

# Saint John's

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

From time to time, people have commented to me about the fact that SJU has both an ROTC program and a peace studies department. Isn't this a contradiction? But as the lead article, as well as the Inspiring Lives section in this issue demonstrate, there are no pat solutions to the problems of conflict between peoples. Many Johnnies are or have been involved in the Middle East in a variety of capacities – as soldiers, diplomats, community-builders, chaplains and observers. We hear from a number of them in this issue, in their own words. We are honored that these men took the time to respond to our inquiries from their posts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Moscow and elsewhere abroad and at home. Their comments are reflective and many dimensioned.

Wherever each of us may be on the political spectrum, we can learn something important from these Johnnies about how to contribute to peace.

Our second feature brings us back to campus and gives us the opportunity to pay tribute to a great man and coach: Jim Smith, the winningest coach in Minnesota college basketball. Coach Smith has led Johnnie basketball for 44 years and to 685 wins, including seven MIAC titles and appearances in three NCAA tournaments. Along the way, he has been a model and mentor for scores of Johnnies, who credit him with an influence that extends far beyond their college days. We look forward to dedicating the newly renovated basketball court in Sexton Arena to Jim and his wife, Adrienne, in November.

Seven years ago, Saint John's launched the most ambitious capital campaign in our history, *One Generation to the Next: The Campaign for Saint John's*. I am pleased to announce that the campaign has raised \$168 million – \$18 million more than the campaign goal of \$150 million. The Board of Regents voted to conclude the campaign a year ahead of schedule, on June 30, 2008. This is a moving testament to your generosity and commitment to our liberal arts mission – thank you! There is much more about this in the Advancing the Mission section.

I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming/Reunion weekend in September, which will include a special celebration of the campaign conclusion.

God bless!



Dietrich Reinhart '71, OSB  
President



(Photo by Michael Crouser)



### **Second-largest Class in History Graduates**

William Green, superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools, delivered the commencement address at Saint John's University in May. The 2008 Saint John's graduating class included 458 undergraduate men, the second-largest in school history, and 45 School of Theology•Seminary graduates. With the College of Saint Benedict's 446 graduates, the 2008 combined undergraduate graduating class was 904. Green and Eric Jolly, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota, received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees, and Saint John's Abbey and University presented its Pax Christi Award to the Most Reverend Elias Chacour, archbishop of Akka, Haifa, Nazareth and All of Galilee. Tom Connelly '08 was the student commencement speaker.