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 a busy almost four months since my last report, with higher education in general and Mt. Aloysius College in particular very much in the news. I just googled “cost of higher education” and got 108 million citations in exactly 32 seconds. Common phrases on the google list of articles include: “Crisis in Confidence in Higher Ed,” “Erosion in Higher Ed,” “Rising Price of Higher Ed,” “Higher Ed on the Brink,” and “Costs Price out Middle Class.” The spate of anecdotal stories on Jerry Sandusky, Syracuse basketball and other Division I sports related scandals has not been helpful, to say the least. In general, the focus remains on affordability and access.

The marked difference has been that while the national focus on higher education in general has not been very positive, the focus on Mt. Aloysius has been uniformly uplifting. Three quick points on the topic:

First, the decades-long focus of our trustees on the affordability of higher education at Mt. Aloysius has been well placed. Thanks to the work of my predecessors and to our Board of Trustees, Mt. Aloysius remains one of the best bargains for private higher education in the state and nationally. While other institutions are taking bows for lowering their tuition (N.B., not room and board or fees, just tuition alone) below $30K, Mt. Aloysius’ total package (tuition, room and board, fees) will remain below that number for 2012-13. In fact, only nursing students--with lab and other fees--will pay a dime over $28k. At a recent meeting of the Governor’s Business Leadership Council (of which Trustee Mike McLanahan is a member), Mt. Aloysius was singled out for praise on our management of costs by the Chair of the Council. Trustees Rick Rose and Bill Polacek also report that Governor Corbett has himself commented in several meetings that Mt. Aloysius is an example of how to “do it right,” and he is determined to visit our campus soon.

At the national level, the Mt. Aloysius example has also been cited, with emphasis. After writing to the US Secretary of Education about extraordinary efforts to control costs here at Mt. Aloysius, I was invited to meet with the Undersecretaries of the Departments of Education (one on one) and Labor (joined by President Sister Rosemary Jeffries of Georgian Court University). I was glad to hear the recognition for the long-term cost control efforts here, but I also took the opportunity to make the case that the Administration’s proposed $8B education/job training
program should be made available to schools like Mt. Aloysius and other Mercy Colleges and not only to community colleges (as proposed in the State of the Union address). I argued that we graduate students at a far higher rate, that we keep costs down, that we educate 35% mature students, that we serve 64% Pell-eligible students, that our students default rate is less than one-third of the national average, that 76% of our students work at least part-time jobs, and that 100% of our students perform community service—all priority points in the national debate on funding higher education. Both meetings were encouraging, but we shall see.

Second, the only difference between the cost of an education at a state-related institution (Penn State, Temple, etc.) is the taxpayer subsidy. The state provides $22,665 for every degree produced at state-related and state-owned institutions, compared to $3,027 per degree at a PA private college or university (a $19,638 difference per student). That’s an almost $5,000 advantage in direct subsidy per student per year, which is just about the exact difference between the current full cost at our school compared to any branch or main campus of our largest state institution. And that says nothing about the billions in capital subsidies to these institutions over the last three decades, or about the comparative generosity of Mt. Aloysius to its students—with an average of almost $10k in grant assistance that Mt. Aloysius puts on the table for students (bringing the average cost down to $17k this year). Again, well done and we will keep at it.

Third, the other key issue in the national debate has been “access”—access for mature students, access for low-income students, access for career-minded students (2-year and vocational programs). At Mt. Aloysius, though our percentage of traditional aged students has trended up in recent years, 35% of our students don’t begin their studies until at least five years after high school (accepted definition of “mature”)—that’s access for mature students. At Mt. Aloysius, almost 40% of our students are in two-year career directed degree programs, like nursing, surgical technology, medical assistant, radiology, and physical therapy—that’s access for the career-minded. At Mt. Aloysius, 1 in 5 students comes from a family with total income less than $21,700, and 2 in 5 from families with total income less than $37,000—that’s truly access for lower income students.

The next section of this report includes a “baker’s dozen” of positives about the Mt. Aloysius experience, almost all of which have been reported in the local media during the past three months. The third section of this report will update you on the specific objectives in the strategic plan and our continued progress on them.

PART TWO: BAKER’S DOZEN OF HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Community Service is alive, well and prolific at Mt. Aloysius.** Last fall, more than 800 students (over 50% of FTEs) performed 4,733 hours of service with 123 separate community organizations—most of these within driving distance of the College—that’s a street value of over $100,000 in work. As I write, I am waiting to greet 13 students and 3 faculty/staff due back momentarily from Georgetown, Guyana, where they spent their spring break with three different Mercy programs there. Sixteen students (including our Mt.
Aloysius MBA student/son Matt and 3 staff spent their fall break in Biloxi, MS where Mt. Aloysius students have been helping to rebuild homes ever since Katrina hit seven years ago.

