



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER | *Gene O'Hara '55*

THANKS to generous and widespread support from our alumni and many friends, our students had abundant opportunities to develop their talents and progress in their studies this year. Those of us who visit regularly, as many on the Board do, can see your support in action, as our students pursue a wonderful range of academic and other experiences.

We remain especially proud of the fine work done with the sixty students in our residence, Leahy House, which has served our students for five years. Designed to provide special support to students who often lack stability and supervision in their lives outside of school, Leahy House has proven its value over and over again. This was a bold step to take and it continually challenges us to make the House work as well as it can for all its students. It is gratifying to see youngsters who have been able to thrive academically because our teachers and counselors have helped them address and manage the non-academic issues that can stand in their way.

We have grown in appreciation of the abundant talents on display throughout the school that do not receive the acclaim of headlines and coverage on the sports pages. With striking cooperation among many faculty, crossing disciplines, our students delved into the life and times of the legendary jazz singer Billie Holiday to produce a wonderful array of art, music and performances of their own. This collaboration with the noted artists who developed this tribute program, commissioned by NJPAC, was a first for our students and one which brought a host of new insights and creative opportunities. At our annual dinner this spring, our guests had the chance to see some of this wonderful work as our students' murals decorated the gym that evening. Some of our most talented seniors presented their own poetry and personal reflections, along with choral pieces, to those who joined us that night.

None of the opportunities we offer students would be possible without consistent and generous help from our alumni and friends, including numerous corporations and foundations throughout this area. We on the Board have as our priority to communicate and meet the financial challenges of our mission as effectively as we can. Only a handful of our 580 students can pay what it costs to educate them each year. Each of our students receives a generous scholarship subsidy, about \$9,000 this year; two-thirds of our students require direct aid toward our charged tuition of \$7,000. It takes many helpers for us to sustain this fine work every year. This generous support is spelled out in the pages of this report. We thank you for helping us allow our young men to accomplish so much this past year and ask you to keep our efforts in mind in the future.

Gene O'Hara