President’s Report to the Community

President Tom Foley
March 21, 2014

There are three parts to this President’s Report to the Community:

1. An Introduction
2. A Baker’s Dozen of Highlights
3. An Update that Tracks the Strategic Plan

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

It would be an understatement to say that this was an exciting quarter at the College. Let me focus these opening words on several recent opportunities to share the message of Mount Aloysius nationally, internationally and in our own backyard.

1. White House Scorecard – I had the opportunity to submit recommendations on the new U.S. Department of Education approach to measuring success in higher education. In testimony that was published on the Department of Education website, I suggested four items for their consideration:

   - All students matter—The White House Scorecard (WHS) doesn’t count 70% of the students who go to a school like Mount Aloysius. I appended a basketball diagram drawing an analogy to a box score and how the White House approach would leave out half the players on the average team (an approach I thought the Secretary of Education, who recently starred in the NBA Celebrity All-Star Game, would especially understand). View the diagram here.

   - Real students matter—My comments appended the stories of ten real (but anonymous) Mount Aloysius students who would not be counted in the WHS approach, each of whom has a slightly different but powerful tale to tell. View the Student Profiles here.

   - Degree of Difficulty matters—I also argued that any measurement of outcome/success in higher education needs to include a “degree of difficulty” measure, much as the healthcare industry uses its “health acuity index” so as not to penalize hospitals who deliver care to the most seriously ill. I gave several examples of the items that might be measured in this index. Read the letter here. Read the letter here.

   - Fair solutions matter—I also presented a three-part solution that would make such a national comparison more equitable and in line with the general intent of the White House—which is to encourage schools to pay more attention to the needs of harder to serve students. Read the solutions here.

Also had the chance to present pieces of this testimony at the Conference for Mercy Higher Education (CMHE), at a meeting with Senator Casey and also with several other Washington-based national higher education leaders.
2. **DC meetings with College Presidents** – had the chance to attend three successive gatherings of fellow college Presidents over a five-day period in Washington. At the first, I helped (along with Charlie Lyons from Shelley Communications) present the final report to the other seventeen Mercy College Presidents on “Mercy Messaging for Funders and Policymakers.” This is a project that I chaired on behalf of the CMHE; the results were well received and should lead us in new directions for joint foundation opportunities for Mercy Institutions. Report on “Mercy Messaging”

3. **Abu Dhabi** – I had the chance for a five-day (all expenses paid—thank you Sheik) trip to Abu Dhabi (3 on the ground) as a Presidential observer at the NYU-Abu Dhabi campus. Was one of two special guests on this weekend (the other is Chair of the British-based Alexandria Trust) I was delighted that our experience at Mount Aloysius (particularly with first generation and low-income students) provided some insights into this grand experiment at international education (students come from 103 countries). Participated in two seminars (one on “The Good Life” with an NYU Professor of Philosophy and the other on “Religion and the Supreme Court” a seminar led by NYU President—and former Supreme Court clerk—John Sexton). I was especially delighted that my silver Mount Aloysius badge was prominent all weekend and that the whole experience only caused me to miss three class days on our campus (really two, as we were closed for weather on one of those). The NYU President, my host and a friend of many decades, is considered one of America’s best College Presidents (Time Magazine says he is top ten!!) and I learned from him on this trip as well. Tribune Democrat article on the trip

4. **Lectures at the College** – I also had the opportunity to work on my own academic development and lectured in three different MAC courses this winter in:

   - Professor Asonevich’s *Business Topics: Project Management* class (with Suzanne Campbell, where we focused on identifying decision trees in the ACWC construction process and on developing business plans for possible projects within the ACWC)
   - Professor Sunseri’s “*Advanced Topics in IT Management*” (where I focused on lessons learned in emergency management situations like Katrina and Haiti); and
   - Professor Petrazzi-Woods graduate level required Psychology seminar on “*Career Development*” (where I focused on the career development platforms built at the state Department of Labor and Industry during my time there—and which still operate).

It is always good for me to experience the effort required to operate effectively from that side of the lectern.

These were just four of many opportunities these last three months to share the story of this College of our students, faculty and staff and even on occasion of our Board of Trustees.
Finally, on the message of hope that is central to our Mount Aloysius experience. Recently, I was part of a national conversation among Catholic College Presidents on the impact of Pope Francis, his message and his methods, on our campuses and our students. Some of the other presidents pointed to specific quotations from the Pope, including “shepherds should smell like the sheep” and “our shoes should have dust on them.” The legacy of these lines is that leaders need to be amongst the people if they are truly going to be leading (which has something to do with smelling like sheep!) and that sometimes we need to travel “unpaved” roads to fulfill our missions.

I think those lines have meaning here at Mount Aloysius and have meaning for all who provide leadership here at the College. You are walking the walk as we reach out to many students who have uncertain economic status, to some students who have not yet had chances to shine in the classroom, to mature students who are making their best effort at higher education. Mount Aloysius provides unique opportunities for a diverse array of students and in our own way I think, if we don’t exactly “smell like sheep,” we are, at least, getting “dust on our shoes.”
PART TWO: BAKER’S DOZEN OF HIGHLIGHTS

1. **The ACWC (Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center) is in full swing**—
   Even I am surprised by how much our students are using the place—
   Director of Facilities Kevin Kime emailed one day to let me know that
   every single piece of equipment was in use at 3:15 in the afternoon (about
   80 pieces in the Wellness Center itself). Hosted our first non-MAC
   event (when Penn Cambria took on Somerset in JV and varsity boys basketball games) and our first PIAA Playoff AAAA championship doubleheader. We are grateful to Board Chair Dan Rullo, who suggested the first game to the Somerset AD. Many favorable comments, including these in print! [Article on Somerset Championship]  |  [First Practice in ACWC video]  |  [Sister Eric plays PIG video]

2. **Community Service “rules” at the Mount**—just completed our analysis of community service work by our students for the summer and fall. 579 students performed almost 8,000 hours of community service on 222 projects with 164 different community-partners. The attached report gives more detail on this terrific work, central to our efforts to produce job-ready, technology-ready and community-ready citizens. [Summer & Fall 2013 Community Engagement Report]  |  [New Orleans service article]  |  [Digital Grotto Group service article]  |  [Service Unprecedented article]

3. **“State of the College” is excellent I**—(not my speech but the conclusion!) Hard to believe this was my eighth State of the College (two-a-year) but each one is a great opportunity to bring all our faculty and staff up to speed on major issues, initiatives and events at the College. I used the occasion in January to focus on “planning”—as in the Strategic Plan, the Technology Plan and the Campus Master Plan. The idea is to keep everyone close to the front page on each of these activities, and since not everyone gets to be in the focus groups we hold on these planning initiatives, I did an overall summary and pointed our folks to website locations where they can review our progress. Shared key elements of each with all faculty and staff, with video and PowerPoint highlights in Alumni Hall. Central message was the importance of planning in all our functions at Mount Aloysius. [Spring 2014 State of the College publication]

4. **State of the College is excellent II**—not one but two national evaluators recently confirmed the College’s excellent financial ratings. S&P completed its annual review and affirmed our “A- with a positive outlook” rating. If we continue our trajectory, they would consider moving the rating up to a full A next year. Any college our size would be
delighted with this rating. Similarly, the US Department of Education released its “Financial Responsibility” scores for FY 2012, and we again received the highest possible rating, a 3.0. Mount Aloysius is one of 35 (of 130 rated) PA private institutions of higher education who received the perfect score two successive years. Chronicle article on PA Scores | S&P Report

5. Spring Speakers Series takes off—OIC President Tony Ross spent three days with us, delivered our MLK Lecture on Citizenship and participated in six other events (see 6 below). Tony followed Judge Klementak at Convocation, Terry Wright, aide to the Vice President of the United States on Constitution Day, and a panel of area religious leaders/MAC faculty in the Fall Honors Symposium—each of whom gave interesting and extremely well-received interpretations of our yearlong theme “21st Century Citizenship: The Common Good.” Spring semester speakers include (Dr., Sister, and former) President Mary Ann Dillon who will deliver the eighth annual Moral Choices Lecture on April 8, the Librarian of Congress Dr. James Billington who will deliver a lecture on “Citizenship in the Digital Age” on April 15, Irish Ambassador James Sharkey who will deliver a lecture on “Citizenship from an International Perspective” on April 28. See the poster for the Speaker Series

6. Sister Mary Ann Dillon returns to deliver 8th Annual Moral Choices Lecture—on April 8 at 7:00 in the evening. We will fete SMA (as much as she will allow us)—at a reception and dinner that Evening, beginning at 5:00. Her lecture will track her background in theology (and her Ph.D. thesis on ethics) and apply It to our “21st Century Citizenship: The Common Good” theme this year. This will be SMA’s first official visit back to campus and she will get to see the results of the Campus Master Plan that she envisioned and engineered (along with many members of our Board and staff).