2. **There has been substantial news coverage of our outstanding Spring Semester Speaker Series**, with an Olympic Head Women’s Basketball Coach (*Theresa Shank Grentz*), a documentary filmmaker (*Maurice Fitzpatrick*), a human rights honoree (*Thomas Griffin, Esq.*), and a prolific author (*Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamison*)—and it’s only early March. Before May 8, we will also host our Spring Ecumenical Lecturer, an outstanding alum at our spring honors convocation, and *Judge D. Brooks Smith* at Commencement. Thanks to our new Lecture Series Committee, *Drs. Fulop, Grassadonia and Burns*, and *CFO Donna Yoder*.

3. **The Christmas Madrigal was again a howling success**—under the direction (38 years in a row) of proud alum *Michele McGowan*. It is a testament to their affection for the College that all these actors, actresses, musicians and backstage talent come back together every year to entertain the community and help promote Mt. Aloysius (and only about half are actual alums). Michele has offered to add another performance next year to facilitate corporate sponsorships. I had an unplanned part in this year’s production (unplanned by me, but clearly very much “planned” by our cast of characters), and was on stage for about 15 minutes playing a “Christmas tree.” Aside from a slight problem with a sword (just a glancing blow!), I managed to “act” stiff (a vintage “fir”) for the entire 15 minutes of sudden fame. We are so very grateful to all our talented performers, and to directors Michele and *Jonathan O’Horrow*, music director *Nancy Way* and *VP for Institutional Advancement Jack Anderson* and his team.

4. **Nursing department welcomes new Associate Dean**—*Rebecca Zukowski* (MA, Marquette, Ph.D. IUP, orals completed, degree expected December 2012) brings very strong credentials and unanimous support (against four finalists) from nursing faculty and college leadership to this post. She was a career Navy nurse, serving at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital in the eighties, who built a subsequent career in the fields of research (over 20 publications), strategic planning (in both public and non-profit sectors) and patient care. She served most recently as the Senior Research Associate at the
National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health in Rockville, MD and as the Business Development, Operations and Tech Group Executive Officer at the IUP Research Institute. She is well known in the area, serves on the CERMUSA (research) Board at SFU and she and her husband (also a nurse) and two grown sons live in Penn Run. Thank you to our colleagues on the nursing faculty who facilitated this extensive and successful search effort (especially Regina Barr and Sharon Kisel) with Senior VPs Tim Fulop and Suzanne Campbell.

5. **Admissions efforts continue to pay dividends**—despite a 16% decline in the pool of available high school graduates since 2008, Mt. Aloysius continues to make steady progress on almost all admissions fronts. The entering spring class grew by 31 as compared to last year (161 vs. 130, or +24%), with 8 more full time students (+6%) and 23 more part time students (+130%) than last spring’s entering class. VP for Enrollment Frank Crouse’s latest numbers for next fall show continued increases in applications (+14%), in acceptances (4%), and most importantly deposits (+5%) as of March 2, though it is still early. Slow and steady, even with the smaller pool, the increase in competition and gas prices (a real factor when 40% of your students come from families with federally classified “low” incomes). Thanks to VP Enrollment Management Frank Crouse and his terrific team, who have broken their own record for open houses, school visits and personal phone calls to prospective students.

6. **Mt. Aloysius continues leadership role on Ecumenical efforts**—thanks largely to the work of VP Mission Integration Sister Helen Marie Burns, the College will host the second annual Ecumenical Summit, an event co-sponsored with St. Francis University.

The Summit is an opportunity to strengthen relationships among and between church leaders in the Cresson-Ebensburg-Altoona-Johnstown area, to share information about programs and projects, and to seek collaboration regarding ecumenical activities in this area. The College hosts four cross denominational leadership meetings each year (at which I share greetings from the College with the area Bishops and Synod and Synagogue leaders), sponsors the spring and fall ecumenical luncheon/lecture series (which gets excellent attendance from area churches and church leaders), and now this second “summit.” Sister Helen Marie has also reactivated an ecumenical newsletter that we hope will become a bi-annual publication (January and September). Thank you VP for Mission Integration Sister Helen Marie and Director of Campus Ministry Sister Nancy Donovan.

7. **Civil Discourse Initiatives at College receive national attention**—at the recent meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU-240 colleges), I was pleasantly surprised to find Mt. Aloysius at the top of the list of colleges who had “sponsored innovative and effective programs on this topic.” In the ACCU “top ten” list of best practices on the subject, Mt. Aloysius was cited twice, including as the first “best practice” highlighted—for our year-long program on the subject. ACCU President Michael Galligan-Stierle said that “Mt. Aloysius has done superb work in the past 12 months to advance civility on their campus. I was quite impressed with the level of
engagement introduced to students by using the topic of civility in the classroom and speaker presentations on campus.” The Altoona Mirror interviewed Galligan-Stierle and said that “the association applauded Mt. Aloysius President Thomas Foley along with leaders from the University of Notre Dame, Fairfield University and Duquesne University for addressing issues requiring civility publicly—and often.” Thanks to Assistant Professor of Social Science Dr. Michael Jones who took the lead with our CLS classes on the topic, Director of Student Activities Elaine Grant who led the charge to incorporate the theme into freshman orientation, to Associate Professor of Religious Studies Dr. Anthony Dragani and Assistant Professor/Educational Enrichment Dr. Ryan Costanza, who organized the Fall Faculty honors Symposium around the topic, to Sister Helen Marie and Judge D. Brooks Smith, who helped out with the inauguration Panel on the subject, and to Associate Professor of English Dr. Barbara Cook and Senior VP Dr. Fulop, who facilitated the spring and fall honors lectures on the subject.

