Alumni Updates
Faculty News
Sports Highlights
and more...

Plus
Making a Difference in Chicago's Inner City
Calendar of Events

Beefsteak Dinner Dance
Enjoy a fun evening and all the beef you can eat!
Friday, April 1, 2005
7 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Cotillion Caterers
454 Midland Avenue, Garfield, NJ
$40 per person or $75 per couple
Beer/Soda Included
Cash Bar
DJ and Dancing
Registration Deadline – March 15
Please call Lisa Caruso at (201) 559-3315, or e-mail carusol@felician.edu.

Come Play at Mohegan Sun
Featuring gaming excitement, seven-story waterfall, planetarium dome, and more than 30 shops and boutiques.
Saturday, May 7, 2005
$28 per person
Includes bus transportation, $10 dining coupon, and $10 casino bet.
Registration Deadline – April 5
Please call Lisa Caruso at (201) 559-3315, or e-mail carusol@felician.edu.

Antique and Craft Show
Shop for one-of-a-kind treasures as you stroll the historic grounds.
Saturday, June 4, 2005
Rain or Shine
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Felician’s Rutherford Campus
223 Montross Avenue
Admission at Entrance – $4.50
Please call Lisa Caruso at (201) 559-3315, or e-mail carusol@felician.edu.
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Focus On Felician welcomes your comments.

Please e-mail: lynchb@felician.edu or write to:

Focus On Felician
Department of Public Relations
223 Montross Avenue
Rutherford, NJ  07070

Felician is an independent co-educational Catholic/ Franciscan College founded and sponsored by the Felician Sisters to educate a diverse population of students within the framework of a liberal arts tradition. Its mission is to provide a full complement of learning experiences, reinforced with strong academic and student development programs designed to bring students to their highest potential and prepare them to meet the challenges of the new century with informed minds and understanding hearts. The enduring purpose of Felician College is to promote a love for learning, a desire for God, self-knowledge, service to others, and respect for all creation.
Making a Difference in Chicago's Inner City

The pioneer spirit is alive and well at Felician College! Just ask Jennifer Zapotocky and Jessica Figueroa, two recent Felician graduates who volunteered to spend one year counseling children and teens in Chicago’s inner city. Rachel Mahoney, daughter of Dan Mahoney, Chairperson of Felician’s Department of Psychology, also volunteered for the yearlong program. From August 2003 until June 2004, they received ‘on-the-job’ training through Felician VIM (Volunteers in Mission), learning to counsel others living with the difficulties of poverty, abuse, and despair.

Part of the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service, Felician VIM is an international venture of lay volunteers with Felician Sisters, who join in an experience that is more than social work. Qualified volunteers take part in a program of shared faith, prayer, and joy in the spirit of St. Francis.

“Volunteers live simply, participate in a community, live gospel values, and share their talents in service to the poor,” explains Sister Antonelle Chunka, VIM Coordinator for North America and Vice President for Mission Integration at Felician College. “Our ‘VIMsters’ gain a spiritual perspective that will stay with them the rest of their lives.”

Supervised by the professional staff of the United Stand Family Counseling Center in Chicago, the volunteers honed their counseling techniques and developed skills they had only read about in textbooks. They worked one-on-one with children in several elementary and high schools, helping them cope with difficult personal situations and giving them hope to face the future.

“We got to know people who appear to have nothing, but speak of how blessed they are,” says Zapotocky, a 2003 graduate in psychology. “We lived out a simple lifestyle ... helped by counseling and experiencing the lives of the children in our schools.”

Volunteers are assigned to long-term programs in Chicago, or short-term programs in Kingstree, South Carolina, or Mexico. They receive room and board and a small monthly stipend. Upon completion of the yearlong program, they are eligible to receive an additional stipend toward any undergraduate student loans or future graduate studies.

“The best part of the VIM experience for me was being able to be myself,” says Figueroa, a 2003 graduate who minored in psychology. “Being able to share my faith with others and aiming toward one goal – sharing talents and gifts for the betterment of the world through Christ.” The experience was so rewarding, she has decided to stay another year.
Zapotocky returned to New Jersey and is working for ARC of Essex County, a non-profit agency serving persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. Rachel Mahoney is pursuing graduate studies in child psychology as a result of her experience in Chicago.

