President’s Report to the Community

President Tom Foley
December 2, 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

It has been an excellent quarter for Mt. Aloysius, and a dreadful time for our neighbors up the road at Penn State. Though we hope and pray we have no issues remotely close to what they are dealing with in State College, we still have searched that debacle for lessons and insights that we might apply to our own work. More on that later.

Here at the Mount, the last quarter has been a highlight reel of sorts. Since my last report to you, we

- watched both of our inaugural symposiums on statewide TV (a first for the College)
- closed out our bond sale in short order with even better rates than anticipated
- taped three segments for a national cable show on education
- kicked off the winter sports season with some Mountie Madness
- started construction on our two big projects
- sponsored three more outstanding speakers in our 15 month old series
- enjoyed six Vox Nova concerts and two theater productions
- completed dozens of community service projects all over the region (and beyond) and even
- hosted the Western PA premier of a movie made in Ireland.

Check out the Baker’s Dozen of highlights below for more detail on these and other activities.

As for our neighbors up the road in State College, it is fair to say that all of higher education is still reeling from the allegations, the immediate fallout (indictments and firings) and the series of apparent missteps since the grand jury report came down—missed steps by everyone from the President to the PSU trustees to the student body to the communications team. Behind the expected sensationalist stories repeating allegations with which we are all too familiar at this point, there have been some very thoughtful analyses about what Penn State could have done better to protect the victims, what it should do now to protect itself, and what other institutions of higher education should be doing period. There are some materials in this board book that go to that statement, and the issue will be item one on our agenda.

I also managed to fit in a quick trip to China since my last report, with Board member Mike McLanahan, the Chancellor of Penn State Altoona, our spouses and 100 of our closest friends (!)
organized by the Blair County Chamber of Commerce. It was energizing and exhausting, fascinating and mesmerizing all at the same time. We crammed thousands of years of history and at least five very modern economic development operations into our 7 days on the ground. VP for Enrollment Management, Frank Crouse was delighted to know that I met our future college recruiter, should we decide to go into the Chinese student admissions business. More on that later.

**PART TWO: BAKER’S DOZEN OF HIGHLIGHTS**

1. **Fall is construction season at Mt Aloysius**—from the long awaited Mountie Stables (it was part of the original college fields plan more than ten years ago) to refitting old water and sewer lines (to meet finally Borough requirements!), from laying down brand new electrical, water and sewer lines for the Athletic Convocation Wellness center to setting the footers for softball/baseball dugouts, from long term solutions for long time drainage/flooding problems in major College structures to minor fixes that will extend the life of Ihmsen another ten years, it has been a busy fall at the College. We are keeping Senior VP Suzanne Campbell very busy!!

2. **Speaker’s Series: new highlights post-inauguration**—Chair of the Department of Theology at Marquette Dr. Susan Wood (on ecumenism), former PA Dept. of Environmental Protection and Labor & Industry Chief Counsel Susan Shinkman (on balancing energy and environmental needs) and filmmaker and author Maurice Fitzpatrick (premiering his new film about education and civil rights in Derry, Northern Ireland) were featured speakers in the last six weeks (and bring to 11 the number of guest speakers on campus this fall; we had 13 all of last year). The main idea behind this series is to bring the outside world to our students in the form of guest speakers who can add personal insight and bring even more value to their educations. Wood addressed 55 leaders of ten denominations in the region in a luncheon lecture. Shinkman and Fitzpatrick each delivered a campus wide address in Alumni Hall, lectured in three classes each and shared three meals with small groups of students and faculty in the College Memorabilia Room. Shinkman continued the focus on civil discourse as her address outlined a “critical thinking” approach to potentially divisive issues—in this case, Marcellus Shale and nuclear energy. She showed the audience how to break down the pros and cons on these issues in a dispassionate, professional way, and underlined common fallacies in arguments from both sides of these debates. Fitzpatrick was a huge hit at an opening night small dinner in the President’s Dining Room with 8 students in a fall film course (and their professors), and some of the students followed him around to the rest of his lectures like groupies to a movie star!! Thanks to VP Sister Helen Marie Burns for all her help on the series.

3. **State of the College: very good!!**—we went to market on our $10M bond issue at 9 AM on October 19, were three times oversubscribed (good reflection on our financials) and were sold out by noon. For the full $10M in mixed bonds, our true interest cost is 3.418%, an excellent rate. Our standard and Poor’s A- rating has continued to stand us in good stead. Thank you to the Board Finance Committee which helped oversee this multi-year process from beginning to end and to our CFO Donna Yoder for her steady hand at the tiller.
4. **New Dean of Faculty commissions College Technology Council**—in my inaugural remarks, I opined on what I called the “Mt. Aloysius Compact”—that we endeavor to produce graduates who are “job-ready, community-ready and technology-ready.” Dean of Faculty Tim Fulop has appointed a committee of faculty and staff to work at the third of these three commitments. The College has long been known for producing graduates who are ready to work on day one, and who understand what it means to be of service to their communities. It is my strong feeling that in this internet age the complete education now requires a demonstrated facility with communications technology. It will be the purpose of this committee to define the phrase “technology-ready” in practical terms and then work with me and others to ensure that we continue to meet that promise here at the Mount. Well done Dr. Tim.

5. **5th Annual Criminal Justice Symposium puts focus on campus security**—The all-day event attracted Mount Aloysius College criminology students, members of local and state police departments, county detectives, campus security, counselors, high school/elementary school principals, and school superintendents. The instructor was FBI Behavioral Analyst Dr. Roger Depue, who provided insight from his decades of law enforcement experience and answered queries on everything from the VA Tech case to the Unabomber. He was the first Unit Chief of the FBI’s famed Behavioral Analysis Unit and has been involved with ground breaking research in the areas of serial and violent crimes. He has consulted on many well-known cases such as the Kennedy-Cousin (Martha Moxley) homicide investigation and many other prominent cases. He is the author of many scholarly/peer-reviewed journal articles, and has contributed to numerous educational textbooks. Thanks to Joe Bobak and the Crim Department.