7. One student, one-day-at-a-time—one student who didn’t return on time this semester is Stacey Griffiths, a mother of two young children who excels in our nursing program. But she has stayed on course to graduate on time. Before Christmas, Stacey was badly injured in a car accident (two fractured femurs, shattered lower arm, hip fracture, and head injury) when a driver veered into her lane and was killed (Stacey’s children also suffered minor injuries). When Stacey awoke after surgery, she asked her husband two questions: the first was, “How are the kids?”; her second question was, “Can you get my nursing books out of the car? I need to study.” The Nursing Student Organization (NSO) led by Dr. Patty Meintel took care of Christmas for the Griffiths family, purchasing/wrapping/presenting gifts for the kids, food and sundries for the family, and dedicating our Mount Aloysius 25-foot Christmas tree to Stacey and her family. When
Stacey's husband wheeled her back onto campus for the first time (a week ahead of time) it was to meet in person with her nursing faculty (who have been corresponding with her by email and phone since the accident). Stacey wanted to make sure that she stays on course for graduation. Just another day in the life of Mount Aloysius, and in this case, our dedicated nursing faculty led by Dr. Becky Zukowksi. Article on Stacy’s story

8. **Godspell features Mount Aloysius “miracle student”**—The Johnstown Tribune Democrat ran a heartwarming cover story on Mount Aloysius senior Secondary Education major Tim Michrina and used the word “miracle” to describe his recovery. Tim suffered a stroke, heart attack, then pneumonia (all just before Christmas), spent nine days in a coma and still returned to student teach in late January. The story noted the irony (?) of Tim playing the lead (Jesus) in Godspell here in March directed by Professor Nathan Magee! Tim is a previous winner of MAC’s Got Talent (for his voice and his guitar) and has appeared in at least four productions (that I can personally recall) on our Alumni Hall stage!! Article on Tim

9. **Mount Aloysius Alums put their “gifts, talents and service to others”**—the Altoona Mirror ran a profile on Steve McMullen, ’11 BA, ’13 MBA, a mature student who overcame a serious illness and personal loss before arriving and during his time at the Mount. Steve had a cameo role in graduation last May (he was chosen to bring a Mercy artifact onto the stage at the start of the ceremony), a role he earned by dint of his engagement during his years at Mount Aloysius, particularly on behalf of mature students. The Mirror did a lengthy story on Steve as he works to connect recently incarcerated individuals to the job market and lives out one of the prime tenets of a Mercy education, putting his “gifts and talents to work for the service of others.” Article on Steve

10. **Camels, falcons and higher education**—the Tribune Democrat ran a piece on my five-day (two in the air), all-expenses-paid (by the crown prince—and that’s another story) visit to NYU Abu Dhabi. Was one of two special guests on this weekend (the other is Chair of the British-based Alexandria Trust). I was delighted that our experience at Mount Aloysius (particularly with first-generation and low-income students) provided some insights into this grand experiment at international education (students come from 103 countries). Participated in two seminars (one on the “Good Life” with an NYU Professor of Philosophy and the other on “Religion and the Supreme Court” a seminar led by NYU President—and former Supreme Court clerk—John Sexton). I was especially delighted that my silver Mount Aloysius badge was prominent all weekend and that the whole experience only caused me to miss three days on our campus (for one of which we were actually closed by snow). The
NYU President, who was my host and a friend of many decades, is considered one of America’s best College Presidents (Time Magazine says he is top ten!!) and I learned from him on this trip as well. *Tribune Democrat article on the trip*

11. **Mount Aloysius student-athlete wins rare NCAA honor**—Aaron Patrick ’14 will join 19 other male and female student-athletes (from Ohio State, Notre Dame, Penn, etc.) at the NCAA Final Four in Texas to receive one of twenty NCAA Good Works Awards (covering all of Division I, Division II and Division III).  Aaron was a literal walk-on to the basketball team here at the Mount, has been a role model student-athlete, volunteered on MAC mission trips at home (New Orleans) and abroad (Guyana) and works as a resident hall advisor.  He is a well-known figure on the campus, though a relatively quiet young man.  He was a 3-point specialist for the men’s basketball team and is a fine example of good parenting and Mount Aloysius ideals.  *Article on Aaron*

12. **Mount Aloysius Basketball teams win numerous honors**—both the men’s and women’s basketball teams ushered in the ACWC era with a number of first-time accomplishments.  The men just missed the playoffs, finished with two of top five scorers in the league and produced MAC’s first AMCC “Player of The Year” in basketball, senior standout Shawn Greenfield.  Very unselfish team, and good team chemistry (and GPA).  The women won 12 of their last 14 conference games for their best AMCC finish in 11 years (3rd), boast the AMCC pre-season MVP Lindsy Sammarco (3.7 GPA and first-ever nomination of a Mount basketball player), the likely AMCC “Coach of the Year” (Kristie Kaack), two first-time AMCC all-stars (Sammarco and Bard, another first for the college) and became first MAC basketball team (male or female) to make a championship game (we lost to the 4-time champs) in our 11-year NCAA/AMCC history.  They featured three tall freshmen to go along with two senior standouts, a sophomore sharpshooter and a host of defensive hustlers.  *Article on Lady Mounties Triumph | Article on Mounties heading to semis | Article from AMCC website | Article on Ladies win over PSUA | Article on Men’s win over PSUA*

13. **Martin Luther King Day focus on Citizenship**—went extremely well, despite heavy snowstorm interruptions.  Our main speaker was Anthony L. Ross, National President of OIC America, a job-training and education organization founded by the Reverend Leon Sullivan 50 years ago.  It operates in 20 states and reaches 2.5 million citizens each year.  Tony worked with me at the United Way of PA when I served as President there.  He
delivered an excellent lecture to a full Alumni Hall on "Dr. King and 21st Century Citizenship," held "chew and chats" with five other classes/clubs (Black Students Union, Community Service clubs, Political Action Club, etc.), completed interviews with The Belltower, the Digital Grotto (one-hour filmed DG Conversation with a student moderating the discussion) and the Mainliner, and engaged with numerous faculty and staff at several public events. We kept him busy and appreciated his approach to our year-long theme on citizenship. Highlight Video of Tony Ross | Full Video of Tony Ross | Tony Ross poster

14. Digital Grotto continues to produce—with now over 300 videos in stock, most of them in the two-minute variety (thus matching Millenials preferred length). The Digital Grotto team continues to produce excellent work. I attach a two-minute version of a video they completed for Admission purposes. Remarkably, there was no script, which is a credit to both the producers and to our students. Students spoke clearly about the value of an education from Mount Aloysius College. The grotto turned it into a first-class piece. Kudos to Sam Wagner and team. Clip of Admissions Video | Mountie Madness Video

15. Librarian of Congress will lecture at Mount Aloysius—Dr. James Billington is a Rhodes Scholar, former tenured prof at Harvard and Princeton, frequent author, lecturer and essayist, longtime director of the Woodrow Wilson Center and for the last 14 years the nation’s chief librarian. Most importantly, he is the first generation in his family to go to College (from a PA public school near Philly), and understands well our mission here. Michele and I were his guests a year ago on a trip to present our monograph on civil discourse for permanent inclusion in the Library's collection, and this visit results from that opportunity. On our way out of his office, Michele asked him if he would visit us at the College. He responded that his only rule—at 84 years of age—is that he “doesn’t go anywhere he has already been.” We stayed in touch and are delighted he will be delivering one of two spring honors lectures (at a location where he has never been!!). Dr. Billington's Bio | CSPAN interview with Dr. Billington

PART THREE: UPDATE BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY

This section of my report is an update on progress against the Strategic Plan. It is divided into the five themes that emerged in our 2013-15 Strategic Plan, and includes recent activity on action steps in each area. The full Strategic Plan and its report card are on the College website.

**Theme I—Academic Futures: Align academic offerings to emerging fields and continue to adapt in ways that ensure access to a college education, and graduation, for a broad cross-section of students.**

This section will focus on two areas of “academic futures”: some academic highlights linked to Strategic Plan and a review of recent academic events, co-curricular activities, and presentations/publications by our faculty.
Academic Futures and Highlights

This quarterly report will focus on initiatives in four academic and quasi-academic areas:

1. a “new” look at some traditional MAC programs of study
2. broadened exposure to liberal arts/critical thinking
3. continuing education for faculty
4. integrating “student success” from admissions to graduation to employment

1. **THE STRATEGIC PLAN CALLS FOR A NEW LOOK AT SOME OLD PROGRAMS HERE AT THE MOUNT, AND THAT “LOOK” IS WELL UNDERWAY IN AT LEAST FOUR AREAS:**

**Growing Nursing at the Mount:** sustaining and even expanding capacity within the Nursing Division is key goal in the Strategic Plan. A collaborative effort between Nursing, Enrollment Management, and Communications has produced a series of action steps linked below. Some good results to date are profiled in the enrollment report below. [See Enrollment chart here](#) | [Read the RNBSN Recruitment Plan](#)

**New Directions in MAC Business Curriculum:** the Strategic Plan called for changes in the MBA, Business and IT offerings of the Business and Information Technology Departments to best align those programs with market demand and student need. To date:

- The *Business Analyst* concentration was added as an option in the Bachelor of Science Information Technology major. This concentration responds to the growing need for business and systems analysis in government and industry.

- A *Digital Forensic Investigation* concentration will be available to Criminology, Forensic Accounting, and Information Technology majors. This concentration responds to the growing need for qualified analysts in law enforcement agencies at all levels of government.

- The Business Department, in collaboration with MAC Athletic Department and the Communications Department, will be offering two *special topic courses* in Fall 2014 - *Sport Event and Facility Management* and *Introduction to Communication and New Media*. In collaboration with the Office of Graduate and Continuing Education, a proposal has been made to *revise the MBA curriculum* by realigning the concentrations to 9 credits, thus allowing more options for free electives. The changes will also help to roster the classes more consistently.
Health Care Management Concentration: In the Health Studies and Sciences Division, a proposal for a 2+2 program in Health Care Management to replace Health Care Administration has been initiated. It is intended to give persons in health care, including graduates of our 2-year Health Studies associates programs, exposure to management issues as they earn a bachelor’s degree and prepare to assume supervisory positions with their agencies.

