JULY

John Toole Wins Pulitzer

by Maureen Mock Verderame

Students of the late 1960's remember John Kennedy Toole as the gentlemanly English teacher who asked for their permission before removing his jacket on humid summer days in Dominican's fan-cooled classrooms. Now the whole country knows him as the author of A Confederacy of Dunces and winner of the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

The novel which is set in New Orleans has been praised for its local color, particularly its attention to the many distinctive dialects of the city. Most outstanding, however, is the character of Ignatius J. Reilly, a slob who wears a hunting cap with ear flaps, drinks Dr. Nut, and pontificates on all the evils of modern life.

The novel was actually written in 1961 when John Toole was stationed in Puerto Rico with the Army. Thelma Toole, mother of the late professor, speculates that it was frustration over his failure to get the novel published that led to her son's tragic suicide in 1969. The author was a member of the faculty of the Dominican College English Department at the time of his death.

Mrs. Toole's dedication to her son and her confidence in the novel propelled her to seek publication for A Confederacy of Dunces. She, too, met with frustration and rejection. Finally she turned to Walker Percy (another award winning novelist with ties to Dominican College; his daughter Mary Pratt Percy Lobdell is a 1971 graduate now living in Mandeville, La.) In the forward to Dunces Percy explains how his hesitancy to read and sponsor an unknown novelist was overcome. "I read on. And on. First with the sinking feeling that it was not bad enough to quit, then with a prickle of

NEW OFFICERS, GRADS
FETED AT SPRING REUNION

If you missed it, what a shame, because all who came enjoyed the spring reunion at Dominican on Saturday, March 28th. We were surrounded by old and new friends, flowers and candlelight. Delicious food provided by the alumnae, a well-stocked bar and a banjo player strumming out lively tunes were all the ingredients necessary for a good time.

ALUMNAE FUND DRIVE
REACHES GOAL!!

The Alumnae Fund Drive has now been termed a great success. We are happy to report that we have reached our goal with pledges in the amount of $50,000.

YOU, the Dominican Alumnae, are to be thanked and congratulated for the success of this drive. Without your valuable assistance, time and generosity, the lofty goal of $50,000 would not have been feasible. Special thanks are extended to those who not only contributed monetarily but also gave their time and expertise in attending the local and long distance phonathons. So, "thank you" to all those alumnae who gave of themselves to demonstrate once again their loyalty and generosity to the College.

Kathy Macaluso Ramirez
and needlework cross

(Cont. on Page 4)
Founder's Hall Has New Role

Mother's Day 1981 was the date chosen by the Dominican Sisters, Congregation of St. Mary, to celebrate the dedication of their new Motherhouse, located in completely remodeled Founder's Hall. Numerous alums thought that was an appropriate day to visit Alma Mater, our foster mother, to tour the building and chat with friends and former teachers over punch and cookies.

Founder's Hall, located in the college campus but belonging to the Dominican order, has been completely renovated to meet the requirements of its new roles of administrative offices, infirmary, and residence. Furnishings for most of the building have come from former residences of the sisters and Rosaryville, providing a charming home-like touch as well as a link with the order's historic past.

Visitor's to Founder's Hall on the day of dedication were treated to guided tours of the Mother House by the sisters who pointed out highlights of the lovely decor. A visit to the chapel was a must for all who joined the tours.

Four local artists, Jack Gates, Dennis O'Regan, Mark Schenthal and Angela Gregory, Professor Emeritus of St. Mary's Dominican College, are responsible for the dramatic simplicity of the chapel.

Wendy Abshire Wins Alumnae Award

Wendy Abshire, a speech pathology major from Abbeville, La., was presented with the Mother Mary de Ricci Hutchinson Alumnae Award at the annual Honors Night ceremony on campus April 29. Wendy is a member of Delta Epsilon Sigma, Beta Iota Chapter National Honor Society, Cardinal Key and Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges.

The Outstanding Teacher Award was given to Sister M. Veronica, O.P. This was the third time Sister has received this award.

Sister M. Alexaidia, O.P., was honored for fifty years of service to the College.
HERE 'N THERE

PAMELA SILVA TRUXILLO '74 is an educational consultant on the St. Bernard Parish School Board. MARIE MURPHY '79 has received her M.A. in Public Affairs from Stony Brook University. She has been appointed Assistant for Sponsored Research at the Research Foundation of the State University of New York.

ROYANN PRICE AVEGNO '71 and husband, Ashton, have been named recipients of the Alfred E. Clay award presented by the Children's Bureau of New Orleans. This award is given for outstanding services for children.

CINDY HEUMANN '79 graduated from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston with a Master of Science degree in Institution Management. She is now employed as a Clinical Dietitian at Hotel Dieu Hospital in New Orleans.

LADELL LEMOINE ADAMS '75 has been named branch manager of the west bank office of Buccola-McKinzie, Inc.

MARY CORDRAY '75 was chosen by the Gulfport, Mississippi Jaycees as the Outstanding Young Educator for 1980.

ALICE RANDAZZA GEOR-FRAY, Ph.D. '44, director of Career/Continuing Education and Guidance for New Orleans Public School System, has been elected to represent Louisiana on the Southern Regional Council of the College Entrance Examination Board for a 3-year term.

JOANN VELCICH, Ph.D. '83, is president of Career and Educational Services, Inc., of New Orleans. She counsels men and women seeking a first or second career.

