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Saint Peter's
UNIVERSITY

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The Planned Giving Newsletter of Saint Peter's University



An Interview With Eugene A. Johnson, Jr. '78

Eugene A. Johnson, Jr. '78 received his B.A. in political science from Saint Peter's and his MBA from the University of Dayton. He retired from Empire State Development Corporation as the director of industry development in 2011. He previously held positions at Public Service Electric & Gas Company, the New York Power Authority and Dayton Power & Light. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Avon-by-the-Sea, New Jersey.

Eugene A. Johnson, Jr. '78 gives back to Saint Peter's in his estate plans.

Q. Why did you attend Saint Peter's?

A. Saint Peter's had such a great reputation for its academics and for its strong Jesuit values. I knew that it would be a perfect fit for me and I was right. It also helped that my father, Eugene '43, and uncles were alumni and had great experiences here as well!

Q. Your whole family seems to have a strong connection to Saint Peter's. Were they the strongest influence for your decision to attend?

A. I was so fortunate to have been raised in a large extended family that was full of love. My dad's side was a robust group of Irishmen and my mom was Italian. Typical Jersey City at that time!

My parents' values were simple: love of God and family, work hard, learn and give back. My dad used to say, "Education is an opportunity, only if you take advantage of it!" They both made many sacrifices for my brother (Chris), sister (Madonna) and me. They were happiest being around family and friends.

My dad was especially appreciative of the Jesuit community, attending the Prep and the College. Attending Saint Peter's during the war times was turbulent for young men and women, especially those participating in ROTC. My dad's experiences during the war as second lieutenant further shaped his love of nation and family. His unit helped liberate the Buchenwald Concentration Camp in 1945; this became an emotional-scarring "secret" to him for most of his life. He only spoke of it during his final days. When he returned from the war, it was the Jesuits that assisted him with finding acceptance into Georgetown Law. He then clerked in Hoboken, followed by a successful, life-long law practice.

Q. Did Saint Peter's prepare you well for your career and life after college?

A. Absolutely. Saint Peter's taught me how to be successful in life, not only professionally, but as a caring individual through the Jesuit values that were instilled in me.

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Q&A With Lisa Thottumari '17

Lisa Thottumari '17 is a biology major with a minor in chemistry at Saint Peter's University. She is a graduate of Livingston High School and currently resides in Livingston, New Jersey.

Q. Reflecting back on your time at Saint Peter's, what are some of your favorite memories?

A. One of my favorite memories at Saint Peter's so far was when I traveled to New York City for my *Space, Place, and the City* class, a theology elective for students in the Honors Program.

The course was centered on analyzing sacred spaces in the city. Our travels took us to churches, Hindu temples, synagogues and a Buddhist shrine. I was able to learn about different religions and traditions while traveling through New York City.

It was amazing to be able to experience these spaces first-hand while others may only read about them or hear about these places in the classroom. That is what's so great about being so close to New York! It affords us so many opportunities as an undergrad.

Q. How would you describe a Saint Peter's education to our alumni?

A. A Saint Peter's education is very hands-on. Faculty have a vested interest in each of us and look to provide us with a real life experience.

This semester I am taking a *Perspectives of Politics* class. It is an introductory political science class and it is one of the classes that are required in order to graduate. Although I was not interested in the subject, my teacher, Professor Philip Plotch, makes the class very interesting by using real-life examples to show why politics is an important topic and why it is relevant to everyone. His lectures consist of discussions that are often very thought provoking. I enjoy the class and how it has challenged my views on politics.

Q. What would you tell a prospective student about why they should come to Saint Peter's?

A. The professors who work at Saint Peter's really care about their students. They are always available to help students who are having trouble and oftentimes they become friends.



Saint Peter's also offers many amazing opportunities outside of the classroom for students such as internships in Hoboken and New York City. I also have to say that the night view of the city from our Mac Mahon Student Center is amazing. It is probably the best reason for why you should come to Saint Peter's!

