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THE GIFT OF LOVE

FCLC students give advice on the best V-Day gifts for every relationship.

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COST VS. COMFORT

Fordham's new furnishings have spruced up Lowenstein, but were they a smart business decision when students can't pay tuition?

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THE OBSERVER

www.fordhamobserver.com

FEBRUARY 12, 2009 VOLUME XXVIII, ISSUE 2

President McShane Discusses Recession's Impact on Fordham



LISA SPITERI/THE OBSERVER

McShane said that one of Fordham's goals is to protect Fordham faculty and students during the recession.

By CASEY FELDMAN News Editor

On Jan. 29, The Observer met with Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of Fordham, to discuss the current state of the university and its future in the wake of the economic recession.

McShane said, "Certainly there's the potential for the recession to have a negative effect on all that we have been doing [to improve the profile of the university,] but... what we're trying to do is to

be proactive and... protect. It's a really difficult thing to do when you don't have the game plan in front of you, but the economy doesn't seem to have a game plan right now."

The State of the University

Contingency budgets, which call for a 3 percent cut in university expenditures, according to faculty senate minutes, are being constructed and will be put in place if needed, McShane said.

"Fordham has been affected most obviously and immediately in the decline of the value of the endowment," said McShane. "The endowment lost a third of its worth over the last year. But because we're

not endowment-dependent for the building of our annual operating budgets, we're not as affected as other institutions have been..."

"We want to protect the students who are here, so we want to keep an eye on their financial aid. We also want to protect the faculty and staff who are here. We do not want to lose anyone. So that's the first principle—make sure that we protect the Fordham family. This means there won't be any large raises for anybody in the university, and I know that does cause some distress... I think the first thing we have to do is protect the...faculty, administrators and staff that we have..."

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Community Rejects Master Plan; Fordham Not Compromising

By KATHRYN FEENEY Asst. News Editor

It appears that Fordham intends to proceed with the proposed Master plan despite widespread community opposition to the expansion. After the community board's unanimous rejection of the proposal, the university wrote to students and faculty urging them to alert city officials of their support for the plan as it stands.

On Jan. 21, Community Board 7 (CB7), representing the seventh District of Manhattan, voted against approving Fordham's proposed Master Plan 31-0, reflecting the dissatisfaction with the proposed plan that has been growing in the community for over three years.

"City Planning and the [City] Council have the authority to approve or not approve [the plans], ultimately," said Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of Fordham. CB7, however, is only an advisory committee—meaning it does not have ultimate power to veto the plan.

"[CB7's] vote was, for us, a disappointment, because we have been in close dialogue and close conversation with the community board for several years now, and we have been quite responsive to a number of their concerns and requests," he said. McShane noted that Fordham is "disappointed" at the community's vote, "but not despairing, and certainly not put off in the great task of the challenge of getting it through."

Fordham responded to the vote by sending a university-wide email stating, "It is urgent that you email [Manhattan] Borough President [Scott] Stringer immediately and urge him to support the Fordham plan." The email, signed by McShane, gives students and faculty four bullet points with which they can use to argue the plan to Stringer. "Your efforts will be important in convincing the elected officials to make the right decision," the let-

ter states.

In addition to the letter, the administration plans to ask students to help man tables in Lowenstein to hand out postcards which can be signed and mailed to Stringer to encourage him to approve the Master Plan, said Keith Eldredge, dean of students at Fordham College at Lincoln Center (FCLC).

"[The student support] will stand as a voice to counter voices outside that are against [the expansion plan]," he said.

According to Eldredge, the school is trying to get the plan passed as it stands despite the lack of community support, and will negotiate if they are unable to accomplish this.

"I personally disagree with some of the concerns expressed by CB7," he said. "And I think that some of the people in the community are not recognizing the positives and benefits that the expansion will bring to the community as a whole." This sentiment was echoed in McShane's email, which said that "Fordham is a good neighbor," citing the free legal clinics provided by the law school and the professional services students of the School of Social Service provide to the community.

Supplementary to the CB7 vote, eight residential buildings around FCLC have joined together in opposition to form the Fordham Neighbors United (FNU). Michael Groll is a member of the FNU and spoke on behalf of the organization.

"We are not against Fordham developing the property," Groll said. "We are against overdevelopment that will significantly impact the local infrastructure and have a negative impact on the overall quality of life."

