THE PRESIDENT’S COUNCIL
The Latin word *magis*, meaning “more, to a greater extent,” is one of the core principles of a Jesuit education. But it is much more than an abstract concept. It is a lifelong call to strive for excellence, to make the most of our God-given talents and use them to serve others.

The spirit of *magis* animates the Fordham University President’s Council, a group of successful professionals and philanthropists who are committed to mentoring Fordham’s future leaders, funding key initiatives, and raising the University’s profile.

Joseph M. McShane, SJ, president of Fordham University, established the President’s Council in 2004. Since then, more and more accomplished alumni, parents, and friends have been sharing their time, creativity, and financial resources with Fordham, and the council’s impact on the lives of students and alumni grows each year.
A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

For generations my family has trusted in the power of a Fordham education. I am a proud graduate of Fordham College at Rose Hill, and my father and grandfather are both Fordham alumni. Years ago, my father was president of the Fordham University Council, a group very similar to the President’s Council. I am proud to follow in his footsteps.

As chair of the President’s Council, I am fortunate to be able to build on the skilled leadership of those who came before me, not only on the council but in Fordham’s classrooms and administrative offices. Their work has brought Fordham to new heights, expanding our academic offerings and enhancing the wonderful reputation that Fordham has always enjoyed.

With hundreds of years of collective experience, my fellow council members and I have much to offer Fordham students. I’ve been on Wall Street for more than 30 years as an investment manager. Other members have worked in a variety of industries. We can bring prominent professionals to campus to speak at mentoring events, help to arrange internships, and open other doors that will really help students embark on their careers and take advantage of New York City’s many opportunities. Personally, I’ve also had the pleasure of speaking to a class in the Gabelli School of Business. I enjoyed it tremendously and plan to do more of that when I can.

Financial aid and scholarships continue to be a priority for the President’s Council and for the University. Many successful alumni—council members included—can trace their success back to the financial help that made it possible for them to attend Fordham. I’m proud that our robust support of the Fordham Founder’s Award Dinner and the Founder’s Undergraduate Scholarship Fund can help a new generation of Fordham students achieve their dreams.

It’s a great time for Fordham. Together, we will continue to make the Jesuit call for magis—more—a living, breathing ideal for our students.

Edward I. O’Brien Jr., FCRH ’80
Managing Director, M&R Capital Management
When Carolyn Albstein was a student at Fordham’s Gabelli School of Business, she had a management professor whose words of advice always stuck with her. “He said, ‘Never do less. Just do more and find a better opportunity.’

“That’s very Fordham,” said Albstein, adding that she sees that same spirit in today’s Gabelli students, for whom she has served as a mentor. “They’re so focused on what they want and what they need to do.”

Attending Fordham in the evenings, Albstein earned an MBA in 1982. She worked in finance for Unilver and Bristol Myers-Squibb, and brings her experience to bear as a member of the advisory board that advises Donna Rapaccioli, dean of the Gabelli School.

Albstein said she’s proud of Fordham’s emphasis on integrity in business. “I think the ethics component is really so important,” said the mom of two, who serves on the Executive Committee of the President’s Council. Albstein and her husband, Andrew Albstein, LAW ’81, are the benefactors of the Nathan H. Albstein Memorial Endowed Scholarship, which honors the memory of Andrew’s father, a longtime employee of the University’s chemistry department. They also support Fordham Law School and the Gabelli School.
“I’ve always loved Fordham. There’s just something extra here. It’s so inspiring.”
“Fordham was my first shot at freedom. It was a culture that was protective and I think I needed that.”
Anthony Carter recently retired as vice president and chief diversity officer at Johnson & Johnson, a position he calls “the culmination of everything I’ve learned and everything that I feel strongly about.”

He grew up in the South Bronx in a family of 10 children whose parents died when Carter was young. For high school, he was bused to St. Raymond’s in Parkchester, where he participated in a leadership program for young African-American men. “I started to take pride in who I was. And I understood the importance of inclusion.”

A communications major at Fordham, Carter wrote for *The Ram* and *The Paper*, and hosted a WFUV radio show on the African-American environment. “It made me realize,” he said, “that you just needed voices—strong, passionate, and balanced voices—to help people understand this need to relate to one another.”

