Pedro A. Cortés, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, will address the Class of 2008 at Commencement exercises to be held Sunday, May 18, at Wachovia Arena.

Cortés was nominated as Secretary of the Commonwealth by Governor Edward G. Rendell on April 2, 2003 and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate, making him the first confirmed Latino Cabinet member in Pennsylvania history and the highest ranking native of Puerto Rico to be elected to any statewide position in the United States.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth administers the Department of State. The Department protects the public’s health, safety and welfare by licensing more than one million businesses, health and real estate professionals; maintaining registration and financial information for thousands of charities soliciting contributions from Pennsylvanians; overseeing Pennsylvania’s electoral process; maintaining corporate filings; and sanctioning professional boxing, kick-boxing and wrestling in the Commonwealth. Secretary Cortés is also the Commonwealth’s chief election official. For years, Secretary Cortés has also been active with many community and government related organizations, including the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). He currently serves as NASS President-Elect. In July he will become the association’s president, making him the first Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth to serve in that role in the organization’s 104-year history.

Prior to being appointed to his current position, Secretary Cortés was the executive director of the Pennsylvania Governor’s Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs. He has also served with the PA State Civil Service Commission and the PA Department of Public Welfare. Secretary Cortés was named among the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in the United States by “Hispanic Business Magazine”.

Cortés will be conferred an honorary doctorate from King’s College at Commencement. Also being conferred honorary doctorates will be local leaders Sister Lucille Marie Brislin, R.S.M., director of Mercy Services, and Susan Shoval, founder, president and chief operating officer of GUARD Insurance Group.

**Commencement Weekend**

**Saturday, May 17**

- **ROTC Commissioning Ceremony**
  2 p.m.
  Burke Auditorium,
  The William G. McGowan
  School of Business

- **Baccalaureate Mass**
  4 p.m.
  Scandlon Gymnasium

- **Senior/Alumni Party**
  9 p.m. to midnight
  Regina Court and Connerton’s Café

**Sunday, May 18**

- **Commencement**
  2 p.m.
  Wachovia Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre
King’s announces record results for Capital Campaign

At the President’s Dinner, King’s officials announced College fundraising efforts surpassed its Capital Campaign goal of $30 million by more than $7 million, the most ever raised in the College’s history. Pictured at the President’s Dinner, from left: Frank Pasquini, vice president for Institutional Advancement; William Lynn, capital campaign director; Gail O’Brien, John O’Brien, King’s board member and campaign chairman; Rev. Thomas O’Hara, C.S.C., president; Mary Louise Faber; Eberhard Faber, King’s board chairman.

King’s officials announced the successful completion of the Legacy of Excellence capital campaign at the annual President’s dinner on Saturday evening. More than $37.24 million in gifts and pledges was raised, 67 percent more than the previous record for a capital campaign and 24 percent more than the $30 million goal. The Legacy of Excellence campaign, the most ambitious in the College’s 62-year history, began in 2003. More than $18 million was raised since the public announcement of the campaign in May 2006.

Campaign results were announced by John O’Brien ’64, chairman of the Legacy of Excellence Campaign, to more than 320 people attending the President’s Dinner.

Of the amount raised, more than $16 million was in unrestricted gifts and pledges.

"The campaign has been successful in every imaginable way," said King’s President Rev. Thomas O’Hara, C.S.C. "It is through the extreme generosity of our alumni, friends, and foundations that King’s is able to continue providing a quality liberal arts education and make physical plant improvements that not only benefit the College but also the city of Wilkes-Barre."

Since the campaign began, more than $8.75 million was raised through the College’s Annual Fund campaigns, more than $5.18 million was donated for scholarships and financial aid, almost $2.6 million for academic quality and faculty development projects, and between $1.1 and $1.3 million each for the Shoval Center for Community Engagement and Learning, liberal arts programming and for improvements to Betzler Fields, including the addition of artificial turf and lighting to the football field.

"The Campaign began with the College’s Board of Directors showing great leadership with 100 percent participation and concluded with donations from thousands of friends and alumni from across the country who understand and believe in the unique mission of this wonderful college," said O’Brien.

Summer programs offered

King’s is offering a variety of summer programs for kids of all ages. Kids at King’s offers more than 40 different classes and workshops. Students can take part in any of five weekly sessions. The classes meet in the mornings from 9:30 to noon and afternoons from 1-3:30, and will be held the weeks of June 23, and July 7, 14, 21 and 28.

For students in grades three-five, workshops include Natural Night Life, American Girl Workshop, The Secret Life of Monsters, Kitchen Science, and Medieval Mania.

Students in grades six-eight can create special effects for a movie, take an active look at the election process of a U.S. President or develop creative writing abilities. Additional classes include painting, photography, acting and journalism.

The week of August 4, the Wickline Casting’s camps offer two full-day programs. For children in K-Grade 2, an “Express Yourself Camp,” introduces young students to all aspects of performing arts including dance, choreography and singing. For students in grades 3-10, a TV Hosting/News Anchoring Camp will expose students to many aspects of TV hosting, including sports announcing, weather reporting, and hosting talk show.

For a complete schedule, cost, and registration information, contact the College Discovery Program at ext. 5807.

People at King’s

Janet E. Mercincavage, vice president for student affairs, served as a final judge for the athletics category for “The Times Leader’s Best and Brightest for 2008” competition for the region’s high school seniors.

Assistant Professor of Education Dr. Russell Owens’s manuscript, titled “An Analysis of Women Educators in Higher Education and Their Perceptions of the Use of Technology in Improving Teacher Effectiveness: A Study in Instructional Technology,” was published in “Contemporary Issues in Education Research.”

Rev. Patrick Sullivan, C.S.C., coordinator of the Ethnic Community Outreach program, has been named to the steering committee of the Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice.

Chemistry faculty members Dr. Ron Supkowski and Dr. Brian Williams, along with two King’s students, recently presented our research at the 22nd annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research at Salisbury University in Maryland. Dr. Supkowski and Ashley Janiga presented research on “Development of the Thermometric Titration of Activated Silica with Triethylaluminum” and Dr. Williams and Megan Furner presented “Deprotection and Alkylation of 3-AZA-[3.3.1] Bicycles.”