President’s Report to the Community

President Tom Foley
October 14, 2011

There are three parts to this President’s Report to the Community:
1. An Executive Summary
2. A Baker’s Dozen of Highlights
3. An Update That Tracks the Strategic Plan

PART ONE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As of September 16, at about 4:30 in the afternoon when Board of Trustees Chair Dan Rullo placed the college “medallion” around my neck, Mount Aloysius officially installed its 13th President. Thank you for the honor. We had a terrific three days of events all built around our inaugural goal—“to share the history of the College and of the Sisters of Mercy and to tell the stories of our students.” We did that with more than 20 events including:

❖ **Five Art and Cultural Exhibits** available on campus
  o the history of the Sisters of Mercy at the College in Wolf Kuhn
  o a collection of Colleen Browning paintings on loan in the library
  o the recent history of "service" at the College in Cosgrave Lobby
  o a collection of College-owned paintings also in Cosgrave lobby
  o a collection of memorabilia related to inauguration in the library

❖ **Four Walking Tours** (each with its own brochure--available in Wolf Kuhn--and on an IPhone App)
  o stained glass at the College
  o buildings and other artifacts on campus
  o Old Main history and artifacts
  o Nature/bird watching out and about the campus

❖ **Three Entertainment Venues**
  o Ihmsen Lawn (music Thursday and Friday afternoon and evening)
  o Alumni Hall (“Theatre and Musical Revue” by area artists, Friday)
  o Cosgrave Dining Hall (“MAC’s Got Talent” by student/alums, Thursday)

❖ **Two Symposia** (on issues central to our mission, now set to air statewide on PCN)
  o The University’s Role in the Social Fabric (5:15 PM October 15 PCN)
  o The University’s Role in Civil Discourse (4 PM October 15 PCN)

❖ **Two All Campus meals**
  o Thursday dinner, a “Fall Feast” in Cosgrave
  o Friday Dinner, “Western Barbecue” under the tent at Ihmsen

❖ **A Saturday Sports Festival** (five teams in action from 10 til 5) and a flag dedication ceremony at 12:45, complete with live radio.

❖ **An All Campus Liturgy**, during which Father Mark built his “Sermon on the Mount” around the importance of “Civil Discourse” on campus and in life.
There were several especially meaningful parts to the three days:

- Ninth President Jim Gallagher’s presentation of five artifacts of the College, which gave him the chance to describe some of the remarkable history of the College and its founders. Jim first apprised me of the opening at the College, and did a remarkable job for 25 years at Philadelphia University.

- The presence of ten of my eleven siblings in academic garb (and our mother) representing their institutions of higher education. They share many traits with our Mt Aloysius students, including balancing work and school, starting out in Community College, taking a bit more than the standard four years, a commitment to service, and more.

- The campus-wide Haiti Relief Project, which was efficient and practical and real (those canned goods are already on their way to Haiti), and allowed the entire Mt Aloysius community and our guests to participate in a meaningful way in something larger than self during the inauguration.

- Michele’s perfect rendition of a favorite poem—“Digging” by Seamus Heaney—as a tribute to the literary arts during the formal inaugural ceremony.

- The closing benediction by Sr. Mary Ann Dillon, who did such a phenomenal job as the head of this institution for thirteen years and managed to put the focus in her closing prayer exactly where it should be—on the history of the College and the stories of our students.

Finally, you should know that this was a 21st century ceremony in every way—

- the handy “pocket guide” tri-fold that we prepared listed five options for our guests to participate in a "virtual" way—flickr, twitter, facebook, etc.

- And Sam Wagner created a first rate inauguration website where you can view the symposia, pictures from each event, and even the inauguration ceremony itself. The link is http://www.mtaloy.edu/inauguration. The link straight to the Inauguration photo galleries is http://www.mtaloy.edu/inauguration/galleries.

Special thanks to

- Trustee and Alum Adele Kupchella who loaned her experience as a college “first lady” to us as our honorary chair,

- Trustee Ann Benzel, who led the arts and entertainment committee which generated half of all the events,

- Trustee Judge Smith who not only served as a panelist, but was my partner over many months and several lunches in organizing the Civil Discourse panel

- Chair Dan Rullo, who handled each change in the program and his many roles on the day with aplomb and patience

- VP Sister Helen Marie Burns, who partnered with me on the Social Fabric panel, moderated it, oversaw the script for the ceremony itself and prepared three of the walking tour guides

- Professor Jess Jost-Costanzo, Ph.D., staff assistant Thomas Fleming and Registrar Dr. Chris Lovett, who worked through the summer with all our committees to pull this together

- Senior VP Suzanne Campbell and Elaine Grant, unsung heroes on the details—everything from seating to parking and scheduling to production—for so many of the events.
1. **State of the College: very good!!**—I delivered my third State of the College address to all faculty and staff in mid-August, traditionally the kick off to the academic year. I keyed on the year past, the present year, and ended with some thoughts about the next few years. This is traditionally a report on all aspects of the College to all staff and faculty. There is an easy to read magazine style version of that address on the Presidents page of the website and a hard copy in your binder.

2. **New Dean of Faculty brings vast experience to the table**—Chaired a nine person committee with four faculty members and four members of the administration to choose a new Senior VP for Academic Affairs. After agreeing on the key criteria and a round of phone interviews, three candidates each spent two days on campus (one of those an internal candidate). Dr. Tim Fulop was the overwhelming choice of the nine person panel, having received six votes as the best candidate, two votes as the “1-A” candidate, and the majority of both faculty and administration votes. Tim has twice been a Dean of Faculty, is a published author of numerous articles, reviews and one book, has a Ph.D. in Religion from Princeton and is an ordained Minister. I spoke personally to both Presidents with whom he served and got glowing reviews of both him and his wife, Jackie. They and their family of four children will be a very welcome addition at the College.