According to Groll, the size, bulk and density of the proposed project "far exceeds what is appropriate or even viable for this area," and he cited increased traffic, over-

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In Time of Economic Crisis, Homelessness Still Accepting Résumés



FEIFEI LING Staff Writer

The U.S. economy is currently having a total and complete meltdown, affecting global markets, inciting massive job losses and plunging the world into a state of uncertainty and despair.

And I graduate in May. I'm freaking out a little bit. I

know a lot of you think that you share my pain, but you have to understand; my pain is so much more painful than your pain. I don't want to be jobless, homeless, turning tricks on the corner for a 10-dollar bill and a few minutes' validation that I am a human being.

This is the way that life works: we are born, we get potty-trained, we get money from our parents for lunch and maybe some lip gloss and then BAM!—college graduation,

when we face the unsavory prospect of growing up, moving out and becoming financially independent adults. And at no time has that prospect been more unsavory than now, when all American states, counties and cities are reporting record-high unemployment rates.

In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to find a newspaper without an economy-related headline or a news

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Inside

ARTS & CULTURE THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE...

Arts & Culture offers coverage of the road to the Oscars—from nomination highlights to student polls.

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SPORTS BLOCK OF GRANITE

The Lombardi Trophy made his name synonymous with victory, but his path to greatness began at Fordham.

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# President McShane Discusses Recession's Impact on Fordham

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that we have... from layoffs. We haven't had any layoffs, and we don't intend to.

"We want to protect the quality of a Fordham education, so we want to make sure that we don't do anything programmatically that will hurt the university's offerings," McShane said.

"The economy entered into a crisis mode right as we were really picking up speed. I'm frustrated, but at the same time, even in the midst of this, I think the university and the students have a great deal to be proud of and to celebrate, [like the] rise that we're seeing in the rankings of various programs," McShane said. McShane used the executive MBA program, which the Wall Street Journal recently ranked as number 25 in the world, as an example.

"Even in a slower year than we've wanted, we're still way ahead of every other year in the university's history except the last two," he said.

## Financial Aid and Higher Education Budget Cuts

McShane stressed the fact that, despite the decline in the endowment and the poor economic climate, there will not be a decrease in scholarships or financial aid.

He said, "It's one of [our] points of pride and the thing that people should know. The university's commitment to financial aid is deep and heartfelt... We are, and will remain, a student-centered institution, so we want to make sure that our financial aid... is maintained."

McShane said, "My job was to lobby [at the state capitol] for TAP and HEOP and lobby strongly, and I did. And in the course of the meeting, it was clear that the governor and his staff are very sympathetic to TAP



LISA SPITERI/THE OBSERVER

McShane stressed Fordham's commitment to financial aid for students.

and HEOP. It's not just a student aid program; it's an investment in New York's future. [Without it], New York will lose its competitive edge. [TAP and HEOP] are building a long-term foundation for the economic viability of the city and the state.

"It's easy for the assembly to smile indulgently at me when I go in to lobby for money for TAP and HEOP, and then forget me when I leave. It's very difficult for them to encounter a student or a student and his or her parents. This has a very strong impact on them, and this is the message that I want to get out to the students. You have enormous power to shape the state budget, and to shape the state budget in ways that not only help students but also prepare the state for the economic challenges of the future.

"New York's future depends upon it being and remaining one of the idea capitals of the world. If we do not maintain that position as an idea capital, we will lose our position as the economic capital of the world and as the cultural capital of the world.

"We have to increase Pell, both the amount, and we have to raise the ceiling of Pell [eligibility]. A lot of families who are solidly middle class are now falling [down and need the money]. If we do not have citizens who are well-trained, well-educated across the spectrum, from the arts to the sciences... in the increasingly globalized economy that we face, the United States will not be able to compete.

## Future Admissions Cycles

"We want to see if we... even in the midst of tough economic times, [can] continue to build on the gains that we have made in the degree of selectivity, the improvement in the quality of every entering class, [which] is very important," McShane said. "...The admissions cycle is very promising right now. The early admissions had a double-digit increase, and the regular admit pool is running ahead... somewhere between 5 and 10 percent increase in all the schools, and the quality [of students] is up."