Sister Antonelle Chunka spearheaded the program at Felician College. Felician VIM is a way for interested students to experience the spirituality of service and extend the Felician charism. Students must complete an extensive application and be willing to commit to one year of service in Chicago. The program has recently expanded to include graduates in teaching and nursing, as well as psychology, sociology, and counseling.

“Felician VIM challenges you to look inside and examine your strengths and weaknesses,” says Rachel Mahoney. “If you come to VIM with your heart open, you leave with an indescribable sense of purpose and love.”

For more information about Felician VIM, please contact Sister Antonelle Chunka at (973) 460-3229 or e-mail: VIMsters@aol.com

“Being able to share my faith with others and aiming toward one goal – sharing talents and gifts for the betterment of the world through Christ.”

- Jessica Figueroa
Hurray for RAs

WANTED: Resident students looking for a challenge. Must be a role model for other students living on campus. Willing to help others; plan and organize social events; enforce policies and procedures; and easily adapt to change. Must have 24 credits and maintain a 2.5 average.

Meet the Resident Assistants (RAs) at Felician College – a team of 16 students who accepted the challenge to help promote a cooperative living environment in the residence halls. In exchange for room and board, RAs are trained to meet the academic, personal, and social development of the 300 students who live on campus. Each RA has a single room in Elliott Terrace or Milton Court, and is responsible for about 20 students in their residence.

The Residence Life staff interviews applicants for the RA positions, and the successful candidates must attend an extensive, two-week training program in August to prepare for their responsibilities. They receive training from professional counselors, including the local police department, to learn how to deal with a variety of issues – roommate relationships, community development, crisis management, and cultural awareness. RAs become familiar with the guides and standards of the college, and how to enforce them.

“We learn to be accepting and aware of different cultures. Everyone doesn’t handle a situation the same way,” says Desiree Torres, an RA from Milton Court. “You can’t let your personal opinion get in the way.”

RAs are on call 10 nights each semester in the staffing office – making rounds, answering the phone, preparing for events, and filing weekly reports for the Residence Life staff. Students who come in with serious concerns are referred to the Residence Life staff or professional counselors. In addition, they are on call two full weekends each semester and must plan four social events each term to keep their residents involved in campus life.

“Everyone’s enthusiastic about our programs,” says Nicole Allonardo, Elliott Terrace RA. “We don’t want anyone sitting around in their room all the time.” Favorite events include the Ultimate Pool Tournament, Blow Out Tuesday with a “Fear Factor” theme, and a Romantic Dinner/Blind Date night.

As the holidays approached, Felician students wrapped, sorted, and packed hundreds of gifts for distribution to local children. The college’s annual toy drive benefits children of all ages from Project Youth Haven, Shelter our Sisters, and the Cherub Foundation of Lodi. Faculty, staff, and students all participated in the toy drive, which is coordinated by the SGO (Student Government Organization). The Bergen County Sheriff’s Department, in collaboration with their toy drive, distributed the toys.

Anthony Demarest, assistant professor of English, had a poem, "Remnants," and a short story, "Lunacy," published in Segue, the literary magazine of Miami University in Ohio (Issue 3.1). Another poem, "Gawain," was published in December 2004 in Polyphony, a journal of narrative poetry. In addition, he is invited to participate in a poetry reading at the Cornelia Street Cafe in Greenwich Village in May, as part of a publicity fund raiser for The New York Quarterly, which has previously published his work.

Margaret Gardineer, assistant professor of English, presented a paper at the New Jersey Council of Teachers of English Stars Eight Conference on February 15, 2005, at Georgian Court University. The paper's topic was "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry: Diverse Identifications."

Dr. Dolores Henchy, professor and Chair of Online Graduate Programs in Religious Education and certified master online instructor, received a grant from the New Jersey Council of Independent Colleges to participate in the 2004 Teaching and Learning Mentors Institute for E-Learning at Otterbine College in Columbus Ohio.

Robert Hillenbrand, instructor and Chair of Special Education in the Teacher Education Division, presented a scholarly paper at the annual CIBER (Clute Institute for Business & Economic Research) College Teaching and Learning Conference in Orlando, Florida, January 4 – 7, 2005. Hillenbrand’s paper was entitled “Men Never Ask for Directions: Gender Differences in the Teaching and Learning of Technology.” He will be presenting a similar paper at the West Point Regional Technology Roundtable in April 2005.

