The highly anticipated North Main Street Gateway project commenced last week with the destruction of the former Rodano Pizza property (right). Crews are presently completing demolition of the vacant Corcoran and MacIntosh properties at the corner of N. Main and North streets.

Radnor Property Group, LLC, a private developer, and Kinship Square, a local community development corporation organized to benefit the North Wilkes-Barre community, will construct a four-story, mixed-use facility that will include student apartments for King's students, a daycare center, community-based retail serving both students and neighborhood residents, and living/learning classroom space housing the Early Learning Educational Program.

This $19.4 million development will create twenty-five to thirty full-time jobs and as many as 125 construction jobs. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2009 in time for King’s 2009-2010 academic year.

College set to honor Congregation of Holy Cross

Faculty, staff and administrators are invited to attend a special dedication ceremony on Wednesday, September 17, as the College plans to honor the Congregation of Holy Cross at three locations on campus.

Beginning at 3:20 p.m., priests and brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross will join Bishop John Dougherty to bless the Holy Cross Founders monument and Founders’ Walk, located off the cul-de-sac on North Franklin Street, followed by a rededication of the $8 million newly renovated Holy Cross Hall, the primary men’s residence hall.

The 15 month-long project, the most comprehensive in the 12-story building’s 41-year-history, included adding new lighting and windows. Student lounges were upgraded, air conditioning was added throughout the residence hall and the lobby was completely refurbished.

The final dedication will take place immediately outside the new student chapel on the twelfth floor, formerly the Chapel for the Holy Cross Community. A portrait of the late Father Donald Grimes, C.S.C., vice president for academic affairs and faculty member, will be blessed and the chapel will be named in his honor.

Following the dedications, there will be a light reception in Holy Cross Hall lobby and Monarch Court.

North Main Street Gateway development underway

King’s ranked among top colleges by pair of magazines

King's has maintained its position among the top fifth of comparable institutions in the recent “U.S. News and World Report” (USNWR) rankings and was selected to participate in a national survey of all colleges and universities by “Forbes” magazine.

King’s was ranked 35th of 171 institutions in the Best Universities – Master’s in the Northern United States category by USNWR. This is the eighth consecutive year that the College is ranked in the “Best” category among institutions in 10 states that offer both bachelor’s and master’s degree programs.

While King’s did not meet the initial criteria for inclusion in the “Forbes” survey, it was one of 13 schools, and one of only two in Pennsylvania, issued a special invitation based on the number of graduates (since the class of 1974) listed in “Who’s Who in America”. King’s was the only Wyoming Valley institution invited to participate.

Besides the Who’s Who entries, the three other factors used in the survey were student evaluations from Ratemyprofessor.com, four-year graduation rates and the number of students and faculty receiving nationally competitive awards.

King’s was the second highest ranked Holy Cross institution, trailing only the University of Notre Dame. Overall, King’s ranked 379th of 569 ranked colleges and universities.

Among the institutions King’s was ranked ahead of are George Mason University, Boston University, Marquette University, DePaul University, Goucher College and LaSalle University.

The editors of Forbes commented “we think these rankings have several distinct positive attributes that should commend them to families contemplating college choices. First, they emphasize student reaction to their instruction, and the success of graduates of an institution. Second, they do take account student concerns about debt burdens, the difficulty or graduating in four years, and the presence of academic excellence in the university community.” The entire list is available at: http://www.forbes.com/2008/08/13/college-university-rankings-oped-college08-cx_rv_mn_0813intro.html

Share your News with the King’s Community

The next issue of Monarch Notes will be published the week of Sept. 29. If you would like to highlight an upcoming event, please e-mail your information to Assistant Director of Public Relations Joseph Giomboni at: josephgiomboni@kings.edu or call ext. 5957.
Experiencing the Arts opens with nature exhibit, jazz concert

King’s will host noted musicians, speakers and artists during the 2008-09 academic year. The festivities begin in the College’s Widmann Gallery with the “North Branch Land Trust” exhibition. Using unconventional methods and styles, North Branch Land Trust’s Naturalist Rick Koval showcases wildlife in simplistic, yet peculiar compositions, in an attempt to preserve nature’s beauty through his photographic lens. His original works will be on display through Sept. 26. Koval will discuss his craft during gallery talks from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on September 21.

On Monday, Sept. 15, The Triple Play ensemble of Peter “Madcat” Ruth, Joel Brown and Chris Brubeck will delight the audience with its ever-expanding repertoire, a volatile mix of folk, blues, jazz, funk and classical music. The free concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

The College’s theatre department’s season will commence on Wednesday, October 1, with Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”, one of the most famous love stories of all time. The effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-The Moon Marigolds. In addition, regularly scheduled lunchtime performances (Brown Bag Theatre), and two Student Showcase performances will also be held.

Dr. Philip Jenkins will examine the lost history and future of Christianity as this year’s Moreau Lecturer, while award-winning poet Luis Rodriguez, a former Los Angeles gang member, will be King’s Visiting Writer this fall.

Ranging from the black-and-white and color photography of Tara Zavada to illustrations by Bill Harkins and miniature art by Sandy Leonard, the Widmann Gallery will display a variety of offerings for art connoisseurs.

A performance by the World Dance Theatre will highlight the performing arts schedule, an event supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. The Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour program will bring a modern depiction of Flamenco dancers to campus in the fall. Performers specializing in folk, blues, jazz, gospel and chamber music feature Jazz, Latin, Pan American and Gospel will also visit campus. The College’s own choral ensemble, Cantores Christi Regis, will perform its annual Christmas and Spring Concerts.

For more information, visit the Experiencing the Arts Calendar at www.kings.edu.

People at King’s

William Burge, assistant director of college safety and security, received the Lifetime Friend Award from the Victims Resource Center for his leadership in organizing the “Take Back the Night” program and other activities to promote the agency.

Robert McGonigle, associate vice president for student affairs, was presented the Lifetime Friend Award for outstanding contributions to the Victims Resource Center for his eight years of service on the Board of Directors of the agency.

Dr. Anna Minore, assistant professor of theology, recently presented her paper, titled “The Sweetest Greenness: Holiness, Church, and Prayer in Hildegard of Bingen,” at the International Medieval Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Dr. Ann Yezerski, associate professor of biology, recently presented a workshop, “Using Microfossils to Explore Evolution and Ecology” in Mississauga Canada for the Annual Association of Biology Laboratory Education meeting.

Share your original works; improve your creative writing

King’s College’s Campion Society will hold an open reading giving King’s students, faculty, and staff as well as the local community a chance to share creative works, including poems, short stories, drama, and creative nonfiction.

The open reading is free to attend and will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16, in the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center. Guests can bring original works or the work of published authors to read in a relaxed atmosphere.

As a new complement to the open readings, the Campion Society will also host hour-long, informal writing classes. Student leaders will share writing exercises with participants so that they may produce drafts of poems, short stories, or nonfiction. Workshops are themed, free and open to the College community.

Future readings will be held on Oct. 29, Feb. 26 and April 22. Writing Workshops begin on Oct. 7. Refreshments will be served. For information, contact Jennifer Yonkoski at ext. 5487.