dr. Karen E. Boroff. In the words of my favorite hip-hop artist, " I'm grateful for you, I'm thankful for you, to you I stay true, The song is for you, Thank You Thank You"...

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*Theresa Henry*

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Dear Karen,

Thank you for your leadership as Provost these past years. As always, you stepped up, unquestioning, to do what is best for Seton Hall during a time of transition. This semester in particular brought unprecedented challenges that, no doubt, added to your work load tremendously. Knowing you, you sacrificed much or perhaps all of what should have been your downtime to address any issue that came your way.

I hope this next year on sabbatical will be a productive and peaceful one for you, a time to reflect on this experience and a time to look ahead to the future. I pray your family are all well and you can enjoy more time spent with them. Lastly, I look forward to the return to campus of my office neighbor in Fall 2021!

Thank you for your unyielding commitment and dedication!

Until we meet again - be well!

Theresa Henry

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*Jim Modlin*

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Dear Karen:

An action packed "6 months" wasn't it!! I just have to imagine that in the history of Seton Hall no other Provost has been through as much change in the university, and lately the world, as you. Thank you!! Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for being there for all of us.

I suspect you may look back at your time as Provost with mixed emotions. Most importantly, I hope you look back realizing the tremendously positive impact you made on so many in the SHU community. It is profound.

To Joel and your family, thank you!!! Your support of Karen, and us, is truly appreciated.

Cindy and I wish you all the very best. Thank you again.

Your colleague and friend,  
Jim

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*Fr. Ray Cho*

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*Dear Dr. Boroff,*

*Thank you so much for your service as the interim  
provost. May the good Lord reward all your works.  
Hope you will be able to enjoy some downtime now!*

*Fr. Ray Cho*

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*Colin Kay*

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*Wishing you peace and every good thing, Karen, including  
a grilled cheese now and then, and maybe, once in a while,  
a morning NOT at your desk at 6:30 ...*

*I'll miss the light in your office window, as night becomes  
day, and I'll miss the light in YOU. But you won't be far:  
I'll still feel the shine ...*

*May the Lord bless you, and keep you from all harm, and  
guide you safely along your way.*

*Shalom.*

---

*Melody Puliti*

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*Dear Karen,*

*I can't thank you enough for everything that you have done for me the past twelve years. It has been a pleasure both working with you and learning from you. Please enjoy your well-deserved sabbatical. I look forward to having you back with us at Stillman when you return. We will miss you in the meantime!*

*Best wishes,*

*Melody*

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*Jonathan Farina*

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Dear Karen,

Few people at Seton Hall have accomplished so much, never mind in such little time and under such an incredible array of calamities and challenges, not least of which were us faculty with our persistent resolutions and objections. Expanding the leadership program, establishing the Great Minds experiences, accounting for program costs and implementing RCM, improving audits and advising, clarifying the faculty guide, increasing fiscal transparency, all while defending the purview of academic affairs during transitions and drama of all sort: these initiatives will benefit thousands of Seton Hall students and faculty for years to come.

The longer I do my own job, the more I have realized how many competing, sometimes scheming, often difficult if well-intended constituencies you have had to serve. We owe you a great deal for the sacrifice of time and emotional energy managing the Provost's position with grace under pressure. A portrait in President's Hall won't suffice.

My favorite, most memorable exchanges are not fit for print, but I so much appreciated hearing your sense of humor in stressful moments and laughing with you in moments of frankness. I thank you for your trust. I have learned a lot from you and your office.

I wish you much more time baking, gardening, and reading, and I look forward to working together as faculty colleagues.