Alberto LaCava, professor of computer information systems, and coworkers from industry have filed a patent application, "PSA With Adsorbents Sensitive to Contaminants," by M. L. Babicki, B. W. Keefer, A. C. Gibbs, A. I. LaCava, and F. Fitch, Publication US 2004/0261618 A1. LaCava contributed to the analysis of the proposed system using advanced dynamic simulation software written under his direction.

Dr. Mara Kelly-Zukowski, Chair of the Religious Studies Department, wrote an entry, "Jews for Jesus," for The Seventies in America, a new cultural encyclopedia from Salem Press that surveys significant events and personages from all of North America during the 1970s. The multi-volume publication is modeled after the award-winning Salem encyclopedia, The Sixties in America, published in 1999.

Dr. Maureen Murphy-Ruocco, professor and Chair of the Traditional RN/BSN Program and School Nurse/Health Education Program, was inducted into the National Academies of Practice, an organization that includes professionals from 10 health care disciplines, was founded in 1981 in recognition of the need for interdisciplinary collaboration in health care.

Dr. Mary E. Norton, professor and chair of the Department of Graduate Nursing, has been re-elected Secretary to the United Nations Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and Department of Public Information (DPI). This is the second time Dr. Norton has been re-elected to this international post by 1,500 non-governmental organizations in 93 countries.

Dr. David Robertson, adjunct instructor in the Philosophy Department, was a major contributor to Sourcebook in the Philosophy of the Ancient Commentators 200-600 AD, ed. Richard Sorabji (London: Duckworth, 2004, and soon to be published with Cornell University Press), which came out this past December. Robertson compiled the psychology and physics volumes during his five years in London.

Dr. Muriel M. Shore, professor and Dean of the Division of Nursing and Health Management, was re-elected secretary of the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. Shore has been a member of the board for several years and is chair of the regulatory committee. She and Robert Shore, business professor, recently attended the 55th presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C.

Maria Vecchio, associate professor of history and Director of the Honors Program, is the first moderator of the Felician College Model United Nations, effective September 2004, and is working with nine students in the honors program. They represented the country of Paraguay at the Harvard Model UN held in Boston, February 17 – 20, 2005.

Joe Wardy, associate professor of business and management sciences, had three poems published. “Transformation” was published in Best Poems of 2003, “May We” was published in International Who’s Who In Poetry, and “Desire” was published by Noble House of Europe.
Historic Castle at Felician College Coming Back to Life

Workers are carefully removing all the red clay tiles from the 41 separate roof areas atop the historic castle at the Rutherford campus. Most of the tiles will be numbered, cleaned, and restored to the newly repaired roof areas by the spring. Exterior renovation of the 134-year-old castle began in October, thanks to a $750,000 matching funds grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust and a $350,000 grant from the Bergen County Historic Preservation Advisory Board. College officials, politicians, and representatives from the two trusts gathered at the castle in December 2004 to celebrate the event.

Included in the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, the castle will serve as a campus center to meet the needs of Felician College students and administration. The next phase of the five-year restoration will include the preservation, restoration, and replication of all interior areas and structural detail of the castle.

For more information about the castle or to make a donation to its restoration, please contact the Felician College Office of Institutional Advancement at (201) 559-3312.

Family and friends gathered in the Immaculate Conception Chapel in December to give benediction to the graduating student teachers entering the teaching profession, and to the pre-service teachers beginning their student teaching in the spring. The service included a candle-lighting ceremony and presentation of awards, followed by a reception in the Lodi cafeteria.

The Dr. Dennis Connors Awards for Excellence in Student Teaching were presented to Louisa Tafuto and Sabrina Caggia.

The Ann M. Baker Memorial Scholarship Award was presented to Alisha Pavlick.

Graduating Seniors Exhibit Artwork

Landscape paintings, decorative garden stones, music videos, a children’s book, and other works of art were displayed at the Fall 2004 Senior Art Exhibition at the Lodi campus. The exhibit was open to the public in December, with an opportunity to meet the artists at an evening reception.

