Steel beams form a cross in the bright sunlight as they are lowered onto the construction framework for the Learning Commons, Marywood University’s newest facility. The Learning Commons will be completed next year and dedicated on Marywood’s Centennial, September 8, 2015. The cross of the Rotunda dome, Liberal Arts Center, can be seen silhouetted in the distance. The Liberal Arts Center, dedicated in 1923, was the first campus building totally devoted to the use of what was then Marywood College.

(Photoby Sheryl Lynn Sochoka ’92)
Cover: We invited Marywood alumni, faculty, students, administrators, trustees, and IHM Sisters to convey Marywood-inspired messages through photographs. Read stories and events by which they were inspired throughout this issue. From left to right, clockwise from top: Sister Angela Kim, IHM ’92; Thom Sueta ’89; Sister Catherine Luxner, IHM ’66; Michael Bugno ’98; Marywood’s 2014 CSAC Championship Softball Team; Erika Finnis ’17, Photography Major; Sister Margaret Gannon, IHM ’62; Mary Ellen McDonough ’73; Bob Ide ’88; Dr. Raymond Heath; Gregory K. Hunt, FAIA; and Dr. Irene Walsh Nunnari ’63. (Photos by Michael Straub)
"We’re working towards a beautiful, wonderful world...where people get that we’re connected, and that you can build something fast alone, but to build anything great, you have to go together.” - Robert X. Fogerty, Founder of Dear World

When I was walking back to my office one sunny summer afternoon, I decided to peek at the continuing progress of the Learning Commons construction. I was thrilled to see that some of the first steel beams were being lowered into place. To some, it may seem an ordinary occurrence—an expected outcome of a building project, with nothing too fascinating or exciting about it. However, I am one of those poetic souls who seeks splendor in the ordinary. With my smartphone in hand (always), I decided to snap a few photos.

To my amazement, those mundane beams spun slowly, forming a meaningful symbol of hope as they were lowered into place. I knew I was witnessing one of those extraordinary moments that inhabit our ordinary experiences. With the silhouette of the Rotunda in the distance and the symbol of a bright future in the foreground, that serendipitous photo (featured on the inside cover of this issue) truly expressed more than a thousand words could.

Speaking of meaningful images, we recently invited members of the Marywood community—students, IHM Sisters, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees—to participate in a photo series inspired by the Dear World project. We asked them to express their own Marywood-inspired messages and captured the results in photographs, some of which are featured in this publication. If you aren’t familiar with Dear World (www.dearworld.me), it was founded in 2009 by Robert X. Fogarty. He describes the initiative as “part business/art project/social experiment,” allowing people to share a special message, written on themselves, that tells a story through the powerful medium of a photograph.

Marywood’s Centennial is just around the corner. The stories that compose 100 years—ours and yours—deserve to be told, in myriad ways, through a variety of media. We want to tell them, so share your Marywood memories and your Marywood-inspired actions with us. Go to page 35 of this issue to see how you can help us celebrate this amazing milestone throughout our Centennial year. Echoing the words of Robert X. Fogarty, “to build anything great, you have to go together.”

Warm regards,

Sheryl Lynn Sochoka ‘92
Editor, Marywood Magazine
As I look out my office window, I recall the great vision set forth by our IHM founders and, especially, those Sisters who made Marywood possible.

I am often reminded of the courage of Mother Cyril Conway at these moments and reflect on how, more than a century ago, she made the long, daily trek from St. Cecelia’s in downtown Scranton to the hills of Green Ridge, to check on the rising progress of the Motherhouse. Her vision encompassed more than the needs of the moment. With an eye toward the future, Mother Cyril insisted that all areas of the building—even the seemingly superfluous top floors—should be finished to allow for eventual expansion. Her firm resolve made it possible to establish Marywood 13 years later. I also think about Mother Germaine O’Neill, our first college president, who chose the name “Marywood,” drew up the very first catalog, and personally distributed copies to prospective students. From the start, she was confident and hopeful about Marywood’s potential.

When I walk past the massive construction site for our new Learning Commons and peer through the fence, I wonder what Mother Cyril and Mother Germaine would think. Each day, I notice something new—some bit of progress, some sign that, while the vision may take time, it will indeed press on to fulfillment, and it will not disappoint. Such outward reminders allow us to glimpse the fullness of the transformative vision that was set in motion when Marywood opened its doors in 1915. Next year, on September 8, 2015, we will dedicate our new Learning Commons. It is symbolic, I think, that our second century is beginning with the same spirit of hope and promise as the first. We are still educating minds and hearts to change the world. We are still inspired by the promise and potential of those who come to Marywood to shape lives of meaning and impact. We are still so blessed by our gracious God!

In “Song of Myself,” Walt Whitman observed that the world is full of reminders of the divine—he referred to them as “letters from God” dropped in the street, every one signed by God’s name “I see something of God each hour of the twenty-four, and each moment then,” the poet wrote. “In the faces of men and women I see God…”

At this incredible, historic time, it is important to take note of every divine reminder, shown through the work and dedication of our students, faculty, and staff, through the leadership and faith of our trustees and the IHM Sisters, through the generosity and support of our alumni and friends, and in the bold vision for Marywood that we all cherish and work so diligently to advance.

Sincerely,

Sister Anne Munley, IHM
President of the University
Marywood University’s Inaugural Community Leadership Celebration was a resounding success, selling all available tickets prior to the event and bringing to the community an awareness of healthcare education. The community celebration, which raised nearly a half million dollars for Marywood’s Learning Commons, was held on Thursday, April 24, 2014, at the Center for Athletics and Wellness.

The inaugural event honored John T. Tighe III, the Founder, President, and CEO of TMG Health, Inc., the nation’s leading provider of solutions to government-sponsored health plans. Mr. Tighe, also a Marywood trustee and Treasurer of the Board, was awarded Marywood’s first Lead On Award for his leadership in the healthcare industry and his service to the community.

Throughout his impressive career and community outreach efforts, Mr. Tighe has dedicated his energies to improving the healthcare sector, government programs, and non-profit organizations. Mr. Tighe, a Dunmore native, founded TMG Health in 1998 with the idea of providing specialized technology-enabled BPO services to government healthcare plans. Today, under Mr. Tighe’s leadership, the company provides administrative support for more than 3.6 million Medicare and Medicaid members, and, in the process, has added 1,300 TMG Health jobs to Northeast Pennsylvania.

“As the healthcare industry continues to undergo dramatic change, Marywood University is proud to embrace this change with a bold, clear vision, by leading the way in healthcare education in our region,” said Co-chair Patrick Brier, Esq. ’76, a Marywood trustee.

“The University has made tremendous progress in the last few years, developing a challenging curriculum that encompasses all aspects of the emerging healthcare education market,” added Mary Ellen McDonough ’73, Event Co-chair and a

“Mary Ellen McDonough ’73, Event Co-Chair and Marywood Trustee
Auctioned at the dinner. Featured artists included: Susan Scranton Dawson, Debbie Kuo '95, Steven Walker (M.F.A. '07), Evelyn Davis-Walker (M.F.A. '07), Karen Reid '02 (M.A. '08), Aaron A. Harrison (M.F.A. '06), Angela Thomas (M.A. '94), and Lisa Hinkle '86.

Also on display was a maquette of the life-size bronze sculpture designed and executed by Sister Cor Immaculatum Heffernan, IHM '54. The sculpture is destined for the amphitheater outside the Learning Commons, which will be dedicated on September 8, 2015. Sister Cor said, “The sculpture represents the power of information-technology, social interaction, and cross-disciplinary learning: to transmit the wisdom of the past, to assimilate the knowledge of the present, and to encourage creative achievement in the future.”

“Marywood University’s emphasis on the arts and its capacity to transport the individual are deeply embedded in the mission of the University,” said Sondra Myers, a member of the Art Auction committee. “Marywood’s impact on the arts extends beyond visual arts to music, literature, drama, dance, film and—recently with great success—architecture.”

Highlight video and more photos: http://100.marywood.edu/community/2014.html

The Insalaco Arena was transformed into a beautiful event space for the Community Leadership Celebration.
A diary kept by Sister M. Celestine, one of the first IHM Sisters, offers a poignant glimpse into the early days of the IHM Congregation, which began in a log cabin in Monroe, Michigan, in 1845. From the start, the Sisters shared everything they had, even a sparse assortment of dinnerware. Sister M. Celestine wrote, “We rejoiced in our poverty, knowing that God would provide for us who had no other desire than to love and serve Him.”

Serving faithfully, living simply, giving selflessly, sharing willingly—and doing all things with joy and love—are enduring values of the IHM Congregation. For more than a century, the faithful work of the IHM Sisters has been a source of life for the Scranton area, and it is here that they established the first Catholic college for women in Pennsylvania. Marywood has grown to become a comprehensive, co-educational, Catholic university, due in large part to the lives and energies of the Sisters who built and sustained it.

Their commitment today remains as strong as ever. In the bold spirit of their founders, the IHM Sisters continue to build opportunities for Marywood’s future. Several individual Sisters have already stepped forward, giving selflessly and generously, with leadership gifts to support A Bold Heart: the Centennial Campaign for Marywood University.

― Sister Catherine, Luxner, IHM

“Education was very important to my parents, and supporting the Learning Commons is a wonderful way to honor their memory. They made it possible for me to come to Marywood, which shaped my life forever.”

- Sister Catherine, Luxner, IHM
Sister Nancy Hawkins, IHM

Sister Nancy Hawkins, IHM graduated from Marywood in 1976, the nation’s bicentennial year. As Marywood approaches its centennial milestone, she is delighted to celebrate its history and to support the Bold Heart Campaign that will strengthen its future.

“I loved my Marywood experience,” Sister Nancy proclaimed. “I, of course, discovered my vocation while I was at the University. Now, I am very proud to be a member of the Marywood Board of Trustees. It is a group of dedicated and faith-filled women and men who deeply love the University and share their gifts for the benefit of Marywood.”

After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in French from Marywood, she earned a Master of Arts degree in Theology from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, and a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Fordham University, New York, NY. Her ministry has always been in the field of education. While she began her career by teaching French on the high school level, Sister Nancy has taught theology at both high school and college levels for more than 30 years. She presently serves as an Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry in Rochester, NY. Besides full-time teaching, Sister Nancy also provides spiritual direction and gives retreats and presentations to parishes and groups and for the IHM Congregation.

Sister Nancy chose to honor the memory of her parents, Joseph and Aileen Hawkins, through her giving opportunity—a bench in the planned Motherhouse Memorial Garden. This extensive botanical space reflects the footprint of the former Motherhouse, pays tribute to Marywood’s treasured past, and commemorates the timeless, remarkable spirit and mission of the IHM Sisters who founded the institution. Once completed, the Motherhouse Memorial Garden will be a breathtaking natural gateway to the Learning Commons.

“My parents both died within the past three years, and I felt this was a wonderful way to honor them, since they loved to read. My father was a teacher, and they spent much of their free time in their local library,” said Sister Nancy. “I am thrilled that Marywood is building the new Learning Commons. I see it as the centerpiece of the campus. It will be a place that draws together so many aspects of the campus. It will be viewed as soon as people enter the grounds, and they will immediately know that Marywood values learning, scholarship, and community.”

Sister Mary Persico, IHM

In 1965, at the age of 17, Mary Persico traveled one hour north from her hometown, Hazleton, PA, to become a freshman at Marywood College. Showing early leadership skills, she eventually served as president of the entire student body. At the end of her junior year, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, graduating the following May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French. She went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in French from Assumption College, Worcester, MA, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA.

Sister Mary shared, “As many others, I can claim that I received an excellent liberal arts education at Marywood, but, for me, there is so much more. It was at Marywood where I met the Sisters who were to become my lifetime mentors, colleagues, and friends. I have been connected to Marywood ever since as a member of the IHM Congregation. Many of the Sisters who inspired me then continue to do so today.”

Now the Executive Vice President, Mission Integration at CHE Trinity Health, Livonia, MI, Sister Mary has spent most of her life in the field of education as a teacher, administrator, and adjunct professor. However, she said it was her service as President of the Congregation from 2002-2010, and, concurrently, as an ex-officio member of Marywood’s Board of Trustees, that made her realize, firsthand, the depth of the bond between the University and the Congregation.

Recalling that she served as a student marshal for the 1968 dedication of the existing Learning Resources Center, Sister Mary said she is ready to help Marywood move forward with its transformative learning facility, the Learning Commons. She recently made a significant gift to the Bold Heart Campaign to support this vital priority.

“I seized a rare and unique opportunity to pass on a gift to the institution that gave me the inspiration and the tools to serve others as an IHM Sister,” stated Sister Mary, adding, “The original Alma Mater noted that Marywood is a source of hope, a place where wisdom can be sought and found, and where those thirsting for justice in our world can find a home. The mission of Marywood University is the same mission that inspired its founders 100 years ago, and, as an IHM Sister, I feel blessed to participate in that mission of bringing the redeeming love of God to the students we serve as sponsors.”

“I seized a rare and unique opportunity to pass on a gift to the institution that gave me the inspiration and the tools to serve others as an IHM Sister.”

- Sister Mary Persico, IHM

To support the Bold Heart Campaign, contact Renee Gregori Zehel ’91 at 570.348.6138 or go to marywood.edu/boldheart.
**NEW TRUSTEES ELECTED**

Sister Anne Munley, IHM, Ph.D., Marywood University President, recently announced that four new trustees have been elected to Marywood’s Board of Trustees. In addition, a new slate of officers was elected for the 2014-2015 year. Board officers for 2014-2015 include Ann R. Henry, Ph.D. ’73, Chair; Michael Bugno ’98, Vice Chair; Mary Ellen McDonough ’73, Secretary, and John T. Tighe, III, Treasurer. Newly-elected trustees are Sister Mary Ann Cody, IHM ’69, Susan Cognetti, Pia Ferrario, and Lisa A. Lori, Esq. ’93.

**SISTER MARY ANN CODY, IHM**

Sister Mary Ann is the Pastoral Associate, Business Manager, and Coordinator of Religious Education at Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish in Pittston, PA. A lifelong educator, Sister Mary Ann has served in educational administrator roles, such as Principal, Vice Principal, and Director of Development, at various high schools in the Archdiocese of New York, as well as the Diocese of Scranton and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Prior to that, she was a mathematics teacher at high schools in Pennsylvania and New York.

Sister Mary Ann holds Master of Science in Teaching (MST) in Mathematics Education from the University of Dayton. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Marywood.

**SUSAN COGNETTI**

Mrs. Cognetti, now retired, served as a paralegal and office manager at Foley, Comerford, & Cummins/Cognetti & Cummins for 18 years. Her community involvement includes board memberships and leadership positions for Friendship House; the Children’s Advocacy Center; the Lackawanna County Treatment Court Team, and Bithroight of Scranton. Mrs. Cognetti has also held several leadership roles at Scranton Preparatory School and Our Lady of Peace School. She serves as Eucharistic Minister at St. Gregory’s Parish, where she was also Parish Coordinator for First Penance and First Communion for more than 25 years.

