In this issue of the PC Leader, we explore how and why Holy Cross students take part in study abroad. With your help, we will increase the College’s ability to offer these life-changing programs.

As you may know, the College recently launched a multi-year comprehensive campaign, aptly named Become More: The Campaign for the Future of Holy Cross. This effort will allow us to continue to provide a top-notch education that produces brilliant, caring and well-rounded leaders in every field—people like you, whose talents create a better world.

This campaign will be led by Anne Fink ’85, Rick Patterson ’80 and Bill Phelan ’73. As chairs of President’s Council, we are honored to serve on the Campaign Cabinet. Its first meeting took place in January with members of the Board of Trustees and other volunteer leaders. We look forward to supporting the important initiatives of this fundraising effort.

Enclosed you will find a gift envelope; please support Holy Cross as generously as you have in the past. We thank those who have already made a gift this year.

In closing, we hope you’ve enjoyed the special Lenten book, also available at bit.ly/Return2Me.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Lenten season.

Michele and David Joy ’74, P11 Co-chairs, President’s Council

President’s Council IMPACT

Katherine Manansala studied for a year in France, focusing on language skills and theology in the picturesque city of Strasbourg. “I had dreamt of coming to France since I fell in love with speaking the French language years ago,” said this member of Pi Delta Phi, the French honor society. “One reason I chose to attend Holy Cross was its exceptional Study Abroad Program.” While abroad, she made a pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in Bourgogne, having discovered this monastic group while completing the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. To fulfill study-abroad requirements, she carried out a cultural project with the Taizé. “Attending their weekly meetings provided me with enormous spiritual nourishment,” she said. “Taizé prayers are short songs the group repeats while reflecting on the meaning of the verses. Traveling to this community was definitely one of the special parts of my time abroad.”

The Promise: Global Engagement

Holy Cross is No. 1 in the nation among baccalaureate institutions for long-term study abroad programs, according to the Institute of International Education. In fact, the College has been ranked in one of the two top spots on this list for six years now. But whether for a year, a semester or a summer, Crusaders find study abroad to be a transformative experience. After living and learning in another culture, they never look at life quite the same way. Our students enhance their education through firsthand experiences that introduce culturally diverse points of view. As one study abroad alumnus noted, “In hindsight, it was the greatest gift. How are you going to learn about the world if you don’t step outside the gates of Holy Cross and experience a different culture, a different lifestyle?”

Study abroad underscores our Jesuit tradition of celebrating diversity. As part of the College mission to “serve the wider world,” global learning encourages students to know and understand cultures beyond their own. Through a variety of programs and options, Holy Cross students expand their horizons. Many go on to teach or work abroad through the Peace Corps, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps or as a Fulbright Scholar or other prestigious program participant.

Students enroll in internationally renowned universities in countries from Argentina to Vietnam. While abroad, they become active participants in their communities while taking a full course load and participating in immersion projects and cultural activities. In addition, Holy Cross students attend leadership conferences all over the world and participate in service projects near and far. Thanks to your support, our global scholars will continue to explore and develop their passions, expand their appreciation for diversity, become fluent in other cultures and languages, develop their independence and greatly expand their personal limits.
Former Holy Cross trustee Tim Porter ‘68 can trace his Jesuit roots back to the 18th century in Maryland. He grew up in Woodstock, Md., near the Jesuit theology college where his grandfather and great-grandparents were employed. He went on to study in the Jesuit tradition at Loyola High School in Blakefield, Md., before arriving on Mount St. James.

At Holy Cross, he took on numerous leadership roles, including Student Government president, while delving into the arts and internationally focused activities. After graduation, he earned his law degree from New York University.

“I studied law because I wanted to have an impact on changing and shaping the world, particularly coming from the socially turbulent ’60s,” Tim said. He has since traveled extensively, garnering a wealth of global experience. One trip to Germany remains etched in his memory. Before graduating from law school, he worked as an administrator for a New York City-based African-American theater company, helping to produce performances at the 1972 Olympic Games. Immediately upon returning home from Munich, Tim learned of the Israeli athletes who were taken hostage and later killed.

“No part of the globe is necessarily spared the consequences of actions that occur in another part of the world,” Tim said. “Our Study Abroad Program allows students to steep in another culture for an extended period of time while also being academically engaged in a significant way.”

Because of Jesuit values and a lifetime of travel abroad, Tim and his late wife Ann were inspired to establish The Ann and Timothy L. Porter ’68 Endowment, which encourages students to consider a year abroad by providing them with need-based financial support.

Thanks to the Porters, Crusaders like Katherine Manansala (story on page 1) will continue to make personal contributions and positive transformations to what Tim calls our “vastly interconnected world.”

To learn more about Tim’s experiences, please visit bit.ly/pcspotlight.