

*president's message...*



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I write this letter, the Christmas season is nearly upon us and with it, the traditional events of the holiday season at the College - the Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Prayer Service, the Penny Toss in front of Main Building, and, of course, Christmas Eve Mass. I hope many of you will be able to join the College community for Mass, but please know that whether you are near or far, you will be in our thoughts and prayers as we gather to give thanks for the year that has passed and look forward, with anticipation, to the year ahead.

The past several months have been exciting ones for the College community. As (I hope!) you are aware, the entire community has been engaged in a Strategic Planning Process since early spring. The process, which we have named Rosemont College: Rethink. Everything., is being guided by Stevens Strategy, a consultant group specializing in higher education strategic planning. Members of the College community - students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and friends of the College - have been engaged in a dynamic and inclusive process that is challenging each of us to literally "Rethink. Everything." about the College in order to ensure that Rosemont doesn't just survive in the future, but instead, thrives! Please know that you are invited to join us in this process by attending the Open Campus Meetings held at the College on the following dates: February 7, 2008 and May 1, 2008. Please also watch for a Special Strategic Planning Edition of *Rosemont Magazine* this April.

As you'll read in this edition of the *Magazine*, there are several new faces at the College, including two new members of Senior Staff: Mary Beth Tsikalas, Vice President for Finance and Administration, and R. Lizzie Wahab, Vice President for Enrollment Management. In addition, Christyn Moran has moved from her position as Vice President of Marketing and College Relations to a new role as Vice President of College Relations, encompassing Alumni Affairs and Institutional Advancement as well as Public Relations. I am very pleased and proud that talented people choose to work at Rosemont and that our employees - be they faculty, facilitators, administrators, or staff members - work with dedication and commitment to fulfill the mission of the College. The work of the College could not be done without each one of them.

Our faculty and facilitators continue to teach by dedicating themselves to "excellence and joy in the pursuit of knowledge" as our mission statement requires. These are the people who most directly carry on Cornelia Connelly's extraordinary, far-sighted educational philosophy that emphasizes a "solid [but "practical"] education" in the liberal arts while treasuring the individual talents of each student. I am grateful for the many gifts they bring to the College, inside and outside the classroom. Interviews with six talented and dynamic educators who consider Rosemont their home are presented as the Feature Story of the *Magazine* on page 16. I know you'll agree that the students of the Undergraduate Women's College and the Schools of Graduate and Professional Studies are fortunate to benefit from their wisdom, talent, and expertise. My only regret is that the *Magazine's* pages couldn't feature every one of our 283 full and part-time faculty members!

For several years, the Fall/Winter edition of *Rosemont Magazine* has contained our annual Honor Roll of Donors - a listing of the many alumni, friends, parents, and organizations whose financial support of the College make our efforts possible. This edition of the *Magazine* is no exception. Please know how very grateful I am to all of you who are listed for your generosity.

For all of the reasons above, and so many others not mentioned, I continue to be proud and thankful to be a part of the Rosemont College community as alumna and president. As we begin to celebrate the Christmas season, and the birth of the Holy Child, it is my hope that you will continue to help me and the College community - in the many ways that you already have - guide our college to a very bright future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Latchaw Hirsh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Latchaw Hirsh, Ph.D. '70  
President