Upon graduation from St. Mary’s High School, Manhasset, NY, she was a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist and a New York State Regent Scholarship Recipient. A graduate of Manhattanville College, Purchase, NY, where she majored in Psychology and was certified to teach Elementary Education, K-8, Mrs. Cognetti later earned her Paralegal Certification from the Pennsylvania State University. She is married to Sal Cognetti, Jr., and the couple has nine children and four grandchildren.

**PIA FERRARIO**

Ms. Ferrario retired as the CEO of Victoria’s Secret Direct in 2012. Prior to her appointment as CEO in 2007, she served in a number of executive leadership roles in various branches of Victoria’s Secret Corporation/Limited Brands, beginning in 1989. She served as an Executive Vice President-Holiday for Victoria’s Secret Brand Leadership, as well as Executive Vice President/General Merchandise Manager for Victoria’s Secret Direct.

Her philanthropic and charitable affiliations include Catholic Relief Services; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York; Food Bank for NYC; the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Marywood University; Inner City Scholarship Fund of NYC; UNICEF; and the Ohio State University Cancer Hospital and Research Initiative. Ms. Ferrario graduated from Marywood Seminary and attended Kutztown University, where she studied Art Education. She recently established the Angela and Pio Ferrario Memorial Endowed Scholarship at Marywood University.

**LISA LORI, ESQ.**

Atty. Lori is a Partner, Litigation Group, with Klehr, Harrison, Harvey, Branzburg LLP, Philadelphia. She represents national and international businesses, including Fortune 500 companies, and individuals in a full range of complex commercial litigation matters.

Atty. Lori, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Fashion Design from Marywood, initially began her career in the fashion industry before deciding to pursue a legal career. She earned her J.D., cum laude, from Temple, then worked for a small firm in Philadelphia that did anti-counterfeiting work. She has been with her current firm since 2002, and was promoted to partner in 2007. Atty. Lori earned a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree in Trial Advocacy from the Temple University School of Law. Atty. Lori presently serves as a Board Member for the Solebury Township Zoning Hearing Board. She is a past Board Member of Fashion Group International and the Marywood University Alumni Association.

**DR. LISA ANTONIACCI is First Gerod Schierling Endowed Chair**

When Antonia M. Gerod Schierling ’60 and her husband, Hartmut (Hans) Schierling established the first endowed faculty chair at Marywood University through a deferred pledge agreement, they wanted to help grow the University in a way that pays dividends—literally and figuratively—to tomorrow’s students, faculty, and society.

The Gerod Schierling Endowed Faculty Chair in the Department of Science has recently been awarded to Dr. Lisa Antoniacci, pictured above. Her research identifies molecular mechanisms involved in several processes related to the contents of a cell’s nucleus.

Dr. Antoniacci and her students have been able to create several key links which will lead to a better understanding of a cell’s nucleus. Their findings include a physical interaction between the nuclear envelope protein Mps3 and the histone variant Htz1, a factor previously shown to promote DNA repair.

The Gerod Schierling Endowed Faculty Chair will inspire continued growth in the Biotechnology program and provide new opportunities for student involvement in breakthrough research, as Dr. Antoniacci plans to take her research further to include a greater emphasis on gene expression.

The Gerod Schierling Endowed Chair is named in memory of the couple’s parents and in gratitude for the academic education and spiritual guidance received by Mrs. Schierling, a former trustee of the University. Mrs. Schierling earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Marywood in 1960. Additionally, the gift recognizes the dedication of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to education and service in the community.
UNLOCKING POTENTIAL: Luncheon Celebrates the Power of Scholarship Support

Catherine Gilligan Quinnan ’61 began planning her future in 1957. She was an only child, and her father, a teacher of Chemistry and Physics at Dunmore High School, had passed away when Catherine was just 10 years old. This left her mother’s salary as secretary for the Dunmore School District as the family’s only income—and left her facing the dilemma of finding a way to fund Catherine’s education.

Back in 1957, Catherine found that needed support at Marywood. When her financial aid letter arrived in the mail from Sr. M. Eva Connors, IHM, stating that she was the recipient of an academic scholarship, it unlocked countless opportunities for her, just as it does for each of Marywood’s current scholarship recipients. Catherine and her husband, Robert—both strong supporters of Marywood University and of education in the Scranton area—are now providers of this vital support to today’s students.

In fact, financial need is a reality for 99 percent of today’s Marywood students. Like Catherine, these students also rely on scholarships and other means of financial aid to help them unlock their full potential. The Inaugural Scholarship Luncheon on April 27 was a celebration of the power that scholarships have to transform lives. The event gave more than 150 students and benefactors the opportunity to meet one another and share their stories.

The Quinnans, who represented the benefactors at the luncheon, chose to invest in the students at Marywood when they reached the stage in life where they could give back. The couple said it is an investment that pays countless dividends on a daily basis. In her remarks, Catherine, a Marywood trustee, conveyed some of these success stories.

“During a recent Board of Trustees meeting, we had the opportunity to hear from various students and learn more about their experiences at Marywood,” she said. “If our alumni, family, and friends could have been there, you would have all been so proud. We heard from Marywood student and Fulbright Scholar, who will study and teach in South Korea next year; a graduating scientist—one of 10 accepted students from a field of 4,000 applicants for research and graduate study at the University of Washington; and a young man who will receive combined bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Criminal Justice.”

Catherine also expressed her personal gratitude, stating, “I have always felt deeply indebted to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for my chance at this education. My scholarship was an example of their kindness, generosity, and dedication.”

Lauren Olsen ’14, a student in the five-year Speech Pathology Program, spoke on behalf of all student scholars. Through the Speech Pathology Program at Marywood, she has been following her lifelong dream. Lauren’s brother was diagnosed with autism at the age of three, and her brother’s struggles fueled her drive toward a career in helping children with disabilities. While she grew up with ample experience dealing with speech disorders, she hadn’t yet truly tapped into her limitless potential, something that Marywood and her experience as a Maxis Gillet Service Scholarship recipient unlocked in her personally.

“I believe that generous benefactors, as well as the faculty and staff at Marywood, have activated this potential in me, even when I couldn’t recognize it in myself,” explained Lauren. “I have been pushed forward, down one hill and up another, with great momentum, also pushing and unlocking that same potential energy in my own clients.”

Throughout her career at Marywood, Lauren has become a strong leader in her field and the community. During her sophomore year, she established a nationally-recognized chapter of Autism Speaks at Marywood, further fueling her desire to make a difference in the lives of all who suffer from speech disorders. Now entering the fifth year of her program, Lauren will earn her master’s degree in 2015. Her personal relationship with the children she treats speaks volumes about her commitment to become a life-changing speech pathologist. One of her most memorable experiences at Marywood has been working with a patient named “Kate.”

Through constant effort and determination, Lauren has assisted “Kate” in increasing her verbalizations at an astounding rate.

“By the end of the semester, she was consistently producing about 13 words in our sessions,” Lauren shared enthusiastically. “Of course, her increased verbalizations could have been the result of a combination of factors, and not just speech therapy, but I am so grateful to have played a role in her success, and I am so proud of what she has accomplished.”

Sister Anne Munley, IHM, Marywood’s President, said the Scholarship Luncheon represents “the heart of the Alphonsian tradition.”

“Our mission and our core values are inspired by the spiritual example of St. Alphonsus, who believed that each person should be given the opportunity to realize his or her God-given potential,” Sister Anne observed. “This bold legacy is what empowered the IHM Sisters to establish Marywood nearly 100 years ago, and it continues to thrive and move through each generation, always with an eye toward the future. Our generous benefactors have invested in our students through scholarships, providing them with opportunities to pursue and realize their educational dreams. Our students, whose lives have been changed by your generosity, will go forward and make a positive difference in the life of the world. Years from now, they will recall your generosity, and they, too, will support the dreams of another student. This is the heart of the Alphonsian tradition!”
More than 875 students from 23 states—as well as the first graduating class of Marywood University’s School of Architecture—earned degrees during Marywood’s 96th annual commencement on Sunday, May 11, at the Mohegan Sun Arena, Casey Plaza, in Wilkes-Barre Township.

Marion Munley, J.D., an attorney with Munley Law, was the keynote speaker. A Marywood Trustee since 2008, she has served as both Vice Chair (2010-2011) and Chair of the Board (2011-2014). Awarded an honorary doctorate during the ceremony, she challenged the graduates to take risks, to be unafraid of failure, and to develop their confidence. Using the children’s classic, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, as a metaphor for life, she stated, “Like the Velveteen Rabbit, sometimes it can be hard to accept ourselves for who we are. We might feel inadequate—that we’re not good enough—or that it would be better to be someone else. But, as the Velveteen Rabbit learns, we are who we are.”

Attorney Munley also encouraged the graduates to have a solid support system, to seek the wisdom of mentors, to develop authentic relationships, and to never give up. “You can never be a leader without doing more than you are paid for, and you cannot be successful without developing leadership in your chosen profession,” she said. “Be real. Don’t become someone or something you are not…Live your faith. Give back to your community. Help those less fortunate than yourself. Thank God every day for what you have.”
When Gregory K. Hunt, FAIA, M.Arch., Dean of the School of Architecture, came to Marywood University six years ago, the School of Architecture was only a vision and a building with an old gymnasium and swimming pool. In the past six years, the former gymnasium and swimming pool have been reimagined, with open spaces, natural light, student work areas and multiple opportunities for conversations and collaboration.

“When this cohort came in 2009, we had not finished the building and had not hired faculty,” Mr. Hunt said. “We said come and take a leap of faith, and they all did.”

After five years of continued enrollment growth and educational experimentation, the School of Architecture produced Marywood University’s inaugural class of students graduating from the five-year Bachelor of Architecture program: fourteen students who received their Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Interior Architecture/Design, and nine students who received their Master of Art degrees in Interior Architecture/Design.

“Five years later, to see success, it’s remarkable. Our students are so committed and so dedicated,” said Maria MacDonald, Director of Undergraduate Interior Architecture Studies. “It’s just been an overwhelmingly wonderful experience. This is really just the beginning.”

Final projects from Bachelor of Architecture fifth year students included An Architecture of Urban Revitalization, as well as Five: An Exhibition of Student Work.

An Architecture of Urban Revitalization examined urban conditions and how architecture can integrate into a neighborhood to help build community, economy, and opportunities. For the project, students studied six blocks on Cedar Avenue in Scranton’s South Side, focusing on three underutilized sites: an infill site at 409 Cedar Avenue, an adaptive reuse site at the old Penn Security Bank Building at 526 Cedar Avenue, and a corner site at 804 Cedar Avenue.

Through research and working with local charities focusing on revitalizing South Side, the students identified three major programmatic needs in the area: a branch library, an arts incubator, and a youth center. After conducting a neighborhood-wide site analysis, students developed their own designs following zoning ordinances and codes.

Five: An Exhibition of Student Work celebrated the first five years of the School of Architecture. Students’ final projects were available to be viewed by the public through Commencement Weekend.

“Having entered Northeast Pennsylvania’s first and only School of Architecture, these architecture students were true pioneers—individuals who continually contributed to the program’s maturation,” Mr. Hunt said. “With their recent departure from our School, we expect that they will bring important new viewpoints and initiatives within the design professions.”
Marywood University has established a new School of Business and Global Innovation, which will provide a home within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for undergraduate and graduate business majors. The core curriculum in the program’s nine undergraduate majors, including International Business, Business Information Technology, Finance, and Aviation Management, will not change. However, the School plans to build upon the successful model of promoting collaborative entrepreneurial opportunities for students and seek new opportunities within existing programs.

Changes in the graduate business programs are expected as well. In addition to the current graduate business degree offerings, which include Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Science in Management Information Systems (MS-MIS) and Master of Science in Financial Information Systems (MS-FIS), the University will expand its Ph.D. in Human Development by offering a new track in Organizational Leadership. Marywood will also offer a hybrid MBA program, which will be presented online but structured so that students can interact with their professors and fellow students in a live online format.

Art Comstock, Ph.D., Executive Director of the new school, said, “While establishing the School of Business is a significant milestone for the University, the overall goal is to offer relevant, mission-driven, entrepreneurial programs in an environment that provides superb hands-on learning experiences for our students.”

Entrepreneur Launch Pad Up and Running

Marywood’s Entrepreneur Launch Pad (ELP), the main driver of entrepreneurial programming within the new School of Business, is already up and running. Since its eventual home on campus, the Learning Commons, won’t be ready till next year, the faculty members running the ELP partnered with Lackawanna County officials, who were interested in the concept of a gathering space for startup business owners and entrepreneurs.

The ELP now occupies a section of the first floor of the Scranton Electric Building on Linden Street in Downtown Scranton. Christopher J. Speicher, Ph.D., Associate Director of Graduate and Professional Studies and Director of Entrepreneurial Studies at Marywood, said the program is the first of its kind in Northeast Pennsylvania. Marywood graduate students oversee the day-to-day operation of the ELP, which has hosted a local network of coworking entrepreneurs and provided space for training programs for other area universities since it opened on April 4.

Capitalizing on the Coworking Trend

While the traditional notion of a “co-worker” is someone who works for the same company or in the same office, the “coworking” concept stems from gathering a diverse group of people in a common workspace. Some run startup companies, and others are independent contractors; most offer a variety of technological services. This growing trend is changing the way entrepreneurs and other independent workers do business.

The flexible nature of coworking fits perfectly with increasingly mobile professionals and on-the-go entrepreneurs. Gathering these enthusiastic professionals in a common space also is a cost-effective way to do business. People who regularly “cowork” pay a subscription rate to use designated professional space for a specified number of days during the month. They then get opportunity to work among other independent professionals and utilize the provided conference spaces, printers, Wi-Fi, and other office equipment.

“Coworking is a huge trend—it’s a great concept,” said Dr. Speicher, noting that the big cities like Philadelphia and New York have seen large numbers of professionals working in this innovative way. “We didn’t think, locally, it existed as large as it did, but apparently it does. The ELP is certainly generating a lot of community interest, and that’s a great thing.”

The Next Level of Success

The School of Business and Global Innovation, along with the strength and community presence of the ELP, will provide distinctive educational offerings, said Sister Anne Munley, IHM, Marywood President.

“The unique model of our business program, which includes a focus on entrepreneurial collaborations, successful post graduate outcomes, and turning ideas into viable businesses, has evolved to the logical next step of becoming a School of Business,” said Sister Anne.

“It puts us on a competitive playing field,” added Dr. Comstock. “We think it takes Marywood to the next level.”
Prior to her new appointment, Dr. Ruthkosky served as the Director of Educational Studies at SUNY New Paltz. Dr. Peters received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, with a concentration in Children's Learning and Development, from SUNY Albany.

Dr. Peters has published articles and book chapters on pre-service teachers’ and counselors’ white racial identity, fostering success for at-risk students and students of color, as well as effective delivery of online instruction. She has also presented her research at various national and international conferences. Dr. Peters has collaborated with educators from several different institutions and is viewed as an expert on research of white racial identity development. She is committed to promoting cultural responsiveness among all students, faculty, and staff.

Dr. Peters brings to Marywood knowledge of accreditation and assessment, as well as experience with designing both traditional and online courses and programs. She also brings hands-on experience in fundraising, having been a volunteer for the Foundation Fighting Blindness, where she served as the Vice President of Fundraising for the New York City Chapter until June 2014.

Prior to her new appointment, Dr. Ruthkosky served as the Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation. She also was a faculty member and chairperson of Marywood’s Education Department for many years.