Occupational Therapy at the Mount: A proposal to reinstitute both the associate degree level Occupational Therapy Assistant program and the master degree level Occupational Therapy program is under serious consideration, led by VP Frank Crouse and Dr. Paul Farcus.

2. THE STRATEGIC PLAN ALSO CALLS FOR “BROADENING STUDENTS’ EXPOSURE TO THE LIBERAL ARTS EXPERIENCE IN WAYS THAT COMPLEMENT AND AUGMENT PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND STRENGTHENS THE GLOBAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMPETENCIES OF OUR STUDENTS.” TO THAT END, LET ME DESCRIBE FOUR RECENT INITIATIVES:

Common Reader Initiative: overseen by a faculty committee from all three divisions at the college. The committee read and discussed 10-12 different novels and nonfiction works, ranging from Dave Eggers’ What is the What to Khaled Hosseini’s And the Mountains Echoed. Based on readings, discussions, and input from faculty during the spring workshop, the Faculty Common Reader Committee (led by Dr. Jones) proposed, and the Speakers’ Series Committee (led by yours truly), agreed that Barbara Kingsolver’s Flight Behavior be used for one more academic year. This book offers many themes that are relevant to our students and could be adapted to a new campus theme for next year.

New First Year “Connections I” course review: Responses from faculty teaching the Freshman Seminar (Connections I) indicate that the book was well-received by most freshmen and led to fruitful discussions in class. During the January faculty workshop, three instructors (Dr. Ryan Costanzo, Dr. Jess Jost-Costanzo, and Ms. Shamim Rajpar) for the freshman year seminar led a session on the common read and the new curriculum for Connections. 466 freshmen took Connections I in the fall, and all of them completed a minimum of six community service hours and attended a minimum of four convocations.

Connections II: Students with sophomore standing are now taking Connections II (LA 201) which focuses on reading works from the Western canon (A World of Ideas: Essential Readings for College Writers) and doing expository writing in response to prompts based on the readings. Students in LA 201 have a requirement for attendance at four convocations. Material similar to what was in the previous Cultural Literacy Seminar is now covered in Connections I and II.

Connections III: LA 301 is designed for baccalaureate students and prepares them for their Senior Capstone. We have scheduled several sections for the fall 2014. In this course, students are introduced to the capstone rubric; their knowledge of their disciplinary style manual is reinforced; and they hone their skills in critical reading and writing as they begin
initial research for their capstone project. Connections III students return to a consideration of Mercy values and service in their third year, completing a minimum of six more hours of community service.

3. THE STRATEGIC PLAN ALSO CALLS FOR EFFORTS TO BROADEN KNOWLEDGE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ON-GOING EDUCATION FOR OUR OWN FACULTY. TO THAT END,

Faculty convened for the **January Faculty and Staff Development** on January 9-10, and plenary sessions on the first day covered:

- Critical Thinking within Disciplines
- Entering the Conversation: Social/Ethical Considerations for Teaching
- Reflections on the Connections Course and the Common Reader.

The second day included a joint session with staff devoted to

- an introduction to the new College website - [www.Mountaloy.edu](http://www.Mountaloy.edu)
- President’s “State of the College” address
- breakout sessions in the afternoon for faculty and staff that covered:
  - Web Site Development for Beginners
  - Inject some Tech!: Overview of Technology Projects
  - Collaborative Learning across Disciplines: Nursing and Theatre
  - Faculty Scholarship: Recent Research
  - Copyleft or Copyright?: Fair Use of Media in the Digital Age and
  - Issues of Poverty and Class in Impacting Academic Achievement.

Participation was excellent and energy levels high. [View some photos from the day](#).

Besides the chance to lecture in Abu Dhabi, I also had the opportunity to work on my own academic development and lectured in three different MAC courses this winter:

- in Professor Asonovich’s *Business Topics: Project Management* class (with Suzanne Campbell, where we focused on identifying decision trees in the ACWC construction process and on developing business plans for possible projects within the ACWC);
- in Professor Sunseri’s *Advanced Topics in IT Management* (where I focused on lessons learned in emergency management situations like Katrina and Haiti).
- in Professor Petrazzi-Woods graduate level required Psychology seminar on “Career Development” (where I focused on the career development platforms built at the state Department of Labor and Industry during my time there—and which still operate).

4. Finally on this first theme, the Strategic Plan also calls for “defining, supporting and integrating student success from admission to graduation to employment.” Four initiatives to date in this area include:

   **Summer Health Camp**: Through funding from the Buhl Foundation (a grant for which former BOT member Judge Smith was instrumental), we are piloting a **Health Exploration Camp** this summer. The 3-day camp will expose rising high school seniors to health studies
programs at Mount Aloysius. 20 students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning experiences with faculty in each of our health studies programs, including nursing. These students will also meet with members of the Student Success & Advising Office as well as Career Development, so that the students are given the opportunity to have individual sessions regarding goal setting and class planning. We have begun receiving applications, and Heather Low, Director of Student Success & Advising, is visiting local schools to talk to students about this experience.

**Library and Learning Commons Workshops:** offered the following Teaching and Learning Workshop for Faculty and Staff for the Spring 2014 semester. On February 14, Professors Kim Asonevich and Chris Mingyar (Business and IT) presented on “The Role of Active Learning and Service Learning in Business Courses.” On February 26, Dr. Barbara Cook (English and Fine Arts) discussed “Strategies for Fostering In-class Discussions with Students.” Dr. Julie Smith (History) will present on March 26 “The Impact of Educational Reforms on Our Students and the Methods of Instruction.” On April 11, Heather Low (Student Success and Academic Advising) will present on “Fostering Student Success through Early Intervention,” and Professor Kierstin Muroski (ASL/English Interpreting) will conclude the series on April 23 with a presentation on “Understanding and Supporting First Generation College Students in the Classroom.”

**Supplemental Instruction:** During the Fall 2013 semester, Supplemental Instruction (SI) was offered through the Learning Commons in seven MAC sections. SI Leaders were supervised by Theresa Spanella, Learning Commons Coordinator, and worked closely with their faculty members in order to plan and execute their sessions. In total, the four Leaders facilitated 95 sessions—a total of 142 hours—that were attended by 81 students.

**Career Development Initiatives:** Beginning this semester, Career Development and Student Success & Advising present together at all Admissions events on campus. They work together to educate parents and prospective students about the important and natural links between academic advising and career development. We now stress to students and their parents that academic success and career development begin with choosing a major that is a good fit for the student. On Accepted Student Day, they will talk with recently accepted students about how career development activities are now part of a student’s initial academic advising session—right up there with choosing a major. We are working on a floor plan that will bring these offices (Student Success & Advising and Career Development) closer together to facilitate this best practice approach for staff and students.
• **Career Development** Advances: in both professionalism and range of service. In the last quarter alone, these action steps took place:

• Retitled office to **Career Development**—emphasizing developmental nature of preparing for careers, and highlighting that career development begins when students first arrive on campus (not a service to deploy right before graduation).

• Set up a ‘Resume Roadshow’ table in Cosgrave during finals week and offered on-the-spot resume critiques. Additionally, assisted students with resume/interview preparation and career coaching advice.

• Created a **Spring 2014 Internship position** in Career Development for a Mount Aloysius Psychology major interested in career counseling. She assists with assessments, career planning documents, presentation planning, and resume-writing preparation.

• Delivered **Resume Workshops** in General Studies, Business, Accounting, Information Technology, Education, ASL/Interpreting, English, Theatre, Criminology, Society & the Law, and Psychology classes.

• Sponsored **Career Planning Workshops** in Connections, Surgical Tech, Medical Assistant, and Psychology classes.

• Collaborated with Residence Life RAs to bring specialty resume/interview workshops to juniors and seniors in residence halls.

• Offered **Career Planning Seminar** to the Mercy Youth Initiative 7-9th graders, with Drama Club and a psychology student as interns who assisted with career development games that made career planning a bit more fun for this age group.

• Delivered Spring **Mock Interview Fair** on February 20, 2014. Student organizations *Enactus* and *Women in Business* worked on interview preparation at this event, and faculty and staff from different departments and offices (and Michele and I) served as interviewers.

• Enhanced the career development of our coordinator, **Kristy Magee**, as she attended the National Career Development Association meeting in Baltimore in February where she focused on classes in, “New Tools for Career Assessment,” “Creating Career Centers,” and “The Use of Social Media in Career Development.”
All of this recent work in career services is light-years ahead of our previous approach—the focus is on internships that lead to jobs, resume generation, interview skills and career education and preparation.

Recent Presentations by Faculty/Staff

Mr. Nathan Magee, Theatre Director, and six Mount Aloysius students, traveled to West Chester University to participate in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival on January 14-19, 2014. Over 1000 college theatre students from all over the region converged on the festival to participate in scholarship auditions, workshops, and theatrical productions. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to work with people outside of central Pennsylvania. The students also had the opportunity to watch eight live plays ranging from classics to new works. The students made the most of their time and had a wonderful experience.