Seven graduating seniors participated in the event – Katie Adams, Sr. Therese Bednarczyk, Christine Hoffman, Laura Kelly, Sarah Otto, Robin Pianese, and Michael Scardino.

Felician College offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in art, with concentrations in graphic design and fine arts.

For more information about the college’s art programs, please call (201) 559-6046, or visit the Art Department’s Web site at www.fad.cc
Graduate Nursing Program Earns Reaccreditation

The Master of Science nursing program at Felician recently earned national reaccreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for 10 years without recommendations. This accreditation achievement is another milestone for the college and an indication of national academic excellence in the field of graduate nursing education.

“This accreditation is the gold standard for graduate nursing education,” says Dr. Muriel Shore, Dean of Nursing and Health Management. The Commission reviewed a self-study submitted by the college and a comprehensive on-site evaluation to determine that the program meets all the standards for accreditation.

The graduate nursing program prepares registered nurses with a baccalaureate degree for primary-care practice, emphasizing the role of the advanced practice nurse in family or adult health.

A Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree is awarded after successful completion of the program, and graduates are eligible to take the advanced practice national certificate examination in family or adult health. Most of the classes are offered electronically, allowing registered nurses to log on at their convenience to complete the online course requirements for each 12-week semester.

The graduate program preparing adult and family advanced practice nurses was first accredited in 1999. The college is now in the planning stage of expanding its graduate nursing program to include specializations in both administration and education.

For more information about the MSN degree program, please contact Dr. Mary E. Norton, professor and chair of the department of graduate nursing at 201-559-6093 or nortonm@felician.edu. Or visit www.felician.edu and click ‘online campus’ for course offerings.

Dr. David G. Rice Appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs

Felician College welcomes David G. Rice, Ph.D. as Vice President for Academic Affairs. Rice brings an extensive background to his position, combining his interests in curriculum, faculty development, and student success with successful work in fund raising. Previous to his current position, Rice was Director of Corporate Giving for Northeastern University in Boston. He served as Provost, Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs, and professor of Humanities at Holy Family University in Philadelphia from 1997 to 2003.

Rice holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston College in classics and history, a Master of Arts degree in classics from Yale University, and a doctorate in philosophy from Yale University. Author of a variety of scholarly publications and presentations, he is also a graduate of both the Institute for Educational Management, Harvard University, and the Institute for Administrative Advancement, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

“Felician College offers exciting possibilities for extending and developing a special community of teachers and learners who fashion imaginative solutions to the problems of today and create possibilities for a better world of tomorrow,” says Rice.

Office of Institutional Advancement Has New Vice President

Patrick J. Donahue, CFRE, is Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Felician. Donahue brings more than twenty years of not-for-profit experience to his position, with fifteen years direct experience in campaigns and major gift fund raising.

Prior to coming to Felician College, Donahue was Development Director, Northeastern U.S., for Father Flanagan’s Girls and Boys Town. In addition, he spent five years as Director of Capital and Major Giving for Saint Peter’s College, Jersey City. Donahue attended Minor Seminary while at Aquinas College and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at Central Michigan University.

“It is an exciting time to be at Felician College. It’s a vibrant and growing college, offering students a first-rate education with a Franciscan heart,” says Donahue.
Open for Business

In a few weeks, a new activity center will be open and ready for business – business students, that is.

The 2,000 square foot facility, located in the Main College Building on the Lodi campus, features two conference-style classrooms, seven computer workstations, a work area, and four faculty offices. With a place to finally call home, undergraduate students, adult students, and alumni will have a hub for mentoring, advising, researching, or just reading The Wall Street Journal.

(l to r) Michele D’Augustine, 4th year business student, gets advice from Professor Dave Turi and Dr. William Morgan, in the hall outside the center.
Converted from outdated locker space, the center is spacious and accessible – glass doors and floor-to-ceiling windows allow students to look in from the hallway. It has the look and feel of a practical office setting. “The day a student graduates, they become a business colleague,” says William Morgan, Ph.D., Dean of the Division of Business and Management Sciences. “The activity center will help them make that transition. When they come in here, it’s like going to work.”

The estimated cost of the project is $200,000, and Felician College received a $50,000 matching funds grant from the Jobs, Education, and Competitiveness Fund through a bill sponsored by Senator Joseph Coniglio and signed by Acting Governor Richard Codey.