3. **The University’s Role in Civil Discourse Symposium**—was a high level conversation among four outstanding commentators: our own Federal Circuit Court of Appeals Judge D. Brooks Smith (who had just authored a concurring opinion on an Facebook/First Amendment case touching on the issue of what constitutes Civil Discourse in an internet age); Chancellor John Murray of Duquesne, who emphasized that Civil Discourse begins with the cardinal virtues; (and who turned out to be a classmate of my father from North Catholic High School in Philadelphia); Sondra Myers, from the University of Scranton (who has worked Internationally on citizenship and civic engagements issues, and is in Rwanda on that mission as I write); and Pulitzer Prize winning, Executive Editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette David Shribman (who was a year behind me at Dartmouth College, and who has written extensively on Civil Discourse in Public Life). Sondra Myers introduced the conversation, all the panelists were lively participants and I took the opportunity for a few closing remarks. All 600 students in our CLS classes read from material by our presenters during that week, and focused a week of their studies on the topic and the symposium. It will be shown on local public access TV several times, and has been selected by the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) for statewide viewing on Saturday, October 15 at 4:00.

4. **The University’s Role in the Social Fabric**—panel discussion was equally enlightening. Sister Helen Marie Burns, RSM, Ph.D., moderated the discussion and contributed her own Mercy perspective to the topic. Dr. Ira Harkavy, VP at the University of Pennsylvania and the guru of community service in higher education in Pennsylvania (if not nationally) presented a compelling paper on the school as the centerpiece of the community. Dr. Char Gray, the current President of the statewide PA Campus Compact presented examples and underlined the importance of “service learning.” And Sister Maryanne Stevens, RSM, Ph.D., President of The College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska gave a concise description of Catholic and Mercy teaching on social justice punctuated with several poignant examples. We are preparing
monographs on both panels which we will distribute throughout PA and to some national audiences and this panel also will appear statewide on PCN Network this Saturday at 5:15 and several other times in the next month.

5. Absolutely outstanding entertainment and exhibits during inauguration weekend—both Thursday nite’s “Alumni/Student Revue” and Friday nite’s “Local Artists Revue” were first rate. The Colleen Browning exhibit in the Library (secured by Ann Benzel), and the Mercy history exhibit in Wolf Kuhn were first rate art and history shows. And our three new walking tour guides (stain glass, old main and campus) will be in use for many years.

6. Student athletes succeed in the classroom—fully 40% of our student athletes are on the dean’s list, 47% made the academic honor roll for the Allegheny Mountain Conference. In addition, Joey Stephenson was named the outstanding student athlete from among over a thousand athletes, twenty-two sports and ten Colleges and Universities. It is the first time that a Mount Aloysius athlete has won that award. Stephenson graduated with a 4.0 average and served as one of the marshals at the graduation ceremony.

7. Fall Orientation expands and enlightens—we now run “traditional” and “adult” student orientations separately, as their needs to “orientate” vary significantly. For the adult students the number one priority is getting everything they need for school in one afternoon (or even better a couple of hours on campus). Elaine Grant and VP Dr. Jane Grazadonia organized a “fair” of sorts where they can go table to table and handle their classes, parking, financial aid, club memberships, etc. all at once. For the “traditional” students, it is a matter of organizing twenty separate activities into a four day period that allows them to get to know each other, their campus, the faculty and staff here at the College—and still find time to acclimate privately to their new surroundings. There is a longer list of the actual activities in section 3 of this report, but I can report to you that orientation this year was even better than last year (the previous high mark for how to do this right). All of this is part of adapting the college to a more residential outlook. We are now up to 40% of our students living on campus.

8. Admissions/Enrollment sets records again—VP Frank Crouse and his team set a number of records yet again, despite the twin challenges of demographics and recruiting (athletic recruiting in particular). We had the highest number of applications, the highest number of acceptances, the largest entering class (includes transfers) and first year students (but only by a smidgen), highest percentage of traditional students, and highest number of students returning to live on campus. Frank would be the first to tell you it is more challenging each year as the children of the “baby boomers” have all now matriculated and the available pool of high school students gets smaller each year. Frank has branched out to a new market (Harrisburg), where there is no other school that is all that similar to Mount Aloysius College, and where we compete with the area private colleges on the financial side very favorably. We will be hoping for our first results there this year.

9. Director of Communications starts fast—when our three person communications office lost its number two six months ago, we decided to look for a Senior Director of Communications and move the incumbent into the position as Associate Director. Jack Anderson and I agreed that we needed more experienced leadership at the top. Jack Coyle brings thirty years of experience in communications, much of that in the Scranton area, with most of his last ten
years in the Mercy Health Systems. He is an excellent writer, a proven leader of communications programs with a strong orientation to the Mercy tradition. He and the communications team will now directly report to me, in part so that Jack Anderson can focus his efforts entirely on Institutional Advancement and the upcoming Capital Campaign.

10. **NCAA Grant funds first women’s administrator in MAC sports**--they say the third time is the charm and in this case they were right. Our third application for an NCAA title IX grant that would fund this new position was successful and Brianna Baker started two weeks ago. She was thrice “Student-athlete of the Year at MAC, a four-year star on both volleyball and basketball teams here, with a 3.77 average in a double major. She has been on 17 mission trips, mostly to Honduras, and has been head volleyball coach here for four years.

11. **The Mt Aloysius “Social Media Lab” will open in the basement of Alumni Hall shortly**-- This lab will serve as a learning facility for interested students, a production ground for faculty and staff, and a studio in which the message of Mount Aloysius can be distributed globally. We have already purchased all the equipment that will allow our students to film three camera interviews in an eight person controlled setting with advanced recording, prompting, lighting and set control (students used this equipment to film the inaugural symposia). The lab will provide green screen capabilities allowing editors to inlay custom backgrounds or graphics to match the speaker’s message. Post-production equipment includes multiple video editing PCs for student and communications staff use. Our overall goal is for the lab to meet and expand the multimedia goals of the college as well as keep pace with the technology of our competitors.

