

Saint John's

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Last July, I became a charter signatory to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which formally commits Saint John's to becoming a carbon neutral campus over time.

Saint John's has been described as an oasis for arts, culture and spirituality. Every time I look out my window or traverse campus, in any season (even winter), I am reminded that it is also an environmental oasis. Although it will not be simple to achieve carbon neutrality, it was easy to decide to commit to it – it is deeply congruent with the Benedictine values of our community and reinforces programs that have already long been under way here.

You will be hearing more about this in the months and years to come. And in this issue's main feature, "In the Green," six of our graduates share their efforts to influence lower carbon emissions and create a more sustainable economy. They are at the forefront of what is rapidly becoming a national imperative. Combining business smarts with a desire to steward resources for future generations, they are finding ways to green our economy through for-profit organizations that run the gamut from biofuels and wind energy to composting and hydrogen fuel cells.

As a complement to this feature, we also profile graduates who are living out their interests in environmental issues personally rather than professionally. Required gear for these Johnnies: pedals, paddles, binoculars and drafting boards.

Our second feature, "Going Beyond," could also be titled "Johnnies to Watch." You will thoroughly enjoy these four young men – they have each accomplished something outstanding at the undergraduate level – and I think we may be hearing more about them in the future.

Finally, I urge you to take a look at a special photograph in the Alumni News section. We gathered together the largest number of Fr. Walter Reger Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients in one place ever (19) at the Alumni Association Sesquicentennial Homecoming Banquet last October and took a picture before they could escape. This is one you will want to see.

God bless!



Dietrich Reinhart, OSB
President