With almost 400 students, the Division of Business is the second largest division at Felician. Students can earn a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration or a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing management. To enhance the degree program, students have the option to minor in criminal justice or computer science, or take a concentration of courses in accounting, sports management, or organizational behavior. “A good business degree backed up with an industry-specific minor produces the best graduate,” says Morgan. “We are providing a stream of quality business graduates with the knowledge and skills to continue to make a difference in the business community.”

To meet the needs of adult students, the Division of Business offers day, evening, cohort-style, five-week, and eight-week delivery of classes for both bachelor and associate degrees. Customized, on-site corporate programs are in place at UPS in Mahwah, New York Federal Reserve in East Rutherford, and Citibank. “Because we are a small college and have a large working-adult student population, we are uniquely situated to quickly identify and adjust to student and employer needs,” says Morgan.

“A planning committee is already developing a curriculum for a Master of Business Administration degree that will be up and running next year,” says Dave Turi, professor and manager of the Business Activity Center. To accommodate the growing demands of the division, Felician is looking to partner with business corporations to help provide the necessary software and technology to complement the center. “Our vision is to keep expanding and create a high-tech business division with audio, video, and teleconferencing capabilities to host corporate events and major conferences,” adds Turi.

The new Business Activity Center proves that Felician means business.

“We are providing a stream of quality business graduates with the knowledge and skills to continue to make a difference in the business community.”

- Dr. William Morgan

[Standing beside the SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) display case in the Business Activity Center are SIFE members (l to r) Bryan Morgan, Melissa Potts, Brian Gartland, and Andrew Conklin.]
Men's Soccer

The men's soccer program finished the year with a 9-8-1 record. The team earned the third seed in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) tournament and promptly defeated sixth-seeded Post University 1-0 in the quarterfinal round. The win earned the team a trip to the semifinal round against second-seeded Nyack College. On a wet, rainy evening the Golden Falcons defeated the Warriors of Nyack by a score of 1-0 to earn a spot in the final round. Felician’s opponent in the final was top-seeded Dominican College. In what was a hard fought and spirited contest, the Chargers of Dominican received a goal five minutes into the first overtime period to give them a 2-1 victory and the conference championship. The team played with a tremendous amount of heart and determination, and is looking forward to next season as many players on the roster are returning.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer program finished the 2004 campaign with an overall record of 5-13-1. The team earned the sixth seed in the CACC tournament and drew third-seeded Caldwell College in the quarterfinal round. The Lady Golden Falcons fought valiantly in the match but came up short, losing 3-0.

Freshman goalkeeper Amanda Musarra was named Second Team All-CACC, and was second in NCAA Division II in save percentage as a goalkeeper. Sophomore defender Makenzie Woods was named to the All-Tournament Team for the second straight season.

Women’s Volleyball

The women’s volleyball team played its inaugural season this fall and the Lady Golden Falcons showed consistent improvement. Although the team was winless in their first season, head coach Nichole Jones’ squad is commended for their hard work and determination throughout the year. Coach Jones is out on the recruiting trail, looking to bolster their roster, and the future looks bright for Felician volleyball.
A Golden Season for Men’s Cross-Country Team
Team Coach Named Coach of the Year

The Golden Falcons were favored to win the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) men’s cross-country championship, and their team prevailed over the competition, winning the title in Philadelphia on October 23. All seven Felician competitors placed among the top 17 runners, and four runners finished in the top seven.

“This team worked really hard and they earned it,” says team coach John Brennan. “Our approach was to run your best, and not think about being the favorite to win.”

“We lost by four points last year, so we knew what we had to do,” says Andrew Conklin, sophomore team member. “We added awesome freshman runners who bring depth and strength to our team.”

Mike Burghoffer, Andrew Conklin, Sean Emmerling, Nick Freeman, Matt Miller, and Sergio Zea were named to the 2004 All-CACC team.

In addition, Brennan was named CACC Men’s Cross-Country Coach of the Year by his peers. His Golden Falcon teams have also won championships in 2000 and 2001. He shares the credit with two assistant coaches, Jacqueline Brandt and Sebastian Powell, who assist with the workouts and recruiting efforts. An assistant principal at H.B. Whitehorne Middle School in Verona, Brennan has five years coaching experience with Felician College.