12. **Faculty development days**--traditionally there are two days in the fall and spring where all the faculty come together to discuss issues of importance to them, to pedagogy and to our students. This year we began a practice of two focused panel discussions--one on the **use of technology in the classroom and the second on the impact of millennials on higher education.** We will continue that focus through the next few years as both of these issues impact significantly our effectiveness in the classroom and as an institution. I led the discussion in the millennial panel and Dr. Tim Fulop chaired the conversation on technology in the classroom.

13. **Mount Aloysius College and Contact Altoona jointly received a grant from the WISE Women of Blair County organization**--the grant was awarded for an empowerment workshop in early October, where 50 area women participated in the day long program led by MAC Director of Counseling Marissa Evans and featuring 7 Mount Aloysius faculty and staff in sessions on domestic violence, self-esteem, career choices, financial planning, and work and family balance. A volunteer fair took place in conjunction with the workshop and local service agencies were available on site.

14. Three outstanding students, each of whom excels in the classroom, on the athletic field and in the community - **Tonya Bibby (sophomore), Whitney Johnson (junior), and Rosalee Sossong (junior)** - were selected from a very competitive list of nominees for an all-expense paid **Pilgrimage to Ireland in August 2011.** A grant from the Sisters of Mercy - West Midwest Ministry Fund enables the College to offer this opportunity. Campus Ministry Director Sr. Nancy Donovan, accompanied the students, who spent 8 days in Belfast, Ballycastle and Dublin with a small group of students from other Mercy institutions. They loved it!
15. Recent awards to the College—the last two are first time honors!!

- **US News and World Report** ranked College for 12 consecutive years. Ranked again this fall 2011 as a top Northeast Bachelor Degree College.
- Listed and voted as a “**College of Distinction**” for fall 2011 for “engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities, and successful outcomes.”
- **Enrollment Power Index** rated the College Admissions Web Site as a top 100 in the United States of America with an A rating. **Also listed as #9 in the United States North!** The only College in the region to have this honor, based on accessibility of admissions, quality of materials and web presentation.
- Named a **2011 Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs** and consistently since the inauguration of the program. The list honors the top fifteen percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace American’s veterans as students. Mount Aloysius College received this honor for the third year in a row and was the first regional College to be honored.

**PART THREE: UPDATE BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY**

I hope that the Executive Summary and the “Baker’s Dozen of Highlights” give you a sense of all the activity at the College. The remainder of this report will outline progress against the three primary goals set forth in the strategic plan.

**Priority One: Strengthen Mount Aloysius as a values-based, supportive environment in which academic programming and student services combine to prepare students for productive and fulfilling lives.**

**MISSION INTEGRATION**
The sense of mission and purpose and the historic role of the Sisters of Mercy are much evident in the work of our Mission Integration and Campus Ministry offices. The following is a quick summary of activity over the summer and in these first months of the academic year:

- ** Mercy Week** celebrations this year began with the inauguration activities, including
  - the All-College Liturgy on September 15,
  - the **two panel discussions**: “The Role of the University in the Social Fabric” and “The Role of the University in Civil Discourse”;
  - a **service project** dedicated to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Haiti; and
  - the availability of three **historical walking tours** (Main Building, Grounds and Buildings, Stained Glass Windows) featuring the Mount Aloysius College campus.
- **Mercy Week** continued with
  - the annual **Tea and Scones** “welcoming stations”—in the tradition of Mother Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy—which greeted faculty/staff/students in four venues around the campus;
  - an invitation to decorate candles for an evening **Peace Walk**; and
- **a presentation by students** who joined Conference for Mercy Higher Education events--at the United Nations (New York), at Mercy Internationale Centre (Dublin) and at the Corrymeela Community (Ballycastle, Northern Ireland)--concluded Mercy Week activities.

- **Orientation and other Service trips:** Seven students and two staff persons participated in a service trip to the **Silence of Mary shelter in Harrisburg, PA**. The group spent Friday evening with Campus Ministry students from Shippensburg College. On Saturday, the Shippensburg students and the Mount Aloysius College students joined forces to assist in clean-up and repair activities for the Harrisburg shelter. Service trips to **Mississippi in December and to Guyana in March** already are fully subscribed and fund-raising is underway in earnest.

- **Seminars on the Seven “Contrary” (to last year’s “Seven Deadly Sins”) Virtues:** a nine-week program featuring the seven virtues corresponding to the seven deadly sins began last week. These are small roundtable conversations kicked off by a presentation by a faculty or staff member. Last year, we covered gluttony to sloth (some entertaining lectures). This year, we open with “charity.”

- The ninth annual **Ecumenical Luncheon and Lecture** series in October will feature **Dr. Susan K. Wood, SCL**, a Sister of Charity from Leavenworth, KS. Sr. Susan is professor and chair of the Department of Theology at Marquette University. She is very active in ecumenical work and serves on the U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue, the U. S. Roman Catholic-Orthodox Theological Consultation, the conversation between the Roman Catholic Church and the Baptist World Alliance, and the International Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue.

- **Jessica Maxon** has been hired as Project Manager for a **Community Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship Center**, a post that had remained unfilled for more than two years. She will focus initially on documenting all the service and service learning activity at the College, as well as assisting **Sr. Helen Marie** in all aspects of her work. In addition, Mount Aloysius College has received funding for a **full-time AmeriCorps position** and two **Scholars in Service positions**. All these positions provide educational stipends to their recipients in recognition of their service work. **Kimberly Franey** has been named to the AmeriCorps position. Applications are currently in process for the Scholars in Service positions.

- Mount Aloysius College and Contact Altoona jointly received a grant from the WISE Women of Blair County organization. The grant was awarded for an **empowerment workshop** at the Ramada Inn of Altoona on October 1, 2011. About 50 area women participated in the day long program led by Director of Counseling **Marissa Evans** and featuring 7 Mount Aloysius faculty and staff in sessions on domestic violence, self-esteem, career choices, financial planning, and work and family balance. A volunteer fair took place in conjunction with the workshop and local service agencies were available on site.