Ann Boland-Chase, M.A. '79, has been appointed to the newly formed position of Vice President for Enrollment Services and Student Success. Reflective of an emerging administrative model in higher education, this new position provides organizational guidance for the entire student experience from enrollment through post-graduation.

“This model supports the holistic notion that a college student’s experience begins with the prospective student’s first consideration of Marywood University and continues all the way through that student’s life after Marywood,” Sister Anne said. “This appointment supports Marywood’s historic focus on student outcomes, student success, and the full development of the graduating student’s potential.”

In addition to responsibility for Enrollment Services and Student Success, Ms. Boland-Chase will be directly responsible for University Admissions, Financial Aid, the Office of the University Registrar, Campus Ministry, and International and Multicultural Initiatives. As an executive officer of the University, the Vice President for Enrollment Services and Student Success will report directly to the President.

Prior to her new appointment, Ms. Boland-Chase has served as Vice President of Enrollment Management since 2008. She has served Marywood in various capacities for 35 years, including Registrar.

Amy Paciej-Woodruff (Ph.D. '11), has been appointed to the newly formed position of Assistant Vice President for Student Life. Prior to her new appointment, Dr. Paciej-Woodruff served as the Dean of Students. The Office of the Assistant Vice President for Student Life is charged with facilitating a positive Marywood experience for students and supporting their overall development. The Assistant Vice President’s Office provides centralized services to support Student Life through communications, planning, and administrative oversight. In addition to responsibility for student support, Dr. Paciej-Woodruff will provide leadership to the Student Life department including housing, activities, orientation, leadership development, conduct, health services, counseling and student development center, and athletics.

Meghan C. Cruciani, LPC, NCC, (M.S ’02), has been appointed to the newly formed position of Assistant Vice President for Student Success. In this role, she supervises a comprehensive unit of offices that support student academic success. The Office for Student Success provides resources to enable students to achieve their academic goals, and to empower them to make a successful transition after graduation. Ms. Cruciani will provide oversight to the departments of Retention and Advisement, Career Services, Student Support Services/Tutoring, the Writing Center, Military and Veterans Services, and Disability Services. Prior to her new appointment, Ms. Cruciani served as the Director of Academic Success. She has served Marywood in various capacities for 18 years.
Most faculty members would be thrilled to earn one Fulbright scholarship. An educator at Marywood University, however, holds the distinction of meriting three different Fulbright awards—two Core Scholarships and one Specialist Scholarship. Alexander Dawoody, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Administrative Studies, recently completed two of his scholarly endeavors through the Fulbright Program and was awarded his third Fulbright Scholarship, through which he will work in Kazakhstan in spring 2015.

Dr. Dawoody went to Baku, Azerbaijan, during the 2012-2013 academic year for his first Fulbright Core Scholarship, then traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in October 2013 to serve as a Fulbright Specialist. His main focus of teaching in both countries included the American system of government, public administration, and international relations. During each of these experiences, he was still able to teach his Marywood classes via Moodle, an online learning platform.

“Fulbright is about building bridges between countries,” explained Dr. Dawoody. “We go to promote friendship between the American people and the people of the host country and invite them to come to the U.S. to do the same thing.”

In addition to teaching, Dr. Dawoody participated in U.S. Embassy-sponsored activities, served on panels, gave public lectures, and explored cultural aspects of each country and its people. While in Azerbaijan, he had the opportunity to meet with the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Richard Morningstar. He toured several cities, including Baku, Lankaran, Salyan, Kudemir, and Khachmaz, with embassy staff and lectured at embassy-sponsored events on the American system of government and the American presidential election. While there, he taught graduate and undergraduate courses in international relations and public administration at Baku State University and Qafqaz University, served on Fulbright and the International Research Exchange (IREX) panels to select scholars from Azerbaijan to visit and study in the United States, provided consultation on administration and development to businesses and NGOs, advised faculty and students on professional conferences, scholarly publications, human subject research, research methodology, forming alumni associations, and studying abroad.

The Fulbright Specialist Scholarship, which is a shorter-term assignment, brought him to devise a strategic plan for the Public Policy Institute on growth and development. He also had the opportunity to visit Mayan ruins in Copan, a cultural highlight of the experience, as well as the cities of Valle de Angeles and San Pedro Sula. Proficient in several languages in addition to English, including Arabic, Farsi (Persian), Kurdish, and Turkish, Dr. Dawoody speaks Spanish as well. He encourages interested educators to apply for Fulbright placements that utilize their professional expertise through a well-articulated purpose. Additionally, their language skills should be compatible with the host country.

“Fulbright scholarship involves learning about other cultures and introducing the American culture and values to them. It is about building relationships to foster peace, cooperation, and shared values that will continue beyond the period of the scholarship,”

- Alexander Dawoody, Ph.D.

Honduras in October 2013. Dr. Dawoody had been approved and placed on a Fulbright Specialist Roster in 2010. He was selected subsequently by the U.S. State Department upon his return from Azerbaijan, to determine if he would be interested in serving in this Central American country, which has been plagued by poverty, political corruption, and a flourishing drug culture. “Education,” Dr. Dawoody said, “is an important part of turning the tide, which is why the State Department and Fulbright Program are vested in sending educators to this region.” He explained that, in Honduras, 60 percent of the population lives in poverty; within that 60 percent, 21 percent live in extreme poverty, with an income of about a dollar a day.

“Despite the challenges they are facing, people in Honduras wake up every day with hope for a better day, strengthened by strong family and community relations to overcome incredible difficulties,” Dr. Dawoody observed. While there, he taught graduate and grant writing courses at UNITEC in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, consulted with several NGOs on capacity building, and

Distinguished Educator
Awarded Three Fulbright Scholarships

Fulbright scholarship involves learning about other cultures and introducing the American culture and values to them. It is about building relationships to foster peace, cooperation, and shared values that will continue beyond the period of the scholarship,”

- Alexander Dawoody, Ph.D.

Dr. Alexander Dawoody, United States Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Morningstar, and Baku State University Professor Dr. Alimusa Ibrahimov.

Picture from L to R: Fulbright Student Thomas Lilie, Dr. Alexander Dawoody, United States Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Morningstar, and Baku State University Professor Dr. Alimusa Ibrahimov.

Fulbright scholarship involves learning about other cultures and introducing the American culture and values to them. It is about building relationships to foster peace, cooperation, and shared values that will continue beyond the period of the scholarship,” Dr. Dawoody emphasized. “Language proficiency is important since most people in the non-English speaking countries cannot communicate well in English, including both faculty and students. And, if you are not familiar with the host-country’s language, show an initiative to learn it either before or during your scholarship.
Because of the University’s support, I am humbled and honored to have received three Fulbright Scholarships. In essence, these awards are more a recognition of the University—its mission, goals, leadership, faculty, staff, and students—than of a single individual. I owe it to Marywood.”

- Alexander Dawoody, Ph.D.

The more proficient or familiar you are in the language of the host country, the better. Remember, Fulbright is not about cultural supremacy, or proving to others that our culture is better; rather, it is about exchanges and learning from each other as members of the global community.”

It’s also important to go beyond the classroom and delve into the culture of the people. During both of his Fulbright assignments, Dr. Dawoody formed friendships with the people and celebrated their cultural events—from the Azeri New Year (Newroz) and Honduran soccer matches to weddings and family visits in each country. He also worked with host universities to cultivate reciprocal agreements between them and Marywood University, to allow for future faculty and student exchanges. “These personal and professional partnerships continue long after the term of the scholarship ends,” he said.

An Iraqi native and a former Kurdish refugee who was granted asylum in the U.S., Dr. Dawoody was particularly transformed by the broader lessons he learned through the Fulbright experience, which transcended scholarship and helped him to evaluate and appreciate what he now enjoys as a naturalized U.S. citizen.

“I learned the differences between students here in the United States and those I had taught in either Azerbaijan or Honduras. I was aiming at focusing on best practices and challenges facing us all,” said Dr. Dawoody. “We live in the most blessed country on earth, with vast resources provided to our educational system. We also enjoy the best system of government in the world, despite its many challenges. We need to cherish all that and build upon it, learn from others, and contribute as much as possible in order to make the world a better place for us today and for future generations,” added Dr. Dawoody.

“Often, we tend to forget what we have and take it for granted, disabling our active engagement and participation in the democratic process through cynicism and clouding it with the culture of complaints,” he said. “Yet, when we look at people living in countries that have much less than we do in resources and much more than us in challenges, and we observe how hopeful they are to overcome the mounting levels of poverty, political corruption, dissipating infrastructure, and poor public service, it forces us to pause and set our focus on what ought to matter in life. To me, this was the most memorable and humbling experience.”

Dr. Dawoody is looking forward to his third Fulbright Scholarship in Kazakhstan during Spring Semester 2015. For this, he expressed his appreciation to Marywood University, especially Sister Anne Munley, IHM, President, as well as other university officials, deans, faculty, staff, and students, for the support which made his Fulbright experiences a possibility.

“Because of the University’s support, I am humbled and honored to have received three Fulbright Scholarships. In essence, these awards are more a recognition of the University—its mission, goals, leadership, faculty, staff, and students—than of a single individual. I owe it to Marywood,” said Dr. Dawoody.

Marywood University is proud to announce that Rebecca Schwalb ’14, Mequon, WI, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. She began her assistantship in July, working as an English Teaching Assistant in South Korea. Rebecca graduated from Marywood University in May with Bachelor of Arts degrees in both Spanish and History. She was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship based upon her academic achievements, her dedication to community service, and her passion for teaching English to foreign students.

“I would like to contribute to the ongoing cooperation between our two nations in a field that I find very important: education,” Rebecca stated.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards scholarships to U.S. graduating seniors, graduate students, young professionals, scientists, and artists selected through a national, merit-based competition for study and research abroad. The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA), a component of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, places U.S. students, primarily new college graduates, as English teaching assistants in schools or universities overseas, where they increase foreign students’ English language abilities and knowledge of the United States.

Rebecca, who was a Maxis-Gillet Service Scholar during her time at Marywood, has a passion for teaching and learning languages. She speaks Spanish fluently, as well as Arabic and Hebrew. While on a community service trip to Tanzania, she said she was able to “pick up Swahili a little.” In addition to her community service trip to Tanzania, she also traveled to Ecuador and Guatemala to volunteer, work, and intern.

Ann Cerminaro-Costanzi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Foreign Languages at Marywood, said, “Rebecca is one of the most motivated and self-directed students I have ever had the pleasure of teaching, and I look forward to learning of her fellowship experiences.”

Joseph A. Polizzi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education, is Marywood University’s Fulbright Program Advisor. More information about student and faculty Fulbright opportunities may be found at www.marywood.edu/fulbright.
How do you explain, in another language, that ooey-gooey-gloriously-sticky concoction involving graham crackers, chocolate, and half-burnt marshmallows that we call s’mores?

Answer: you don’t, really. You simply have to demonstrate the ooey-gooey bridge over any communications gap in person. That’s what a group of Americans, including 13 Marywoodians and Joseph Polizzi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Education and Educational Leadership—accompanied by his daughter, 10-year old Lily—have been doing over the summer.

It’s all part of the “Teaching English in Poland” project, a unique cross-cultural initiative that brings American volunteers together with Polish youth, ages 7 to 16, in adventure-of-a-lifetime, language immersion experiences in Poland. Most volunteers are teachers or upper-level university students, but there are no age limits, so they may also be advanced middle grade students (like Lily Polizzi) who earn a spot in the program as peer tutors, and who can relate directly to their young Polish counterparts.

This program, “Teaching English in Poland,” was developed by the Kosciuszko Foundation (named, of course, for General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, hero of both the American Revolution and his native Poland’s fight for independence), to honor the historic ties between the two nations. The project, with honorary sponsorship by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, selects and trains participants from across the U.S. With a decided emphasis on creativity and fun, the volunteers stage two different types of immersion experiences:

the English Language/American Culture Camp Program—which offers an up-close-and-personal look at various aspects of American life—and the Arts Enriched English Language Camp Program, which focuses on elements of the arts, such as painting, music, dance, and/or drama—often featuring works of American artists and musicians.

Marywood actually, has a long-standing link to the program and the respected Kosciuszko Foundation in the person of Marywood alumna Dr. Mary Kay Pieski ’78, who has been director of the TEIP Program since 1995, and who was, once again, in Poland, overseeing camp programs this summer. Her work, she says, has resulted in amazing learning experiences and academic enrichment—not to mention memories and friendships for a lifetime.

It was Dr. Pieski, in fact, who introduced Dr. Polizzi to the opportunities offered by the TEIP program, and he was quick to grasp the advantages. “It’s really a ‘study abroad’ experience for the price of a plane ticket,” he points out. “Room, board, and travel within the country are covered by grants from the Foundation for successful applicants. Plus, it’s a potential springboard to a Fulbright fellowship, giving valuable background and an international perspective to students who participate—vital in the application process.”

While the thrust of the program is, of course, bringing American life and language to Polish youth, the even bigger outcome for volunteers is the chance to get to learn more about Poland and their hosts. Dr. Polizzi, who led a Culture Camp in Minsk Mazowiecki, Poland, planned lessons and activities around a “take me out to the ballgame” theme (because, after all, what could be more typically American?), with “sandlot” games, baseball cards, films, and even tie-dye t-shirts. He was assisted by four licensed teachers, four student/teacher assistants from Marywood—and that one special assistant, his daughter, Lily.

Although individual programming is different in each of the camps, elements brought by the Americans are inevitably whirled into a joyous blending of cultures. American dance meets the elegant Polish polonaise (practically a national pastime—which every Polish child knows and takes very seriously). Polish students applaud American pop and rap, and Americans can tune in to Polish music, classically composed in intriguing minor tonalities.

Americans introduce Polish children to pumpkin pie and s’mores (the ingredients have to be shipped in) and find Polish “sweets” tasty, if less sweet (as in sugary) than they are used to. Volunteers from Northeast Pennsylvania, it might be noted, find such dishes as pierogi and kielbasa, deliciously familiar—with one slight language difference. Pierogi is the proper plural for one pierog; yet, to the gastronomic delight of most, rarely are you served just one.

One of her favorite aspects of the program, Dr. Pieski says, is watching the reactions of volunteers who are taking part for the first time. “They get so excited! It’s such a beautiful country! The Polish people take Americans to their hearts!” Dr. Pieski’s daughter, Maris, had often accompanied her, and a friend Maris met in 1997, years later, journeyed to the U.S. for Maris’ wedding.

Dr. Polizzi sees opportunities continuing to grow through the program and hopes to enhance TEIP so students can earn credit hours as well as gain ESL experience and volunteer opportunities. This means packing plenty of graham crackers, chocolate, and marshmallows—and tapping students who speak fluent s’mores.
Marywood University will host a performance by the Sichuan Chengdu Opera House on Tuesday, October 28, in the Sette LaVerghetta Center for Performing Arts.

The group will perform *Desire Under the Elms*, based on the 1924 play by Eugene O’Neill. “The production features a real East meets West situation, where an American play is transformed into the Sichuan Opera style,” said F. David Romines, D.M.A., Assistant Professor of Music Education, who was integral in arranging the performance at Marywood University. He added, “The Sichuan Chengdu Opera House is the top group for this style of opera.”

Sichuan opera is known for beautiful singing that is less constrained than Beijing Opera. Storytelling is an important part of the production, and the acting is exact and very detailed. The music features pitched gongs and traditional string instruments, such as the erhu. The form is systematic, with a variety of masks that change in an instant, as well as acrobatics, sword fights, and fire stunts.

The two-hour production will feature 12 of China’s most accomplished Sichuan-style performers and 17 musicians. An English translation will be provided via electronic display screen. For more information on this production, as well as a calendar of events for Marywood’s music, theatre, and dance programs, go to www.marywood.edu/mtd.

String Project

**GIVES A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO YOUNG REFUGEES**

Discover the difference that “just one person” can make. When Sister Anne Munley, IHM, issued this challenge to the campus community during the 2013 Fall Convocation, it got Sophie Till, M.M., Clinical Assistant Professor of Violin and Director of the String Project, thinking. She listened carefully as the president urged people to commit to meaningful action for the life of the world. When Sister Anne mentioned Marywood’s work with local refugee populations in Scranton, particularly the Bhutanese community, Sophie knew how she could help—with the universal language of music.

Beginning in January, she offered her time and talent to teach a class of eager students—30 children and one adult—how to play stringed instruments at no cost to them. Sister Anne praised the effort. “In effect, Sophie is giving each of these young people the gift of opportunity: the opportunity to learn something new, but also the opportunity to discover their passion for learning,” said Sister Anne. “By her generosity, she is enabling these children to dream and envision something more, something beautiful for their lives.”

Sister Angela Kim, IHM, Assistant Professor of Social Work, has worked with Catholic Social Services through the years to assist these resettled populations; she volunteered to learn alongside the young musicians. The group took lessons and practiced throughout the spring semester, which culminated with a concert in May. Sister Angela emphasized that, as long as the children want to learn and develop their music skills, the String Project will continue to teach them. “This is not a one-semester project,” said Sister Angela. “This is a lifetime project.”

Colorful Sichuan Opera to Take the Stage in October

Sister Angela Kim, IHM practices with the children.
String Project Photos by Butch Comegys, Scranton Times photographer
Every student has a different reason for pursuing an advanced degree. For Melody Collins (M.S.W. ’14) who was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 30, her experiences with the disease defined her path. At the time of her diagnosis with Stage IIIc breast cancer, Melody was raising a two-year-old son.

“I was completely overwhelmed, but I knew I had to take things into my own hands. I believe we are advocates for our own healthcare,” Melody said.

Following surgery and treatments for breast cancer, Melody decided to pursue a master’s degree in social work with a focus on oncological social work. As an older student, going back to school after a ten-year hiatus was both an exciting and challenging time for Melody. She found that a balance among the demands of work, life, and school was needed. She also found herself apprehensive to return to the classroom.

“When I stepped into the room for my first class as a master’s degree student, I was intimidated by the fact that most of the students were younger than I, but by the end of the class, I found myself actively participating in the discussions,” she said.

Melody found the balance she needed. She excelled in her studies, maintaining a 4.0 grade point average and becoming a member of Alpha Epsilon Lambda and Sigma Zeta Honor Societies, as well as earning an honorable mention for the Anthony Polizzi Medal for Social Work Excellence at Marywood University’s 2014 commencement ceremony. While a student at Marywood, she interned at Hospice Community Care and Volunteers in Medicine. She was a graduate research assistant and made several conference presentations.

Melody also found volunteerism offered her a needed outlet to advocate for others facing the challenges of health-related issues. She volunteers for the Young Survival Coalition and the National Breast Cancer Coalition. She also has volunteered for the Family Resource Center and the 5th Annual Collaborative Care Summit. In 2012, Melody was invited to become trained as a Certified Consumer Advocate for Project LEAD, of the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC), based in LaJolla, CA. Project LEAD graduates bring an educated consumer perspective and critical thinking skills to the important issues and controversies in breast cancer and are sought for advisory boards, panels, forums, and program consultation. Through her role as a Certified Consumer Advocate, she was hired recently by the Department of Defense (DoD) in its Breast Cancer Research Program.

“Going back to school advanced my career greatly. With the knowledge that I gained and the advocacy work that I have done, I was able to begin contracting for the DoD,” she said.

This, of course, is something that she is deeply passionate about—as she is able to advocate for innovative research, with the hope that it will play a role in changing the lives of others.

MELODY COLLINS (M.S.W. ’14):
Experience, Education, Advocacy, and Vocation
by: Sherry Frable ’15

KASEY LEE LYNN ’14
Presents Undergraduate Research at Capitol Hill Event

Recent graduate Kasey Lee Lynn ’14, Orangeville, PA, was selected from approximately 600 applications to present her research at the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) at its 18th Annual “Posters on the Hill” event on April 29, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Lynn examined two prominent twentieth-century women as case studies for her research project: Eva Perón, the First Lady of Argentina, who broke the boundaries of her country and time period by helping women gain the right to vote, and Hillary Rodham Clinton, who helped to change America and the world, especially in the Middle East, in terms of women’s rights, giving hope and tools for change to many women.

Ms. Lynn earned a double undergraduate degree in English and Spanish from Marywood University. She has been accepted into the American Government master’s program at Georgetown University, with the hopes of pursuing a career as a political speechwriter.

“I want to effect change, and I can think of no better way to do so than to be the one who writes the words that people will hear and read,” said Ms. Lynn.
For **Dr. Raymond Heath**, who is retiring as Vice President for Student Life, it is all about the students—young men and women at critical junctures in their lives, for whom he has sought to provide a positive impact: first as a high school teacher and coach, then as an administrator in higher education—always with the view that the key to his job is relating to the students themselves. “I wanted students to be comfortable knocking on my door,” he says. And they were. In fact, “his students” continued to do so, even after graduation. Dr. Heath talks delightedly about graduates “popping in” to tell him how they are doing. His voice tells of his pride and pleasure in their successes.

A native New Englander, Dr. Heath earned his undergraduate degree from Providence College in Rhode Island; went on to receive his master’s at Southern Connecticut State University. Later he would add a Ph.D. from the Ohio State University and additional study at the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard. He served as an administrator involved in student activities at Ohio State, before moving to Ohio Wesleyan University, where he became Dean of Students. Later, he accepted a post at La Salle University as Vice President for Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Education. That’s where he met Sister Mary Reap, IHM, then President of Marywood, who invited him to the campus for a visit.

“I knew at once,” he said, “that this was where I wanted to go. It felt like home.” He loved the close, family feel; the academic pride; and the enduring, loving spirit of the IHM Sisters. He saw the sort of challenge (read as “opportunity”) he knew well: an institution undergoing dramatic growth. Marywood, much like La Salle had been, was changing—in Marywood’s case, from a women’s college to a coeducational university. Not only were there men on campus—but there were men who wanted to live here. A commuter population was evolving into a resident population. Sports programs were expanding. New facilities and new personnel were needed—as, in fact, were new, fresh ideas and approaches. Dr. Heath was more than up to the challenge.

For the next 18 years as Vice President for Student Life (the first male and the first lay person to hold that post), he worked tirelessly to implement a plethora of ambitious programs and projects that would enhance student experiences at Marywood. During his tenure, a number of facilities in the Student Life corridor of campus have either been built from the ground up or undergone tremendous renovations. Marywood’s resident population grew to the largest in its history, with more than 1,000 students living on campus—and that number includes international residents. Local, national, and international service endeavors have grown to nearly 147,000 hours of service each year. When Dr. Heath arrived at Marywood, men’s varsity athletics programs had barely jumped off the ground. Women’s athletics featured just a few traditional sports—nine teams in all. Now, with the addition of men’s and women’s outdoor track and field, Marywood has more than doubled that total with 19 varsity programs.

To achieve these goals, Dr. Heath established something of a NEPA dual citizenship. He lived in Scranton during the week; commuted weekends down the PA Turnpike to his home in Springhouse, where his wife, Carol, taught in Jenkintown High School. His dedication to the University and his skill and distinction in the student life profession have been recognized by his peers in the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, who honored Dr. Heath, first in 2008, as a “Pillar of the Profession,” and, this year, with the 2014 Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance—the organization’s highest honor.

Looking at retirement is bittersweet, says Dr. Heath. “I will certainly miss the students. I will miss my many wonderful friends on campus,” he reflected. With his wife now retired also, however, they both look forward to time at home together—especially summers at their beloved Cape May residence.

Dr. Heath’s legacy at Marywood is his singular focus to ensure a welcoming and fulfilling student life experience at Marywood, for all students—past, present, and future. For him, it will always be “all about the students.”

“I knew at once that this was where I wanted to be. It felt like home”  

-Dr. Raymond Heath

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Left to Right: Dr. Levester Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs at Butler University and former Chair of the Board of Directors of NASPA, Dr. Raymond Heath, Dr. Laura Wankel, Vice President for Student Affairs at Northeastern University and chair of the Board of Directors of NASPA; and Dr. Kevin Kruger, President of NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
In 1955, in Brooklyn, NY, Marywood was the last thing on Margaret Gannon’s mind—and so was the call to religious life. Then a senior in high school, she had to choose schools for her college application.

“I had applied to a bunch of colleges, and there was one space left on the application, so I walked out of the classroom, and there was this ad for Marywood, so I put Marywood down—I didn’t know one thing about it,” she recalled.

Marywood was the only college, however, that offered the bright young woman from Brooklyn a full scholarship, including tuition, room, and board. Since her family had limited means, financial circumstances dictated that she take the Marywood scholarship, however, as she soon discovered, this was the best thing that could have happened.

“I had gone to all of these other colleges, and—eh—nothing special. At Marywood, they were so welcoming. I remember going into the (former Motherhouse) chapel and thinking, ‘I belong here.’ I wasn’t thinking about entering at all, but I knew I belonged at Marywood,” Sister Margaret stated.

What began as an accidental afterthought became a truly transformative experience, lasting more than 50 years, from her time as a student through her years as an educator. After earning her bachelor’s degree in history from Marywood in 1962, Sister Margaret went on to earn her master’s and doctoral degrees from St. John’s University. In January 1967, she returned to Marywood as she worked on her doctoral dissertation, and she began to teach. She’s been here ever since, and has made her life’s purpose that of both world history educator and social justice advocate.

Like her decision to attend Marywood, Sister Margaret’s choice of educational focus was initially imposed on her, but, as with most things in her life, she learned to respond with earnest joy, intellectual curiosity, and a bold passion to make a positive difference. She recalled how her experiences with Sister Nazarene Smith, IHM, who was then the Chair of Marywood’s History Department, directed the course of her life.

“I entered (the IHM Congregation) while I was in college...I was told—these were the days when you were told—that I was going to get a degree in history. Sister Nazarene was a very tough person—so scary, that when I was an undergraduate, I would not walk past her classroom,” Sister Margaret laughingly remembered. “Her classroom was Room 128 (in the Liberal Arts Center). I would walk upstairs, all along what was then the Human Ecology wing, and walk down the other stairs rather than walk past her. I didn’t even know her! Anyhow, when I was told I was going for history, I said to her, ‘I think I’ll do American history,’ because it was the centenary of the Civil War. She said, ‘No, you won’t. You will do the Non-Western World.’ I said, ‘OK.’ I had no choice...but she was
dead right. She was absolutely right!"

That same summer, when a big conference was held at Marywood, including all the IHM branches—Philadelphia, Monroe, and Scranton—Sister Margaret received further clarification for her life’s direction.

“This sister got up—Sister Mary Emil, who was one of the stars of the Monroes—and she said, ‘There are this many thousand people who are homeless in such and such a country. Did you know that? Oh. Why didn’t you know that?’ Then it would be, ‘There are this many people suffering from a tropical disease. Did you know that? Why didn’t you know that?’ And she went on and on with all of these statistics, and then she said, ‘You’re the teachers. If you don’t know that, how is anyone else supposed to know that?’ What she did was give me the reason why I should focus on the developing world,” said Sister Margaret. “At that point, I was 28 years old, and right there, right then, I knew that’s what I was supposed to be doing for the rest of my life. It was like when I was becoming a Sister...at first there was fuzziness, and then—BAM!—the answer. For me, it was clear.”

This clear focus has been the beacon of a life that has educated countless students, empowered women religious in Africa, promoted cultural diversity, global justice, and world peace, and actively advocated for solutions to world hunger and the prevention of human trafficking. Indeed, Sister Margaret is a champion of the poor, the marginalized, the forgotten.

The key to a successful society, she said, is to educate as many students as possible with a values-based liberal arts education grounded in responsible social action and service.

“The liberal arts teach versatility and critical thinking and make us ask questions—why are we doing this? Service is the recognition of the dignity of the individual that you’re dealing with, their goodness, and the way God is there, within them,” Sister Margaret explained. “You have to be able to have another kind of life. It’s not just your professional life. It should be the development of the full person...and even if someone just crassly thinks, ‘I want to get a good job,’ it goes beyond that. You might be invited to a work-related social event in which it might be a good idea to know something about opera or art. To say, ‘I’m not going to use this,’ is to suggest that you have no other place in life, except at your desk. It’s not happening! You have to live a full life—even to keep your job!’

Recalling the curricular purpose that became the standard for Marywood during her tenure as Undergraduate Dean (1988-1993)—“Living responsibly in an interdependent world”—Sister Margaret said, “That’s what the world is now; it isn’t just about knowing about it. It doesn’t say ‘thinking responsibly’—it isn’t just about information. It’s about being active, in whatever way you can, in whatever actions you take, to speak from that perspective.”

She continued, “When I would teach Hunger classes, I would tell the students, ‘You know much more now than most people; what are you going to do about it?’ You can’t make something impossible, but there are ways you can help, ways you can vote...always something you can do.”

Even in retirement, Sister Margaret continues to pursue her global vocation and to make an impact on others. In addition to remaining active with the African Sisters Education Collaborative, she recently started to work with refugees in Scranton, preparing an orientation course for the newly arrived. She teaches these groups what to do when they become ill and other basic life skills.

“These people are refugees, some of whom have lived in these camps for years and years—some for 25 years—people from Nepal/Bhutan, Somalia, Sudan. There have been Iraqis, there will be Syrians,” she said.

In July, she and several other IHM Sisters traveled to El Paso, Texas, to give compassionate assistance to migrant children at the U.S./Mexico border. Sister Margaret emphasized that Marywood students must continue to be educated on global issues and take part in global service.

“Going with students and finding their lives changed—that’s probably the high point (of my career). Being in class with them is different from being with them as they discover,” Sister Margaret expressed. “There’s nothing like doing a service trip to open your life. I have done five. I did three in Tanzania, and those are the ones in which I had the most significant experience. I could be up there teaching, year in and year out, and never make the impact that is made on students when they do those trips. It changes lives like nothing else.”

Sister Margaret Gannon, IHM is living proof that the gateway to success is educational access. She is adamant that students who are poor, like she was, be granted this vital access to education—especially higher education—and given the priceless opportunity to learn.

“We have served immigrants, our founders (of the IHM Congregation) were immigrants,” Sister Margaret explained. “We have to keep remembering the immigrants and all first-generation students, as we traditionally have.”

