James J. Maguire ’58 Citation

It is my great honor and humble privilege to introduce Mr. James J. Maguire, from the Saint Joseph’s College Class of 1958. A respected businessman, successful entrepreneur, beloved family man, renowned philanthropist and humanitarian, Mr. Maguire inspires people to achieve their dreams.

As founder and chairman *emeritus* of Philadelphia Consolidated Holding Corporation and co-founder and co-principal of the Maguire Foundation, Mr. Maguire has worked tirelessly to achieve his success.

Raised by parents who were devout Catholics and deeply spiritual, Mr. Maguire was drafted into the army in 1954. After serving in the Korean War, Mr. Maguire eventually returned to Hawk Hill.

In his 2010 autobiography *Just Show Up Every Day* Mr. Maguire described the indelible imprint Saint Joseph’s made on him. To this day, he credits Saint Joseph’s with helping him develop the moral compass he uses to guide his decisions in life and in business. His philanthropy is borne from the credo the Jesuits at Saint Joseph’s College taught him – to be a man with and for others.

He’s been quoted many times as saying, “Saint Joseph’s changed my life.”

Simply put, Saint Joseph’s University wouldn’t be what it is today without Mr. Maguire. Mr. Maguire wouldn’t be the man he is today without Saint Joseph’s University.

A champion for his *alma mater*, Mr. Maguire was the 2009 recipient of the Shield of Loyola – the University’s highest honor bestowed upon an alumnus – and was inducted into the Erivan K. Haub School of Business Hall of Fame in 2004. The vice chair of the University’s Board of Trustees from 1986 through 1993, Mr. Maguire played a key role in establishing the Haub School’s Academy of Risk Management and Insurance and now sits on its board of governors.

Mr. Maguire chaired the University’s capital campaign which raised the funds to build the Chapel of St. Joseph – Michael J. Smith, S.J., Memorial, named for his close friend, one of the University’s most beloved Jesuits.

He was also the driving force behind the boldest acquisition in the University’s history. He and Mrs. Maguire provided the leadership gift that enabled the University to purchase the former Episcopal Academy, an acquisition that has dramatically enhanced the academic, athletic and student life experiences of Saint Joseph’s students. What a fitting tribute to the Maguires’ passion for education and to living with and for others that Saint Joseph’s commencement exercises are held each year here on the James J. Maguire ’58 Campus.
After decades of building Philadelphia Consolidated Holding Corporation into the multi-billion dollar international company it is today, Mr. Maguire now dedicates his life’s work toward helping those with the greatest need: the economically compromised and marginalized.

Together with his wife of nearly 60 years, Frannie, Mr. Maguire established the Maguire Foundation in 2000. In addition to supporting a host of Philadelphia area non-profit institutions, the foundation offers a continuum of scholarship support from grade school through high school to college with the aim of building a system of academic success.

Together as educational evangelists, the couple espouses the transformative power of an educational experience rooted in faith and justice to prepare students to make positive contributions in a global society. Their Maguire Scholars program partners with 20 institutions of higher education and advances the scholastic pursuits of more than 85 students.

Working through the Children’s Scholarship Fund Philadelphia, the Maguire Foundation provides scholarship support for 335 students enrolled in grades five through eight at one of the city’s 14 Independence Mission Schools.

Through a partnership with a Catholic education advocacy foundation, Faith in the Future, the foundation also provides scholarship assistance to 125 freshmen each year and supports them through four years of high school.

Most recently, Mr. Maguire was named to the executive leadership cabinet responsible for staging the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September 2015. He and other civic leaders traveled to the Vatican with Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap., in an effort to influence Pope Francis’ participation.

For living his faith and for his persistent pursuit of the magis and a life guided by the Jesuit principles of social justice and service, Mr. Maguire embodies all that we hope our graduates become.

I hereby recommend Mr. James J. Maguire, from the Saint Joseph’s College Class of 1958, for the Degree Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa.