

## **Royden B. Davis, S.J., Performing Arts Center Dedication**

Since Georgetown's early years the performing arts have flourished—fueled by the passion of our students and faculty. While the performing arts were always at home at Georgetown, they never had a real home—until today.

A fuller and deeper academic arts program and a stage in the heart of campus were dreams for the College that I shared with my Jesuit predecessors, Fr. Bob Lawton, S.J., who is now the President of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and Fr. Royden B. Davis, S.J., for whom this center is named.

The performing arts became a major College priority in the Third Century Campaign. The tremendous success of Georgetown's campaign allowed the College to become a better academic institution, to maintain the excellence for which we are known, and to nurture areas which needed attention.

So many wonderful conversations later, so many plans, so much hard work and dust—have brought us where we are today. Georgetown's generous, creative and forward thinking community of alumni, parents, students, faculty and friends have allowed our dream to come to fruition. You have helped us to make a Georgetown education a stronger and more exciting experience through the Davis Center, the Gonda Theatre, our Theater Program and our Program in the Performing Arts.

Today is our opportunity to celebrate all that we have accomplished together—for this has been a collaboration of many players. Growing out of the gift from the Ryan family, the Ryan Building formed the foundation from which Hugh Hardy, Mario Censullo and their team of enormously creative architects and designers at H3 envisioned this wonderful setting carved out of a hillside in the heart of campus.

In this site, the College faculty and staff led by Maya Roth and Ron Lignelli, and past faculty members Rob Baker-White and Jose Bowen, worked tirelessly in conjunction with H3 and the Gonda family to make certain that the building fit the aims of our academic and cocurricular program.

I am grateful for the unerring assistance of Spiros Dimolitsas, Karen Frank, Isaac Blair, Don Phillips and all of those at Georgetown whose dedication to this facility have brought us to this proud day. Thank you to Steve Lamp, Georgetown's project manager, and Joe Mobilia of Fisher, Dachs Theatre Consultants, both of whom helped us to navigate the enormous task.

And speaking of wills, I would like to thank my College development staff, past and present, for their determination to match your generosity with the College's dream: the Royden B. Davis, S.J., Performing Arts Center and the Gonda Theatre.

Jane Dammen McAuliffe  
9 December 2005