- Sister Margaret Gannon, IHM
Perfect Pitch

Softball Team Captures CSAC Championship

For the first time since 1995, Marywood University won the Colonial States Athletic Conference Softball Championship with a 3-2 victory over Cabrini College in the first game of the softball championship. This is the first title won by the Pacers since defeating Alvernia College for the PAC crown 19 years ago.

The top-seeded Pacers received an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament—the first NCAA Softball Championship appearance in school history—where Marywood faced the University of Rochester. While the NCAA title bid was lost, Marywood’s winning season proved that the team has what it takes to continue building on its CSAC Championship season record of 24-13.

The Pacers started the year slowly with a 1-5 record during the team’s annual spring break trip to Florida. After returning North, Marywood went on a tear, winning 13 of its next 15 games. After splitting a conference series with Centenary College (NJ) and a non-conference twin-bill with the University of Scranton, Marywood won its final six conference games of the season to finish league play with a 19-3 record, forcing a three-way tiebreaker with Immaculata University and Neumann University.

Pitcher Lindsey Gibbs ’17 earned the 2014 CSAC Championship’s Most Valuable Player award. Gibbs accounted for 28 strikeouts in three games. She pitched a complete game, allowing two earned runs on nine hits. Gibbs fanned six batters and allowed just one walk to extend her season record to 13-4.

In addition, Marywood University’s Diana Butash ’15 and Brooke Labs ’17 were named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference’s (ECAC) South Region All-Star team in softball. Both were second team selections after guiding the Pacers to a 2014 Colonial States Athletic Conference Championship and NCAA Division III tournament berth. Labs was named to the second team as a third baseman, while Butash was selected as an outfielder.

Butash also was named First Team All-CSAC and team MVP, after leading the team with a .432 batting average. Butash started and played in all 37 games and also led the Pacers in hits (54), triples (7), homeruns (4), slugging percentage (.712), total bases (89), on base percentage (.496), and stolen bases (17-for-17).

Labs was also a First Team All-CSAC selection and was the ECAC South Region Co-Player of the Week for the week ending March 23. She earned CSAC Hitter of the Week honors that week as well. Labs ranked second on the team with a .432 batting average and also started and played in all 37 games. She led the Pacers with 14 doubles and added four triples and two homeruns and had a team-leading 37 RBI.

Following the NCAA tournament, Head Coach Bob Fitzsimmons stated, “Tomorrow, we start all over. We learned from today. We can hit the ball with anybody. We know we can play defense and pitch.”

The team looks forward to a winning season in 2015—Marywood’s Centennial year.
Ryan Jones ’13 knew exactly what he wanted to do the moment he graduated: “My ultimate goal is to play professional soccer overseas.”

Just one year later, he realized that goal, and now he plays professionally for the Kemi Kings in Finland. “Never in my wildest imagination would I have thought I would be playing professional in Finland, but it is quite the experience,” Ryan said.

After earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Arts from Marywood University, Ryan represented the United States on the USA Soccer Team at the prestigious Maccabiah Games in Israel. He was recruited for the Richmond International Academy and began graduate school at Leeds Metropolitan University in Leeds, England. He recently finished his classes and is presently working on his dissertation to earn a Master of Arts degree in Public Relations and Strategic Communication from Leeds.

While playing in England, Ryan’s team, Eccleshill United, ended the season fourth in the league—it’s highest finish in years—and won the West Yorkshire Riding Cup for the first time in club history. The team made it to the League Cup Final as well. During the last two months of his stay in England, Ryan was invited to train with the first team squad of (League 1) Bradford City.

“Without any previous professional experience, to then be thrown into this environment was amazing, not only for my soccer abilities but also for a life experience!” Ryan said. About a week before he was to return to the United States, one of the directors called and asked if he wanted to play in Finland.

While it was a lot to consider, it was professional soccer—overseas—his lifelong dream. So began his adventures in Finland. “Right now it is summer here, and, crazy enough, that means 24 hours of daylight outside,” Ryan explained. “It is strange to get used to going to bed at 1 or 2 a.m., and it is still light outside…trash bags on the windows help as blackout curtains!”

Ryan resides in Kemi, Finland, located far north (about 100 km. away from the Arctic Circle). A typical day usually consists of training, down time, meals with his teammates, and then some sort of workout. Ryan is fortunate to live in a house with five other international players who also speak English, although he has attempted to learn Finnish. “The Finnish language is unusual to say the least. I have learned words to get by, but as for holding a conversation—I don’t know if I’ll ever get to that level,” he confessed.

With constant training and frequent soccer matches, it is tough to find time to explore this Nordic seaside region, but Ryan’s family and his girlfriend, Jess Waclawski ’15—also a Marywood Communication Arts student—are hoping to visit Ryan in Finland soon. “Although it is hard being away from everyone, I have such a tightknit support group from my family (for so long), as well as my friends and my girlfriend, who believe in me and make all of this worth it,” he says.

The consummate student-athlete, Ryan excelled both in the classroom and on the field during his years at Marywood. He was honored as both the Male Senior Scholar-Athlete of the Year and the Male Athlete of the Year. Arguably the most decorated male athlete in Marywood history, Ryan was a two-year captain and four-year First Team All-Conference selection. He was named the Conference’s Men’s Soccer player of the year in 2012 and 2011 and was named a NSCAA Academic All-American his senior year, becoming the first male athlete to earn an All-American award in Marywood history. The all-time assists leader for the men’s soccer program with 25 career helpers, Ryan was also a four-year CSAC Academic Honor Roll member and a four-year Jewish Sports Review All-American.

“At Marywood I was given freedom on and off the field,” stated Ryan. “On the field, I made an immediate impact with my teammates and friends, and, off the field, I was able to learn from great professors…Marywood was a stepping stone for me in my career, and I look back and thank all the players, coaches, and even professors and deans around the campus that, even to this day, I stay in touch with.”

To other student-athletes with dreams and aspirations, he offers this advice: “It is never going to be an easy road. You can’t give up when something doesn’t go your way or quit when things get tough. I was told by various coaches, at different levels and stages of my career that I would never make it to the next, but I have proved them all wrong. What mattered was what I believed…believe in yourself and in your abilities, and don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t do something. I used my worst coaches as fuel to ignite my passion for the game and my dream even further. Stay true to yourself, and every time you step on the field, court, and in the classroom—always give it your best, because you can’t do anything more than that.”

When Ryan’s contract ends in mid-October, he has the option to play longer or to return to the United States. At this point, he hasn’t decided what to do. “My dream is achieved at the age of 22; it is amazing to have this satisfaction of all my hard work paying off…I keep taking every opportunity as it comes to me with an open mind!”
Marywood Inducts 18th Athletics Hall of Fame Class

A former women’s soccer player, a former women’s basketball player who is currently the President of the Pacers Club, and a former dual-sport athlete in men’s cross country and men’s tennis were inducted as the 18th class of honorees into Marywood University’s prestigious Athletics Hall of Fame on Saturday, February 1, 2014, on the University’s campus.

Rebecca Grubb-Venancio ’03 was a two-year standout for the women’s soccer team after transferring in from Division I West Virginia University in 2001. A 1999 graduate of Danville High School, Grubb-Venancio led the Pacers to a two-year mark of 27-11-1 (12-7 Pennsylvania Athletic Conference) and the women’s soccer program’s first ever post-season playoff berth (2001). A decorated forward and midfielder for the Pacers, Grubb-Venancio was named the 2002 PAC Player of the Year and was named First Team All-Conference in both seasons with the team (2001, 2002). She was named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll in 2002 and was the team’s Most Valuable Player that season as well. Named the 2002-2003 Senior Student-Athlete of the Year at Marywood, Grubb-Venancio still owns several school records despite playing only two years for the Pacers. She currently ranks first all-time for single-season assists (18 in 2001) and assists in a career (30), while also being the record holder for most assists in a single game, after registering five helpers in a game against Immaculata on November 2, 2002. Grubb-Venancio also ranks second all-time in points for a single season (56, 2002), trailing only fellow Hall of Fame member Lindsay (Pappas) Pagniucci. Grubb-Venancio also ranks second in career records for women’s soccer with 36 career goals and third all-time with 102 career points.

Ann Conflitti ’96 (M.S. ’05) was selected to the Hall of Fame for her work as a dedicated alumna to both the University and Athletic Department. A four-year member of the women’s basketball team from 1992-1996, Conflitti has been actively involved in the growth of the Athletic Department through her role as Pacers Club President. The Pacers Club is the Athletic Department’s official Booster Club. As Pacers Club President, Conflitti helped establish the Pacers Club Humanitarian Award (now named Senior Athlete Award), which recognizes a graduating senior who has shown outstanding contributions to the Marywood community, on and off the field. Under Conflitti’s guidance and leadership, the Pacers Club has also established an annual reception and gifts to graduating senior student-athletes, helped cover and defray the cost of television and media exposure for athletic teams, and purchased much needed equipment for teams. A four-year member of the women’s basketball team, Conflitti played in all 93 games over her four years and was named to the 1995 University of Scranton Poinsettia All-Tournament Team. The 1995-1996 Marywood team led all of NCAC Division III in rebound margin. A team captain during the 1995-1996 season, Conflitti was the Pacers’ team MVP in 1996 and was a four-year member of the PAC Academic Honor Roll. She was named to the PAC All-Conference team as an Honorable Mention selection in 1996.

Dustin Rhodes ’06 was inducted into Marywood’s Athletic Hall of Fame posthumously this year, although he would have been eligible for induction in 2016 (athletes must be out of school for 10 years to be considered for Hall of Fame). A four-year member of both the men’s cross country (2002-2005) and tennis (2003-2006) teams, Rhodes succumbed to a battle with brain cancer on July 31, 2013. He bravely fought glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), a severely aggressive form of brain cancer, for eight months. Rhodes is survived by his wife Rebecca Russo Rhodes ’06 and young son, Michael Alexander, who both accepted the honor and plaque on his behalf. Rhodes guided the 2006 men’s tennis team to its second-ever Pennsylvania Athletic Conference Championship. In cross country, he led the Pacers to a 2004 PAC runner-up finish. A four-year PAC Academic Honor Roll member, Rhodes became the first male athlete in Marywood history to be named the PAC Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year (2004-2005). He was also named a Pacer Scholar-Athlete in both 2004 and 2005. A two-year team captain in both sports, Rhodes earned MVP honors for cross country in 2003 and for tennis in 2003 and 2005. He was named Second Team All-Conference in cross country in 2005 and was Second Team All-Conference Singles in tennis in 2004 and 2006. In addition, Rhodes earned a spot on tennis’ All-Sportsmanship Team in both 2005 and 2006.

New Coaches...

Dr. Mary Jo Gunning, Marywood University Director of Athletics and Recreation, announced the hiring of the following coaches: Shannon Kane as Head Volleyball Coach; Kane joined the Marywood University staff as an Assistant Volleyball Coach in April 2013 and helped guide the Pacers to an 18-12 mark, which included trips to both the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) and Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) playoffs. Tyler Perrelle will serve as Interim Head Men’s Lacrosse Coach at Marywood University for the 2014-2015 academic year. Perrelle served as Assistant Coach with the Pacers’ 2014 CSAC runner-up squad that also qualified for the ECAC playoffs. He came to Marywood after finishing an outstanding four-year career at Division I Binghamton University.
Reunion Weekend, held from May 30 to June 1, 2014, proved to be full of fun and surprises for classes of all decades. With nearly 400 alumni attending events throughout the weekend, generations of alumni had the opportunity to meet and mingle, reconnect, and re-engage. For many, it felt as though they had never left.
1. Members of the 50th Reunion Class of 1964 gather during Reunion Weekend.

2. Immediate Past President of the Marywood Alumni Association, Thom Sueta ’89, shares a message with Marywood alumni.


4. Dina LaPointe Okoniewski, Melissa Marino Cottone, June Kuehm Jalbert, Gina Searles-Chavez, all members of the Class of 1989, and Jorge Chavez, husband of Gina Searles-Chavez celebrate their 25th Reunion.

5. A member of the Sister Cuthbert Society participates in Candle Night ceremony. This longstanding tradition was renewed by members of the Class of 1964.

6. MAA Board President Bob Ide ’88 welcomes alumni to the Awards Luncheon.

7. Sister Anne Munley, IHM gathered with graduates during the All-Class Picnic.

8. Celebrating their 50th reunion are, seated left to right, Maryalyce Kelly Lee, Anne Salvatore Novitsky and Carol Massi Williams. Standing are, left to right, Marcella Geerinck Ashenbrenner, Patricia Maheu Krause, Catherine McDonough Corcoran, and Mary Ellis Simon.

9. Classmates from 1954, Sister Cor Immaculatum Heffernan, IHM and Joyce Vieau Fink celebrate their 60th reunion.

10. Three generations of Marywoodians from the Walsh family including, left to right, Kelley Murphy, Mary Spellman, Kathryn Walsh Murphy ’48, Dr. Irene Walsh Nunnari ’63, and Barbara Spellman Shuta ’68.

11. Graduates were given tours of campus facilities during Reunion Weekend. Here, alumni walk through the Center for Architectural Studies.

12. Dr. Irene Walsh Nunnari ’63, First Vice President of the Marywood Alumni Association, shares a reunion sentiment.

Your fellow classmates participated in a Reunion Weekend Survey and shared the following great reasons to consider returning to your alma mater:

- Friends
- Nostalgia
- The warmth, hospitality, and the spirit of the campus
- Wish to connect
- Great memories
- Love for Marywood

The excitement generated by Reunion Weekend continues—the spirit of cooperation has sparked interest, prompting alumni to become more involved. A large committee is already planning next year’s reunion as we begin to celebrate the Centennial.

Get involved by calling the Office of Alumni Engagement at 570-348-6206 or e-mailing alumni@marywood.edu.
1. Kathryn Walsh Murphy ’48
   Sister Denis Donegan Award for Long Term Service to Marywood

   Kay Walsh Murphy comes from a family of educators, and she herself had a distinguished career as an educator. Kay came to Marywood as the recipient of a four-year scholarship—the first of three generations in her family to attend this institution. While at Marywood, she served as class president and was the philosophy medalist of the Class of 1948. She taught math and science for 33 years in six different school districts, starting with Washington, DC, then Puerto Rico, and, finally, back in the U.S., ending up at Downingtown Area School District in Pennsylvania. In each location, she led—and often founded—chapters of the Marywood Alumni Association. She has been an active member and enthusiastic volunteer on a near endless list of committees, fundraising efforts, and events for the past 66 years. Mother of seven children; grandmother of fifteen. Kay is active in community activities, including service as a Boys and Girls Clubs tutor and as a Mended Hearts visitor.

2. Anne (“Nancy”) O’Malley Burke ’64
   Sister Denis Donegan Award for Long Term Service to Marywood

   There’s an oft-heard saying on campus that “All roads lead to Marywood.” You could say that Anne O’Malley Burke, better known to most as “Nancy,” has traveled the roads leading to and from Marywood—and back again—countless times. She is a Past National President and board member of the Marywood Alumni Association and has served on the Advisory Board of the local MAC Chapter. Nancy has chaired or assisted countless committees; served as an alumni mentor; guided events such as Breakfast with Santa and the New Graduates’ Reception… and so much more. She introduced the Career Network Program to the Alumni Association in the early 1980s, to connect successful alumni with aspiring students. In 2010, Nancy collaborated with family and friends to endow the Virginia O’Malley Raymond Scholarship at Marywood, in honor and in memory of her late sister, to assist undergraduate women from the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area in obtaining their educational goals—just as she and Virginia had.