Cross Country

The men’s cross-country team had a fantastic season culminating with a third CACC championship. The team rose above all challengers, rebounding from a second-place finish a year ago. After winning the conference championship, the team set its sights on the NCAA East Regionals held at Indiana University in Pennsylvania. The Golden Falcons had their best showing in the regional meet, finishing in 18th place.

The women’s cross-country team finished in fifth place at the CACC championship meet. The team battled injuries for the majority of the season and Coach Brennan is confident that next year he will have a strong core of runners to contend for the championship. Junior Shakira Williams and freshman Melissa Barraquinto were named All-CACC.
Three distinguished women were recently honored for generously sharing their time, energy, and talents to support the mission of the college. Ellen V. Kelly and Sister Mary Noelle Narbut received the President’s Medallion from Felician College President Sister Theresa Mary Martin at the 18th Annual Christmas at Felician event in December 2004. Sister Patricia Morris, OP, Ph.D., received the President’s Medallion at an earlier presentation attended by college faculty and staff.

Chairperson for the college’s annual golf tournament and member of Felician College’s Board of Regents, Ellen V. Kelly has committed herself to the ministry of education. She was active with Hudson County Hospice, West Essex Girl Scouts, and Hudson County Homemakers, and received the “Woman of Distinction” award from Immaculate Conception High School, where she served as chairperson of the board of trustees.

“Ellen is deeply committed to the ministry of education, and to any and every cause that fosters the well-being of God’s people,” says Sister Theresa. “You might say that working for charitable causes has become her full-time second career.”

Kelly recently retired from The Provident Bank as Vice President of the Estate and Trust Division. She received a degree in accounting and personnel management from Seton Hall University, and earned certification as a personal financial consultant specializing in estates and trusts at New York University. In addition, Kelly studied pension law at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and attended the New York School of Finance, receiving all representative licenses as a registered principal on the New York Stock Exchange. She enjoyed a lengthy career with a Wall Street firm before joining The Provident Bank.

“I am humbled and very grateful,” says Kelly, accepting the award in honor of her mother, who taught her the importance of giving.

Sister Mary Noelle Narbut joined the Felician College faculty in 1967. Certified by the National Translator Service, she is a qualified translator of Spanish, French, and Polish. During her distinguished career in education, she has taught kindergarten, elementary, and secondary classes, and served as principal of an elementary school. She is currently serving as Development Officer for the Felician Sisters.

A graduate of Seton Hall University, Sister Noelle earned a graduate degree from Villanova University and pursued doctoral studies at Fordham University. “This very diverse woman has defied aging, defied defeat, and defied retirement,” notes Sister Theresa.

In a special tribute to Sister Noelle’s enduring teaching skills, a former kindergarten student – who named her daughter after Sister Noelle – traveled from Florida to be a part of the celebration as she was honored with the President’s Medallion.
“It’s not what I own or buy that signifies my wealth. It’s the special gifts that have no price.”

- Sister Mary Noelle Narbut

“I am grateful to all those who supported me, especially former students and family,” noted Sister Noelle. “It’s not what I own or buy that signifies my wealth. It’s the special gifts that have no price.”

After serving five years as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Felician College, Sister Patricia Morris was honored with the President’s Medallion upon her retirement in December. During her tenure, she helped develop new academic programs, expand online education, and create a Center for Teaching and Learning.

“A Sister Patricia has served Felician with distinction, integrity, and much wisdom,” says Sister Theresa. “Clearly, she was the right person for the right time.”

A graduate of St. John’s University, Morris received a graduate degree from Catholic University of America, and a doctoral degree from Graduate Center City University of New York. Prior to joining Felician, she served as Assistant Provost at Dowling College, and Dean for Academic Affairs at Molloy College in Rockville Center, New York.

“Education isn’t static – it never stops,” says Morris. “I want to thank this great group of people for all the steps we have taken together.”
The Felician College Alumni Association kicked off the academic year with gusto at the annual Homecoming and Fall Festival in September, and ushered in the holiday season at “Breakfast With Santa.” Throughout the year, the Alumni Association plans events to celebrate our alumni, students, and friends. Be a part of the fun - join the Alumni Association for $25. To learn about membership benefits, please call Lisa Caruso, Director of Alumni Relations, at (201) 559-3315, or e-mail carusol@felician.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

1. Children enjoyed holiday crafts and a buffet breakfast as they anxiously awaited Santa’s arrival at “Breakfast with Santa.” Sponsored by the Alumni Association, the annual event is held in the Lodi campus cafeteria for alumni families and friends of the college.