- Three outstanding students, each of whom excels in the classroom, on the athletic field and in the community - **Tonya Bibby** (sophomore), **Whitney Johnson** (junior), and **Rosalee Sossong** (junior) - were selected from a very competitive list of nominees for an all-expense paid **Pilgrimage to Ireland** in August 2011. A grant from the Sisters of Mercy - West Midwest Ministry Fund enables the College to offer this opportunity. Campus Ministry Director **Sr. Nancy Donovan**, accompanied the students, who spent 8 days in Belfast, Ballycastle and Dublin with a small group of students from other Mercy institutions. They loved it!
Fourth Annual Summer Contemplative Workshop took place on campus in June. The workshop has been expanded and included persons from several faith denominations. Sister Helen Marie reports that like fine wine, it is getting better with age.

Mount Aloysius College also held its first Summer Scripture Institute, with two noted lecturers, Dr. Bonnie Thurston and Dr. Marie Noel Keller. Fourteen church leaders from six different Christian denominations attended. Dr. Keller spoke to the historical context and meaning of Phillipians and Dr. Thurston spoke to the spirituality within the text. In addition, Dr. Keller discussed her latest book, Priscilla and Aquila: Co-workers in Christ Jesus at an evening session which drew an additional ten persons from the area. Evaluations were very positive and another Summer Scripture Institute is planned for June 2012.

Midterm (and any old time) De-Stressing Hours (as opposed to “Happy Hours”) are sponsored regularly by Sister Nancy Donovan and her loyal corps of volunteers. The students enjoy the range of food and craft-y ideas that Sister Nancy inspires!

We are so very grateful to Sister Helen Marie Burns and Sister Nancy Donovan—and to their colleagues Sister Benedict Joseph, Sister Eric Marie, Sister Charlene, and Sister Guiseppe, who volunteer their time just about every day and to our six trustees from the Sisters of Mercy. Together, they carry the spirit of the Mercy core values in all the work they do here.

ACADEMICS
This section of the Community Report includes three parts:

- Highlights of academic and co-curricular activity
- Recent presentations/publications by faculty
- Examples of student co-curricular engagement

FIRST, SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY:

Ms. Regina Barr, MSN RN and Ms. Sharon Kisel, MSN, RN attended a seminar titled: "The IOM Report and the Future of Nursing: The Role of Academic-Service Partnerships" at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA. The presenter was Michael R. Bleich, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean, Oregon Health and Science University. Dr. Bleich, a committee member of the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing at the Institute of Medicine, discussed the committee's findings and recommendations.

Ms. Heather Low continued her development as our retention expert by participating in the conference "Developing a Comprehensive Retention Plan" sponsored by Academic Impressions in Denver, CO. This is the standard bearer in the field.

Biology Department chair Dr. Merrilee Anderson and Business Department chair Chris Minjar attended the fourth Carlow University Round Table in Ireland—“Context Within Context: The Dialogue Between Catholic Social Teaching and Mercy Values”. They participated in a dialog on teaching in Mercy mission-centered institutions and the role of Catholic Social Teaching. Participation was limited to thirty members of the faculty, staff and administration of the 16 member institutions of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education. Abstracts on the topic:
“Bringing Mercy to Light: How the Values of the Sisters of Mercy Inform the Work of Teaching and Administration” were presented during the conference.

Ms. Caressa Gearhart, Learning Commons Coordinator, was elected to the PADE (Pennsylvania Association of Developmental Educators) Board as the 4-Year Private College Representative for the term 6/2011 – 6/2014. She will also be serving as the Membership Committee Chairperson and Conference Registrar.

Ms. Sally Weber attended the NAVPA/Veterans Training Conference which provided extensive coverage and clarification of the many changes in the new legislation concerning the Post 9/11 GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon educational benefits.

Ms. Megan Beaver attended the 2011 ESP Ultrasound Registry Review seminar at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center at the Florida Mall in Orlando, Florida. Topics presented by Sidney K. Edelman, Ph.D. at the seminar consisted of Ultrasound Physics Sonography Principles and Instrumentation, Abdominal Sonography, Breast Sonography, Neurosonology, Obstetrics & Gynecology Sonography.

Dr. Merrilee Anderson and Dr. J. Michael Engle hosted one day of a collaborative biotechnology camp on at Mount Aloysius College. The camp is a joint effort between the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center, Penn Highlands Community College, and Mount Aloysius College to attract students to science fields. During the camp, fifteen students observed human cells, extracted and analyzed DNA, and learned laboratory techniques such as gel electrophoresis.

Ms. Sharon Miller, Assistant Professor of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences attended the American Society of Radiologic Technology Annual Governance and House of Delegates Conference and Education Symposium in Albuquerque, NM. There was a seating of the house to vote on issues affecting the profession and education. Ms. Miller is a delegate for the Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists. Ms. Miller also mentored Deborah Reighard, a Medical Imaging student, on the process of governance in the house.

Dr. Barbara Cook attended the 2011 Biennial ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature and Environment) Conference in Bloomington, IN.

Dr. Merrilee Anderson participated in a regional discussion group for The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education and the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators. The discussion centered on development of a state-wide non-formal Environmental Education certification program.

Ms. Kimberly Garman attended the Drexel University Education Institute in Atlantic City, NJ. The conference was designed to promote current and innovative teaching strategies in nursing education. She was appointed by the National League for Nursing as the Ambassador from Mount Aloysius to the national organization.

Dr. Christopher Lovett attended a meeting, held at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, to discuss issues and challenges faced by registrar offices. The registrars attending were from
Juniata College, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College, University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, and Penn State Altoona.