JAN MELANCON GUSTAFSON '63, was recently installed as president of the Women's Auxiliary to the New Orleans Dental Association. She is currently serving as chairman for Dental Health Education for the Louisiana Women's Auxiliary. She is a mother of three adopted children. Her husband, Gus, practices dentistry in the New Orleans East area.

SHIRLEY KEEN JACKSON '44 retired from her long-time position as a secondary school counselor with the Terrebonne Parish School Board and has moved from Houma, La., to Picayune, Miss.

SISTER CAMILLE ANN, O.CARM. '62 became the third principal in Mt. Carmel Academy's 55 year history.

DIANE CODIFER '67 will be teaching freshman Algebra I and Junior Geometry in the fall at Mt. Carmel Academy, New Orleans.

RENEE ANNE VIOSCA '63, librarian at St. Leo the Great School, has received an honorary Cultural Doctorate in Literature from World University, Tucson, Arizona.

Joseph S. Mangiapane, husband of CARMEN PRADILLO MANGIA-PANE '68 was recently appointed vice-president of the New Orleans office of Walter E. Heller & Co. Co.

CLYDIA DAVENPORT FINK '72 was admitted to the practice of law in Texas after passing the Texas Bar Examination in September. She has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Managers of the Townhouse Association where she now lives. She and her husband toured South America this spring, visiting her parents in Rio de Janeiro.

JOAN LACEY YAGER '52 just zipped to Washington, D.C. to be present as her daughter, Susan, received a Master's Degree in English from Catholic University of America. Susan is now with John Wiley & Sons, New York publishers.

MARIE MURPHY '79 has received her M.A. in Public Affairs from Stony Brook University. She has been appointed Assistant for Sponsored Research at the Research Foundation of the State University of New York.

1981 HOMECOMING

Homecoming 1981 is being planned for November 8, 1981. The day will include a Mass in the chapel and a brunch. The reunion classes of 1971 and 1931 will be honored. Details of the day will follow in a later bulletin, but all alumnae are requested to reserve November 8 for coming home to Dominican.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Our regular feature, Alums in the News, will return with the next issue.
VITAL STATISTICS

MARRIAGES
Susan E. Marsh '72 and Robert E. Case
Mary Beth Hotard '72 and Daryl K. Manning
Mary Della Real, '75, and Mark Chapin
Barbara Jean Ehrensing '78 and Kevin G. Kratzberg
Geraldine Alvarez '78 and John Ford Riviere '76
Claire Wall Capella '78 and Joseph M. Bennett
Bridgett Mary Dwyer '78 and Capt. William M. Ramsey, U.S. Marine Corps
Jo Ann Vogt '79 and Karl F. Hagemeier, III
Debora Brogdon '79 and Bennett G. Fisher
Donna Ann Linn '81 and Michael C. Degan
Rosemarie Shawn Craddock '81 and Brett Charles Pederson

BIRTHS
Charlotte Laguaite Knauer '64, boy
Pat Griffin Noyes '69, boy
Dana Duhon Voelkel '77, boy
Shirley Levy Dupre '80, girl

ADOPTIONS
Royann Price Avegno, '71, boy
Kathy Macaluso Ramirez '72, boy

CORRECTION
Cathy Callans Lee '72 adopted a little girl, not a boy as reported in a previous bulletin

DEATHS
Ross J. Mauldin, father of Anna Ross Mauldin Twichell '73
Felix Lipani, father of Madeline Lipani Russo '47
John J. (Jack) McGoey, brother of Marjorie McGoey Joint '36
D. Albeo Allain, Sr., father of Therese Allain Inman '77
Thomas R. Kehoe, husband of Rita Hayes Kehoe '22
John B. Jackson, husband of Shirley Keen Jackson '44
Alice Casteix Meyer '51
Peter H. Diodene, Jr., father of Denise Diodene Schiro '75
F.J. Hallaron, husband of Mae Fallo
Hallaron, father of Colleen
Hallaron Logreco '47; Marie L. Hallaron Horil '46; and Sister
Mary La Salle, R.S.M. '54
B.G. Florey, husband of Rosemary Labasse Florey '45
Ripley Pope Schoenberger, father of Holly Schoenberger, '70; brother
of Podine Schoenberger '22
Charles P. Verderame, father-in-law of Maureen Mock Verderame '70
Dorothy Prima Krone '57
Loretta Middendorf Schwartz, mother of Yvonne McLaughlin Marks '44
Robert C. Leininger, Sr., father of Patricia Leininger Lagrange '60

JOHN TOOLE
(cont. from page 1)

interest, then a growing excitement, and finally an incredulity: surely it was not possible that it was so good.” With Walker Percy’s help, A Confederacy of Dunces was published by LSU Press. Since then, the movie rights have been purchased by Twentieth Century Fox.

Mr. Toole’s students will remember his polite Southern manners, his impeccably neat appearance, his dry humor, his insights into literature, and his profound understanding of the absurdities of life in the 1960’s. In 1969 Dominican students mourned Mr. Toole and dedicated their yearbook to him. The sorrow and tragedy of his death continue. As Walker Percy states, “The tragedy of the book is the tragedy of the author—his suicide in 1969 at the age of thirty-two. Another tragedy is the body of work we have been denied.”

Read A Confederacy of Dunces, the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by former Dominican College instructor John Kennedy Toole.

STAFF
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JOAN LACEY YAGER '52
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