2. (Right) Karen Polonkay, President of the Alumni Association, presents a $500 scholarship award to Felician student Erica Manger, a third-year psychology major, at the 2004 Homecoming and Fall Festival mass. (Not pictured) Robin Pianese, a part-time student in fine arts, also received a $500 scholarship from the Alumni Association.

3. Catherine Jennings accepts the Alumni Hall of Fame Award for Professional Achievement in September 2004. A nurse practitioner and instructor in the Department of Graduate Nursing, Catherine graduated from Felician with an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree in 1977, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 1981. She is pictured with her husband, Richard.

4. The Rutherford campus was bustling with pony rides, children’s games, craft booths, and a tent party for returning alumni at the Homecoming and Fall Festival in September.
‘74 & ‘80 Karen Kattwinkel, of Clifton, graduated from UMDNJ in 2004 with a Master of Science in Nursing degree. She is a board certified adult nurse practitioner.

‘80 Bernadette Deierlein Ricco was named “Educator of the Year for the State of New Jersey” by the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children. Ricco is coordinator of the gifted and talented program at Norwood Public School. She is credited with starting several programs at the school and in the Bergen County and Northern Valley area, including a robotics workshop, Northern Valley Invengeneering Expo, Creative Scholars Competition, Engineering Challenge, Olympics of the Mind, and several parenting workshops. After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree from Felician College, Ricco earned a master’s degree in gifted education from the College of New Rochelle in New York.

‘85 Dana Vissers, of Rockaway, is teaching math, grades 7-12, for LD and ED students at Washington Academy in Cedar Grove.

‘93 Michele Mandara has been named one of two New Jersey finalists for the 2004 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She is a finalist in grades K-6 mathematics. Although Michele will not know until March whether she won this national honor, she has received an award from the New Jersey Association of Mathematics Teachers for being a finalist as well as a proclamation from Acting Governor Richard Codey. Mandara is currently teaching third grade at Holland Brook School, Readington Township School District.

‘96 Thomas Marshall received a master’s degree from Teachers College. In September 2003, Marshall joined the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project where he teaches other teachers around the country how to conduct reading and writing workshops in the classroom.

‘99 Franco Selvaggio and his wife are proud parents of a baby boy born June 7, 2004. They are living in Wallington.

‘00 Jennifer Carpino married Jeffrey Werner on June 25, 2004. She is employed as a teacher at Corpus Christi School. Werner is a police officer with the borough of Hasbrouck Heights. They live in Hasbrouck Heights.

‘01 Michael Pohrischak is teaching fifth grade in the Carlstadt school system. Pohrischak and his wife, Dena, are residents of Wood-Ridge.

‘03 Theresa Catapano, of Lyndhurst, is engaged to Walter Brennen of Bayonne. A July 2005 wedding is planned. Catapano, former president of the Felician Student Alumni Association, earned a Master’s of Education degree from the American InterContinental University in April 2004. She is a special education teacher at Lyndhurst High School.

Colleen Jarvis, Felician Alumni Association board members received the George F. Hixson Fellowship Award in recognition of her significant commitment to Kiwanis. A contribution was made in her name to the Kiwanis International Foundation for Kiwanis International’s Worldwide Service Project for her dedicated service to Kiwanis, her community, and the world. Jarvis also received a medallion, pin, and plaque to commemorate the award. A member of the Hasbrouck Heights Kiwanis for 12 years, she served as president of the club for two years, vice president for two years, and is currently serving her second year as club secretary. In addition, she is serving as Lt. Governor for Kiwanis Division 13 for the third consecutive year.

‘04 Tara Dempsey was among 15 candidates honored with the 2004 Commissioner’s Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award before embarking on her teaching career. Candidates are honored for exhibiting excellence in their student teaching. Dempsey received a plaque, certificate, and letter of recommendation.

In Memoriam

‘80 & ‘87
Diane Traupmann, July 28, 2004

We look forward to hearing from our alums! Please send us your news by e-mail to carusol@felician.edu, or write to us using the enclosed envelope.