   No matter where the road of life has led, Nancy has continually chosen the path of loyal, dedicated service.

   Recent Graduate Award of Excellence for Professional Achievement

   Alyson received her B.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders at Marywood, then went on to earn her M.S. in Speech Language Pathology from the University of Vermont. Since then, she has been a successful practicing speech-language pathologist across a variety of settings and ages. A stay-at-home mother, Alyson also serves part-time as a private speech-language therapist for preschool and school-aged children who have difficulty with articulation, auditory processing, fluency skills, and language skills. She truly personifies the mission of Marywood University—a graduate enriching community, family, and her profession.

4. Karen A. Reid ’02 (M.A. ’08)
   Award of Excellence in Creative and Performing Arts

   Karen earned her B.F.A. and M.A. degrees in Studio Art from Marywood, returning to her alma mater to serve, at times, as artist in residence, art therapy presenter, and, for seven years, adjunct lecturer—while also active in exhibitions, commissions, and gallery work, enhancing her acclaim as a studio artist. Karen’s work demonstrates both her artistry and her versatility and has been recognized and selected for national and international competitions and juried shows. She writes of her wonder in “bearing witness to the process of kiln-formed glass.” She loves the mastery of mold-making and glass casting on a grand scale, but is also intrigued with the creation of miniature glass components, used in large assemblages.

   Characteristically, she seeks projects that take extended time for reflection, planning, and execution. Her list of exhibitions—group and solo—continues to grow as does her list of awards and honors.

5. Dr. Susan Campbell Bartoletti ’79
   Award of Excellence in Liberal Arts and Sciences

   Susan Campbell Bartoletti began her career teaching literature. She has gone on to create it. She holds a B.A. in English/Secondary Education from Marywood, an M.A. from the University of Scranton, and a Ph.D. from SUNY Binghamton, where she won the Excellence in Research Award for her work on the history of child labor (which resulted in another book, Kids on Strike)—writing as her dissertation, Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine, 1845–1850. That book not only impressed the doctoral committee, it earned a plethora of prestigious awards. Since then she has claimed practically every important award in children’s and young adult literature, including the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Golden Kite Award, the Charlotte Zolotow Award, The Sibert Medal, the Jane Addams Children’s Book Award, and the “holy grail” of children’s writing: the Newbery Medal…often with more than one book as recipient of the honors.

   She has been a presenter at countless conferences; been author in residence at institutions in Egypt and Bangladesh; and has been on graduate faculties of Hollins University, Penn State, and Spaulding University.

6. Barbara M. Brodeur ’49
   Award of Excellence in Education and Human Development

   Barbara Martin Brodeur is the quintessential lifelong learner. She grew up during the years following World War II, earning her A.A. degree from Centenary College in Hackettstown, New Jersey, then enrolling at Marywood to complete her B.S. in Library Science degree. She landed a position as a librarian at Southside School...
District in Rockville Centre, New York, where she served for four years. Barbara later helped her father and her husband, Albert, manage a thriving Ford dealership in Greenwich, Connecticut—assuming responsibility for the business when her father passed away in 1964. She has been involved in multiple community and church activities through the years.

A dedicated alumna, Barbara served Marywood as an organizing member of the Arizona Chapter of the Alumni Association. She also serves her community through Rotary International and her affiliations with the Arizona Daughters of the American Revolution and the Arizona Society of Colonial Dames.

7. Dr. Danielle Ann Sheypuk ’00
Award of Excellence in Health and Human Services

It’s not often one meets a supermodel, who is also a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, specializing in the problems of dating, relationships, and sexuality among challenged individuals—plus an expert media commentator...plus an effective disability-rights advocate...and a potential TV series star. But Dr. Danielle Sheypuk is all of these—and more! Diagnosed at age two with spinal muscular atrophy, Danielle has been in a wheelchair since childhood—a situation which has never slowed her down in the slightest. At Marywood, she was a leader in numerous student organizations and the recipient of multiple honors, earning her B.S. degree in Clinical Psychology, summa cum laude. She went on to receive her Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research in New York, also summa cum laude.

Today, she pursues a successful career, speaking through multiple venues as an advocate for the disabled community; not only serving as clinical supervisor for doctoral students and providing outpatient therapy at Bensonhurst Psychiatric Center in Brooklyn, but also maintaining a private practice through innovative use of Skype.

To see profiles of current and past award winners online, go to alumni.marywood.edu/connect/awards

Class of 1964 Presents Reunion Gift Continues to Raise Funds for Sculpture

During its 50th Reunion, the Class of 1964 presented a check for $125,941 to Sister Anne Munley, IHM, which was reflective of their collective contributions to endowment, capital projects, and scholarships over the past five years.

The Class of 1964 is also actively working to raise $150,000 to support a new sculpture to be created by Sister Cor Immaculatum Heffeman, IHM in the new Learning Commons Atrium.

“The historical and artistic significance of this stately sculpture will be recognized as our class legacy, to be treasured and enjoyed by present and future students and all who visit Marywood,” said MaryCarol Tighe Kanton ’64.

The sculpture fundraising is ongoing; so far, $50,199 has been raised toward the $150,000 goal for the project. The class is aiming to meet their pledge goal by September 8, 2015—Marywood’s Centennial year kickoff and the dedication of the Learning Commons.

“To those who have already contributed to this project, I extend my deepest thanks on behalf of our class,” MaryCarol continued, “I encourage all of you to consider a gift to this magnificent sculpture, which will be at the center of the new Learning Commons.”

To make a gift go to marywood.edu/boldheart.

Class of 2009 Establishes Sarah Beth George Endowed Scholarship

More than five years ago, the Class of 2009 lost one of its most beloved and talented students, Sarah Beth George ’09. This May, Sarah was in the hearts and thoughts of her classmates and the entire Marywood family at the presentation of the Sarah Beth George Endowed Scholarship during Reunion Weekend.

Determined to remember Sarah and ensure that future students carry forth her passion for learning and life, the Class of 2009 established the Sarah Beth George Scholarship as the 2009 along with Sarah’s family and friends, Senior Class gift to the University. Through hard work and determination, the class was able to raise an unprecedented $35,000 to endow the scholarship in honor of Sarah. The work of the Class of 2009 clearly demonstrates its desire to invest in the future success of a Marywood student and the continuation of Sarah’s legacy.

To honor Sarah’s memory, her classmates (Grace Fay ’09, Courtney Wells ’09, Moira Pope ’09, and Mark Granquist ’09, pictured above with Sister Anne Munley, IHM) returned to campus to celebrate the endowment of the scholarship.

“Sarah meant so much to all of us. I cannot begin to touch on how she influenced my time at Marywood,” said Courtney Wells ’09. “Working with the team for her has been a gift, and I am so grateful to have been a part of it. We have a huge sense of accomplishment knowing that her name will forever be a part of the Marywood community; that this scholarship will allow other students to experience Marywood because of Sarah and our hard work to honor her.”
Zest for Life Inspires Appetizing Career

JOSEPH CAPUTO ’77

A passion for food, theater, and education has afforded Joseph Caputo ’77 the opportunity to do what he loves nearly every day. As owner of Zuppa del Giorno, a restaurant in Scranton, and as a private caterer, Joe channels his talents in unique and exciting ways.

He was able to combine his hobby of cooking with his background in theater and education to create his own special kind of instruction, which he calls, “edutainment.”

“There’s discipline there, but it’s tied to a knowledge base. Learning has to be fun, too!” he said.

Joe’s edutainment has included teaching cooking courses through Marywood’s Lifelong Learning Program, holding classes twice a month at Zuppa del Giorno, as well as performing cooking demonstrations as guest chef on board Holland America Lines, the most recent of which was during a trip to Hawaii.

“I cannot help but be an educator. It comes with an impulse, like a twitch that needs to be released,” Joe said.

While Joe was at Marywood studying in the theater department, he said he was able to form a diverse perspective thanks to his classmates and professors such as Sister Dorothy Haney, IHM; Sister Margaret Gannon, IHM; Dr. George Perry; and Dr. Mary Kelly.

“It was really the school of life,” he said.

It is no surprise that Joe’s passion grew from his experiences at Marywood. According to him, those four years were some of the best of his life due to the bonds he shared with his classmates. He added that all of his professors always spurred them to be the best.

It was those bonds that Joe relied on when he moved to New York City to pursue an acting career. He tried his best to make it and had a few breaks here and there, but never the big one that actors dream about. Eventually, Joe moved back to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

A chance meeting with a friend led to a moment in front of a classroom of children eager to learn about theater. That experience inspired him so much he went back to school and earned his degree in elementary education. He taught at a few schools before becoming the principal at the former St. Patrick’s Elementary School in West Scranton, now known as All Saints Academy.

One thing Joe has learned is not to sweat the small stuff. He said that in his restaurant, mistakes happen—a dropped spoon, a wrong order taken to the table—but mistakes are always fixable. He always tells his employees, “It’s only lunch!”

The spirit to succeed, no matter the challenge, is what drives Joe on a daily basis. He’s able to continually reinvent himself while staying true to his roots. His zest for life—including his love of food, theater, and education—has inspired an appetizing career that satisfies all three.

Message from the MAA PRESIDENT

I want to thank the more than 400 alumni who attended the 2014 Reunion Weekend. The atmosphere and energy of our alumni back on campus was amazing.

To those of you who were unable to attend, I want to personally invite you to return May 29-31, 2015, as we prepare to celebrate our Centennial. We are planning many spectacular events for this celebration of Marywood University and everything for which it stands. While we will honor those of you who graduated in the 0s and 5s, this extravaganza will celebrate the history and continued growth of our alma mater.

As I begin my service as President of the Marywood Alumni Association for the next three years, I want to first thank the Immediate Past-President, Thom Sueta ’89, for his vision and leadership, not only as president but also as a member of the Marywood Alumni Association board for the last twelve years. Thom certainly isn’t leaving the MAA, and he will be leading the revitalization of the Philadelphia Chapter. Under his direction, we can expect to see amazing growth and participation in that area.

Before next May, there will be many opportunities to come together throughout the country with local Marywood Alumni chapters. These local chapters are the foundation of our Alumni Association. Becoming involved is easy. Simply contact Marywood’s Alumni Office to see if there’s a chapter near you. If there is not a chapter in your area, consider hosting a small function to connect with local alumni and start a chapter. Our Alumni Office will be glad to assist you.

Marywood University is represented across the country by you, our alumni. As the Marywood University Alumni Association Board of Directors, we represent you at your alma mater. If you have any comments, questions, ideas, or plans with other alumni, please let me or the Alumni office staff know. We’d love to know about your activities and connections!

As we look forward to the next century at Marywood, this is the time to connect (and reconnect) with other alumni and friends, and once again become part of the Marywood family. I am honored and privileged to be a small part of the next 100 years of Marywood University.

Go Pacers!

Robert “Bob” Ide ’88, MAA Board President
SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

The Southeast Chapter/Atlanta of the Marywood Alumni Association met twice during the spring. An informal beer tasting and brewery tour was held on March 1 at 5 Seasons Brewing Company/West Side. A more formal reception was held in April at the Ritz Carlton Buckhead. That event was hosted by Mary Collins Murray ’51 and her husband Michael Murray.

Sister Anne Munley, IHM, honored Mary Collins Murray ’51 for her years of service to Marywood as a member of the Board of Trustees and for her lifelong commitment to her alma mater. Mary was the inaugural president of the Southeast Chapter of the Marywood Alumni Association.

REGIONAL Alumni Gatherings

ANNAPOLIS

Marywood alumni enjoyed a full day of activities at a recent gathering in Annapolis, MD. Sister Anne Munley joined alumni for Mass at St. Mary’s church followed by a brunch at Harry Browne’s restaurant and a tour of the Maryland State House.

PITTSBURGH

Marywood alumni gathered in Pittsburgh for an evening of dining and theatre. Director of Alumni Engagement Ann Montoro Williams ’84 hosted a dinner at the Six Penn Kitchen for alumni and enjoyed an evening of Celtic music at the Byham Theatre.

Marywood alumni, family, and friends joined Sister Anne Munley for a luncheon at Harry Browne’s restaurant in Annapolis, MD.

Marywood alumni, family, and friends enjoyed a beer tasting event at 5 Seasons Brewing Company/West Side in Atlanta, GA. Pictured left to right: Kirsten Fine Beischer, the late Jim Beischer ’84, Jim Weadick, Gerri Weadick ’64, Ellen (Murphy) Bennett ’84, Bill Bennett, Ann Montoro Williams ’84 and Michael Bugno ’98. Shortly after this photo was taken, Jim Beischer passed away unexpectedly.
Sharing the Successes of Our
BEST & BRIGHTEST

Francene Pisano Dudziec ‘90: Alumna Gains National Attention for Inventing ‘Smartest Beach Bag’

A Marywood University alumna has gained national attention for her latest invention—a practical, pretty tote, dubbed “the smartest beach bag” in the June 2014 edition of Ladies Home Journal. Known as the Hello Beach tote bag, it makes a trip to the beach a lot less messy.

Francene Pisano Dudziec ‘90 is the inventor of the Hello Beach tote bag, and the piece is featured in the newly-released second edition of The Mom Inventors Handbook: How To Turn Your Great Idea Into the Next Big Thing by business author and entrepreneur Dr. Tamara Monosoff. Francine, who lives in Moosic, PA, also is the founder and owner of Monogram Muse, an online specialty gift shop that offers personalization of gift items. She designed Hello Beach with the cotton portion on top so totes may be personalized. In addition, she teamed up with A. Rifkin Co. in Wilkes-Barre, PA, to locally manufacture Hello Beach in Northeast Pennsylvania.

“My kids love collecting seashells, but wet, sandy shells, left in plastic buckets in the hot, summer sun or in the car create an awful smell that you don’t want to bring home,” Francine says. Hello Beach resolves this problem because the bags are 100 percent cotton fabric on the top half, and the lower half is made from durable woven mesh. She notes that the small totes are ideal for collecting shells and driftwood. After a day of gathering treasures, just shake or rinse to release the sand back to the beach where it belongs. The larger totes are perfect for drying wet bathing suits.

Ms. Dudziec holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Marywood University. In addition to being an entrepreneur and inventor, she’s a graphic designer. She’s also well-known for her expertise in children’s crafts, and her column on the subject appears regularly in The Valley’s Child, a publication for parents in Northeast Pennsylvania.

To learn more about Hello Beach, visit hellobeach.bigcartel.com and find Hello Beach on Facebook. To learn more about Monogram Muse, visit monogrammusegifts.com.
Get Ready to Celebrate!

As you venture through life, you never forget your roots. Mary Ellen and I have found Marywood to be a welcoming community and network of family and friends. We have been fortunate to give back by volunteering, sharing our expertise, and providing financial support to the University. We give because we want other students to have their own Marywood experiences and pursue their dreams in a community that supports them. Serving, sharing, and supporting—that’s the Marywood Way!