Professor Dr. Merrilee Anderson and Associate Professor Dr. Michael Engle, along with two undergraduate Biology majors, John Galebach (Dec. 2013 graduate) and Chris Arena (junior) published a submission to the American Society of Microbiology online resource Microbe Library. The intent is for sharing in teaching and research, and the research was supported by NSF grant #1226175. The work is available for viewing at: http://www.microbelibrary.org/library/microscopy/3813-impact-of-acid-mine-drainage-amd-

Mount Aloysius College is sponsoring Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) for residents of the Cresson area, and for the students, faculty, and staff of MAC. This year, seniors Alexandra Mezza and Danielle McKnight are serving as site co-coordinators. The project is being overseen by Assistant Professor Mr. Christopher Mingyar.

On February 14 Business Administration faculty members Ms. Kimberly Asonevich and Mr. Christopher Mingyar presented training on campus entitled, “The Role of Active Learning and Service Learning in Business Courses.”

Dr. Patricia Meintel, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and the Nursing Student Organization remained active this quarter and participated in tree decorating and securing gifts for the children of Ms. Stacie Griffiths, a first year nursing student injured seriously in an automobile accident.

Dr. Michael Engle, Associate Professor of Science and Mathematics, will be working with elementary school students on February 1, 2014 at the Hollidaysburg School District Math and Science Saturday (MASS). He will be running a workshop entitled, "See Your Cells". Students will isolate their own cells, stain them, and observe them under a microscope. In addition, several pre-stained slides will be available for students to observe.

Rev. Jack Hoffer, adjunct instructor for the Medical Laboratory Technician program, was the subject of a community member spotlight article in the January 20, 2014 edition of the Altoona Mirror. Rev. Hoffer was recognized for his volunteer service with numerous charitable organizations in the Blair County area.
Dr. Barbara Cook, Associate Professor and Chair for English and Fine Arts, was a judge at the Regional Poetry Out Loud event held in Altoona on February 10th. This is the third year that Michele Foley is the regional coordinator for the event and the first time that Ann Benzel and I weren’t judges!!!

Mr. Anthony L. Ross, President and CEO of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America (OIC), was the featured speaker for College’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Tuesday, January 21. Mr. Ross brought a distinguished record of service and strong links to historic national and international efforts aimed at fostering basic human dignity around the world. I helped facilitate Tony’s appearance, as he used to work for me in one of my previous lives. Ross also participated in five meals with small faculty/student groups and completed a Digital Grotto Conversation with the President of the Black Students Union, Harold Ingram.

Ms. Kim Garman, Assistant Professor of Nursing, attended the Pennsylvania Coalition for Nurse Practitioners in Lancaster, PA in November 2013.

Assistant Professors, Ms. Sharon Kisel and Ms. Margaret Boyce, attended the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Annual Accreditation Forum in November 2013.

Dr. Barbara Cook, Dr. Michael Jones, Dr. Chris Lovett, and Dr. Becky Zukowski, attended the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA in December 2013.

Dr. Barbara Cook, Associate Professor of English, presented a training session on Strategies for Fostering In-Class Discussions with students.

Ms. Regina Barr, Assistant Professor/Associate Degree Department Chair, was selected to participate in the development of the RN Content Mastery Series Standard Setting for Nutrition Assessment in Kansas City. She will receive travel and honorarium for her important work supporting student assessment of learning.

Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education Dr. Sara Rutledge will serve as a Manuscript Reviewer during Spring 2014 for Betwixt and Between: Education for Young Adolescents and the Pennsylvania Teacher Educator.

Associate Academic Dean/Chairperson of Nursing, Dr. Becky Zukowski, was selected following a competitive process to attend the National League for Nursing’s Scholarly Writing Retreat in Atlanta Georgia in November 2013. Following this retreat she submitted an article for publication to Prehospital and Disaster Medicine entitled “The Impact of Adaptive Capacity on Disaster Response and Recovery: Evidence Supporting Core Community Capabilities.”

Ms. Nicole Custer and Ms. Joan Krug, Instructors of Nursing, had an abstract accepted for poster presentation at the ATI Nurse Educator Summit this April in Orlando. The title of their presentation is “The Impact of Faculty-led Supplemental Instruction on Associate Degree Nursing Students.”
The President Elect of the American Physical Society (APS), Malcolm Beasley, has appointed Dr. Juan F Diaz, Jr., Assistant Professor of Science and Mathematics, to the APS Committee on Education for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2016. Dr. Diaz will be serving on the Undergraduate Physics subcommittee.

Ms. Karen Watt, Assistant Professor in the Business and Information Technology Department, attended the Government Technology Pennsylvania Executive Leadership Forum December 3rd and 4th in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

---

**Theme II—The Complete Student Experience:** Promote the campus environment as a vibrant community that engages both residential and commuter students; emphasize holistic personal development as a defining value of student life through commitment to health and fitness and the College values of mercy, justice, hospitality and service; and expand student horizons beyond the campus with the range of services supporting student success.

This section will provide quick summaries in four areas: Social, Leadership, Service, and Intercollegiate Athletics. All of this work is supervised by Dr. Grassadonia.

**Social**

The College, under the leadership of Elaine Grant and Chris Koren continues to offer a wide array of social activities. Some examples since the last Board report:

- Campus Spa Day
- Christmas at the Mount
- December Graduation “Comfortable Cup of Tea” – Tea Cup Presentation
- Ice Cream Social for New Students
- Headphone Disco
- A cappella Group: Ball In the House
- Club Fair
- Musician: Nelly's Echo
- Poetry Workshop & Performance: Odd?Rod
- Haircuts
- Chocolate with a Conscience (Fair Trade)
- Relationship Program with Bob Hall
- Valentine’s Day Dance
- Musician: Jen Grinels
- Mardi Gras Event
- St. Patrick’s Day Event
Leadership

Under the leadership of Dr. Jane and Elaine Grant, we continue to expand opportunities (some of them student generated and led), to promote leadership skills and provide leadership experience. This quarter featured five lecture presentations by world renowned leaders (we show these in Alumni Hall, and the turnout is really quite impressive), three opportunities for students to step up and lead here on campus, and a student-run, year-end leadership awards banquet (which event manages to be both funny and endearing at the same time):

• **Jim Cramer: “Getting Rich Carefully”**—was hosted by our chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success. Cramer is the host of CNBC’s *Mad Money w/ Jim Cramer* and co-host of *Squawk on The Street*. He is the author of several bestselling books. His latest title, *Jim Cramer’s Get Rich Carefully*, was released in January 2014. He is the founder of and chief markets columnist for *The Street, Inc.*, a multimedia financial news organization. He also manages his charitable trust’s real-time portfolio product *Action Alerts PLUS*. He discussed:
  --giving students with college debt a chance
  --making money work for oneself
  --understanding the value of the stock market
  --discovering low-risk vs. high-risk investing.

• **Stephen A. Smith: “Building a Leadership Culture”**—the Black Student Union travelled to the Sankofa conference at Bloomsburg to hear Stephen A. Smith, ESPN radio host and columnist for ESPN.com. Smith talked about:
  --goal setting
  --motivation
  --tough decision making
  --inspiration

• **Blake Mycoskie: The New Social Entrepreneurship**—the National Society of Leadership and Success hosted the Blake Mycoskie lecture. Mycoskie is the Founder and Chief Shoe Giver of TOMS, and the person behind the idea of One for One®, which has turned into a global movement. Since the program began in 2006, TOMS has given more than 10 million pairs of new shoes to children in need, and has helped restore sight to more than 200,000 people in need around the world. Mycoskie’s book, *Start Something That Matters*, which offers his own amazing story of inspiration and the power of incorporating giving into business, is a *New York Times* bestseller. In his presentation, *The New Social Entrepreneurism*, he talked about:
  --following one’s own path to success while making a difference in the world
  --why the TOMS’ One for One® model works
  --incorporating giving into everything
  --how business and philanthropy can go hand-in-hand.
• **2014 Pitt Panther Leadership Summit**—the Summit’s morning program featured ten-minute leadership development presentations by notable Pitt alumni and friends of Pitt in a dynamic format similar to the TEDx model. Summit attendees got the chance to network with fellow students and speakers. MAC students also attended 45-minute interactive workshops presented by student affairs professionals, student and community leaders. Workshop topics focused on the Summit’s five content areas:
  - diversity in leadership
  - leadership identity
  - critical thinking skills
  - leadership theory and communication
  - transferable skills for the workplace

• **Carly Fiorina: From Secretary to CEO**—the National Society of Leadership and Success’ last lecture of the semester featured Carly Fiorina. Fiorina started her career as a secretary, and went on to become the first woman to lead a *Fortune 20* company, serving as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hewlett-Packard from 1999 to 2005. She was named *Fortune*’s Most Powerful Woman in Business for six consecutive years. Fiorina currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Good360, the world’s largest product philanthropy organization.

• **Residence Life, Orientation Leader, and MAAPP Mentor Training** – March 28

• **Student Leadership Banquet** – March 29th

**Service**

Continues to be prolific at Mount Aloysius—opportunities are numerous and diverse. With thanks to Elaine, Chris, Matt and Jane who help students to coordinate so much of this work. Some examples of completed projects from the last quarter

- Christmas at the Mount Children’s
  Area Activities and Decoration by
  Student PSEA and Child Advocacy
- Angel Tree by Campus Activity Board
- Toy Collection for the Children’s Hospital at UPMC by the Student Accounting Society
- Driving Safety-Tips Posters by Residence Hall Association
- Mentoring students at Penn Cambria by the Nursing Student Organization
- Church cleaning & painting by the CRU Organization
- Recycling by the Medical Imaging Club
- Food collection for the Cresson Food Pantry by the CRU Organization
- Collection for the Susan G. Komen foundation by the Cheerleaders
Basket donation to the Patched Together Benefit Concert by the Dance Team
Decorating tree and taking collection for student in car accident by NSO
Martin Luther King Session by the Criminology Club
Electronics Recycling Day by Enactus
MLK Day of Service by the Criminology Club
Recycling by the Criminology Club
Drama workshops to Central Cambria Children by Drama Club
Reading to Children at the Little People’s Place by Drama Club
Created nursing simulations for Nursing Students by Drama Club
School Supply Collection by Student PSEA
Improvisational skits for Career Services by Drama Club
Anti-Stalking Ribbons by Drama Club
Valentine Lollipop sales to support Broadway Cares by Drama Club
Heart Health Ribbons by Drama Club
Blood Pressure Screening by Nursing Student Organization
Blood Drive by Medical Assistant Club
Food Drive by Campus Activity Board
Soles for Souls by Student Athletic Advisory Committee
Project Pencil Box by Comic Book Club and PSEA
Tomorrow’s Hope Visit by Criminology Club
Food Drive by Enactus
VITA tax preparation by Student Accounting Society
Skills Agency Fun Day by the Criminology Club
Recycling by Medical Imaging Club
Collecting Soda Can Tabs for Service Paws of PA by Interpreting Club
Patchet Together Concert ticket sales, concessions, children’s games and concert help by Interpreting club
Good Samaritan Christmas Box project by the Physical Therapy Association
Community Clean up in Altoona by the Physical Therapy Association
Nursing Student Mentorship Program by Nursing Student Organization

Intercollegiate Athletics

MAC student-athletes earned an overall 3.0 GPA for the Fall 2013 semester. Fifty-three student athletes were named to the MAC Dean’s List with 12 student-athletes achieving a perfect 4.0 GPA. For the men, baseball and basketball led the way with a team GPAs of 3.22 and a 3.18 respectively. For the women, volleyball and softball led the way with a team GPA of 3.23 and 3.20 respectively. Some growth and some genuine success this past season, as reflected in these highlights:

Women’s basketball: finished 3rd in AMCC regular season at 130-5, best record and finish in 11 year NCAA history. Two-sport athlete Lindsy Sammarco, senior from Patton, PA., was recognized as the AMCC Pre-Season Player of the Year—a first for the College. They raised funds for a December two game trip to Florida, survived a midseason 7 game slump and the late season loss to knee injury of their best player and still won 12 of last 14 conference games.
• **Men’s Basketball**: just missed playoffs, finished 12-12, good team GPA, completed its first ever season sweep of LaRoche (who beat them out for last playoff spot) and led the AMCC in scoring at 83.8 ppg. Shawn Greenfield, senior from Upper Marlboro, MD., was recognized twice as the AMCC Player of the Week and is sixth in country in scoring. 4.0 GPA-student Dillon Bender is fifth in the conference in scoring. Five seniors finished excellent careers here at the Mount, recording most wins in that time frame in school history.

• **Bowling**: The women’s bowling team opened up its first official season. The team has played in several tournaments against DI, DII and DIII competition. They picked up their first official win against New Jersey City College at the Kutztown University Invitational. We didn’t win many matches but placed two bowlers on the AMCC All Star team and completed a service project as a team. Coach (and full time admissions director) Andy Clouse got a back page mention in the Altoona Mirror for his 300 game in his amateur league play.

• **NCAA “Good Works” Award**: Senior Aaron Patrick, guard, men’s basketball, was named in February to the 2014 NABC All State Good Works Team as one of 10 men’s basketball players recognized nationally. The award in its second year recognizes 20 male and female student athletes for their community service efforts and is sponsored by the NABC, WBAC and Allstate Insurance. Honorees from schools like Ohio State and Notre Dame will join Aaron in Dallas at the Final Four.

• **AMCC All Conference awards** were given out in December of 2013. Here is a list of winners from our fall teams:
  
  --Dylan Link, sophomore from Ebensburg, PA—1st team men’s golf
  --Zach Morgan, sophomore from Ebensburg, PA—3rd team men’s golf
  --Patrick Chea, sophomore from Central Accra, Ghana—2nd team men’s soccer
  --Winston Crozier, freshman from Mississauga, ON—2nd team men’s soccer
  --Xavier Cordona, sophomore from Woodbury, CT—3rd team men’s soccer
  --Olivia Woodley, freshman from Patton, PA—2nd team women’s soccer
  --Brittany Johnson, sophomore from Brockway, PA—1st team women’s singles tennis
  --Brittany Johnson, sophomore from Brockway, PA—2nd team women’s doubles tennis
  --Loreal Housler, sophomore from St. Mary’s, PA—1st team women’s singles tennis
  --Cheyenne Feather, sophomore from Windber, PA—2nd team doubles women’s tennis
  --Ericka Klavuhn, freshman from Bedford, PA—2nd team singles women’s tennis
  --Bryson Long, sophomore from Warwick, PA—top 15 men’s cross country
• AMCC All Sportsmanship Team for the Fall Sports:
  --Laura Trude—volleyball
  --Dylan Link—golf
  --Nicole Binnie—women’s cross country
  --Nick Frank—men’s cross country
  --Zara Apakoh—women’s soccer
  --Ryan Hills—men’s soccer
  --Loreal Housler—women’s tennis

• Community Service projects completed by the MAC Athletics Department for the winter:
  --Women’s Basketball – hosted girls’ basketball team from New Day Inc.
  --Women’s Volleyball—Angel Tree Sponsorship
  --Student-Athletes/Staff—New Orleans Service Trip (Campus Ministry)
  --Winter Season—SAAC—Soles for Souls
  --Men’s Basketball—hosted boys from New Day Inc.
  --Women’s Tennis—Family Game Night with New Day Inc.
  --SAAC—Mercy Youth Initiative
  --SAAC—fundraiser for a MAC student family member at Seidman Cancer Center

Theme III—Community Engagement: Position the campus as a center for the community; empower all students to become involved in community service; and position the College as a leader in community engagement.

Mission as Central to the Mount Aloysius Experience

• The Mission Integration Office (in the person of hardworking Sister Helen Marie) delivered two seminars during the winter semester Faculty Development Days—each designed to allow our faculty and staff to connect mission to their daily work.

• An all-faculty session entitled "Entering the Conversation: Social/Ethical Considerations for Teaching" encouraged faculty to utilize the long tradition of Catholic ethics and moral theology to open discussion regarding critical issues in today's world rather than to close discussion. She also encouraged faculty to strengthen the liberal arts nature of these discussions by allowing various insights and observations to be “in conversation” with one another.

• In a separate faculty break-out session entitled "Issues of Poverty and Class in Impacting Academic Achievement," Sr. Helen Marie presented the work of Ruby Payne and Paul Tough as a basis for exploring the experience of faculty at Mount Aloysius College in
dealing with students who may come from situations of generational poverty (Ruby Payne's category).

- The Campus Ministry Office also successfully hosted **two retreat experiences for faculty/staff** early in the semester.

- **Busy Person's Retreat:** engaged two spiritual directors and ten students/faculty through the last week of January.

- **Search III Retreat:** An additional thirty-two students with the Associate Director of Campus Ministry, Tommy Shireman, spent February 7-9, 2014 in Mount Aloysius College's Search III Retreat. The Search Retreat is a student-led exploration of the meaning of Christ in their life as well as insights into the way their faith may find expression in the world.

- **Search IV Plans:** The retreat team of seven students and the Associate Director has been meeting weekly since September 2013 to prepare for the weekend of sharing faith, fun, and prayer. A new team and plans for Search IV will begin before the end of this semester.

- **Sexual Identity webinar:** During Spring Break, five faculty/staff of Mount Aloysius College will join other Mercy campuses in the first webinar addressing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) issues and environment for our Mercy campuses. Betsy Linehan, RSM, Professor of Philosophy at Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA will be the guest speaker for this event. The webinar is being coordinated by Moya Dittmeier, who provides so much support as Executive Director of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education, at the request of Mission Personnel from the various Mercy campuses.

**Community Engagement**

- **Fall service numbers:** our students performed almost 8,000 hours of community service for fall semester, working on 222 community projects with 164 different community-based partner organizations and individuals. From my perspective on the PA Campus Compact statewide board and as the former chair of PennServe, I can confirm that these are very compelling numbers and the stories behind them often even more compelling. [View Fall Service Numbers](#)

- **New Orleans Mission trip:** 23 students and 3 faculty/staff journeyed to New Orleans in mid-December to work with Camp Restore in various projects of service: wetlands restoration, community garden project, construction sites, horse rescue farm, and an after-school program. As is the custom, the students spent a week in New Orleans working, reflecting, and relaxing together. Comments and reflections offered during an early-semester lunch with Mrs. Foley and President Foley clearly revealed that the experience was valuable in terms of spiritual growth and global awareness. [Read the article](#)

- **Angel Tree Ministry:** has a long, rich history here at Mount Aloysius College and reached a surprising peak this year—packages for 166 angels were distributed prior to Christmas Break.
In previous years we have served approximately 95 angels and last year thought we had peaked at 131 angels. Many generous faculty, staff and students make such a distribution possible. Read the article

• Service at Home: 1 student/1-day-at-a-time: one student who couldn’t return on time this is Stacey Griffiths, a mother of two young children who excels in our nursing program. But she will stay on course to graduate on time. Before Christmas, Stacey was badly injured in a car accident (2 fractured femurs, shattered lower arm, hip fracture, and head injury) when a driver veered into her lane and was killed (Stacey's children also suffered minor injuries). When Stacey awoke after surgery, she asked her husband two questions: the first was, "How are the kids?" The second was, "Can you get my nursing books out of the car, I need to study?" The Nursing Student Organization (NSO) led by Dr. Patty Meintel took care of Christmas for the Griffiths, purchasing/wrapping/presenting gifts for the kids, food and sundries for the family and dedicating our Mount Aloysius 25-foot Christmas tree to Stacey and her family. When Stacey's husband wheeled her back onto campus for the first time in January (a week ahead of time) it was to meet in person with her nursing faculty (who have been corresponding with her by email and phone since the accident). Stacey wanted to make sure that she stays on course for graduation. Just another day in the life of Mount Aloysius—in this case, our dedicated nursing faculty led by Dr. Becky Zukowksi.