All best and many thanks, again,  
Jonathan

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*Rob Weitz*

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*Dear Karen:*

*Kudos for going above and beyond  
these last few years. I look forward  
to seeing you back in Stillman.*

*All the best,*

*Rob*

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*Steve Pirog*

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*Welcome back to Sixth Floor  
Jubilee, Karen! It will be nice  
to have you back. Enjoy some  
well-deserved R&R.*

*Be well,  
sp*

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*Patrick Lyons*

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*It has been an honor and privilege to work with Dr. Boroff over these years. Each day she committed to making Seton Hall a better place and for that we owe a debt of gratitude. Her energy, dedication and passion for Seton Hall will continue to be an inspiration to us all.*

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*Father Lawrence Frizzell*

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*Dear Dr. Boroff:*

*On behalf of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies, I wish to express appreciation for your interest in our work! Best wishes for a smooth transition to the challenges of your continuing service to Seton Hall!*

*Father Lawrence Frizzell*

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*John Dennehy*

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*Dear Dr. Boroff,*

*Dear Karen,*

*Thank you for all the time, effort, and dedication in your service as Provost to Seton Hall. Please know it has been much appreciated. May you have some time to be quiet, rest, and enjoy some peace. May the Lord watch over you and refresh you so that when you return to teaching, our students will benefit from your great wisdom and insight. Always know of my prayers.*

*God bless and peace, Fr. John*

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*Rishi Shah*

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Dr. Boroff,

I remember the first time we met back during my first executive board term in the SGA, I was so nervous to meet you. I was told to wear a suit, not to say anything off script and to behave. I didn't know what to expect but, I was pleasantly surprised to be greeted by such a warm and caring person. You opened your doors for us and took an interest into our lives outside of just our roles as student leaders. I truly appreciated that.

Thank you for being such a vital resource for me and the student body. You were a guiding force through many uncertain and tough times during my tenure in the SGA. I wish you the best of luck on your journey moving forward. I hope that we can keep in touch!

Best,  
Rishi

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*Shelly Epstein*

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*Congratulations on a job well done and continued success in the future. When we began many years ago our offices were across the hall from each other. Maybe I can be that lucky again when you return to the faculty as a colleague.*

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*Theresa L. Deehan*

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*So many fond memories working with you over the years! These are my favorites: DD coffee in the mornings, late-night sessions during AACSB and, last but not least, the red pen. Your allegiance to and love for Seton Hall University shine through in everything that you do. Enjoy your sabbatical. Be well, be safe and be happy!*

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## *Vincent Commisa*

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Dr Boroff a/k/a my dear friend Karen,

We meet a few years back or maybe more. Throughout all those years, you have been a great friend but more so you have taught me about being a leader, always accepting and meeting challenges and improving upon 'perfection'. You taught me never ever back down and always always mentor others especially the young people who will be our future! Your intelligence is second to none and you are so understanding of those who needed guidance like me. You are humble in spite of your history of doing great things.

I cherished our rides to the West Point Society meetings but not our discussions about 'current' events or world issues. You had me on my toes thinking through the issues!

Of course, I love your cooking whether at tailgates or at your home!

Thank you for all your help with West Point and making me part of the Seton Hall family and also your family. Be well and enjoy your next endeavor. Don't be too hard on Joel! Be proud of your awesome adult children.

Finally, keep changing the World and making it a better place.

Vince Commisa

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## *Russell Lemler*

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Dr. Karen Boroff is simply remarkable; it is difficult to summarize the impact she has on the world, but I will try!

Provost Boroff is a role model... teaching, parenting, negotiating, nurturing, LEADING... she does it all so well. I have often found myself asking, "What would Karen do?" Following her example yields powerful results because she is an exemplar of successfully navigating life with skill, compassion, and character.

Professor Boroff is a teacher in the highest sense of the word. By this I mean that she is more than a role model. She doesn't simply do good and others follow her example. She actively involves herself in solving problems, breaking barriers, and pushing people to better themselves. As an example, she doesn't just publish academic research with impact... she grabs people around her and teaches them to do the same. After I settled into Seton Hall, Karen invited me to her business school office to discuss some of her work. I left that meeting as part of a team looking into leading organizational change, and Karen had guided me through the first steps. She did not stop there, as we corresponded and refined our research for the next year until we had a finished product that is used by hundreds of students and teachers every semester. Karen did not have to do ANY of that. Seton Hall and the Pirate Battalion would have been just as good without my contributions, but she pushed me because she cared about my development. She is a great teacher, and I am thankful for her commitment to improving others, especially me!