**Dr. J. Michael Engle** participated in a National Science Foundation funded kick-off workshop hosted by Juniata College. The grant is a collaborative effort entitled “RCN-UBE Incubator: Transforming Undergraduate Education Through Increased Faculty Access to NextGen Sequencing Runs”. The grant will allow Mount Aloysius College students and faculty to have access to DNA sequencing facilities at The Pennsylvania State University Main Campus. The goal for the Mount Aloysius College portion of the grant is to identify microbiological life in abandoned mine drainage.

**Dr. Brandi Porter**, Director of the Library, served as External Library Reviewer for Seton Hill University Library Departmental Review.

**Dr. Barbara Cook** was reappointed to the Grant and Awards Committee of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

**Dr. Barbara Cook** was elected to the Board of Directors of WISE (Women Involved in Scholarship and Empowerment) for Blair County and continues to advise the Blair County Commissioners in her role on the Human Services Advisory Committee.

**SECOND, SOME RECENT PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS BY FACULTY:**

**Dr. Natalie A. van Breukelen** recently published the results of a research project conducted in Costa Rica with Mount Aloysius College alumus Mr. Christopher Sawyer (2010). Her article, "Interactions Between Native and Immigrant Cichlid Species: Long- and Short-Term Effects on Reproductive Behavior" was published in Buntbarsche Bulletin (The Journal of the American Cichlid Association), issue number 263, April 2011.

**Dr. Barbara Cook** presented a paper “Ecological Media & Ecocriticism Seminar” at the pre-conference workshop of the Ecological Media & Ecocriticism Seminar of ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature & Environment) in Bloomington, IN.

**Dr. Brandi Porter** co-presented as part of a panel, Building Your Multimedia Team, at the EdMedia 2011 World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications in Lisbon, Portugal.

**Dr. Brad Hastings** presented a paper entitled “Nietzsche’s Positive Psychology: The Will to Power and Amor Fati as Ethical Foundations for Positive Psychology” at the second World Congress on Positive Psychology in Philadelphia, PA.

**Ms. Kim Asonevich** developed and submitted a manuscript to United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship entitled “Creating Small Business Growth Opportunities Through Big Box Mistakes.”

**Dr. Brandi Porter, Dr. Julie Smith, Vice President Frank Crouse and I** presented a faculty workshop The Millennials, as part of Faculty Development Week.
Dr. Sara Rutledge, Dr. Kristine Anderson, Ms. Lauren Coakley co-presented a faculty workshop with Senior Vice President Dr. Timothy Fulop on Technology in the Classroom, as part of Faculty Development Week.

Ms. Nicole Custer presented “Acute Adrenal Insufficiency: The Nurse’s Role” at the Greater Johnstown Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

Dr. Barbara Cook had the following submitted and accepted “Reciprocal Spirituality: Human Animal Interface in Linda Hogan’s Multiple Genres” for collection edited by Scott Slovic, reference-book publisher EBSCO’s Critical Insights Series.

THIRD, SOME EXAMPLES OF FACULTY/STUDENT CO-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT:

- Several Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences Students earned prestigious, research-based summer internships: Brad Mikitko, Nickolas Pleskonko & Stephanie Brown-Pinnacle Health System in Harrisburg, PA; Melodie Bastian, Ashley Knight, Julie Mahan & Jacob Stumpf- Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD; Alyssa Brumbaugh & Ivy Shreckengost- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC. These 9 students identified a research project currently being performed at the facilities, explored the purpose for the research project, the demographics targeted by this research, and how the information gained from this research might impact the healthcare field. The students are doing follow-up on the research they investigated and will present their final project outcomes to their peers.

- Our Ultrasound Program, Surgical Technology and Medical Lab Technology programs all reached significant accreditation milestones. Congrats to Associate Dean Paul Farcus, to our leaders in each of those disciplines Megan Beaver, Amanda Minor and Kathleen Hoyne and to all of you who serve on those faculties. And

- Our Nursing students had a 100% pass rate in the most recent NCLEX exams, keeping our annual average on par with all of our competition. Congrats to Regina Barr and Sharon Kisel who led our program through the last six months and to all our faculty who go the extra mile in this signature program at Mt. Aloysius.

- Both the Service Learning Exposition and Undergraduate Research Symposium hit record numbers in their spring expositions. 129 students, 11 faculty mentors and 16 community partners worked on 29 service learning projects –projects where our students develop skills through on the ground/in the community experiences with real products and tangible outcomes. I saw several of the presentations and was impressed. 110 projects were displayed, at the research Symposium, representing 199 students and 17 faculty mentors. I served as a judge, and though some projects were clearly outstanding, there were difficult choices. By comparison, the 2010 symposium contained 75 projects, representing the work
of 166 students and 14 faculty mentors. Congrats to Professor Asonovich who leads the Service Learning team and to Dr. Anderson, who chaired the research symposium.

- The Pennsylvania Department of Education approved and accredited our grades 4-8 Middle School Program in Elementary Education. MAC is now certified at all three levels of k-12 education. Congrats to Dr. Roseman and all her colleagues.

- We completed our first full year of graduate programs in Business and Community Counseling—congrats to Dr. Torres and his colleagues in the MBA program and to Dr. Haschak and his colleagues.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Enclosed with this report is the most recent edition of the student newspaper, The Belltower—a good perspective on student activities, issues and opinions, and some light reading. I would add brief comments on the four areas of activity organized under the direction of Dr. Jane Grassadonia, supported by Elaine Grant, Ryan Smith, Larry Brugh, Christine Koren, Kevin Kime and many others, and facilitated often by a team led by Senior VP for Administrative Services Suzanne Campbell.

First, residence life activity has started the year strong, led by an excellent team of RAs.

This plan is in only its third year, but the idea is to supplement the range of college-wide activities (see below under Student Activity) with activity that is driven by residence halls—to build a bit more intra-campus identity, competition and camaraderie.