The College as Leader in Community Engagement

Mount Aloysius has long been a regional leader on community engagement on many fronts, following the example of the founding Sisters of Mercy. Four recent examples:

Deaf Gatherings at the Mount: Mount Aloysius College's Interpreting Program and the Center for Community Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship are in their third semester hosting a monthly Deaf Gathering in Cosgrave Center meeting rooms. Deaf persons from the surrounding area receive invitations to these gatherings which are organized and hosted by the Interpreting Club. In addition to an evening meal, speakers address topics of interest to the deaf community, activities are planned, and an opportunity to simply enjoy one another's company is provided. Read the article | View the gallery

MLK Week of Service: The College coordinated a "week of service" in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. On Saturday January 18, Mercy Youth Initiative participated in a Physical and Emotional Fitness Day with the Goodwill GoodGuides Program. Mount Aloysius sent nine volunteers including 3 faculty/staff members and approximately 20 youth. On Monday, 90
Mount Aloysius College students packed over 100 bags with school supplies that were given to the Gallitzin Head Start and the New Day programs. Thursday's event was a trip to Tomorrow's Hope with five students and one staff member. On Friday, two Mount Aloysius College students and two staff members were guests at the Gallitzin Head Start as readers, an event which has become regular for the staff and students for the Spring Semester. An advocacy event planned for this week was cancelled due to weather. Thanks to Sister Helen Marie, Jess Maxon and assistant in Campus Ministry Tom Shireman who were involved in all this service.

**Moral Choices Lecture:** series is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, with a speaker familiar to the campus community, Sister Doctor Mary Ann Dillon, RSM, former president of Mount Aloysius College. Her lecture will address the moral implications of this year’s campus theme: “Citizenship in the 21st Century: The Common Good.” Sr. Mary Ann holds a doctorate in systematic theology from Duquesne University and her doctoral thesis explored aspects of the common good in Catholic/Christian tradition. An invitational dinner will precede the lecture which is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening. [View the Speaker Series poster](#)

**Spring Ecumenical Luncheon and Lecture:** scheduled for Thursday, March 20, will feature Dr. Mary Ann Getty-Sullivan, Associate Professor in Sacred Scripture at St. Vincent College (Latrobe), author of several book and magazine publications (including Women in the New Testament), and Scripture scholar with a concentration in the writings of St. Paul. In addition to the luncheon lecture, she will present an afternoon session open to the students, faculty, and the general public. This every-semester event attracts 30 to 50 local ministers from various denominations and owes all of its success to Sister Helen Marie.

**Mercy Youth Initiative:** received a first-ever grant ($5000) from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies to expand activities, especially field trip options for participants. The Mercy Youth Initiative is now in its third year and gathers seventh, eighth and ninth graders from Penn Cambria Elementary School once a month for career exploration, self-development exercises, physical engagement, and interaction with college mentors. This grant supplements an annual grant from sisters of Mercy foundation and other costs underwritten by the College.

*Theme IV—New Horizons: Expand employment of technology in our areas of academic strength, grow our presence outside our region, and attract an increasingly diverse student body.*

This theme provides the chance to update you on admissions efforts, on our progress in producing technology-ready graduates, and in our efforts to communicate with markets beyond our region.

**Admissions**

- **RN to BSN initiatives taking hold:** and the results speak for themselves. This has been a joint effort by VP for Enrollment Frank and Associate Dean Becky, with crucial support from Director of Communications Jack Coyle. The following results represent total RN to
BSN students at the official freeze date in recent semesters. Most are part-time and contribute to the total head count and FTE counting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recruitment Zones Analysis completed:** All three of our established geographical recruitment zones were designed around empirical data, using College Board data, enrollment management data (in-house) and data on mission, MAC degree programs and current students (customers). Frank leads a very aggressive approach in the primary market of the college (50-mile radius of the college). Increased attention and work is taking place in our Western PA market as well as East-Central PA market with a focus in the Mifflin, Franklin, Dauphin County triangle (with six Catholic high schools). Frank reports that all three established recruitment zones are on target with last year with the following counties showing increases in activity as of February 14, 2014: Allegheny, Cambria, Blair, Clinton, Erie, Fulton, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Mifflin, Somerset, York and Washington. All other counties remain flat or have slightly increased—too embryonic to make any final predictive analysis. Territory management by staff is in solid shape.

**Campus visitations up:** We invested unbudgeted money in some new enrollment management data bases and Frank thinks the investment is bearing fruit. He reports that “enhanced search strategies, review and revitalization of snail and e-communication takes place each year” and that “increased out-reach and telecounseling endeavors take place for all market segments including solid and efficient on- and off-campus event management.” Visitation to campus as of Jan 31, 2014 were modestly ahead of last year (which was a record).

**Focused student-athlete recruitment:** other schools in our profile rely heavily on this metric—Misericordia reports more than 35% of all students as recruited athletes. That number is less than 10% at MAC. We have been recording a monthly student-athlete metric for key stakeholders for about two years. An athletic/admissions plan was implemented for fall 2012 enrollment and beyond. Results are not yet apparent. In my judgment, the partnership between the enrollment team and Student Affairs/AD’s office is not yet perfected. We saw some increases last year in this metric, largely because of aggressive recruitment efforts by individual coaches.

**Special Skills recruitment:** Metric is also developed for Honors Program, Vox Nova and Theater. No apparent increases in Vox Nova or Theatre work (they will be minimal at best
anyway). Honors Program and Mercy Scholars appear to be on target with last year with a modest increase of students interviewing for the Mercy Presidential Scholarship to date.

- **Social Media recruitment**: our crack Digital Grotto (DG) team produced a superb video that we are now using in all our Admissions presentations. I recommend a quick view (this is the two minute version) because it gives you a good sense of the depth of student leadership here at the College these days, and it was accomplished without a script. The students responded to questions posed to them in various locations around the campus which our DG team converted into a longer version Admissions piece. The students in this video are terrific representatives of Mount Aloysius.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2014 Enrollment Data (day school) as of February 22, 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Information Technology**

Six quick Technology updates:

- **Tech-Ready Graduates**: When we created the Senior Technology Initiative (STI) group (composed of the academic and admin leadership of the College), I charged them with implementing a four part initiative: 1) develop the 3-credit experience (over time) with technology; 2) at least one on-line experience at the College; 3) a minimum percentage of tech-intensive courses while here, and 4) continued investment by MAC in up-to-date technology in the classroom and across campus. Eight courses have so far been reviewed and approved for the first goal; on goal three, tech intensive courses are being evaluated as I write. They should be all reviewed and approved by the Curriculum Committee by the time we meet in late March.

- A significant element of the “Technology Ready” initiative (first introduced in my remarks at inauguration) is the revision of the currently required CS103 (three-hour course which focuses on Microsoft Office programs with an ethical dimension), into three one-credit courses focused on the Information Communication Technology (ICT) proficiencies of students. Proficiency include being able to “Define, Access, Manage, Integrate, Evaluate, Create and Communicate data and information.” This follows national standards coming from the goals articulated by the ICT Higher Education Initiative of the Educational Testing Service: *The ability to use digital technology, communication tools, and/or networks appropriately to solve information problems in order to function in an information society. This includes the ability to use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate, and communicate information and the possession of a fundamental understanding of the ethical/legal issues surrounding the access and use of information.* (p. 3)
Information Technology Club: now exists at Mount Aloysius College and they held their first meeting in early February. The goal is to create a forum where students interested in Information Technology, Progamining, hardware systems, networking, and other IT related pursuits can gather for the purpose of exchanging ideas, experiences, and knowledge. Something long needed, and we are grateful for faculty and staff leadership for making this a reality.

Completed ACWC lobby tech installation: Installed and networked the software for the four monitors in the ACWC lobby to display signage, videos, and marketing materials independent of each other.

Updating Smart Classrooms: continued to upgrade existing smart classrooms (80% of all) and to create new smart classroom space. Working with Information Technology/Business faculty to update the computer labs on campus for all Google Docs and/or Microsoft 365 apps.

Installed Boxcast: which allows for live streaming of games and events at ACWC. The videos can be accessed real time from the Athletics Department webpage. Just in time for winter playoffs and spring graduation.

Finishing design stage for ACWC graphics: Provided graphics support and design for the history wall and other ACWC signage and graphics. Sample displays below – pictures and phrases are placeholders only and subject to change.