6. **The Inaugural Symposiums make statewide appearances on PCN**—both our high level conversation among four outstanding commentators on The University’s Role in Civil Discourse (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; Sondra Myers, from the University of Scranton—who has worked Internationally on citizenship and civic engagements issues; 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) and the discussion moderated by our VP Sr. Helen Marie Burns RSM, Ph.D. on three commissioned papers on the subject The University’s Role in the Social Fabric (Dr. Ira Harkavy, VP at the University of Pennsylvania and the guru of community service in higher education in Pennsylvania; Dr. Char Gray, the current President of the statewide PA Campus Compact; Sister Maryanne Stevens, RSM, Ph.D., President of The College of Saint Mary in Omaha, Nebraska). Both panels were shown the afternoon and early evening of October 15 (and several other times during the month). They were so well received that the PA Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AICUP) was commissioned by PCN to solicit other symposia that may be taking place at colleges around PA. We are editing material from both panels for publication which we will distribute throughout PA and to some national audiences. Thanks again to Honorary Chair Adele Kupchella and Arts and Entertainment Chair Ann Benzel and to all our senior staff.

7. **Lou Gossett’s Profile Series to feature Mt Aloysius College**—a cable based series that profiles success stories in education and business, Gossett’s producers chose Mt Aloysius because of
our focus on value (top tuition, room/board/fees still below $28k) and values (community service as a requirement). The programs will air early in the new year. Dan Rullo, Mike McLanahan and Ann Benzel were interviewed as part of the day long taping here at the College, as well as three students and yours truly. **MAC is the only area college ever to be featured on the program.** Thanks to Jack Coyle and his team.

8. **President’s Appreciation Dinner full house**—all seats were spoken for as we honored all those donors who have created scholarships at the College. They shared dinner with the recipients of their generosity, and all three student speakers, as last year, were just excellent. Kudos to Jack Coyle and his team.

9. **Mountie Madness culminates with naming contest for 700 lb bronze Stallion...and the winner is a winner—it’s “Victory” (or “Vic” for short)—a gift from the McLanahan family, the stallion (which bears an uncanny resemblance to the 5 year old design of the Mountie you have all seen in print) was the subject of a campus-wide naming effort. Lots of good suggestions from the expected (MAC, Aloysius and Mountie) to the original (Brutus, Justice, Mercy) to just plain fun (Harry, Mike, Al), but in the end “Victory” seemed to fit best all our aims—some genuine meaning, fun name that lends itself to cheering, etc. Thanks again to the McLanahans—they saw the horse on display, negotiated the sale, and donated it to the College. See the YouTube edition of Mountie Madness here. [http://www.mtaloy.edu/athletics/videos.dot](http://www.mtaloy.edu/athletics/videos.dot) Kudos to Dr. Jane, Ryan and Lance.

10. **Mount Aloysius sports teams set records for Community Service**—though they didn’t win any championships this fall (5 athletes made all conference), they each contributed to their communities, some in multiple ways. Our women’s Volleyball team led the way with four different community service projects this fall, and made the league playoffs as well. Men’s and women’s soccer also hit the community “field” hard, and both basketball teams hit their season openers having already completed at least one team community service activity. Their work didn’t go unnoticed in the local press either, with features on the women’s basketball and volleyball projects in one or both of the major local papers and two stories on men’s basketball Coaches vs Cancer Tournament and Clinic. See the athletic update below for more details. Good leadership from Ass’t AD Brianna Baker.

11. **Admissions/Enrollment on pace again**—VP Frank Crouse and his team have kept pace this fall, despite the twin challenges of demographics and recruiting from a much diminished available pool (now that baby boomers kids are all in college already). Spring and fall recruiting are both ahead of last year’s record pace, with applications, acceptances and deposits all ahead of projections. See the data under the Enrollment/Admissions section of this report. 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 are also recruiting scholar-athletes more aggressively, as the numbers would indicate that we underperform in that area. We will be hoping for our first results there this year.
12. **Fall on-campus entertainment abundant and rich**—six Vox Nova performances, two theatrical productions, a slew of professional comedians and musicians and the always entertaining MAC’s Got Talent have kept the College on the cutting edge as far as art and artists this fall. The Friday night performances during the inauguration will always be the highlight for me (five separate absolutely outstanding acts, any of which could have been the headliner), and the Thursday night MAC’s Got Talent finalists were also just terrific. We are lucky to have so much talent in the region.

13. **MAC Honor Societies Civil Discourse discussion at Alumni Hall**—The PTK and DES Honor Societies Committee sponsored a panel discussion on civil discourse in Alumni Hall. Dr. Ryan Costanzo, Assistant Professor/Educational Enrichment Program, and Dr. Anthony Dragani, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, are the co-chairs of this committee and played leading roles in organizing the event. The title of the symposium was “Don’t Be a Hater: Disagreeing without Attacking” and featured Mount Aloysius College professors examining the question of civil discourse from different disciplinary perspectives. The five presenters were Dr. Michael Jones (History/Politics), Chris Mingyar (Business/Professional World), Jeff Sunseri (Technology), Richard Kensinger (Psychology) and Dr. Fran Rohlf (Religion). The moderator was Joan Krug (Nursing).

**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, Academics and Student Affairs.)**

**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 last two months, since our early October Board meeting:

1. Dr. Susan K. Wood, SCL, professor and Chair of the Department of Theology at Marquette University, delivered a presentation entitled “Gifts and Challenges of the Ecumenical Movement Today” to 55 people from more than ten denominations at the Ecumenical Luncheon and Lecture series (October 2012).

2. The Ecumenical Advisory Board, which met in October, is examining the possibility of a joint Board to serve ecumenical activity sponsored by Mount Aloysius College and St. Francis University. In addition, the Board supported distribution of a newsletter to serve as a connector among and between the churches.
3. **Campus Ministry** under Sister Nancy Donovan has been busy planning and executing several service trips and other good works:

- in October, students and staff journeyed to **Frenchville, PA**, to assist with various projects sponsored by Young People Who Care.

- fund-raising is in full flight for trips to **Mississippi** (December), to **Guyana** (March), and a first-ever trip to **China** (June), an opportunity provided through the Campus Ministry organization within the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

- the always popular **Mid-Month Pause** events bring students together for food and libations.

- a well-conceived and received **Thanksgiving Prayer Service** led by a local Baptist minister and her husband and church choir took place in the Chapel last week.

- a nine-week program featuring the virtues corresponding to the **seven deadly sins** is up to its third virtue.