The new crop of resident assistants set the bar very high. This semester, they continue to work with a model that focuses on six different dimensions of wellness: social, physical, spiritual, intellectual, emotional and vocational. They have additionally emphasized methods of personal safety and security (an all campus fire drill with quick safety lecture from a staff member whose house burned down). Examples of first month activity:

- Residence Life supported the Inauguration service project with a Dodgeball Tournament. Each team was required to bring canned goods for Haiti Relief to participate. 14 teams participated with over 100 spectators. It was almost as funny as the movie.

- Wiffle Ball took center stage on the soccer field in mid-September. We have a secret agent in our midst, as Wiffle Boy (he was on Sportnation on ESPN, Tosh.0 on Comedy Central and all the local stations) led the festivities and competition. Sean Steffy (Class of 2013) can throw a wiffle ball 95 MPH, and can curve it completely around a batter 60 feet away.

- An all hall fire drill and fire safety presentation was held on September 22 with guest speaker Jeff Sunseri who lost his home to fire recently, but was saved by functioning smoke detectors in his home.

- Additional programs include 3 on 3 basketball tournament on September 28, Tye dying in McAuley on September 26, Fire extinguisher training was held also on September 26.
In late October, the RAs will host a campus wide “Dance with the Staff” modeled after Dancing with the Stars. Staff and faculty partners are currently being recruited—I am not among them!!!

Second, Student Activities under Elaine Grant has already completed five themed programs of student engagement:

- **Non Traditional Student Orientation**, with 66 students in attendance for orientation and counseling and a club fair.

- **New Student Orientation**—August 18-21. 276 students traditional aged students and their parents participated in:
  - Ice Breakers and Inspiration from motivational speaker Troy Stende
  - Skits on Civility (with roommates, classroom, life)
  - Small group discussion about article on Civility
  - Group Meetings with Academic Advisors
  - Campus Resource Scavenger Hunt
  - “Rhythmic Motivation” with Jim Donovan, faculty member at St. Francis
  - “Relationships” featuring Adam LoDolce
  - “Community and Diversity” by motivational speaker Marvin Worthy
  - Pittsburgh Pirates Game
  - Outdoor Movie
  - A Luau Dance
  - “Black Light” Casino Night
  - Large Group Zumba Class

- **“Welcome Weeks” Special Events (all designed to get students out and together)**
  - Monday, August 22 - Hypnotist - Chris Hones
  - Tuesday, August 23 - The Internet and The Law - CL Lindsay, Esquire
  - Thursday, August 25 - Musician from American Idol - Caleb Hawley
  - Friday, August 26 - Comedian Drew Thomas
  - Tuesday, August 30 - Tryouts for Talent Show Case at Inauguration
  - Friday, September 2 - Glow Party Dance
  - Tuesday, September 6 and Thursday, September 8 - Club Fair
  - Friday, September 9 - Comedian Richie Holliday
  - Thursday, September 22 - Coffee House featuring Poet Jason Carney

- **Campus Wide inauguration Activities**
  - Thursday, September 15 - The Martin Family Band
  - Friday, September 16 - The Aran Band
  - Thursday - Student/alumni All Star MAC’s Got Talent Revue (8 finalists)
  - Thursday to Sunday - Symposia, walking tours, art exhibits, campus wide meals
Homecoming/Family Weekend (Sept 30-Oct 1)
- Homecoming Dinner with parents and staff
- MAC Play: “Steel Magnolias”
- The “Mountie Ball”
- Tumble Bus and “Kids Lockdown” in the gym
- “Build a Mountie”
- Homecoming Brunch/Lunch
- Athletic Events
- Homecoming Dinner with Musical Entertainment
- MAC Play: “Steel Magnolias”
- Outdoor Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean
  And
- Oktoberfest (happening as I write)

Third, (though I rarely report separately on this work), good things are happening in Counseling and Disability Services (always important on a college campus). A few recent examples of work led by Marissa Evans are:

- The addition to our “assistive devices” inventory of the “Amigo” to enlarge text/pages for student with visual disabilities
- Designed content for a Counseling webpage on the main college website, adding downloadable PDF forms
- Including information to faculty via website on crisis planning for the classroom.
- Continuing education through “BrainSteps,” a Brain Injury Seminar regarding the impact of concussions and traumatic brain injuries on memory and learning
- Helped in production of WISE Women of Blair County Empowerment Workshop video
- Presented a self-esteem seminar for women attending the Blair County domestic violence/empowerment workshop
- Led seminar for all faculty in mandated session on “Students in Crisis”
- Conducted Counseling and Disability Services presentation for Resident Assistants and Orientation Leaders Training, Non-traditional students orientation, and Parents as Partners
- Presented Grief and Crisis lecture/awareness for Secondary Education students

Fourth and finally on student affairs, some good notes in intercollegiate sports:

- Senior Baseball player Bryan Nolan was honored by NCAA as the national statistical leader for stolen bases per game for the 2011 season. His 1.16 steals per game included an NCAA record 7 stolen bases in one game. This record was previously set in 1985.
- Mike Godissart, a junior pitcher on the MAC baseball team accepted an invitation to play summer baseball for the Sherrill Silversmiths in the New York Collegiate League. Mike proved to be the #1 pitcher for Sherrill and led the team in most pitching categories.
- In June the Mount Aloysius Women’s Volleyball Summer League opened with a total of 29 local high school varsity and junior varsity teams, played over 150 matches with 200+ prospective student-athletes. New Assistant Director of Athletics Brianna Baker ran the league.
Mount Aloysius Junior Basketball Camp ran from June 20-24. The camp was open for boys and girls, ages 5-8. 44 campers were introduced to the rules of the game, improving basketball skills, the importance of teamwork and shooting. Every camper left with a prize, a Mac basketball and a certificate of participation.

Mount Aloysius Skills Basketball Camp operated during the week of June 27. The five day camp consisted of boys and girls that were 8 to 15 years of age. Once again the camp sold out with 182 campers. Local high school coaches, current and past MAC men’s and women’s basketball players and the MAC coaching staff provided instruction. Very positive feedback was received from participants and their parents/guardians.