*"Certainly there's the potential for the recession to have a negative effect on all that we have been doing [to improve the profile of the university], but what we're trying to do is to be proactive and protect."*

— REV. JOSEPH M. MCSHANE, S.J.  
president of Fordham

## Current Students Feeling Slighted About Future Plans

"It's the way every generation of students feels—and rightly so, I understand that. It's the way the students at Lincoln Center felt when we began to build McMahan. I think people understand that the university has changed and moved dramatically in the last decade. We've become more recognized, more solid in the recognition we've received. Students are benefiting every day from what has been done before they came. Your degrees have enhanced value now [more than they did when you applied and before you came].

"Take the non-capital projects: investments, investments in faculty, investments in scholarships.

"The thing that always fills people's minds is capital projects—oh, they're going to have a better building. Yeah, but you have a better faculty. More scholarship opportunities than the people before you. Are they annoyed? Yeah, a lot of them are; they say, 'Oh, we didn't have that.' McShane said."

## The Election and the Future

"Reflect on what we've just gone through as a nation. The very divisive and, in many ways, ugly election, followed by an almost lyrically-beautiful transfer of power, where a very unpop-

ular president really stretched to make a very popular incoming president welcome. A nation that rejoiced in the rediscovery of the hope contained in its own promises. What makes this possible? An informed, educated, creative citizenry. This is our glory. Not just a smooth transfer of power, but a celebratory transfer of power. I think [it was] one of the great celebrations of American life, spirit and democratic ideals that we're going to see in our lifetime, at least, in my lifetime! You've got many more years.

"So we know there's the immediate [economy] problem, but the long-term challenge is creating and sustaining what we have had: an innovative, creative, informed citizenry. This is what has made the U.S. an economic marvel. The same innovative, creative, informed citizenry is what has sustained the democratic dream. And that makes us a marvel as well," McShane said.

"So those are the things that the university has done and is doing to get through the economic maelstrom that we are going through right now. We're not out of the woods. Everybody you speak to, all economists, are clear; we don't know what's going on. What they do know is that it's not over. They all say that it's going to get worse before it gets better," McShane said.

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?

### STUDY ABROAD WITH FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

APPLICATIONS: DUE FEBRUARY 16TH

\$500 DEPOSIT (non-refundable): DUE MARCH 1ST

#### LONDON, ENGLAND

##### London Summer Session I June 14-July 16

HSRU 3941: *Archiving Africa: Uncovering the History of Britain's Empire* w/ Prof. Carina Ray

LLLU 3920: *Caribbean Diasporas: New York and London* w/ Prof. Christopher Schmidt-Nowara

CMLU 3451: *The Films of Alfred Hitchcock* w/ Prof. Brian Rose

##### London Summer Session II July 18-August 15

ENLU 3904: *Writing for Granta: A Creative Non Fiction Workshop* w/ Prof. Christina Baker-Kline

ECRU 3102: *How Britain Shaped Economic Thought* w/ Prof. Jhilmam Iqbal

ENLP 3652: *New Wave Immigrant Literature* w/ Prof. Elizabeth Stone

HSLU 3457: *Modern Britain* w/ Prof. Edward Bristow

**Total Program Cost: \$4865**

#### ROME, ITALY

##### Rome Athenaeum July 7-August 1

AHLU 3315: *The Splendor of Rome and its Art Through the Ages* w/ Prof. Susanna McFadden

TDLU 2750: *Performing Italian* w/ Profs. Joseph Perricone and Matthew Maguire

ARLU 3500: *Photography in the Documentary Tradition* w/ Profs. Joseph Lawton and Stephan Apicella-Hitchcock

**Total Program Cost: \$4700**

#### GRANADA, SPAIN

##### May 26-June 25

SPLU 4401: *Summer at Federico García Lorca* w/ Prof. Rafael Lamas

**Total Program Cost: \$3830**

#### GUANGZHOU, CHINA

##### May 12-May 25

POLU 3572: *China and the US in the Era of Globalization* w/ Prof. Thomas DeLuca

#### PARIS, FRANCE

##### June 1-July 1

FRLU 3453: *Le Flâneur in Paris* w/ Prof. Andrew Clark

**Total Program Cost: 3950**

#### PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

##### August 1-August 22

ECGA 5541: *Emerging Markets: South Africa* w/ Profs. Booi Themeli & Henry Schwalbenberg

**Total Program Cost: \$3375 (undergraduate)**

For further details or application instructions, please contact Sara Karen Arlin at [arlin@fordham.edu](mailto:arlin@fordham.edu).