- the recognition of **National Hunger and Homelessness Week** (week prior to Thanksgiving, see article in clips) took the form of a "**Sleep-Out for Homelessness**" November 14 (right after Mountie Madness) and the annual Mt. Aloysius "**Hunger Banquet**" which reached over 50 young people on November 16.

4. The **Community Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship Center** continues to develop under the new leadership of Jessica Maxon, working closely with Sister Helen Marie. Two Mount Aloysius College students--Joshua and Kara Snyder--received **Scholars in Service award** through the Center. A Scholars in Service award offers $2000 toward tuition and educational expenses to students who complete 300 hours of service in a given block of time.

5. The **Mercy Youth Initiative** also continues to develop under the leadership of AmeriCorps member, Kim Franey. Kim has completed a calendar of events, the selection of ten seventh-grade students from Penn Cambria Elementary School, and commitment from faculty, staff and students who will serve as mentors and input persons for the program which will take place on the third Saturday of every month, beginning in January 2012.

**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:

August 25 - Sally Weber, Associate Registrar, attended the VA Teleconference titled “Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011 “Grandfathering Eligibility.” The teleconference explained the new Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011. As pertains to us, the new legislation authorizes the VA to pay more than the $17,500 cap for tuition and fees for certain eligible students attending private colleges in Pennsylvania.

September 12 - The Cambria County Medical Assistants held their monthly meeting at Mount Aloysius College in Pierce Hall. Ms. Karen Sybert was the guest speaker and presented information about the importance of medical terminology and accurate documentation in the medical office.

September 12 - Ms. Kathleen Hoyne, Clinical Coordinator Health Studies Division, attended the fall meeting of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science / Pennsylvania State Society of American Medical Technologists, which was held at the Days Inn, State College, Pennsylvania. Ms. Hoyne was a participant in a panel discussion entitled "Infectious Disease and Medical Microbiology Case Studies".

September 13 - Dr. Merrilee Anderson, Department Chairperson of Science & Mathematics, and Dr. Michael Engle, Assistant Professor of Science & Mathematics, participated in the All College Departmental Advisory Committee Meeting for Pennsylvania Highlands Community College. The meeting was held at the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

September 21-24 - Dr. Jacqueline Beck, RN-BSN Department Chairperson, attended the National League for Nursing Summit “Leading Academic Progression—Advancing the Health of the Nation” in Orlando FL. The keynote speaker, Dr. Donna Shalala, Chair of the Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing Education and past Secretary of Health & Human Services under President Clinton, shared her insights for the current and future vision for nursing in a complex, transforming health care system. Both the keynote and the ensuing sessions included many topics that addressed the changing profile of the population and the need for fundamental shift in health care delivery, including the need for expanded numbers of nurses, especially in advanced practice roles. In addition, she gained valuable experience networking with other leaders in the field on topics such as dual admissions to promote seamless progression through the various levels of nursing education, providing visionary strategies for her role at Mount Aloysius College.

September 23 - Dr. Michael Jones, Assistant Professor of Social Science, VP Sr. Helen Marie Burns and Dr. Julie Smith, Associate Professor of Social Science, attended “Faith in America: A Town Hall Meeting Confronts Religion and Politics” in Pittsburgh, PA.

October 2-5 – The Physical Therapist Assistant Program underwent an on-site accreditation visit from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

October 3 - The Cambria County Medical Assistants met at Mount Aloysius College in Pierce Hall for their monthly meeting. Ms. Cheryl Kowalczyk, Department Chairperson of Medical Assistant, delivered a presentation on “Angina Pectoris.”
October 7 - The Science and Mathematics Department hosted a guest speaker for the Botany class taught by Dr. Merrilee Anderson. Sr. Mary Joy Haywod, RSM delivered a presentation on "Wildflowers of Pennsylvania."

October 12 - Dr. Sara Rutledge, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, attended “Using SmartBoard Technology for Literacy Instruction in the Classroom,” presented by Jason Isenberg, Blairsville Elementary School, sponsored by the Indiana County Reading Council. Additionally, Dr. Rutledge serves as the Vice President of the Council.

October 14 - Dr. Fran Rohlf, Coordinator of the Philosophy and Religious Studies, attended the annual meeting of the Western Pennsylvania chapter of the College Theology Society, at Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA. He participated in the discussion of the recent text, “Narrating Salvation: Historical Jesus Research and Soteriology,” by Christopher McMahon. There was a meal and lively discussion of the text by representatives of four universities in Western Pennsylvania.

October 21 - Joan Krug, MSN, RN and Nicole Custer, MSN, RN, CCRN-CSC attended the ATI Educator Enrichment Conference, “Creating an Environment for Student Success” at Malloy College, Long Island, New York.

October 25 - The PTK and DES Honor Societies Committee sponsored a panel discussion on civil discourse in Alumni Hall. Dr. Ryan Costanzo, Assistant Professor/Educational Enrichment Program, and Dr. Anthony Dragani, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, are the co-chairs of this committee and played leading roles in organizing the event. The title of the symposium is “Don’t Be a Hater: Disagreeing without Attacking” and featured Mount Aloysius College professors examining the question of civil discourse from different disciplinary perspectives. The five presenters were Dr. Michael Jones (History/Politics), Chris Mingyar (Business/Professional World), Jeff Sunseri (Technology), Richard Kensinger (Psychology) and Dr. Fran Rohlf (Religion). The moderator was Joan Krug (Nursing).

October 27 - Joan Krug, MSN, RN served on the Panel Discussion for Health Quest.

October 28 - Margaret Boyce, MBA, MSN, RN attended the PSNA Summit in Johnstown, at UPJ campus Living and Learning Center. There were over 100 nurses who attended and the topics addressed revolved around nursing and its future.

October 28 - Dr. Fran Rohlf represented Mount Aloysius College at the Autumn meeting of the Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies, a 27-University organization to coordinate and promote Islamic studies, at Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA. He took part in the discussion of “The Long Journey: Searching for Peace and Justice in Jerusalem” by James Paharik, a book on the continuing conflicts among Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the state of Israel. The meeting and discussion brought about 25 scholars together to discuss Islam in the contemporary world.

