“When I became more deeply involved with Saint John’s, I did so out of nostalgia. I had fond memories of my days in Collegeville… I had great professors and I met some wonderful people… and I wanted to give back.

But something happened during my service on the board of regents over the past 10 years. I’ve learned a great deal more and I’ve moved beyond nostalgia. I’ve seen what Saint John’s and Saint Ben’s does for students. This place really does transform people. And it is a first-rate education. I can’t think of a better investment… so we have decided to invest even further.”

Dan Whalen ’70

With these inspiring words, Dan Whalen ’70, chair of the capital campaign and immediate past chair of the board of regents, announced that he and his wife, Katharine, have increased their pledge to the Saint John’s capital campaign, One Generation to the Next, to $10 million.

At the outset of the campaign, they made a $5 million leadership commitment, which, at the time, was the largest gift in Saint John’s history.

“We are extremely grateful to Dan and Katharine for this extraordinarily generous commitment to Saint John’s,” commented Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, president of Saint John’s University. “The gift from the Whalens is significant in several respects. First, it equals the largest gift ever to Saint John’s (matching a commitment made by Bill and Joyce Sexton in 2004). Second, it will fund the newly established Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement at Saint John’s University and the College of Saint Benedict. And last, it brings the total raised for the Saint John’s capital campaign to $140 million.”

The goal for the Saint John’s capital campaign, which runs through June 2009, is $150 million. “In light of our continued fund raising success, and the momentum that has been generated by this and other lead gifts, we intend to forge onward and we fully expect to exceed our original goal,” commented Rob Culligan ’82, vice president for Institutional Advancement.

“This ‘eight-figure’ gift comes from an alumnus with a ‘nine-figure’ personal commitment,” observed Joe Mucha ’66, vice chair of the Saint John’s capital campaign. “It’s hard not to be inspired and motivated by Dan’s example.”

Go to www.csbsju.edu/sjucampaign to learn more about One Generation to the Next.