Communicating Beyond our Region

NYU-Abu Dhabi: I suspect that the quick trip to the UAE may well be the furthest reach of our Mount Aloysius message in my time—at least the total travel time was longer than my Blair Chamber trip to China two years ago. The Johnstown Tribune Democrat ran a story on the five-day (two in the air), all-expenses-paid (by the Crown Prince—and that’s another story) visit to NYU-Abu Dhabi. I was one of two special guests on this weekend (the other is Chair of the British-based Alexandria Trust) and was delighted that our experience at Mount Aloysius (particularly with first generation and low income students) provided some
insights into this grand experiment at international education (students come from 103
countries). I participated in two seminars (on "The Good Life" led by an NYU philosopher
and on "Religion and the Supreme Court" led by the President of NYU). Was especially
delighted that I could wear my silver Mount Aloysius badge all weekend and that the whole
experience only caused me to miss three days on campus (really two, as we were closed for
weather on one of those!). The NYU President, who was my host and a friend of many
decades, is considered one of America's best College Presidents (Time says he is top ten!)
and I learned from him as well. The Vice Chancellor there sent a very complementary note
on one of the “most inspiring presidential observers yet to visit” (they bring two of them
four times a year). The next two visitors in this program are the Dean at my old law school
at Yale and Henry Louis Gates, a well-known Harvard-based scholar. http://www.tribune-
democrat.com/local/x1783676661/College-chief-impressed-by-Middle-East-experiment

• **Digital World:** my spring Op-Ed on the Boston Marathon ended up reprinting in more than
15 newspapers and journals around the world (USA, India, Europe), and on dozens of
websites, with overall readership in the millions. It got a bit of a re-run when my brother
Jack (Director of Sports Medicine and head Athletic Trainer at Lehigh) recently received a
major award for his work at the marathon (he was the subject of my op-ed). They say that
“bad news travels fast and good news tends to take the scenic route.” We short circuited
that old maxim in this case, and the Mount Aloysius name was at the bottom of every
single reprint!!

• **DC trip:** also had the chance to attend three successive higher education gatherings in a
five-day period in early February—beginning with a Friday night dinner with the leadership
of the Mercy order and my 16 Mercy college presidential colleagues to a Wednesday
morning office visit to Senator Casey with five fellow Presidents of private colleges in PA.
Time well spent, and our Mount Aloysius analysis of the President’s latest plan for higher
education got top billing in a session on same at the meeting of Mercy Presidents and some
praise from the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU)
leadership (they posted a chart on their office wall, one where I compared the White House
Scorecard on higher education to a basketball box score, in an attempt to highlight the
weaknesses of the former in a format that the Secretary of Education—who recently
starred in the NBA Celebrity All Star Game with 20 points—might best appreciate).

• **Alumni Magazine:** keeps getting better and better and of course sends our message
across the continent to our graduates and friends. We thank Jack Coyle and his team for
paying such close attention to the writing and the layout. Read the digital version here.

• **Communications efforts show results**—in the last quarter, 371 articles about Mount
Aloysius have appeared in print (270 non-duplicates), with 120 of those outside the Blair
Cambria area (we ship stories to student’s home newspapers whenever possible). In the last
year, our Digital Grotto has produced over 110 new videos which have received over 30,700
views—an increase of 7,000 views as compared to last year. Thanks to Jack Coyle and his
team for their systematic approach and careful writing. Read the report on print media.
• **TPF Board Service:** most of my board service is in the region, and is connected to economic development initiatives. I do serve on two state wide higher education boards (AICUP, PACC), one interstate (AMCC), one out of state (St. Xavier’s University) and two national (CMHE and NCAA). Carla has worked out my meeting schedules for these assignments, and though there is a prodigious number of meetings, the vast majority are conference calls and early in the morning. Chairman Dan and I discuss these each time I am chosen to serve, and so far so good—the net benefit to the College is real, in my judgment. The Abu Dhabi experience grew directly out of the only NCAA meeting that required me to travel (one overnight), where I worked in a small group setting with the President of NYU. The St. Xav’s board work has provided real learning opportunities for our performance at MAC. Current assignments are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board/Committee</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altoona Blair Development Corporation [ABCD], Board of Directors</td>
<td>2013–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blair County Executive Roundtable</td>
<td>2013–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blair County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors</td>
<td>2013–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Xavier’s University, Chicago, Board of Trustees</td>
<td>2013 –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Division III Chancellors/Presidents Advisory Council</td>
<td>2013 –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA Campus Compact Presidents Board</td>
<td>2012–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania [AICUP]</td>
<td>2012 –</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Johnstown Regional Partnership</td>
<td>2011–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference for Mercy Higher Education [CMHE]</td>
<td>2010–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegheny Mountain Athletic Conference</td>
<td>2010–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Theme V—Build our Capacity to Thrive:** Modernize our administrative procedures and culture, expand our visibility in the region and beyond, attract and retain high-quality faculty and staff, and improve governance and fundraising infrastructures.

This theme provides an opportunity to update you on our progress on issues of General Administration, Fundraising, and Human Resources. In reverse order:

**Human Resources**

Want to update you on three areas of activity: **continuing education for supervisors, training curricula, and wellness initiatives.**

• **Continuing education for supervisors:** Tonia Gordon and her team have developed a “continuing education” program of supervisory training for faculty and staff. This is the program that we delivered free of charge to Cambria County employees at the request of the Chair of their County Commissioners. The current session focuses on
“Communication, Coaching and Compliance.” The goals are:

--To learn a personal coaching style and how to adjust that style to best influence their employees
--To completing an assessment of their current skills as compared to the needed competencies of a successful supervisor; and
--To developed their personal action plan for acquiring and perfecting essential skills.

- **Feedback-based training curriculums**: Professional development is a key piece of our overall strategic plan. Tonia carefully selects trainings and development courses to meet the needs of our current staff and faculty. She also uses critical data and feedback gained through these sessions to assess what works and does not work in higher education management practices. We hope this information will allow us to target certain characteristics in promotion and hiring practices as well as to improve management at every level. Though we are not a large operation in corporate terms, we believe strongly that annual investment in this kind of training is essential to efficiency and improvement.

- **Focus on Wellness**: HR staff and ACWC staff are developing workout modules, good health incentives and health awareness contests for all employees—using the ACWC. The goal is to familiarize people with the equipment and add a friendly competitive nature that will help drive employee commitment to wellness. We also continue to work closely with our health insurance reps to ensure employees focus on healthy lifestyles and awareness. For example, February was American Heart Month so we shared articles related to Heart Disease offered heart-healthy cooking classes and delivered free blood pressure screenings during the month.

**Fundraising**

VP for Institutional Advancement Jennifer Dubuque suggests three key areas for this report: Campaign Report, Annual Fundraising Report and Events/Activity update. This section is just a slightly re-ordered version of her written report to me. It is clear and succinct.

**Campaign Report**

- **Expanding Horizons: The Campaign for Mount Aloysius**: has raised $15,475,443 in new gifts and commitments through December 31, 2013. The breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>$11,652,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$  1,556,567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>$  2,266,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$15,475,443</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Campaign to date**: Jennifer and her team are working on the final documentation for an additional $590,250 which would bring our campaign total to $16.07 million.
• **ACWC Ads:** sponsorship materials for signage in the ACWC are in the mail to local Chamber members, to other area businesses and to college vendors. Staff will follow up by phone and in person. This represents another attempt to “routinize” some of our fundraising and establish annual support form a range of potential community partners.

• **Campaign Steering Committee:** has scheduled **monthly meetings** to track progress and activity with prospects. Many thanks to Co-Chairs Rullo and McLanahan who have encouraged this uptick in formal sessions.

• **EITC:** We will also be **promoting the EITC program** as a win-win way for businesses to support the College. A timely, detailed and user friendly mailing was delivered to area businesses who have already been EITC certified by the state. A copy is in your hard copy board materials. This is another “routinization” effort designed to generate support from “natural” partners to our Mount Aloysius approach.

Annual Fundraising Progress Report

• **Totals:** Since July 1, 2013, the annual fund has raised $372,546 in new gifts and pledges. This is **slightly ahead of the same time last year ($370,804).**

• **Donor base:** We have **increased the number of donors to 748.** This was 667 last year. By segmenting our database, getting our fall direct mail out earlier and sending a calendar year-end appeal to select businesses and friends we have increased our donor numbers.

• **“Take a Seat” in the ACWC:** Faculty/Staff have been offered the opportunity to participate in our **“Take a Seat”** campaign—unique opportunity to name seats in the new ACWC ($250). Michele and I kicked off this campaign by sponsoring seats in honor of our Dads (Jim McDonald and Jack Foley), both huge sports competitors and fans all their lives. We have 155 seats available for naming and deadline is March 31 to get signed up for payroll deduction. Response has been good – we had 11 sign up in the first week—including Senior VP Suzanne Campbell, whose Dad’s seat is right next to the Foley/McDonald seats.

• **Created a new Annual Fund brochure:** to help build the case for support. Finishing the edits on a **new planned-giving brochure** and developing a marketing plan also.

• **Implementing a new student-giving program:** we proposed a Trustee Challenge to encourage students to support the college and four members of the Campaign Committee immediately stepped up to create a matching gift fund. Michele and I contributed to the students’ fund on the premise that we are both “seniors” now in our fourth year (and to get them going!!). Goal for students is $1,500 and with 1:1 match that will be $3,000 for scholarships in the name of Class ’14.
• **Phonathon.** Spring calling has started. For the fall we raised $20,073 and our goal for the year is $41,500.