October 30 – Ms. Sharon Miller, Assistant Professor of Medical Imaging & Radiation Sciences, attended the RAD-AID Conference on “International Radiology for Developing Countries” at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The conference is to discuss and plan strategies for assisting the developing world’s access to vital health care imaging services.
November 4-5 - **Dr. Merrilee Anderson**, President of the Allegheny Branch of the American Society of Microbiology (ABASM), **Dr. Michael Engle**, and **Dr. Natalie van Breukelen**, Assistant Professor of Science & Mathematics, helped plan and will host the regional meeting for ABASM at Mount Aloysius College. Faculty and students from many regional colleges will participate in workshops, posters, and oral presentations related to environmental, medical, and food safety microbiology.

November 12 – **Dr. Paula Scaramozzino**, Department Chairperson of Medical Imaging & Radiation Sciences, presented “Generational Learners” at the Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologist mini-conference. **Sharon Miller** spoke regarding the Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility and Excellence (CARE) Bill. The mini-conference was held at Misericordia University, Dallas, PA.

November 17 - **Marianne Roberts**, MSN, MA, RN, CIC, **Heather Zonts**, MSN, RN, and **Joan Krug**, MSN, RN were recognized by three Level 1 nursing students, on the volleyball team, at Faculty Appreciation Night.

**Kimberly Asonevich**, Assistant Professor of Business & Information Technology, developed a handout for “How to Land Your Dream Internship” and held two internship informational meetings on September 22 and October 20, 2011.

**Dr. Sara Rutledge**, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, served as a Manuscript Reviewer for the Pennsylvania Teacher Educator, a journal of the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators.

**Dr. Sara Rutledge** is currently engaged in a service learning project with a 2011 Blue Ribbon School titled “iPads in the Kindergarten Classroom”, a service learning collaboration between Pocopson Elementary School and Mount Aloysius College.

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

September 6 - **Dr. Fran Rohlf** gave a presentation for the Catholic Connections group of Mount Aloysius College Campus Ministry, concerning the “Contrary Virtue of Mercy.” About 15 interested students and staff attended and were fully involved in the discussion.

September 2011 **Dr. Sara Rutledge** completed a manuscript to be distributed to local public schools, private schools, community groups, parent associations and home school groups titled “Aesthetic Experiences for Children in Western and Central Pennsylvania:” A Resource Guide Developed by students in the Education Department at Mount Aloysius College.”

October 2011 **Dr. Sara Rutledge** submitted an article for publication in Pennsylvania Reads, the academic, scholarly, peer-reviewed journal of the Keystone State Reading Association titled “Best Practices for Building Literacy Skills with Interactive Whiteboards: Research and Practice.”

October 1 - **Kimberly Asonevich** developed and presented “15 Simple Tips for Managing Your Finances” at Pathways to Empowerment: A Workshop for Women, in Altoona, PA. There were 18 attendees.
October 1 - Dr. Brandi Porter, Library Director, and Caressa Gearhart, Coordinator of Learning Commons, presented a workshop entitled, “New or Experienced in Learning Commons: This Session is for You”, at the National College Learning Center Association’s 26th Annual Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

October 4 - Kimberly Asonevich developed and presented “Marketing Research: Research for the Real World” to CLS classes here on campus.

October 5–8 - Dr. Barbara Cook, Associate Professor of English, attended the Western American Literature Conference in Missoula, Montana and presented on the panel: “Reimagining the Television Western in Deadwood and Justified.”

October 25 - Dr. Fran Rohlf joined with other professors for a presentation on” Civil Discourse (in Religion)”. The event was sponsored by the Catholic College Honor Societies, Delta Epsilon Sigma and Phi Theta Kappa. The presentations by faculty from various disciplines led to lively discussion and interest from the many who attended.

November 2 - Kimberly Asonevich developed and presented a workshop on “Self Esteem: Women Supporting Women” at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Dr. Brandi Porter's article, “Millennial Undergraduate Research Strategies in Web and Library Information Retrieval Systems,” was published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Web Librarianship (volume 5, issue 4).

Dr. Natalie van Breukelen recently published the results of a field research project in a preeminent peer-reviewed journal. The article, "Mate removal leads to increase in parental defense behavior in free-ranging convict cichlids" was published in Animal Behavior, volume 82 issue 5, November 2011.

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

September 7 - Mount Aloysius College, by way of the MAC Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), was given the designation as an Authorized IRS e-file provider. This makes the MAC VITA program an area provider of income tax preparation assistance for those area residents who qualify to use the VITA services. Dr. Gary Hypes, Assistant Professor of Business & Information Technology, supervises students in the VITA program.

September 28 - The first Study Night of the 2011/2012 academic year was held in the Learning Commons. Approximately 57 students participated. Nine professors held study sessions with classes and a host of peer tutors were also on hand. Second Study Night was held on November 15.

October 1 - Dr. Natalie van Breukelen and students from her BL 250.01 Genetics class participated in a service learning project. The students designed science demonstrations for children of various ages at Family Fest at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg, PA. The event was a benefit for the Domestic Abuse Project of Blair County and was hosted by Family Services, Inc. The kids had fun and learned about plants, animals, and fungi!
October 4 - The Medical Assistant Club sponsored a blood drive for the American Red Cross from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the Cosgrave meeting rooms at Mount Aloysius College. Sixty-three pints of blood were collected during the blood drive.

October 12 - Dr. Marilyn Roseman reported that the Education Department hosted a "Cooperating Teacher Dinner" as a way to extend thanks to the cooperating teachers in Elementary and Secondary Education who mentor our student teachers. The student teachers mingled with the cooperating teachers, myself, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Tim Fulop, Associate Academic Dean Deanne D’Emilio, and the Education faculty prior to dinner being served. Following dinner, the group enjoyed a presentation from Anthony Labriola on the craft of effective teaching, which was entitled “A Call to Servant Leadership.” The evening concluded with a review of the Student Teacher handbook. There were a total of 15 teachers in attendance from various school districts in Blair and Cambria counties.

October 14 - Dr. Julie Smith and two of her students attended the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies workshop on “Teaching the Holocaust (Echoes and Reflections).” It was held at the Double Tree Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA. The students received over $100 worth of instructional materials and three hours of workshop training at no cost.

October 17 – Heather Low, Retention & Advising Director, began four mid-semester courses, offered to help students who are struggling in a class and want to withdraw from that course without losing full-time status. She also spoke to the Level 1 nursing students about effective strategies for success during the semester. Topics included: time management, effective reading and test taking skills, and general study skills. She also reviewed campus resources that are available to nursing students.