Karen and Joel's love of country and support of the military does not go unnoticed, and it

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positively impacts Seton Hall and the larger community in many way. I was personally grateful for her assistance and encouragement when I joined Seton Hall's ROTC program. Everyone in the program knows Dr. Boroff as a loyal fan, and generations of Army officers are better prepared to do their job because of her hard work, both directly and indirectly. One of our non-SHU cadets was commissioning at an odd time, and Karen couldn't make the ceremony due to a provost commitment, but she arranged to meet with the cadet and his parents. She spent an hour with the family, getting to know them and learning about their experience so we could improve. She welcomed them to the Pirate alumni family, and gave them powerful closure to a chaotic five-year venture through college and military training. Actions like this are representative of how Karen invests in others and builds a community that takes care of itself, living according to strong principles.

To Karen, thank you for leading this great university, and thank you for being a true friend and mentor to so many. Carly and I look forward to decades of talking Army and Seton Hall with you and Joel!

Can Do, Never Quit! Hazard Zet Forward!

With highest regard,  
Russ  
Russell Lemler  
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army

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*Leigh Onimus*

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Dear Karen,

Thank you so much for leading Seton Hall with such grace and a commitment to excellence. In a short time, (which I am sure seems much longer to you!) you have made such a visible impact on so many elements of the University and the experience for students, faculty and employees. So many of the initiatives you have taken on and traditions you have started will continue on for years to come.

I have always admired the high standards you set for yourself and those around you and you continued that in your role as Interim Provost driving the University forward. I have taken so many things I have learned from you over the years and applied them to my own life and leadership role at the University. Perhaps, most importantly are those tips and tricks I have picked up on over the years on how to make it all work and succeed in our roles as mothers and professionals... thank you. You always seemed to do it so well and I was eager to figure out how... while you may not have known it at the time, I listened to and picked up on how you were able to do it all and it has shaped me and allowed me to succeed at both (most days)!

I can't wait to have you back at Stillman. Enjoy your sabbatical and take some time for rest and rejuvenation.

Warmest regards,

Leigh

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## *Mannaser Marshall*

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Dear Dr. Boroff,

First off, on behalf of BMS, I cannot begin to thank you for the excellent stewardship and leadership of the office of the Provost. You brought immense maturity and change to a university that needed your guidance in many facets of student life. Your love for us and genuine desire to see us succeed was felt and will be at Seton Hall for generations to come. Your steadfastness in the face of adversity and your kindness in the details of your work does not go unnoticed. I remember being at your lovely home with my best friends and being so content for the simple fact that people working for a greater cause in unison is truly unstoppable. Such camaraderie is an anomaly in today's society and you made sure to build bridges and not barriers. This universal truth gave me confidence in my studies and my life, in general, to attack each day with vigor and diligence. My only regret is that I did not have the chance to take a Stillman class with you at the helm! But I cannot dwell on this as my unique experiences with you I will cherish for a lifetime. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your service and may God bless you in all of your future endeavors.

Best,

Mannaser Marshall III

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*Elven Riley*

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*Karen,*

*We have all enjoyed and developed during your search for excellence as Provost. Your generous personal commitment in time and energy has enabled many of us to intellectually engage as university colleagues and friends. Seton Hall University has grown stronger and nimbler with your leadership to change and passion to preserve our servant leader community. Thankful to be a member of your team of Pirates.*

*Elven Riley*

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*Market Research Center Construction of One-Way Observation Window*

*Kurt W Rotthoff*

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*Dr. Boroff,*

*Thank you for all the time and energy you have put into everything you do at Seton Hall. I have had the chance to work with you in many different capacities and in each time we agreed on some things and didn't agree on others, but one thing was clear: you always did what you thought was best for Seton Hall. I admire your commitment and value your friendship. Thank you for all you have done!*

*Kurt*

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*A. D. Amar*

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Warren, NJ  
May 8, 2020

Dear Karen:

I vividly remember when you joined the Stillman School and moved up the rank of tenured full professor-the epitome of academic attainment.

I also picture you carrying box full of your classroom materials for the learning of your students. You took classroom teaching very seriously, no matter what rank you held and what office you occupied.

