

Sharing one of the many works they've brought to campus are Hunt Slonem and Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo '78.

Artist inspires the campus community

Many campus buildings took on a new look this spring as works of New York artist Hunt Slonem were installed in highly visible spots to the delight of students, faculty and staff.

The works are technically on loan to the College for the next three years before becoming part of the permanent collection. Slonem, a friend of **Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo '78**, has soloed in over 150 exhibitions at prestigious galleries. His work is exhibited globally, and more 50 international museums have his pieces in their collections, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Cassullo, a member of the College's Board of Trustees and a devoted patron of the arts, arranged the campus show. Slonem's pieces were displayed in the Olin Gallery for a month and then later hung in several buildings, including Colket Center, residence halls and Fintel Library. At the end of his show, the artist shared slides of his award-winning work with a standing room-only crowd. Afterward, Cassullo, who serves on the board of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, joined Slonem in talking with aficionados about the inspiration of art.

"Art is more than just something you put on the wall," she said. "It can be a transformative process — it can change the way people look at the world."

It's already changing the way people look at many buildings on campus.

Alumni ranks grow with largest class yet

The College's record-setting class of 2007 collected its diplomas after hearing advice from a fellow alum and theologian **the Rev. Dr. Donald Armentrout '61**.

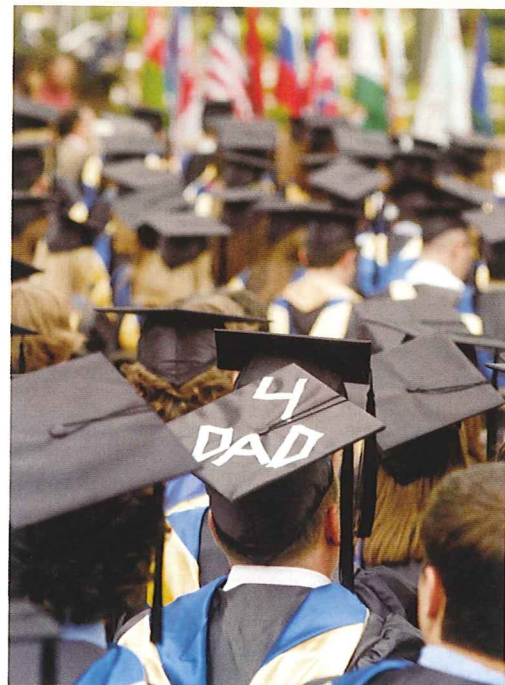
The Quintard Professor of Dogmatic Theology at the University of the South's School of Theology encouraged Roanoke's 410 graduates — the largest class ever — to be politically involved and advocate for social justice.

"The tassel is worth the hassle," he told the crowd, gathered May 5 on the Back Quad. "Think of [your education] as a ticket to change the world."

Armentrout, a noted scholar and author, was recognized with an honorary doctor of humane letters degree. Another was presented to **Dr. Lewis Lancaster '54**, a specialist in the canons of Buddhist texts who taught for 33 years at the University of California, Berkeley, and later served as president of the University of the West.

Among the cheering graduates were valedictorian **Laura E. Cassels '07**, a physics major from Roanoke, and salutatorian **Ashley Lauren Gilliam '07**, an English major from Glade Spring. Like the keynote speaker, Cassels encouraged the class, which included graduates from 25 states and seven foreign countries, to work hard and get involved.

"I want to instill in you a desire to use your beautiful brains to bust out of the box and make your mark in this world," she said.



Physics student named Goldwater Scholar



Jake Bennett '08 certainly makes good use of his time. The rising senior is already married and well on his way to pursue a Ph.D. and career in physics research.

This spring, the double major in physics and mathematics was named a 2007 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, a prestigious honor recognizing outstanding students nationally — and a second time for one at Roanoke College. (**Jessica Simmers '06** was a Goldwater Scholar in 2004.) Last year, Bennett was the first sophomore ever awarded the \$10,000 Rossings Physics Scholarship through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He also has received the U.S. Department of Education's Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, and he was recognized in May by the Alpha Chi national college honor society with an Alfred H. Nolle Scholarship.

On top of all that, the student from Lexington also is involved with Roanoke College's recently founded astronomy club, has been president of Young Life leadership training and a member of several honor societies. This summer, he is participating in Cornell University's Research Experience for Undergraduates program in Cornell's Laboratory for Elementary Particle Physics. His wife, **Laura Bennett '08**, is an English major with a concentration in creative writing and is with him at Cornell, doing preparation work for an honors project.

"One of the reasons I chose Roanoke is it's a small school and there are plenty of research opportunities," he says. "I really enjoy it, and it's a good way to prepare for graduate work and research."