October 22 - Dr. Natalie van Breukelen and Kyle Rose, a senior biology secondary education major, attended the 14th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Chemical and Biological Sciences at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Mr. Rose presented research conducted with Dr. van Breukelen examining the aggressive interactions between native and invasive cichlid species. Dr. van Breukelen served as a judge for the poster competition.

October 24 - Joe Bobak, Assistant Professor of Criminology, reports that the 5th Annual Criminal Justice Symposium, “Lessons Learned from Columbine to Virginia Tech,” held on the Mount Aloysius Campus was a success. The event included more than 50 attendees consisting of Mount Aloysius College students, members of local and state police departments, county detectives, campus security, counselors, high school/elementary school principals, and school superintendents. The instructor for the event was world-renowned FBI Behavioral Analyst Dr. Roger Depue, who provided insight from his decades of law enforcement experience. He was the first Unit Chief of the FBI’s famed Behavioral Analysis Unit and has been involved with groundbreaking research in the areas of serial and violent crimes. He has consulted on many well-known cases such as the Kennedy-Cousin (Martha Moxley) homicide investigation, the UNIBOMBER case, and many other prominent cases. He is the author of many scholarly/peer-reviewed journal articles, and has contributed to many educational textbooks.

November 5 - Dr. Jessica Jost-Costanzo, Assistant Professor of English, and 15 students of the Anthropology 101 class traveled to Meadowcroft Rockshelter, Avella, PA, which is an archaeology site sponsored by the Heinz History Center/Smithsonian Institution. This site, which
has archaeological evidence dating back to 16,000 years ago, is one of the “oldest sites of human habitation in North America. Ryan Costanzo was also a guest lecturer on the topic of anthropological linguistics to the class. Our location in Pennsylvania makes this trip possible, and is a great opportunity for students to glimpse a working archaeological site as well as get more information about early humans in North America.

Dr. Dave Haschak, Assistant Professor of Social Science, reports that four students from the Masters in Counseling program are being entered into the American Counseling Association’s National Ethics Competition. The students must finish and submit their work by December 11, 2011. If they place in the competition, their response will be posted in the Counseling Today Magazine and online at ACA.org.

Nancy Way, Assistant Professor of Music/Vox Nova Director, reports that Vox Nova performed six times in the last two months:
- At the Opening Liturgy in the campus gym on September 15
- At the Presidential Inauguration on September 16, supplemented with Madrigal/community singers and instrumentalists, on the front lawn of the campus
- On September 27 Vox Nova sang Novena for Discalced Carmelites in Loretto, PA
- Vox Nova sang as the entertainment in Cosgrave Center on October 18 for the President’s Appreciation Dinner
- On November 10 in the Chapel the Vox Nova series concert “Echoes,” which was a 15-year reunion concert for former Vox Nova members
- On November 21 at the Thanksgiving Service in the Chapel at 4 p.m. Vox Nova provided choral and instrumental music for attendees, in conjunction with Campus Ministry.

Bill Grove, Assistant Professor of Information Technology, reports that the CS 226 Operating Systems class has installed an evaluation copy of the Windows 8 Beta on systems using virtual hard drives. Students will test and use this beta version, not yet available to the general public, to stay on the cutting edge of system administration.

The Library offered six professional development workshops for faculty and staff this semester, as part of a pilot project for this service. Sessions by Library staff included: Incorporating Student Learning Modalities and Multiple Intelligence Theories in Instruction, Developing Information Literacy Assignments for the Classroom, Teaching Millennials: Strategies for Engagement, Using Games in Teaching and Learning Exercises, and Using Emerging Multimedia Technologies for Education. They also broadcasted two webinars from the Innovative Educators group entitled, 7 Emerging Trends Impacting Higher Education and Providing Services 24/7: Restructuring How We Support Today's Students. Nineteen different faculty and staff attended, three of whom attended multiple sessions (including one instructor who attended virtually via Skype software). Librarians are continuing to offer instruction sessions as part of our new Information Literacy Teaching and Assessment Plan, and a summary of the initial assessment results will be included in my next report.
Dr. Tim Fulop will offer some brief observations on his first four months at Mt Aloysius as part of the President’s report during the Board meeting. Suffice it to say he is very happy to be here, and we are delighted with the fit—both for Tim and his wife Jackie.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**FIRST, RESIDENCE HALL-BASED AND CAMPUS-WIDE BASED STUDENT LIFE HAS STARTED THE YEAR STRONG,** led by Dr. Jane, Director of Student Activities Elaine Grant and an excellent team of RAs.

- **Residence based programming efforts** have been varied and generally successful this fall. The following programs have been the most popular (highest attendance):
  - Pumpkin Carving and Painting
  - Speed Dating
  - Madden Game Tournament
  - Hall Decorating for Halloween
  - Haunted Ghost Trail (Collaborative effort with SGA)
  - Flag Football Tournament
  - Punt, Pass, Kick Competition - collaboration with MAC Intramurals and Athletics
  - Call of Duty tournament
  - Floor Spirit Competition - “Floor Wars” (program supporting the Mountie Madness event in November)
  - In addition to "Christmas at the Mount" festivities, Residence Life will be planning several Christmas-themed activities in the residence halls to encourage reflection and relaxation prior to the stress of final exams.
  - Wall of Thanks building-wide program in Misciagna for the month of November
  - Men’s personal hygiene and grooming program (I had nothing to do with this!!).