You often volunteered to contribute to the good of the school and started to undertake leadership initiatives for the purpose. You naturally had what would make one successful. No wonder, you moved up to the highest position in the academe -- CEO of the academic function of university.

You did not shirk difficult tasks, in fact, you went mongering for them, including some that came with built-in opposition from others. The important is that you took on the situations and mostly solved the facing

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challenges. The more you did that, the more the nature threw them at you, like a game that keeps getting harder as tough players get tougher. You played this game very adroitly.

However, what really defines your character is your humility. You never became conscious on achieving and succeeding.

On a personal note, without asking, or only on my hinting, for me, you did everything. Thank you! I also knew that I could trust you, confide in you.

We, at Management Department at the Stillman School, are waiting for your return-to fill in the spot that you left empty years ago. It will be like your homecoming.

With Best Regards,  
-- Amar

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*Kadean Dennis*

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Dr. Boroff,

On Behalf of BMS:

We thank you for the constantly love and support you have given our organization throughout your years as Provost. You have truly been an advocate for our cause and your commitment to aiding in the achievement in our goals is genuine. You opened your home to our young men and we will forever be grateful for that experience. In your role as Provost, you always went above and beyond for the student body. You listened and used your platform to connect BMS with various individuals to help in our mission. Even though you will no longer be in the role as we always knew you as, we are confident that this is a relationship that will last forever. Thank you again for all your contributions to the Seton Hall community and most of all to us. We Love You!

"As we Rise, so does the Standard"

Love,  
Brothers of BMS

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Dr, Boroff,

I am filled with an abundance of joy and love as I write this letter to you. Although it is sad to see that your term as Provost has come to an end, it brings me happiness to know that you did it all the right way. I am more than appreciative of the relationship that we have developed. From the very beginning, you always made time for me. Whether that be listening to what I am going through or offering advice when needed. I will certainly miss popping in the President's Hall to check on you, but also happy that you will not be moving too far. You have been an instrumental figure in my college years and I owe some of my favorite life memories to you. Our trip to the White House and you awarding me the Seton Hall token are two memories that I will never forget. In your next journey, I wish you nothing but happiness and success. Whatever you do next, I am sure you will have a lasting impact just as you have had a lasting impact on my life!

Love,  
Kadean J. Dennis

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*Msgr. John A. Radano*

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Dear Dr. Boroff,

As you leave your service as Interim Provost, i would like to say that I have enjoyed working with you on the "China Project" these last two years. Your idea to follow up and explore the challenging interim agreement made almost two years ago between Pope Francis and the Peoples Republic of China was very important. That move was very controversial in the Church and many people were unsure about what to think of it. Some people were very critical of the Pope. Others thought that some dramatic move had to be made to restore the Church in China to its proper relation with the Universal Church, and this is what the Holy Father was doing. Therefore exploring this new move in a scholarly fashion is precisely what a Catholic University should do. Two parts of the project were completed, with two China experts providing constructive information and analysis helping us to see how complex the situation is, and that it is not yet clear just what will happen. Unfortunately the third program, which would have brought a whole new dimension into the analysis had to postponed because of the Coronavirus crisis. Your method, combining lectures and dinner, also worked very well. I believe that those who participated in the two events, faculty and students, gained a great deal. Thanks for inviting me to be part of it.

Best wishes, Karen, as you leave your interim Provost position, and return now to your "ordinary life" in the School of Business,

John A. Radano

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*Ken Xie*

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*Dear Dr. Karen Boroff*

*Thank you very much for the devotion and tireless service to Seton Hall during the transitional period!*

*Your passionate leadership is always an inspiration for us!*

*Your support and encouragement on my teaching and research is greatly appreciated!*

*I am looking forward to talking with you after you return to your Jubilee Hall office!*

*Wish you a happy and restful sabbatical year!*

*Ken Xie*

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*Victor Gomez*

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Dear Dr. Boroff,

It has been an honor to be under your leadership for the better part of the last 4 years and I wish you the best of luck and hopefully rest in the time after you have passed on the mantle of Provost. I thank you for the resolve you have shown in helping lead the University in tough times and in the good times. Personally I also have much gratitude for your faith in me and your assistance with the creation of Seton Hall Esports, you were one of the first administrators I met that took my passion seriously and I can say with certainty that without you I would not be at Seton Hall nor would the program have been able to achieve its two current Big East titles, on behalf of my students and myself I thank you for challenging me at first as one of your students and again as an employee. I have heard it said that it is never good bye, but rather a "see you later", and while I do not know what is in store for you after this position I truly hope that phrase remains true. May the Lord bless you and multiply the great work you have done for our University.