Q. What has the Richard Charles Barry, M.D. '67 Endowed Scholarship meant to you?

A. The Barry Endowed Scholarship has helped my family send me to college without worrying about our financial situation. It, along with another scholarship, has allowed me the liberty to not be concerned with financial aid, or worry about loans or being in debt and enables me to fully focus on my education. I am incredibly grateful to Dr. Barry for providing me with the opportunity to pursue my education at Saint Peter's University.

The Richard Charles Barry, M.D. '67 Endowed Scholarship was established in 2009 with a gift from Dr. Barry's living trust. For more information about planned gifts or endowed scholarships, please contact Sharon Morrissey, director of leadership and planned giving, at (201) 761-6126 or smorrissey@saintpeters.edu.

Achieve a Lasting Legacy

Our new guide ***Create a Lasting Tribute for Someone You Love or Admire*** can show you how you can achieve a lasting legacy through a memorial or endowment gift. Just fill out and return the enclosed survey for your complimentary copy.



Forever and a Day

The Lifetime of an Endowment Means Your Generosity Never Ends

Would you like to make a gift to Saint Peter's University that lives on in perpetuity? Consider establishing an endowment. It's a powerful way to show your support and realize your charitable goals, while also receiving tax benefits for your kindness.

To create an endowment, you make a gift that we invest carefully. Then, each year a small portion of the earnings is distributed as per your wishes. The rest of the fund remains invested to keep it healthy and growing far into the future. Here are some typical questions and answers about this type of gift.

What is the best way to fund an endowment?

There are a number of different options. You can fund it today with gifts of cash or appreciated securities, or establish the endowment after your lifetime with gifts of retirement plan assets or life insurance benefits, or through your will or trust.

Who decides how my endowment will be used?

You do. You may restrict your endowment to a particular cause or purpose, or you could provide unrestricted funds, which means our board can direct the annual funds to meet our most pressing needs.

How can I be certain my wishes will be honored?

To ensure that your gift is always used according to your wishes, your charitable intentions are put in writing so there will never be confusion.

Please contact Sharon Morrissey at (201) 761-6126 or smorrissey@saintpeters.edu to learn more about how you can leave a legacy in support of the University's mission.

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Q. What is your vision for Saint Peter's University?

A. To continue to provide a Jesuit education, rooted in the liberal arts, particularly to the underserved in Hudson County.

Q. Why did you decide to provide for Saint Peter's in your estate plan? What would you say to someone who was thinking about making a similar gift to the University?

A. Simply speaking, giving back is what it is all about. We were taught that as students and I carry that life lesson with me to this day.

My success in life is attributable to my education at Saint Peter's, particularly to the great leaders that I came in contact with during my time as an undergrad. There are far too many to mention, but I would be remiss not to single out John Wilson '70, Rev. J. McEvoy, S.J., Rev. Edward Heavey, S.J., Rev. Victor Yanitelli, S.J.,

Edward Ryser, Pete Wevurski '70, Fred Cranwell HA '08, Larry Tormey '55, Mike Brown '56 and Barbara Chryst HA '99.

Q. What do you want your legacy to (Saint Peter's to) be?

A. Simply knowing that I gave back to an institution that gave to me so much is exactly what I wish my legacy to be.

Q. What are your other favorite charities?

A. My primary charity is Saint Peter's, of course! Although, I am a supporter of first responders—my local fire department, first aid squad and police department.

Interested in learning more about gift planning?

Visit www.saintpeters.edu/giftplanning or contact Sharon Morrissey, director of leadership and planned giving, at smorrissey@saintpeters.edu or (201) 761-6126 for additional information.



Anne K. Sinnott passed away in January 2015 at the age of 100. In her Last Will and Testament, in addition to providing for her extended family, she chose to honor the memories of her three brothers by establishing scholarships at their respective schools.

Saint Peter's University is the beneficiary of \$50,000 to create an endowed scholarship in memory of her brother, James R. Sinnott '47. We are grateful to Anne for her thoughtful and generous gift, and for her support of Jesuit education and future generations of Saint Peter's students.



To learn more about Anne, please visit www.saintpeters.edu/giftplanning, click on "Pavonia Heritage Society Donors" and select "Anne K. Sinnott."



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