- **Campus-wide activities have included:**
  - Coffee House with Poet Rudy Francisco, October 14, Cosgrave
  - Friday Night Live: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2*, October 14, Cosgrave
  - French Night with French food and movie *Amelie*, October 19, Cosgrave
  - Craft Night make your own Halloween decorations, October 20, Cosgrave
  - Coffee House with Musician Mieka Pauley, October 21, Cosgrave
  - Humans vs. Zombies, October 23- October 26, All over campus
  - Halloween Movie: *Insidious*, October 25, McAuley
  - Craft Night carve your own pumpkin, October 27, Cosgrave
  - Halloween Dance, October 28, Cosgrave
Craft Night - make your own sun catcher, November 3
Coffee House with Musician Steve Means, November 5, Alumni
Dance, Dance Revolution Tournament, November 9, Cosgrave
Craft Night make a penguin ornament, November 10
X- Box Game Event, November 11, Cosgrave
Craft Night make a gingerbread house, Cosgrave
Coffee House with Comedian Prasanth, November 17, Cosgrave
Friday Night Live: Captain America, November 18, Cosgrave
Late Night Breakfast and Bingo, December 1, Cosgrave
Craft Night decorate holiday cookies, December 1, Cosgrave
Tree lighting and organization decorating competition December 1 (first time effort, in conjunction with Administrative Services)

MAC Student Affairs is also launching the new LEADER Program – (Leadership, Ethics, Accountability, Development, Empathy, and Responsibility) designed for emerging leaders of all class years and utilizing commencement speaker Fr. William J. Byron’s new book, “Next Generation Leadership” as the foundational material for the program. This has been a collaborative effort, with Student Affairs, Admissions, Mission Integration, Academic Affairs and yours truly all responding to Jane’s request for counsel and advice.

SECOND, OUR DIVISION III ATHLETES COMPETED WELL, PERFORMED SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY SERVICE AND EVEN WON SOME LEAGUE HONORS.

Community Service and Competition go hand-in-hand at MAC:

Volleyball team excels at Service and Competition (under coach, former two time MAC “student athlete of the year” and new Assistant Athletic Director for Women’s Sports Brianna Baker)

- In collaboration with the MAC Colleges Against Cancer, the volleyball team decorated the gym in pink and white, held a 50/50, raffled gift baskets, wore pink-out t-shirts for warm ups and pink shoe laces during the game and sold breast cancer awareness items. All proceeds went to the fight against breast cancer.
- The Mountie Volleyball team also organized the “Uniforms for Honduras” event that involved collecting old uniforms and volleyball supplies and donated over 81 uniforms and 4 boxes of various volleyball supplies to the Honduras Volleyball Association. Most of the teams involved in the Honduras league do not have the means to purchase uniforms or supplies.
- Mountie Volleyball also qualified for the AMCC playoffs with a conference win against LaRoche. This marks the third time in four years the volleyball team has reached post-
season play. The Mounties played Medaille in the opening round of the playoffs and lost in a very competitive 5 set match.

- They also placed **two players on the all-conference squad**—Mariah McDowell was one of six players from 10 teams to be on the first team and setter Chelesa Perehinec made second team.
- The Women’s Volleyball team organized a **free team camp for the Portage High School volleyball team**. The girls spent a week coaching and teaching the team basic fundamentals as well as team building strategies.
- Volleyball held their first ever **Faculty Appreciation Game** on October 26, 2011. Each player nominated a MAC professor who has made an impact on them in the classroom. Faculty members that received nominations were introduced before the game and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

- The Mountie **Men’s Soccer** team participated in **The Newman Center Book Mobile**, loading and unloading trucks, assisted in clean up and boxing up books for shipment. Very nice letter to editor of Indiana Gazette about their work. Men also beat Franciscan 3-2 to win their first AMCC game is school history.
  - Kevin Wheelden and Luke Fragello were honored before the game as the lone seniors on the team. They were escorted to mid-field by their parents and recognized.
  - Goalie Ali Afshar became the first Mt. Aloysius player to be named All-Conference.

- **Women’s Soccer** ran their traditional blood drive (63 pints) and honored their two senior players, Nicole Johnson and Andrea Lingle.
  - Both seniors were escorted by their parents and presented flowers. Johnson was two year captain. Lingle is a multi-sport athlete who volunteered to play goalie when the starter broke her ankle. Both are model MAC student athletes.
  - Johnson, from Altoona, PA., was also selected to attend a MAC service trip to China. Nicola will be one of several Mount Aloysius College staff, faculty and students making the trip. The trip will take place in the summer of 2012.
  - Wracked by key injuries and a short bench, and after significant step forward last year, the team failed to win a game on the field this season. They were however big winners off it. See letter attached.  

- The Mountie **Baseball team** participated in **Project Bundle Up** as their fall 2011 community service event. Members of the Baseball team were paired up with families and then assisted the families in purchasing clothing. They completed their fall schedule by splitting a doubleheader with defending league champs and NCAA qualifiers PSU-Altoona (11-8 and 5-10).
Two time defending league regular season champions Mountie Softball team completed their fall season by pitching shutouts in all three teams they played (vs. Juniata and PS Altoona), not allowing a runner past second base. Freshman Jalisa Westover hit a 3-run home run and also drove in 4 runs for the day.

The annual basketball season kickoff Mountie Madness event was held on Monday November 14, 2011, with over 400 people in the audience from 8:30 until 11 PM.

- The Men’s and Women’s Basketball teams were individually introduced (to their favorite theme songs) and then played in short scrimmage games.
- Fan and team contests included: co-ed 3-point shootout, slam dunk contest, fan wheel of destiny and the drawing for two tickets to the Jay-Z, Kanye West concert at the Consol Energy Center. The new Mountie Maniac t-shirt was unveiled and sold to students, staff and faculty. And our new Bronze Stallion was officially christened “Victory”!!
- The Men’s Basketball team hosted the 2011 Coaches vs. Cancer tournament November 19-20. All proceeds from the event were donated to the Blair/Cambria Chapter of the American Cancer Society. The MAC team beat PS Altoona for third place, and have scored over 350 points in their three games to date (2-1).
- The Men’s Basketball team sponsored their 1st annual “Kid’s Lock-In Party.” Over 20 children signed up for the all evening event that featured movies, shooting contests, and games with current Mountie players.

Women’s Basketball volunteered at a Beginnings Learning Center in Windber. They painted and cleaned the large play area. See story in clips.

- They also got their first win under new Coach Kristi Little Kaack (former all state high school player from Altoona, twice defensive player of the year in the very competitive A-10 conference) against a very competitive Goucher College team. They have no real height, but are real scrappers and are 1-2 as of this writing.
- Three year player Kaylee Keagy reached the 1,000 point mark in her career against Juniata. She will be honored at the next home game.

The Mountie Cross Country teams participated in a Highway Beautification project in the Johnstown area. The team cleaned up trash, assisted in landscaping work and helped paint signs. The team also finished in 1st and 2nd place respectively in the annual MAC Invitational.