ERA Baseball Inc. utilized our baseball field for the entire summer. This group has 30 potential MAC student athletes. The group is managed by 2 former MLB baseball players. The relationship has proved to be very positive and really has opened doors for our baseball program in terms of recruiting, scouting and MLB contacts.

Brianna Baker was named as our first woman administrator in Athletics as an Assistant Athletic Director for Service, Recruitment and Academic Success. Briana was a two sport athlete here at MAC while maintaining a 3.77 GPA. She has an extensive record of community service and represents the mission of the college well. Briana will continue to serve as our head women’s volleyball coach as she assumes her new responsibilities.

Kristi Little-Kaack was hired as the new women’s basketball coach. Kristi was an all-state player at Altoona, a 4 year starter at Duquesne University and twice named Atlantic 10 Defensive player of the year. Following her collegiate playing career Kristi traveled to Hungary to play at the professional level.

Ryan Navarro was named head coach of the second year men’s tennis program. Ryan played collegiately at Juniata College and volunteered with the Duquesne University tennis programs. Ryan is still an active tennis player and a member of the USTA.

Jeremy Harkins was named head coach of the MAC women’s soccer program during the summer months. Jeremy participated as a collegiate player at Grace College located in the state of Indiana. Jeremy Harkins replaces Barry Snyder who guided the program for 3 years and moved on to serve his country as an officer in the US Air Force. Barry was tragically killed in Biloxi, Miss this past year and his good friend Jeremy will take over where Barry left off.

Several members of the MAC baseball team participated in the AAABA National Tournament held in Johnstown, PA. Alex Martin, Pat Gully and Carter Lehman all helped their teams advance to the semi-final round of the tournament.

Mariah McDowell, a sophomore on the volleyball team has been twice named AMCC Player of the Week. Men’s soccer goalie Adam Al Habar was also so honored.

The men’s golf team finished 2nd in their first match at Pitt-Bradford and second in two other ten team tournaments. The team shot a 310--20 shots better than any score in the history of the program. Mac Wolfe was named AMCC Golfer of the Week for his medalist performance.

The newly installed flag pole at the Walker Athletic Fields was dedicated to former head women’s soccer coach, Barry Snyder. The dedication occurred during the Inauguration Weekend and both soccer captain Nicola Johnson and I delivered remarks. MAC student veterans sang the national anthem and served as color guard for the formal flag raising. In attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Don Snyder, parents of Barry Snyder, and many of his friends and relatives.
Alumni games for baseball, softball and volleyball all occurred during Inauguration Weekend. We are developing a bit more of a tradition of the athletes returning to campus.

Priority Two: Ensure the vitality of the College by augmenting resources necessary to support growth.

ENROLLMENT

Some quick bullets underline the continued good work by Frank Crouse and his team:

- Total headcount for fall 2011 is 1670 compared to 1611 in 2010
- Record breaking admissions applications – 1825 compared 1778 in 2010
- Record breaking acceptances- 1432 compared to 1327 in 2010
- Record breaking deposits – 679 compared to 660 (includes part-time to full-time)
- Largest bachelor degree enrollment to date
- Record Breaking Mercy Presidential Class – 29 new Mercy Presidential Scholars
- 570 new full-time, undergraduate students and this compares to 559 one year ago.
- Total new full-time undergraduates are holding at 1245 compared to 1241 in 2010.
- Grad School Enrollment 54 compared to 38 one year ago
- Total student discount rate is holding at 23%

Challenges, as VP for Enrollment Management Frank Crouse sees them:

- Athletic recruitment was down this year about 30%, and we have a team in place to develop specific strategies, action steps to fulfill them, timelines and assigned responsibilities
- The economy has impacted us negatively, too. Loss of traditional four year students to state owned colleges and universities due to finance. On the other hand, the economy has probably aided with transfer and adults in some ways.

- “Deposits” are a less reliable indicator than in the past. We continue to lose more students who gave deposits than has been our norm, as parents (we think) hedge their bets against the economy. We collected 377 deposits to yield 292 traditional age students this year.
Recent awards to the College:

- US News and World Report ranked College for 12 consecutive years. Ranked again this fall 2011 as a top Northeast Bachelor Degree College.
- Listed and voted as a College of Distinction for fall 2011 for engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities, and successful outcomes.
- Enrollment Power Index rated the College Admissions Web Site as a top 100 in the United States of America with an A rating. Also listed as #9 in the United States North! The only College in the region to have this honor, based on accessibility of admissions, quality of materials and web presentation.
- Named a 2011 Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs and consistently since the inauguration of the program. The list honors the top fifteen percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace American’s veterans as students. Mount Aloysius College received this honor for the third year in a row and was the first regional College to be honored.

FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL ASSETS

- We are in the final stages of our bond financing program, following the attainment of our A- Standard and Poor’s rating.
- We achieved another audit year with no findings and a clear letter. The outside auditors commented to our Board Audit Subcommittee (Tim Sissler, Kim Craig, Rick Rose) that these are the “best set of books” they see among the many colleges that they audit. Representatives of ParenteBeard, LLC will make a formal audit presentation to the Finance and Physical Plant Committee at its regular meeting on October 14, 2011, with a final vote at the full Board meeting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

- Campus Security
- September was fire prevention month so great care was taken to hold fire drills, evacuation and simulations in all of the dorms as well as offices. Students were briefed on fire safety and one of our IT staff, Jeff Sunseri, who recently lost his home to fire narrowly escaping himself with his wife, spoke frankly about the harrowing experience and how the fire alarm in their home literally saved their lives.