Carry Your Card With Pride!

Felician College is proud to offer the Platinum Plus credit card, a no-annual-fee MasterCard credit program that provides peerless benefits, service, worldwide acceptance, and convenience. Issued by MBNA America Bank N.A., the leading issuer of affinity credit cards, this program offers our Alumni Association members a low introductory annual percentage rate for cash advance checks and balance transfers.

To request your Felician College Platinum Plus card, call toll-free (866) 438-6262. Please refer to priority code KP36 when speaking with an MBNA representative to apply for this program.
Development Updates

Friend and Benefactor of Felician

Following a forty-year career in education, Florence Adler found retirement was not her cup of tea. A friend recommended that she join “Older is Better” at Felician College—a group that meets every Thursday to attend mass, socialize, and enjoy a presentation by a guest speaker. She soon became close friends with Sister Mary Hiltrude Koba, coordinator of the weekly group.

A Bergen County native, Adler became more and more involved with the college and its Franciscan mission—a perfect match with her lifelong dedication to education, faith, and helping others. In 1992, she began to support the Sister Mary Hiltrude Koba Scholarship, until Sister Hiltrude convinced her to begin her own endowed scholarship fund for Felician students—aptly named the Franciscan Scholarship Fund.

In addition, Adler took advantage of planned giving opportunities at Felician by creating a charitable gift annuity, which provides the donor with an annual payment for life, and has included Felician College in her will. She has also memorialized her parents with a stained glass window in the Lodi campus chapel. In 2002, Adler received the President’s Medallion from Sister Theresa Mary Martin for her continuing generosity, prayers, and dedication to Felician College. “Florence Adler is truly part of the Felician family,” says Patrick Donahue, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

“It is a blessing to be able to support the work of Felician College,” says Adler. “Here, students not only learn their coursework, but they learn how to become better persons.”

Golfers Swing into Action at Classic

It was a beautiful October day for the 19th Annual Felician College Golf Classic at Arcola Country Club in Paramus. More than 120 golfers participated in the event, which included 18 holes of golf, lunch, a cocktail reception, silent auction, raffle, and an awards presentation. Ellen Kelly, retired from Provident Bank, served as chairperson for the Classic, which raised $125,000 to benefit student scholarships. Provident Bank served as the principal sponsor of the event.

Honoring Friends of Felician is a Holiday Tradition

Father Damien Colicchio, Director of Campus Ministry, delivers the homily at the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Immaculate Conception Chapel at the 18th Annual “Christmas at Felician.” More than 300 friends of Felician College attended the event, held every year to show appreciation to all those who support the college and its mission. Following the service, everyone enjoyed a yuletide brunch in the Lodi cafeteria.

Thank You

We thank Florence Adler and the generous support of so many others who make it possible for Felician College to help our students achieve their full potential. These gifts give us the momentum we need to continue our mission and meet the needs of our students as they prepare for the challenges ahead. Planned giving opportunities include:

• Charitable gift annuities
• Endowed scholarship funds
• Trusts
• Bequests

Please use the attached envelope to make a donation to Felician College, or to request information about giving opportunities. You can call the Development Office at (201) 559-3312 to discuss funding opportunities to meet your needs.
According to the 1980 yearbook, “There were many ways to get involved. The spirit of doing was alive and well, and we loved every minute.” Students were involved in a variety of campus organizations such as the Education Club, Felician Singers, Student Nurses’ Association, and the Mendel Science Club.

These members of the Felician Study Abroad Committee were raising funds and having a great time doing it. Can anyone identify these students and remember where they did their study abroad?

Send responses to Focus on Felician, Felician College, Office of Institutional Advancement, 223 Montross Avenue, Rutherford, NJ 07070, or e-mail lynchb@felician.edu.
Felician College
23rd Annual Founders Day Dinner Dance

Honoring Stephen LoIacono

To Benefit Student Scholarships and
The New Jersey Food Council Scholarship Fund at Felician College

Thursday, April 21, 2005
The Venetian
Garfield, New Jersey

For more information, please contact Lori Walker in the Office of Institutional Advancement at (201) 559-3314.

The Franciscan College of New Jersey
223 Montross Avenue
Rutherford, NJ 07070