Sincerely,  
Victor Gomez

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*Paula Alexander*

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*Dr. Boroff*

*Dear Karen,*

*Thank you! for your service as interim Provost and Executive Vice President.*

*Enjoy your sabbatical in the coming year.*

*And we look forward to welcoming you back to the Stillman School and the Department of Management next year :)*

*Stay well. Best to you and your family.*

*Paula Alexander*

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*Eleanor Xu*

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Dear Karen,

It has been more than 18 years since I first met you during my interview for a finance faculty position at Stillman. Through these years, I have witnessed your dedication, integrity, wisdom, vision, and courage in the many critical roles that you have served, as Dean of the Stillman School, Board Member of NYSSA (now CFA Society of New York), Professor of Management, and Provost of Seton Hall University.

I have many fun memories of you during the 2005 Summer Visit to Macau and Shanghai, the May 2006 NYSE bell-ringing to celebrate Stillman's investment research championship, the receptions you held at your house for students and alumni, and many thought-provoking discussions with you when you were at Stillman. Thank you for all you have done for the Stillman School and for Seton Hall, as a legendary leader, a role model, and a management scholar. I look forward to seeing you and talking with you in Jubilee Hall in the coming years!

Best wishes,  
Eleanor

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*May 2006 - Ringing the Bell at NYSE*



*May 2006 - NYSE Reception for the NYSSA Investment Research Champions from Stillman*



*December 2009 - Christmas Party at Dean Boroff's House*

*Renu Ramnarayanan*

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Dear Karen,

I have known you for over a couple of decades now. I remember when I was doing my first round at Seton Hall in the mid-nineties, how kind and helpful you were. You walked me through the process of getting me acclimatized to the environment at Seton Hall. You did not have to, but you did. This is the person I know and admire.

Thank you for your tremendous service to Stillman and Seton Hall as Provost and Executive Vice President. Your forward-looking ideas and tireless work have resulted in new and cutting-edge programs and initiatives, which have contributed to putting Seton Hall on the map.

As busy as you were, you would find the time to attend our Supply Chain events. And after an event, I would always find a beautiful handwritten congratulatory note from you in my mailbox. It is this personal touch that makes you such a great leader.

What a terrific success your tenure as Provost has been! Thanks Karen, for your invaluable contributions.

I am looking forward to seeing you more often, now, that you will be back in Jubilee.

Warm Regards,  
Renu

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*Jennifer Cosgrove*

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To my dear friend Karen,

It's an honor for me to write a few words as you end your service as provost at Seton Hall University. While not at the University with you professionally, our long friendship has made me feel a real kinship to SHU. I can only imagine that your shoes will be difficult to fill, but knowing you as I do, I am certain that you are leaving the position carefully and well paved for someone new to the post.

I greatly admire your dedication to your craft, and I suspect I know better than many how much time and care you devote to the school and the students. How many times have we been out to dinner in a restaurant, only to be approached by a former student who is clearly indebted to you for the wisdom and kindness you imparted?!

I wish you well in the next leg of your journey, knowing that our time together as friends will never be severed. Surely our families have many adventures and heartfelt moments yet to be treasured. For that, I am thankful.

Love,  
Jen

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FromABirdie.com is a web service and art project that enables a group of people to write letters for a shared friend. Pairing modern technology with ancient habits, FromABirdie.com aims to help restore the disappearing tradition of letter writing: the intimacy, the introspection, the time taken to find the right word, the gradual awakening of that precious sense of connection with the other.

All letters are kept private, delivered slowly, and forever preserved in a physical book, thus encouraging users to write personal and meaningful messages.

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