Advancement Events & Activity Report

• **Grants:** Since last August, we have submitted proposals for $753,814. Of that, we have been awarded $290,396. Between now and June 30, we anticipate submitting an additional 8 proposals valued at $2.2 million. This includes 1 federal and 2 NSF proposals.

• **EITC:** Developed a timeline and mailing. Will work with the Campaign volunteers to promote this program. We received a $5k gift from FNB in October.

• **Newsletter for Academy graduates:** This is part of an effort to offer a variety of communications to our alumni – not just solicitations. We will alternate between printed and online newsletter so we can reach all graduates.

• **Homecoming, Parents Weekend and Alumni Reunion weekend—October 3-5, 2014.** Working with the student affairs staff to provide a packed schedule of events for our returning grads. Working with the Class of ’64, our Golden Grads, to make their reunion a memorable occasion.

• **Alumni Mag:** Continue to collaborate with Communications staff on the Alumni Magazine and other publications. Most recent edition was again first-rate, with good collaboration between VP Jennifer’s development team and Communications Director Jack Coyle’s office.

• **Madrigal:** The performances on December 7th and 8th sold out. We are working with our theatre department to engage student help with the production responsibilities for the fall.

• **Annual MAC Golf Tournament:** is on Friday, June 13, 2014. Invitations were mailed mid-March. Working on more sponsors to help offset costs. Benzels, Hoss’ and Damin Printing have renewed their support. Increased sponsorship last year doubled net profit for scholarships. Thank You!

General Administration

I thought I would use this President’s Report to the Community to give you some insight into our operations during extreme weather, as we have experienced it this winter. **Let me focus on safety, snow removal and on the impact of the deep freeze** and express gratitude to Senior VP Suzanne Campbell and to Building & Grounds Director Gerry Rubritz who keep me very well informed (they especially enjoy showing me the sometimes ancient broken parts that cause some of these problems haha!!) and who lead all our efforts in this area.
Campus Safety

- **Weather Closure or Delay:** This winter has certainly tested our notification system, *E2Campus*, to its full limits. *E2Campus* integrates with many separate communication technologies allowing us to utilize all available on-campus and off-campus communication channels during an emergency or crisis. The software allows us to enter the notification into one clearinghouse which then transmits the notification to all 1362 active users via email, text, phone, or social media. *E2Campus* also immediately activates our Alertus system which allows us to command all college desktops and push out emergency information. Students, faculty, staff and student families are all encouraged to register with *E2Campus* to receive alerts.

- **The ACWC fire system:** has been fully integrated to the campus wide fire system. This will allow security and local FD to pinpoint problem areas or alarm locations. The fire PA system voice message capabilities in the ACWC can now be building wide or room specific.

- **Card Access thru the The Hirsch Velocity program:** currently working with Campus Safety and IT to program access cards that can operate campus wide and serve as a single point of transaction for building entry, meal purchase, books toere purchases and in the future off site purchases at local stores and restaurants.

- **Initiating options within the Act 501 Private Police Act:** The Private Police Act Title 22 Section 501, commonly referred to as Act 501, provides the opportunity for private non-profit organizations to have access to some of the same tools and resources of our municipal and state law enforcement counterparts. Act 501 does not automatically turn a safety/security department into a police department nor does it necessitate the use of firearms. It does grant non-lethal privileges to trained officers such as restraining or detaining an unruly suspect, an opportunity that Mount Aloysius does not currently have. Act 501 does not have to be department-wide. Only one qualified person is necessary, however only that one person would have access to the tools and resources associated with Act 501 such as the ability to access vehicle registration information, driver’s license information, warrants, protection from abuse orders, Liquor Control Enforcement tip line, criminal history checks, active case information from other sworn agencies and access to NCIC/CLEAN, among other databases.

  --We looked at local and state response times for incidents as part of the SWOT analysis. Cresson Township Police Department currently handles Cresson Township, Tunnel Hill Borough, Washington Township and Lilly Borough. The PSP barracks in Ebensburg is responsible for the entire county. Both agencies mentioned often have only one car out at a time. Cresson Township is not currently a full-time agency. Ebensburg Borough is the only Cambria 9-1-1 central agency that is full-time, but again with normally only one car out on duty. Beyond this we must rely on PSP or a Cambria 9-1-1 southern agency such as Richland Township or Johnstown City.

  --11 of our 14 full- and part-time MAC Campus Safety Department employees trained
as either municipal or state police officers. Providing them with Act 501 authority enhances our resources. Instead of an outside agency with occasional response time issues being charged with handling all calls of this nature on campus (an approach under which arrest is usually their only alternative), we can respond to the situation internally and handle it through the campus conduct system—when appropriate. We of course still retain the option to call in outside help in these situations.

**Snow Removal**

- **Sheer Volume:** has taken lead in the Physical Plant with unusually high snow falls, squalls, ice and wind. Suzanne and Gerry lead this work and have crafted a snow removal plan that reflects the needs and flow of the college both daily and for special events. We adjust schedules and add paid student snow crews to assist (though not many have participated). We are running overtime in many cases as the sheer weight and ice mix in the snow has wreaked havoc on equipment which we maintain in-house when possible.

- **Salt/stone:** Planning and mixing our salt with stone has benefitted the College greatly as many municipalities and campuses are in salt shortage. We average approximately 24 tons of salt ($72.15/ton) and 20 tons of stone ($16.60/ton) a month. We save significant dough by cutting the salt with crushed stone which also adds utility and staying power to the salt. Without the stone for traction the salt would still melt the snow and ice but the constant mountaintop wind can cause the melt to refreeze almost immediately. The stone acts as a mixing agent and also as a grip for tires and boots. Admittedly the stone and salt are messy when dragged inside but Housekeeping does a great job in the buildings.

**Deep Freeze Effects**

- **Gas leaks:** Our most significant issue with the extreme subfreezing temps was the detection of a gas leak on campus (fortunately while students were on break). The smell was detected in and around Cosgrave Hall and as per protocol the area was cleared and Peoples Natural Gas Company was called in immediately, along with our preferred plumbing contractor Mervac. The Gas Company performed gas level tests and while gas was detected they quickly ascertained it was not a leak in Cosgrave Hall. The leak was simply following the path of least resistance and followed an electrical conduit from the source of the leak to the first exit which was Cosgrave Hall. The leak metastasized, as it were, because the ground froze and could not absorb the normal gas leak so it was pushed out through the only avenue available—electrical conduits that ran up and into Cosgrave. Turns out the leak was somewhere between Cosgrave and a gas meter box located right along Admiral Peary Highway. With no shutoff valves specific to buildings the immediate concern was potentially digging up a large stretch of campus. However the Director of the Physical Plant, Mervac’s representative and the Gas Company utilized all local resources and equipment, zeroed in on the precise location, temporarily mitigated and assured us that it poses no danger. The dig and a more permanent fix are scheduled for immediately after the students leave campus.
• **Pipe freezes:** Ihmsen Hall experienced its typical pipe freeze which is not a surprise, especially when students go on break and the water lines are not used as consistently. We do bleed the lines but the cold was too much for the trickle of water to keep up with this year. We experienced significant freezing/bursting of hot water and steam lines that provide heat to the dorm. Luckily students were still on break and our terrific maintenance team worked round the clock to locate the multiple cracks and find available replacement parts. This is a new development for 50-year old Ihmsen Hall up-keep. Out of an abundance of caution we relocated 6 athletes, an RA and our Residence Life assistant director for the single night until service was restored.

• **Boiler issues:** Pierce Hall and Misciagna Hall both have primary boilers struggling to keep up with the extreme cold. The Boilers have back up and we have never been without heat but the maintenance team checks these boilers daily to ensure proper operation.

• **Air handler:** The Recreation Center (the Old Gym) Air Handler continues to need a manual reset multiple times per day. We will reset it manually and provide limited maintenance (as oppose to new purchase) until we decide in the new Campus Master Plan what its future role will be.

This has been another very busy quarter of activity at the College, even with winter break thrown into the mix. Service activities at the College continue to inspire, our faculty and staff reach out above and well beyond the call of duty (or their job descriptions) and we had an exciting season of intercollegiate sports mixed in with an increasing array of intramural fun and athletic competitions. Michele and I attend many of these events, and are so very grateful when Board and senior staff join us there as well.

Michele had fun helping to organize the Poetry Out Loud competition again this year (for a three county region) on behalf of the Blair County Arts Council, maintains a hectic schedule of mentoring and tutoring (Shakespeare was a big topic as she audited Tom Coakley’s terrific class on same and ended up as “tutor of choice” for about one-third of the class) and represents me often at College and some community events. We cover a lot of ground that way, but like it best when we can do these things together, in the same place at the same time.
Besides the chance to lecture in Abu Dhabi, I also had the opportunity to lecture in three different classes this winter: in Professor Asonevich’s Business Topics: Project Management class (with Suzanne Campbell), in Professor Jeff Sunseri’s “Advanced Topics in IT Management” (where I focused on lessons learned in emergency management situations like Katrina and Haiti) and in Professor Petrazzi-Woods graduate Psychology seminar on “Career Development” (where I focused on the career development platforms built at the state Department of Labor and Industry during my time there—and which still operate). It is always good for me to experience the effort required to operate effectively from that side of the lectern.

Chair Dan Rullo likes to remind me that my frequent response to his questions in my first few months at Mount Aloysius was that, “It’s all good, Dan.” Well, it is, and thank you for this opportunity. And I thank each of you for your service to Mount Aloysius. You remain very much a part of what makes this place special.

All the best.

[Signature]

Tom Foley
President