Marywood’s Centennial year—2015—will soon be here. Students have already started celebrating the Marywood Way by volunteering and serving. We call on you, our 30,000 alumni, to make a difference in the name of Marywood for this milestone celebration, wherever you call home—through your commitment to service, your shared memories and experiences, and your support of Marywood’s future.

Help us celebrate the Marywood Way: serve, share, and support the Centennial. You’ll be receiving regular updates from us, and we want to hear from you too—tell us how you’re serving and share your ideas to make this yearlong celebration even more meaningful.

How are you serving, sharing, and supporting Marywood’s Centennial? Let us count the ways! Send or share your stories, photos, and ideas.

E-mail: 100MarywoodWays@marywood.edu
#100MarywoodWays
1960s

Nancy McDonald (1962) was awarded the International Book Award for 2013 in the category History/Media Entertainment for her book, If You Can Play Scranton, a Theatrical History.

Sister Therese O’Rourke, I.H.M. (1967) was awarded The Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service on May 1, 2014 by NeighborWorks Northeastern PA.

1970s


1980s

Lynell Scaff (1980), executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters Beaver County, was appointed by Gov. Tom Corbett to serve on the State Board of Accountancy.

Janet M. Skibinski (1980) joined Sordoni Construction as project administrative assistant.

Suzanne Daley Simonetti (1982) and husband Ron celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary June 23, 2014.

Catherine Nealon Wechsler (1982) joined Lackawanna College as its new manager of corporate, foundation, and government relations

John Hogan (M.S. 1986) and wife, Christin, welcomed a baby girl on February 21, 2014.

Paula Schott, MBA, R.D., L.D.N. (1986) joined Metz Culinary Management as director of clinical nutrition services.

Stephanie Dobroski (1988) has been hired by Hershey-based Grisolano Center for Neurodevelopment.

1990s

Roseann Castanaro (1990) and Steven Finkel were married on September 29, 2013.

Lisa Fernandes (1991) and Peter Rubando were married on December 11, 2013.

James Michaels (M.B.A. 1991) and Jennifer White were married on August 9, 2013.

David Pigga (1991) and Gabrielle Palmieri were married on August 17, 2013.

Carolyn Tomaszewski (1991) and Brian Kerr were married on September 28, 2013.

John Kopicki (1992, M.S. 2007) and Barbara Udomsak were married on August 3, 2013.

Mary Montoro (1992) earned a promotion as an associate with the Perry Law firm.

James Kenny (1993) and Lisa O’Neill were married on August 24, 2013.

Paula Mackarey (1993) was honored by the NEPA chapter of the American Advertising Federation with its Silver Medal Award on February 21, 2014.

Andrea Wilczynski Urbaniak (1993) and husband, Thomas, welcomed a baby boy named Thomas Frank Urbaniak, III, on March 5, 2014.

Kathleen P. Hanlon (1994) is serving as Dean of Wyoming Seminary’s Lower School in Forty Fort, as of July 2014.

Rev. Joseph R. Kopacz (1994) was installed as the 11th bishop of Jackson, Mississippi, on February 6, 2014.

John Munley (1994) and Linda Harding were married on June 14, 2014.

Paula Buholski (1996) and Randall Johnson were married on October 1, 2013

Kristine Hubert James (1996) and husband, David, welcomed a baby girl on January 9, 2014.

Bridget Selemka Kennedy (1996) and husband, James, welcomed a baby boy on January 16, 2014.

Gerald J. Arnese (1997) joined Wayne Bank as the resource recovery officer.

Rose Gage (1997) has joined the Gray House as its new Food Pantry and Thrift Store Program Director.

Jane Koebble (1997) was honored by the Monroe County Bar Association on May 2, 2014, as the 2014 Liberty Bell Award Recipient.

Tanya Olaviany (1997) was honored by the Kiwanis Club of Wilkes-Barre for her longtime service to area youth.

Sean Rooney (1997) and wife, Jacqueline, welcomed a baby boy on November 25, 2013.

Laurie Chiek (1998) and Andrew Dufour were married on July 6, 2013.

Heather Hulse (M.A. 1998) and David Krzyna were married on September 28, 2013.

Stephen Klem (1998) and his wife welcomed a baby boy on December 31, 2013.


Kimberly A. Scott (2004) was named Craven County, NC, Teacher of the Year.

Joseph Barbuti (2001) and wife, Melissa, welcomed a baby girl on April 23, 2014.

Erin Digwood O’Hara (1998, M.S. 2009) and husband, Matthew, welcomed a baby girl on April 19, 2013.

William N. Bryant (2002) has been selected by America’s Registry of Outstanding Professionals as Professional of the Year in Therapy Services for 2014.

Anthony Seymour (1998) and wife, Aimee Warnero, were married on March 29, 2013.

Katherine Oehler (M.A. 1999) and husband, Stefan, welcomed a baby girl on December 16, 2013.

Katherine Oehler (M.A. 1999) and Marc Stefanelli were married on September 14, 2013.

Joseph Lipinski (2002) and Deanne Ayre were married on December 12, 2013.

Janel Damiani Semanision (2005) and husband, Patrick, welcomed a baby girl on April 23, 2014.

Tina Keuhner Falbo (M.S. 2005, M.S. 2008) and husband David welcomed a baby girl on August 31, 2013.

Kerri Ruddy Archer (2000) and husband, Vincent, welcomed twins, a baby girl and a baby boy, on April 10, 2014.


Cheryl Bailey (2000) and husband, Peter, welcomed a baby girl on April 21, 2014.

Emily Huber Stefanac (2003) and husband, Nicholas, welcomed a baby boy on February 18, 2014.

Sarah Brady Parker (2003) and husband, Stefan, welcomed a baby girl, Keira Rose, on August 12, 2013.

Toni Anne Weaver Meles (2001) and husband, Timothy, welcomed a baby boy on May 14, 2014.


Catherine Keating (2001) and Michael Maria were married on August 10, 2013.


Anthony R. Favata (2005) earned a commission as a national bank examiner.

Brian Nardella (2002) and wife, Melissa, welcomed a baby boy on April 23, 2014.

Emily Huber Stefanac (2003) and husband, Nicholas, welcomed a baby boy on February 18, 2014.

Sarah Brady Parker (2003) and husband, Stefan, welcomed a baby girl, Keira Rose, on August 12, 2013.


Heather O'Brien (2004) and husband, Patrick, welcomed a baby girl on April 24, 2014.

Erin Digwood O’Hara (1998, M.S. 2009) and husband, Matthew, welcomed a baby girl on April 19, 2013.

William N. Bryant (2002) has been selected by America’s Registry of Outstanding Professionals as Professional of the Year in Therapy Services for 2014.

Joseph Lipinski (2002) and Deanne Ayre were married on December 12, 2013.

Brian Nardella (2002) and Lynne Ziegelbauer were married on October 12, 2013.


Kimberly Wrazien (2002) and Justin Leff were married on September 7, 2013.

Kimberly Wrazien (2002) and Justin Leff were married on September 7, 2013.

Kerri Ruddy Archer (2000) and husband, Vincent, welcomed twins, a baby girl and a baby boy, on April 10, 2014.

Jennifer Farnham Millan (1998) and husband, Steven, welcomed a baby girl on June 2, 2014.

Jennifer Renda Miller (1998) and husband, Brett, welcomed a baby girl, Brianna Francesca, on May 25, 2013.

Jennifer Farnham Millan (1998) and husband, Steven, welcomed a baby girl on June 2, 2014.

Heather Hulse (M.A. 1998) and David Krzyna were married on September 28, 2013.

Katherine Oehler (M.A. 1999) and Marc Stefanelli were married on September 14, 2013.

Joseph Lipinski (2002) and Deanne Ayre were married on December 12, 2013.

Brian Nardella (2002) and Lynne Ziegelbauer were married on October 12, 2013.


Kimberly Wrazien (2002) and Justin Leff were married on September 7, 2013.

Sarah Brady Parker (2003) and husband, Stefan, welcomed a baby girl, Keira Rose, on August 12, 2013.

Emily Huber Stefanac (2003) and husband, Nicholas, welcomed a baby boy on February 18, 2014.


Laura D’Achille (M.S.W. 2005) and Jon Ward were married on October 12, 2013.

Tina Keuhner Falbo (M.S. 2005, M.S. 2008) and husband David welcomed a baby girl on August 31, 2013.

Anthony R. Favata (2005) earned a commission as a national bank examiner.

Ellen Conway Foley (2005) and husband, Matthew, welcomed a baby boy on April 24, 2014.

Charles Kivlen (2005) and Theresa Dunlap (2006) were married on June 28, 2014.

Jay D. Miller (2005, M.S.W. 2011) and Molly Kathleen Sharp are engaged to be married on October 10, 2015.

Devin Demkovich O’Donnell (2005) and husband, Paul, welcomed a baby girl on April 13, 2014.

Stefanie Kashuba Pellegrino (2005) and husband, Carmine, welcomed a baby girl on April 12, 2014.


Janel Damiani Semanision (2005) and husband, Matthew, welcomed a baby boy on November 27, 2013.

Tomlynn Fallon Biondo (2006) and husband, Patrick, welcomed a baby girl on April 23, 2014.
Joseph Castaldo (M.S.W. 2006) and wife, Erica, welcomed a baby boy on October 19, 2013.

Jennifer Janesko Collinsworth (2006) and husband, Jason, welcomed a baby boy on December 9, 2013.

Brian Costanzo (2006) earned a promotion to associate vice president of enrollment at Lackawanna College.

Elizabeth Dittrick (2006) and Christopher Maurello were married on July 4, 2013.

Kelley Naughton Dussinger (2006) and husband, David, welcomed a baby boy on April 19, 2014.

Patrick Fiore (2006) and Kristy Frick were married on October 18, 2013.

Amanda Badach Harte (2006) and husband Joseph welcomed a baby girl on May 12, 2014.

Anthony Immediato (2006, M.B.A. 2008) and Melissa Uhl were married on December 6, 2013.

Carena Legos Kelly (M.S. 2006) and husband, Jeffrey, welcomed a baby girl on September 28, 2013.


Amy Sepkowski (2006) and Nicholas Marino were married on June 21, 2014.


Lyndsay Bio (2007, M.S. 2009) and Nicholas Paone were married on July 4, 2014.

Lori Battle Bonafede (2007, M.S. 2010) and husband, Jade, welcomed a baby girl on December 6, 2013.

Rachel Dare (2007) and Michael Evancavich were married on September 28, 2013.

Elizabeth Zaydon Dessoye (2007) and husband, Michael, welcomed a baby girl on April 27, 2014.

Sarah Beadle Edwards (2007) and husband, Jason, welcomed a baby girl on February 24, 2014.

Christopher Maley (M.A. 2007) and Rebecca Gohike were married on November 3, 2013.

Emily McCormick (2007) and Nicholas Cali were married on August 3, 2013.

Stephanie Murphy Monahan (2007) and husband, John, welcomed a baby girl on February 25, 2014.

Amanda Mullin (2007) and Tyler Albee were married on December 21, 2013.

Erin Francis Rossi (M.S. 2007) and husband, Roger, welcomed a baby boy on January 3, 2014.

Yasmine Shaffie (2007) and Kevin Freedman were married on September 7, 2013.

Jessica Schield Trescavage (2007) and husband, Jamie, welcomed a baby boy on January 24, 2014.

Jessica Wesley (2007, M.S.W. 2012) and Todd Ferretti (M.S. 2010) were married on November 9, 2013.

Gretchen Wydeen (2007) and Roy Finney were married on August 16, 2014.

Brittany Bisel (M.S.W. 2008) and Nicholas Elko were married on October 19, 2013.

Victoria Borel (2008) and Kevin McHale were married on May 29, 2014.

Jessica Klim (2008) and husband, Joseph, welcomed a baby girl on May 1, 2014.

Emily Konopka (2009) and John Isenberg were married on June 29, 2013.

Erin LaCo Kozlowski (2009) and husband Michael welcomed a baby girl on May 1, 2014.

Jodi Balch Kresse (2009) and husband Joseph welcomed a baby girl on November 17, 2013.

Valerie Ryden (2008) and Kevin Jones were married on November 8, 2013.

Stefanie Waligorski (M.S.W. 2008) and Charles Adzema were married on June 8, 2013.

Alyssa Berardelli (2009) and Jeffery Scagliott were married on June 21, 2014.

Tanya DeMarco Bray (2009) and husband, Brian, welcomed a baby girl on April 20, 2014.

Shauna Carr (2009) and Chris Lawrence were married on July 27, 2013.

Michael Dessoye (2009) and wife, Elizabeth, welcomed a baby girl on April 27, 2014.

Heather Fitch (2009) and William Clark were married on October 5, 2013.

Jena Garavuso (2009, M.A. 2012) and Edward Goralewski were married on July 5, 2013.

Jessica Klim (2009) and Jason Knowles were married on June 28, 2014.

Stephanie Brennan (2008) and husband, Nick, welcomed a baby boy on February 14, 2014.

Stefanie Waligorski (M.A. 2008) and husband, Jeffrey, welcomed a baby girl on May 29, 2014.

Jacquelyn Preate (M.A. 2009, Ed.S. 2010) and Steven Marshalek were married on June 21, 2013.
Elizabeth Raines (2009, M.S. 2013) and Joshua Kuhar were married on October 5, 2013.

Lindsay Rupp Swingle (2009) and husband, Joshua, welcomed a baby girl on September 15, 2013.


Elizabeth Yale (M.A. 2009) and Daniel Babskie were married on June 14, 2013.

2010s 2010s 2010s 2010s

Daniel Babskie (M.A. 2010) and Elizabeth Yale were married on June 14, 2013.

Amanda Beck (2010, M.S. 2011) and Robert Fidiam were married on August 16, 2014.

Maria Caggiano (M.S. 2010) and Michael Dressler were married on April 13, 2013.

Jessica Carrion (M.A. 2010) and Stephen Wallo were married on April 28, 2013.

Kimberly Ann Fetter (2010) has been appointed assistant superintendent of professional personnel for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown, effective July 1, 2014.

Jessica Gatto (2010) and Matthew Nails were married on October 11, 2013.

Shannon Gillen (2010) and Steven Warner were married on May 31, 2014.

Samantha Gliniecki (2010) and Joseph Bilyo were married on July 12, 2014.


Kathryn Jones (2010) and Christopher Allard were married on June 29, 2013.

Stacey Schield Moore (2010) and husband, Tyler, welcomed a baby girl on June 16, 2014.

Jessica Pehanic (2010, M.S. 2014) and Mark Heise were married on June 28, 2014.

Kasey Phillips (M.S. 2010) and Michael Gribble were married on October 28, 2014.

Elizabeth Shellenberger (M.A. 2010) and Garrett Collins were married on July 6, 2013.


Leanna Nastase Tabatabaie (M.S. 2010) and husband, Jahan, welcomed a baby girl on September 5, 2013.

Alicia Washko (2010, M.S. 2012) and Tyler Waters were married on June 29, 2013.

Michelle Adams (2011) and Matthew Wills (2012) were married on June 14, 2014.

Alexis Boyle (2011) graduated from Caldwell College with her master’s degree in art therapy in May 2014.

Stephanie Conforti (2011) and Robert Welnoski were married on October 12, 2013.