- Construction on Campus
- Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center--our team has been meeting with Kimball (architects) and PJ Dick (construction manager) to keep the design and build on the fast track. We have initiated the extensive permitting process and are prepping to have bid packages for earthwork out in early November with a November 15 start date. As expected we will lose some time to the winter months but will spend it wisely on final permits and putting bid packages together. We continue to hold the line at $25 million.
✓ Construction has started on The Mountie Stables located out at the fields. The Stables will include 2 locker rooms, referee changing rooms and most importantly public restrooms. Also included will be storage and concession space. Critical to this build is the correction of drainage and run off issues that have plagued the fields with flooding and water for many seasons. Also of note this project will include parking and walkways for people with disabilities that will make the fields ADA compliant. All of this should help raise our profile, enhance our recruiting efforts and lead to hosting more tournaments and matches. Much gratitude to Trustee Mike McLanahan, who not only chaired the original athletic fields campaign at the College but kick started the Mountie stables project with a $50,000 contribution.

✓ Construction will also commence on dugouts for the softball and baseball teams. We budgeted them in operating expenses for this year. Bidding complete and vendor selected.

❖ Facilities and Maintenance—Infrastructure Upkeep

✓ We have been working closely with the Cresson Borough Municipal Water Authority (a ten year battle, frankly) in order to properly mitigate storm water runoff as well as to secure building permits necessary to commence construction projects. To date we have repaired or replaced 3 manhole covers and associated dilapidated sewer lines at a cost of approximately $25,000. We also corrected down spout issues, roof leader issues and a significant pump issue under Cosgrave all of which have significantly decreased the excess storm water infiltration and run off. Special thanks to Dan Rullo who helped move the dispute with the Water Authority to conclusion.

✓ Roof repair and maintenance has commenced on both the Library and Ihmsen Hall. It is believed that by patching the roof on Ihmsen we will be extending the life of the building another 10 years as water heat, and air circulation issues have been addressed. Ihmsen hall has also seen an upgrade in hallway lighting and window efficiency – all completed by our in house facilities crew.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

❖ The Institutional Advancement Report for the year ended June 30, 2011 shows a total of $2,529,168 raised compared to $1,441,521 received during the prior year. $1.421 million of these dollars came from: the RACP (Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program) Grant of $1 million for Alumni Hall; and $400,000 from donated equipment and supplies on the closeout of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation grant (secured by Jack and Sister Mary Ann during his first tenure here).

❖ Giving during the fourth quarter was exceptionally strong with a total of $858,836 raised.

❖ Preparations for our next comprehensive campaign are nearly finalized as the Campaign Committee met on October 5th to approve structure, timeline and goals. Thanks to Mike McLanahan and Dan Rullo for co-chairing the Committee and to Ann Benzel, Adele Kupchella, Kim Craig, Jim Gallagher, Bill Polacek, Joe Sheetz, Ed Sheehan, Tim Sissler, and Phil Devorris for agreeing to serve. The work that has been completed in assessing our
advancement function, conducting the feasibility study, planning the campaign, identifying and cultivating donor prospects, and recruiting our team will serve us well as we move forward.

- Our **Annual Celebrity Golf Outing** at Summit Country Club was held in Cresson on Friday, June 10th and was a major success. The event netted over $27,000 for our general scholarship fund. Jack recruited most of the foursomes, emceed to dinner, and even held off the rain until our guests were headed to their cars after dinner, demonstrating the excellent planning skills of his team (and the power of Sister Eric Marie’s prayers).

- Our Annual **Alumni Reunion Weekend** was held over the weekend of July 15th and 16th. An enthusiastic group of alums enjoyed a full weekend of events, fun, and memories with their classmates and friends. Our special emphasis next year will be on our Academy graduates as we celebrate their special place in the Mount Aloysius legacy.

- Please join us for the **President’s Appreciation Dinner**, where scholarship donors enjoy an evening with the recipients of their generosity—Tuesday, October 18th in the Cosgrave Student Center. Reception at 5:30 pm; dinner at 6:15 pm.

- Also mark your calendar for December 3rd and 4th. Believe it or not, the **Madrigal** is just around the corner!

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**Priority Three: Contribute to the economic, social, cultural and spiritual well-being of the communities, both local and regional, through a variety of institutional and partnership efforts, in keeping with the educational mission of the College.**

We have finally filled the long vacant position in the Office of the VP for Mission Integration, a post which will among other things allow us to keep better track of all our institutional partnerships and community service activities by faculty, staff, students and myself. In the academic section of this report, in the course of a single year you will see a good range of community work led or engaged in by our faculty. But we have no other systematic way to account for and maximize these partnerships, until now!!

In the last month, our students again broke their own record in a blood drive, I have personally contributed (just this month, they’re killing me) to at least five different fundraising campaigns led by our own students for those in need in our community, and just keynoted this year’s United Way of the Laurel Highlands campaign kickoff event. Jane is leading our efforts to cosponsor the Cresson Heritage Days this weekend, the single largest community event in our area. And Marisa Evans, Sister Helen Marie, Sister Nancy and others led the all-day WISE Women Empowerment Workshop in Altoona (and still found time to participate in homecoming that same weekend).
And of course, both the inaugural activities and Mercy Week allowed us to reach into the community in some unprecedented ways—e.g., into the arts community, into the Haiti Relief groups (two of them in the area), and with thought leaders locally (Sr. Helen Marie), in the state (Dr. Murray, Dr. Harkavy, Dr. Gray, and Sondra Myers), and from a national stage (Judge Smith, David Shribman, Sr. Mary Ann Stevens) in the context of our inaugural symposia.

We had good turnout at the inaugural activities from local and regional business and community leaders, and an excellent response in written communications from our elected officials, judges, and fellow institutions of higher education. Their presence and engagement helps immeasurably to tell the story of Mt Aloysius.

I continue to be impressed that our faculty and staff participate in many community events as presenters, official representatives of the college or special guests, and I believe that we can do more at the leadership level for some of those organizations. Sr. Benedict Joseph Watters, Sr. Eric Marie Setlock, Sr. Giuseppe DaBella, and Sr. Charlene Kelly all continue to play an active role as volunteers, as servant leaders on campus and as personal mentors to other staff, to individual students and to me.

Thank you for all your contributions to Mt Aloysius College. Your service is highly valued and very much appreciated.

Thomas P. Foley