As a member of the President’s Council, Carter plans to focus on diversity issues at Fordham. He’s a big supporter of Fordham CSTEP, which prepares minority students for careers in the sciences and licensed professions. And he’s been inspired, he said, by Father McShane’s commitment to bringing more students of color to the University.
Rick Calero joined the Army just a week after graduating from Xavier High School in Manhattan. Years later, one of his Jesuit guidance counselors lamented that the military got him first. “You would have made a great Jesuit,” he said.

As president and CEO of TIAA-CREF Trust Co. FSB, Calero is tasked with creating a bank for teachers, hospital workers, and other service-oriented professionals. “This is really about helping the difference makers,” he said with pride.

The sense of nobility Calero finds in his work is something he encountered in the military and in his Jesuit education. “There’s just a value system in both,” he said, whether that system is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ or the U.S. Constitution. “There is a cause greater than yourself.”

An ROTC scholarship brought Calero to Fordham. He studied economics at Fordham College at Lincoln Center, a few miles from where he grew up on 132nd and Broadway. He recently mentored a Fordham ROTC student, and plans to do more mentoring as a member of the President’s Council, inspired by the sense of service that Fordham helped instill in him long ago. “Whether I was the Puerto Rican kid from the Upper West Side or the recent vet,” he says, “Fordham has just always been there.”

M A G I S
“Jesuit education is not just learning basic skills. It really is critical thinking.”
“Most Fordham students are pretty hungry to succeed, and that’s what I like to see. Attitude is everything.”
Peggy Smyth’s motivation for serving on the President’s Council is simple: “Everything good I have in my life,” she said, “I owe to Fordham.”

The chief financial officer for the U.S. at National Grid met her husband, Bernard G. (Berney) Smyth, FCRH ’85, when she was studying economics at Fordham College at Rose Hill on a presidential scholarship. Joseph A. O’Hare, SJ, now president emeritus of Fordham, baptized the couple’s two sons at the University Church. And Smyth is still best friends with her Fordham roommate.

Smyth achieved remarkable success in the business world at an early age; in 2002, *Crain’s New York Business* named her to its “40 Under 40” list. She went on to become a global business executive in some of the world’s biggest companies, including technology and energy firms.

After receiving a Fordham education, learning the “tech side” of her business was a challenge for which Smyth was prepared. “At Fordham you learn how to learn,” she said. “The world is constantly changing, so you always need to be studying to stay up-to-date. And Fordham teaches you that. That’s why I am a really big advocate of a liberal arts education.”
Suscipio

v: to raise up, maintain, support

Coming from a small all-girls Catholic high school, Roberta Siciliano knew she wanted a broader university experience without losing that “sense of community and sense of family.”

“For me, Fordham was the right blend. It was large enough to have everything you wanted but still have the personal touch.”

While the future actuary was drawn to Fordham’s math and science curriculum, she appreciated the “ethical grounding” she found in her philosophy and theology courses. “It forces you to think about the larger issues beyond your field.”

Throughout her career, Garland has stayed grounded and held tight to what is most important to her. “I deliberately chose to keep my family time special, and those I love close.” So close that in 2002, she started her own actuarial consulting firm with her husband and stepdaughter.

As a member of the President’s Council, Garland enjoys mentoring Fordham students and young alumni, encouraging them to maintain a healthy work-life balance as they pursue their career goals. “Your worth is not determined by how many hours you work, but by your contributions to yourself, your family, your employer, your clients, and society as a whole.”

M A G I S
“Fordham is a nurturing environment, but also a challenging one. I never had a class where the teacher didn’t know my name.”
Making Magis a Living Ideal

For more information about the President’s Council, please visit fordham.edu/prescouncil.
Joseph M. McShane, SJ, president of Fordham University, invites the members of the President’s Council to engage in the life and mission of the University in a variety of distinct and meaningful ways. Specifically, President’s Council members:

- provide philanthropic support to the University at the highest levels, sharing both the inspiration and leadership necessary to help Fordham realize its greatest dreams as an institution dedicated to wisdom and learning in the service of others;

- reach out to and engage the University’s top undergraduate applicants, sharing with them the Fordham story and its lifelong impact;

- mentor current students and young alumni, promoting their academic success and career development;

- leverage corporate relationships to create enhanced opportunities for students and alumni;

- participate in the Executive in Residence program, guest-teaching classes and leading seminars in their areas of expertise;

- lend the volunteer leadership and support necessary to ensure the annual outstanding success of the Fordham Founder’s Award Dinner.