- Connor Walsh, a senior from North Plainfield, NJ finished 1st overall and was named AMCC Male Runner of the Week for his efforts.
- Brandis Wilt, a freshman from Roaring Spring, PA was the top finisher for the MAC women’s team and finished in 3rd place overall.
Carol Pavalko was also the subject of a feature article in the Altoona Mirror, honoring her four year career and her example of determination. She finished last in every race for four years, and other teams always gathered at the finish line to cheer her across the line. See article in clips.

The MAC **golf team** finished 4th at the AMCC Championships held at Oak Tree CC in West Middlesex, PA.

- Mac Wolfe, a sophomore from Johnstown, PA finished in 8th place and Phil Keilman, also a sophomore from Johnstown PA finished in 17th place.
- Mac Wolfe and Phil Keilman were named to the AMCC All-Conference 2nd Team for their play throughout the 2011 season.

**Third, Counseling and Disability Services Director Marisa Evans** has become a member of the Sexual Assault Response Training (SART) team of Cambria County and recently attended a meeting of the group held at Conemaugh Hospital on 11/18/11. Evans works with the CARE team here at the Mount to stay on top of and ahead of any physical or emotional issues that trouble our student, faculty and staff.

Finally, I thought I would give you a sense of the activity in and around the Ann Harris Smith Little People’s Place, as it continues to build on its record of first rate care. Here is a sampling of activities over the last two months:

- **Healthy Minds and Bodies** – Good nutrition was the focus of learning activities for the month of November.
- **Nursing Pediatric Observations** (NU24) – 21 students completed 1 hour observations of children in the center.
- **Upper Division MAC Education students** conducted observations, presented lessons, shared reading activities, completed checklists, and compiled portfolios on assigned students throughout the fall semester.
- **Psychology students** also completed observation hours during this semester.
- For **Fire Safety Month**, the Cresson Volunteer Fire Company made their annual visit to the center. The firemen explained their equipment and gave the children a ride around campus in the fire truck.
- **Trick or Treat for UNICEF** was the theme October 24 – The children, some in costume, visited various campus locations to collect donations and share their understanding of the Mission, as practiced at the Mount.
- **Eye Care** was the focus on November 15 and 22. The staff presented a program on how to care for our eyes. Vision screenings were conducted by the Cambria County Association for the Blind and Handicapped.
- Director Lisa Segada attended the PACCA sponsored **Early Childhood Education Summit** “Keeping Pennsylvania’s Early Childhood Programs Strong” in State College on December 1
and 2. LPP is one of only 12 programs in the 50 mile radius to achieve the highest rating from PACCA.

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

There are four parts to this summary under Priority Two: enrollment, financial and physical assets, general administration and institutional advancement. A few words on each:

ENROLLMENT

First, Recruitment and Admissions work is well under way for spring and fall 2012. Some quick observations from Frank Crouse:

- Noticeable increase with Admissions Counselors coverage in assigned territories this fall 2011 via high school visits, college fairs, telephone calls and e-recruitment.

- We have clear signals of an active and assertive enrollment management team. Freshmen Team working and relating well to new Director of Freshmen Admissions and Transfer and Returning Adult Team are proving to be a vibrant team, too. Director of Con Ed is moving all things forward with energy and optimism. The Director of Financial Aid and Team are focused and driven to get the job done. They completed 50 hours of training for new policy and procedure for FA.

- Advancing and growing student ambassador program with students completing all tours for guests, working open houses and returning to high schools over Christmas break via the Christmas Ambassador Program.

- Graduate School Function and Con Ed Function now a primary focus of Enrollment Management in terms of recruitment, admissions and creativity. We made this change last year, and are beginning to see real results (in terms of numbers).

- Worldwide economic impact has brought increased concern for higher education; especially private, liberal arts based institutions in rural settings. This is coupled with a shrinking population of high school students. It appears we are benefiting from the downward economy in the areas of nursing and health studies coupled with adult students.

Second, some notable stats on current enrollment (general upward trend, despite dramatically decreased available pool):

- **Fall Headcount (includes all undergraduate and graduate students, non-matriculated, con-ed and dual enrollment)**
  - *2011 – 1692*  
  - *2010 – 1611*  
  - *2009 – 1604*

- **FTE – Undergraduate**
  - *2011 – 1431.2*  
  - *2010 – 1413.9*  
  - **FTE – Undergraduate and Graduate**
  - *2011 – 1472.9*  
  - *2010 – 1446.4*
Third, some numbers that give a sense of prospects for spring and fall 2012:

**Fall 2012** – Data as of November 7, 2011

Applications are at 630 compared to 602
Accepts are at 202 compared to 181
Paids are at 20 compared to 14

**Spring 2012**
Applications are at 219 compared to 219
Accepts are at 125 compared to 119
Paiads are at 70 compared to 62

(N.B., Spring semester will continue to be a challenge as Penn Highlands continues to advance as a local community college. They have now implemented a medical assistant program which is a big step as they move forward with health care offerings.)

Fourth, some quick comments on Financial Aid:

- The Financial Aid Team has implemented a comprehensive default prevention plan that has enabled us to have a current cohort default rate lower than the national default rate. (MAC 6.1%, National 8.8%).
- Our Financial Aid continues to deliver annual clean audits, which Frank tells me is not the common outcome at similar colleges.
- Both the Financial Aid Team and Admissions Teams have implemented comprehensive strategies and tactics (carrots and sticks!!) around completing the FAFSA early which has enabled the College to have more students filing the FAFSA by March 30 than ever before.

Finally, recent awards to the College—presented last report but they are noteworthy as products of work at Admissions and Academics and I include them again:

- **US News and World Report** ranked the 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.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

Quick updates in three areas of work (largely overseen by our ace VP for Administration, Suzanne Campbell)--security, facilities and human resources:

- **Security**—we now have a comprehensive computer-based floor plan—this is critical to establishing emergency response and has been shared with first responders as well as the Cambria County Emergency Management team. Nice work by our team here.
Facilities and Maintenance—I include these items just to give you a sense of on-going maintenance issues at facilities that are in some case a century old (like some water and sewer lines) and new construction (which sometimes uncovers the old issues).

Water/Sewer Lines -- 510' of old terra-cotta lines replaced. Storm sewer repairs at Cosgrave Center complete. Minor storm sewer work and final prep work for re-seeding remain.