Beth Ann Dallazia (2011) and Scott Duncan Simpson are engaged to be married on September 20, 2014.

Ashley DeRosa (2011) and Thaddeus Naglak were married on August 24, 2013.

Kayleigh Dzik (M.A. 2011) and Mark Trudnak are engaged to marry on September 14, 2014.

Paula Edwards (2011) and Justin Bechaver were married on September 14, 2013.

Sarah Hynds (M.S.W 2011) and William Bainbridge were married on May 4, 2013.

Tia Martini (M.B.A. 2011) and Kevin Spangenberg were married on September 13, 2013.

Aislinn McNulty (2011, M.S. 2012) and Dean Silvon were married on September 21, 2013.

Briann Pirritano (2011) and Anthony Siciliano were married in May 2014.

Justine Francis (M.A. 2012) and Nicholas Andrews were married on June 15, 2013.

Jeffrey Heller (M.A.T. 2012) and Megan McHale were married on June 8, 2013.

Stephanie Lavelle (2012) and Christopher Shivock were married on May 4, 2013. (Pictured at right)

Gina Elizabeth Lispi (2012) and Michael Murray are engaged to be married on September 20, 2014.

Kristen Cantarella (2012) and Nick Katchur were married on July 1, 2014.

Chris Davis (2012) and wife, Margaret, welcomed a baby boy on June 4, 2014.

Megan Dickman (M.S.W. 2012) and Michael Boettcher were married on November 9, 2013.

Justine Didizian (2012) and John Aber were married on September 14, 2013.

Maria Fiorillo (2012) and Corey Carr were married on November 2, 2013.

Kelley Gilmartin (2012) and Albert McConnell were married on November 9, 2013.

Stefanie Evanko (M.S. 2013) and Ryan Smith were married on May 3, 2014.

Justine Didizian (2012) and John Aber were married on September 14, 2013.

Stefanie Evanko (M.S. 2013) and Ryan Smith were married on January 4, 2014.

Kris Davis (2012) and wife, Margaret, welcomed a baby boy on June 4, 2014.

Megan Dickman (M.S.W. 2012) and Michael Boettcher were married on November 9, 2013.

Justine Didizian (2012) and John Aber were married on September 14, 2013.

Maria Fiorillo (2012) and Corey Carr were married on November 2, 2013.

Kelley Gilmartin (2012) and Albert McConnell were married on November 9, 2013.

Jeffrey Heller (M.A.T. 2012) and Megan McHale were married on June 8, 2013.

Stephanie Lavelle (2012) and Christopher Shivock were married on May 4, 2013. (Pictured at right)

Gina Elizabeth Lispi (2012) and Michael Murray are engaged to be married on September 20, 2014.

Kristen Cucura Maritato (2012, M.S. 2013) and husband, Michael, welcomed a baby girl, Misha, on October 26, 2013.

Gerald Osborne (2012) and Autumn Bochancow were married on July 25, 2014.

Laura Quintiliani (2012) and John Kaminski are engaged to marry on December 27, 2014.

Stefanie Evanko (M.S. 2013) and Ryan Smith were married on January 4, 2014.

Ashley Garbarino (M.S.W. 2013) and Michael Belfanti were married on May 3, 2014.

Alyssa Homschek (M.A. 2013) and William Heitzenroder were married on July 20, 2013.

JoAnne Jakubowski (M.H.S.A. 2013) and Richard Rossi were married on November 2, 2013.
Send us your updated info for the next issue by December 31, 2014, to classnotes@marywood.edu. Photos are welcome. For digital, please provide high resolution images that are 3 inches by 5 inches at 300 resolution. Images that are smaller than these dimensions might not be used.

Marissa Ragnacci Janesko (2013) and husband, Ryan, welcomed a baby girl on May 25, 2014.

Nicole Macedonio (2013) and Bradley Higgins were married on August 17, 2013.

Kimberly Pham (M.S. 2013) and Dominic Serine are engaged to marry on May 30, 2015.

Anna Rennekamp (2013) and Edward Howel were married on December 1, 2013.

Kari Statler (M.A. 2013) and Eric Benton were married on September 14, 2013.

Lauren Thorne (2013) and Justin Roote (2013) were married on December 29, 2013.

Lisa Verbickas (2013) and Jay Sobotka were married on August 14, 2013.

Torey Mengoni (2014) was awarded the Sister Davida Kildea Medal for Excellence in Voice at Marywood University’s 2014 commencement ceremony.

WHERE IS THIS?

This is our featured photo from somewhere on Marywood’s campus. If you know where it is, please send your guess to MarywoodMag@marywood.edu. The first five people to guess correctly will receive a gift from the Marywood Alumni Association. Because of the overwhelming response, only off-campus individuals are eligible to participate.

Last issue’s photo:
The Suraci Gallery in the Shields Center for Visual Arts, which houses Marywood’s permanent collection. Those who guessed correctly include:

Patricia Mayle, Parent of Brielle Mayle ’14
Amy Wierbowski ’04 (M.F.A. 2007)
Angela M. Coco, Sister of Samantha Coco ’14
Corrie Grant (M.F.A. 2011)
Amy Worman Scott ’98

The winners for whom we have mailing addresses will receive a special gift from the Alumni Office.
The Marywood University Community is saddened to report the deaths of several IHM Sisters, retired trustees, faculty, and staff members, who passed away since our last publication. These individuals served the Marywood community with dedication and distinction; please remember each of them and their families in your prayers.

Sister M. Francella Shaughnessy, IHM died on January 14 at Our Lady of Peace Residence. Over a period of many years, Sister Francella served at Marywood Seminary and at Marywood College and University. She was a speech therapist at Marywood from 1974 to 1978; tutoring coordinator from 1986 to 1991; academic advisor from 1991 to 1999; and an advisor to disabled students from 1999 to 2001.

Sister Teresa M. O’Malley, IHM died on February 27, 2013, at Our Lady of Peace Residence. Sister Teresa served at Marywood as instructor in business education from 1979 to 1980; assistant director of affirmative action personnel from 1980 to 1982; supervisor of the work study program from 1982 to 1986; coordinator of graduate admissions from 1986 to 1990; graduate recruitment and communications office from 1990 to 1995; and in technical processing in the library from 1995 to 2001.

Sister Michaeline Macedonio, IHM died on April 8. Sister Michaeline served on the Marywood faculty as assistant professor in the Human Ecology Department from 1974 to 1997, and she was an academic adviser and residence hall mentor from 1997 to 2006.

Patrick A. Fricchione, Sr., former Marywood Trustee, and father of Patrick A. Fricchione, Jr. (former trustee) and uncle of Dr. Patrick J. Fricchione (current trustee), died on March 7. Mr. Fricchione was an exceptional person and a wonderful member of our Marywood University community. He served nine years as a member of the Marywood University Board of Trustees and was awarded the Presidential Medal. Because of his generosity and that of his family, the Fricchione Day Care Center was established at Marywood in 1991.

Regina (Jean) A. Langan, 92, retired Marywood business faculty member, died on March 19. She joined the faculty at Marywood in 1958 and was a distinguished teacher and esteemed mentor for 27 years, until her retirement in 1986. During her tenure, she also served as Dean of Students, the first lay person in the history of Marywood to serve in that capacity. In 1978, she was inducted into the Order Cor Mariae—Pro Fide et Cultura for distinguished vicennial service.

Dr. Ann Marie Greco, a retired faculty member and administrator, who served from 1960-1993, passed away on December 23, 2013. During her tenure as a member of Marywood’s faculty, she taught in both the undergraduate college and graduate school of arts and sciences. Dr. Greco was appointed as Marywood’s first Director of Placement in 1961, and, in 1968, was named as Acting Academic Dean of Undergraduate Admissions. During her tenure, she also served as an Assistant Director of Student Teaching and held membership on numerous committees. Before her retirement, Dr. Greco was an Associate Professor of Public Administration.

John C. Osmun, Jr., retired Director of Food Services, who served Marywood from 1959-1989, passed away on December 27, 2013.

Eileen T. Pesavento, retired staff member of the Book Store, who worked at Marywood for more than 18 years, passed away on June 13, 2014.

Judy Lloyd, who retired as secretary of the English Department in 1999, passed away on December 16, 2013.
Learning That Never Ends: Qualities of a Lifelong Learner
Mary Homer Dunwoody ’66 (Co-authored with Margie Pearse)
(R&L EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 20, 2013)

Teachers understand the values and rewards that come from acquiring a thirst for knowledge; creating lifelong learners is, ideally, what they desire for all students. Wanting children to see learning as a valuable tool is easy, but knowing how to instill that love is a different story. That story is presented here, in easy-to-understand text and ideas, to guide students through the concepts of lifelong learning. Learning That Never Ends demystifies the concept of lifelong learning in a way that makes it easy and accessible for all. This work literally levels the playing field for any and all students to find success in life. Every idea, every tool provided comes from fifteen years of research and experimentation across socioeconomic levels and subject areas from elementary to college, in hundreds of classrooms. With the ideas from this book, students can be empowered with the qualities of a lifelong learner. Marywood alumna and co-author of the book, Mary Homer Dunwoody ’66, has spent more than 35 years in education. Her experience spans the scope from classroom teacher to principal to director of secondary teaching and learning. She has developed professional learning communities with colleagues and facilitated professional development sessions across grade levels and content areas. Currently an independent educational consultant, she mentors teachers and administrators to develop effective techniques that optimize their professional practice. A lifelong learner, Mary continues to explore the possibilities of touching the minds and tapping the potential in every student. With a deep belief in the core desire within each of us to continue to grow and blossom, her goal for this book is to provide essential tools for the tool bag that educators pack daily as they prepare to meet their students. The book can be purchased from the publisher at https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781475805307 or from various online booksellers. Contact the author at mdunwoody10@gmail.com with questions and ideas.

That’s Not a Beagle: A story of attributes
M.W. Penn (Marianne Waering Prokop ’66)
(MATHWORD PRESS, 2013)

What makes a beagle a beagle? Begin to teach attributes, data collection, and data distribution with this whimsical story of a lost beagle and an alien determined to find a little boy’s pet. Marywood alumna and author M.W. Penn has been busy with this recent publication, which features a glossary and activities by Adam Goldberg, Ed. D., and addresses the mathematics Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for measurable attributes and collecting/representing data in grades K through 3. Additionally, she recently published A Comprehensive Mathematics Dictionary for Grades K-6 Based on the CCSS. M.W. Penn has modeled the CCSS on fractions at the New York Ten County math conference and at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual conference. During the past year, the author and her work also have been featured at the Highlights booth on the floor of the International Reading Association conference in New Orleans. Her recent young adult novel, The Pèlerin of the Orb: A Medieval Tale of Malice, Mysticism and Mathematics, won first prize in the Connecticut Press Club Communications Contest as the best young adult novel by a Connecticut author and moved on to the national competition. Visit the author’s website at www.mwpenn.com; the book can be purchased from the publisher at http://mathwordpress.com/books or from various online booksellers.

Starting with Science: Strategies for Introducing Young Children to Inquiry
Marcia Talhelm Edson ’70
(Stenhouse Publishers, 2013)

Young children arrive at school with unrestrained curiosity and wonder about the world. A fact-based, hands-on activity approach to teaching science, however, is not enough to help them deepen their scientific thinking or discoveries. In Starting with Science: Strategies for Introducing
If you are a Marywood graduate with a new work—book, music, film, video, art—that has recently been published, produced, performed, or exhibited, let us know! Write to “Seen & Heard,” Marywood Magazine, Marywood University, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509, or MarywoodMag@marywood.edu (subject line: “Seen & Heard”). Because of the overwhelming popularity of this section, it may take a few issues for your submission to appear in print.

Young Children to Inquiry, Marcia Talhelm Edson '70 explores the big ideas surrounding inquiry-based science; she helps teachers thoughtfully plan for and implement a conceptual approach to teaching and learning science so students can engage in observation, questioning, predictions, collaboration, data collection, and a deeper understanding of topics important to their lives. A native of Binghamton, NY, Marcia is a clinical assistant professor in the School of Education at Boston University. She focuses on inquiry-based science in early childhood education and has taught preschool, elementary, undergraduate, and graduate students. She believes that teachers must also be lifelong learners and states, “There are so many elements that are part of teaching, and research is continually providing information about how children think, how to refine instruction and assessment, how to support the social and emotional needs of children, how to engage productively with parents, and how to deal with changing social issues. Teachers need to have time to participate in well-planned, comprehensive professional development opportunities that will expand their knowledge base, fuel their curiosity, and give them a chance to collaborate and share ideas and questions with colleagues.” The book can be purchased at the publisher’s website. www.stenhouse.com/html/starting-with-science.htm.

411: Customer Service Chronicles, Book One
Ellyn Ramich ’98
(Self-published, September 15, 2010)

Ellyn Ramich ’98 chose to laugh her way through more than eight years of one of the most high stress jobs anyone can imagine—a telephone directory assistance operator. Then, with her job being shipped overseas, and the final insult of being laid off, Ellyn chose to laugh in the face of adversity yet again. This book is the result, and now you can laugh along with her. The independent author is in the process of putting together stories for her second book of funny customer service stories. She encourages all who have such a story to please send her a message on her Facebook fan page for the book, facebook.com/411byEllynRamich. If Ellyn chooses your story for her next book, she will send you a free signed copy of 411. You can also follow her on Twitter @ERamich411. The book can be purchased from various online booksellers.

Hanging Like Hope on the Equinox
Donna Pucciani, Ph.D. ’70
(VIRTUAL ARTISTS COLLECTIVE, 2013)

In her fifth collection of poems, Hanging Like Hope on the Equinox, Donna Pucciani ’70 explores the strength and fragility of life and moves through journeys both geographic and spiritual. With the power of strong personal voice, she details seasonal images which convey the harshness of winter and the promise of spring’s resurrection. The reader becomes traveler, through illness, surgery, aging, and dying, from small towns in the north of Spain to the Ferris wheel at Chicago’s Navy Pier. The poet is fearless in her juxtaposition of love and grief, witnessing the human spirit in relentless confrontation with adversity. In the final poem, the graces of the present moment emerge in “little fireflies of dreams... a letter from an old friend... meteors with their long hair flying.” The writer leaves us “hanging like hope on the equinox,” making peace with the inevitable change of seasons, seeing a vision of a world half-lit, half-dark, and choosing the light. You can find her work on her blog, at donnapuccianipoet.wordpress.com, which features weekly excerpts of her published poetry. Donna’s work has been published on four continents and translated into Chinese, Japanese, and Italian. Her poems have recently appeared in America, Journal of the American Medical Association, Christianity and Literature, Atlanta Review, Stand, Poetry East, and others. Additionally, Donna just received her fifth nomination for the prestigious Pushcart Prize. She currently serves as Vice-President of the Poets’ Club of Chicago. For ordering information, visit the publisher’s website, http://vacpoetry.org/hanging-like-hope-on-the-equinox/ or purchase from various online booksellers.
A Bird’s Eye View of the Learning Commons

As construction continues to progress on the Learning Commons, the innovative use of drone aerial photography offers a bird’s eye view of the building site, the surrounding campus, and the beautiful vista of Northeast Pennsylvania. (Photo courtesy of Lee J. DeAngelis, M.B.A. ’05, accessaerial.com)