The Mountie Stables -- the restroom building footers are 100% complete, masonry walls exterior are 40% complete, sewer line is 60% complete, handicap parking area paving is 100% complete, and the prep work for new ADA paths 60%.

Field Maintenance -- Maintenance is working closely with Student Affairs and Athletics to develop a comprehensive preventative maintenance plan for field upkeep and preservation. For the first time since the fields were put in we have aerated and reseeded all of the fields in preparation for next season(s). The goal is to perform these functions annually.

Dugouts -- Excavation and footers 100% complete, CMU (cinderblock) foundations 5%.

Pavement repairs -- around campus complete. Sidewalk repairs from sewer work complete.

Human Resources
- This office handles all hiring, firing, recruitment and training issues here at the Mount.
- They also sponsored two events in the last month—a Veteran's Luncheon (November 16) to recognize our students, faculty and staff who served in the Armed Forces; and an Employee Service Awards Program (November 17), where 31 people were recognized this year with some occasionally hilarious speeches from their colleagues for their 5 to 40 years of Service. The highlight was the closing salute to Sisters BJ, Giuseppe and Charlene, who have served this school for 106 years between them and still volunteer many hours each week!! Many thanks to SVP Suzanne Campbell and Director of Human Resources Tonia Gordon.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The quarterly Institutional Advancement Report for the period ended September 30, 2011 showed total gifts of $286,742 compared to $236,382 for the first quarter of 2010, an increase of 21 percent. More importantly, pledges outstanding totaled $1,119,665 compared to $396,066 at the same period last year, attesting to our successful early efforts with the campaign.
Our comprehensive campaign is now moving to the solicitation of our Board of Trustees and President’s Advisory Council members. This effort should be completed by mid-January. We would ask that you work with the Advancement team in scheduling your appointment, and, of course, in being as generous as possible. The campaign giving by the Board serves as the standard for all of our major gift prospects and is crucial to our success. We are also working with Paskill Stapleton & Lord on the case statement including graphics and theme for the campaign. This is the same firm that does our admissions materials.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the President’s Appreciation Dinner. We believe it was the best ever! We have received many positive comments on the evening, especially from donors regarding their student scholarship recipients.

Reservations for the Madrigal are coming in fast! This year’s event is Saturday evening, December 3rd and Sunday afternoon, December 4th. Please contact the Institutional Advancement staff soon if you plan to attend.

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.

Several comments on Priority Three:

1. We are very excited that our symposia appeared on statewide TV, and hope that this first ever occurrence will spread our name and mission even further. Likewise, our Winter appearance on the Profiles Education Series should be a big plus for our institutional partnerships and student recruiting. We will issue the monograph on our two symposia early in the new year, to keep the conversation going (about both Mt. Aloysius, and the issues we raised in the symposia)!!

2. Having filled the long vacant position in the Office of the VP for Mission Integration, we are determined 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 alone--in the course of a single year--you will see an extraordinary 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!! Jessica Maxon, an incredible volunteer in her own right, is leading the effort to categorize and describe all the mission-related work in which our students, staff and faculty engage. Sister Helen Marie expects to have a preliminary analysis available for the next quarterly report.

3. I continue to be peppered by students raising money for good causes, including domestic abuse shelters, clothing drives, utility bills, United Way, Katrina relief, and a host of other fundraising campaigns led by our own students for those in need in our community. Our
students have cornered this market—you cannot get into Cosgrave for lunch without passing through a phalanx of student fundraisers all calling out to us—by name (and they are not reluctant to come right to my office)!!! As I say often to our Chairman, Dan Rullo, “it’s all good!”

4. We have continued to follow up with some of the excellent turnout from inaugural-related activities—local and regional business and community leaders (and some from much further afield), and we continue the dialogue with a host of elected officials, judges, and fellow institutions of higher education that began during the inauguration period. This all helps to tell the story of Mt. Aloysius, and several of our more distant visitors have since sent in significant donations because they were so impressed by the Mt. Aloysius story.

5. Work with the Conference on Mercy Higher Education (CMHE) is ongoing. I have taken the co-lead on a cross facility research project. I argued that compiling data on the economic impact of our 16 separate institutions was not likely to help distinguish us from many other institutions (and most of that data is already available to member institutions). Instead, President Christine Wiseman of St. Xavier University in Chicago and I argued for a joint research effort that focuses on three distinguishing features of CMHE schools—community service initiatives, the economic and social demographics of student bodies and special initiatives related to technology and health care. I negotiated with a third party vendor to do this study, and we came in at a price half that previously proposed. Moya Dittmaier continues to lead the CMHE efforts with patience and tact, though there are no longer Mercy delegates to each College board (Moya was ours). I will meet with these colleagues, and the larger Mercy Board two more times this academic year.

6. The College remains open for events by outside organizations—we sponsor the bi-monthly meetings of the Ecumenical Council (leaders of all major denominations have meeting space and lunch on us); Frank Crouse led our recent Health Quest event with 200 high school students engaged with faculty and staff for the day; the Diocesan Day of Prayer was hosted at MAC this year, and many, many similar events. We recently agreed to host the Bishop Carroll High School graduation this year (many more once the Athletic, Convocation and Wellness Center is complete), and I accepted an invitation to be the Commencement Speaker at Altoona High School graduation in June.

7. Michele and I had a fabulous opportunity to engage with over 100 local business and community leaders and retirees during our 9 day sojourn to China. From former Mayors of Altoona, to major business leaders in several communities to educators from the high school and college ranks, our “Bus One is the Best Bus” group was filled with interesting people—who kept our batteries charged from the moment we got on the bus at 4:30 in the morning for the first leg of the trip until we arrived back in the Blair County Chamber’s parking lot 9 days later at 11:45 PM. Besides a “China First Look” panel that we will hold at the College shortly, we hope to build on the many friendships and partnerships from this trip for the good of the College. Board member Mike McLanahan and wife Astride were model and experienced travelers—teaching us how to handle everything from the “Lazy Susan” food service to the relentless merchants we encountered in every city and factory that we visited. Well worth the exhaustion!!
8. 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 still believe that we can and should do more at the leadership level for some of those organizations. I have joined the JARI and several other boards, Michele is active on the Blair County Arts Council and we are both looking to engage in more ways that help the college and the community.

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, and no report from me is complete without mentioning them by name and the tradition (and many generations) of service that they represent.

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

Thomas P. Foley