8. **Mt. Aloysius takes steps in aftermath of Penn State debacle**—like many institutions across the country, we took the recent allegations about Jerry Sandusky as an opportunity to review and upgrade our own standards relative to children on campus. After an excellent Trustees session on the topic, the President’s Executive Committee, led by SVP Campbell, adopted a ten point action plan that combines all college policies about children on campus into a single easily accessible document, expands access to (students and staff) and the range of (reportable issues) our campus ethics hotline, initiates a quarterly board committee report on Clery Act and other behaviors on campus, upgrades our summer camp policies and six other initiatives. Thanks also to VP Student Affairs Dr. Grassadonia and HR Director Tonia Gordon.

9. The speaker for the annual **Moral Choices in the Twenty-first Century lecture series**—the literal capstone on our year of attention to the notion of “civil discourse”-- will be Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center in Philadelphia, co-creator of the widely used websites FactCheck and FlackCheck, a nationally respected commentator on public speech. Jamieson has appeared hundreds of times on national television programs from the old McNeil Lehrer Report to the more recent Bill Moyers Presents and Charlie Rose and is the author of 16 books. Dr. Jamieson will continue the campus focus on civil discourse in a presentation entitled “Incivility and its Discontents: why the ways in which we talk about politics matter.” The 7:00 p.m. lecture is a public event - please plan to join us the evening of March 21st and bring your friends!

10. **Eighty student-athletes were named to the AMCC Academic Honor Roll**, the highest number and percentage (over 60%) ever from Mt. Aloysius (and a 15% improvement over last year). In addition, our women’s basketball team advanced to the conference “final four” for the first time in the history of either the men’s or women’s teams. Though the women were soundly beaten in the semis by the host LaRoche (eventual league champs and NCAA qualifiers), our Mt. Aloysius fans was widely recognized for their numbers and enthusiasm. I attach a journal note about the Mt. Aloysius bus trip that Michele and I enjoyed to and from the Friday night game. Congrats to all our student athletes, and to VP for Student Affairs Dr. Jane Grassadonia and Athletic Director Ryan Smith, who lead our efforts in this area.
11. New leadership responsibilities for yours truly—I have accepted nomination to the 15 member Board of Directors of the Association of Colleges and Universities in PA (AICUP). I also continue work on a research project for the Conference of Mercy Higher Education (CHME), where St. Xavier’s (Chicago) President Christine Wiseman and I are chairing the effort to generate useful cumulative data on all 16 Mercy colleges—to facilitate joint marketing and foundation/governmental fundraising efforts. We designed the research parameters and just completed negotiations with a research entity (at a very reasonable price). I have also been invited to join the board of the Altoona Blair Development Corporation (ABCD), which will balance my service on the Johnstown Area Regional Development (JARI) board (where I was recently elected an officer) and the Greater Johnstown Regional Partnership (GJRP). I rotated into the Vice Chairmanship of our athletic conference (Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference—AMCC) and will assume the chairmanship in June (not a heavy lift, though I intend to push for student athlete community service efforts as part of the core mission of the conference, with appropriate annual recognition). Declined nomination to serve on the National Board of Council on Independent Colleges (CIC), as I am not sure how much the national service really helps Mt. Aloysius. Also recently named to the Irish Education Top 100, a compilation of outstanding educators with Irish ancestry (it made my mother happy!!)—will say only that it’s a long way from subsistence farming in County Mayo. Two other Mercy college presidents (Carlow with its Irish Institute and Salve Regina, whose president wrote her doctorate on Yeats) made the list, as well as the heads of Notre Dame, Catholic, and Fairfield universities, and many educators who have done groundbreaking research and writing.

12. Terrific lessons in Mt. Aloysius traditions, history and service during a visit to Mercy HQ in Dallas, PA—an absolute highlight this quarter was a 2½ day visit (Michele and I) in early January to visit with about 20 Sisters of Mercy who between them served over 300 years at the College. Dallas is the retirement community for these Sisters—College Trustees Sisters Sara Sweeney and Mary Ellen Fuhrman manage this facility (among other responsibilities) and were great hosts. We shared 8 meals in their small cafeteria (each with a different group of Sisters), enjoyed a fabulous conversation during an evening with the leadership team for the Sisters in this region of the Mercys in America, and were honored to be part of the annual ceremony to celebrate Catherine McAuley’s birthday. Michele spent an entire afternoon with Sister Ruth Hollen pouring through archives relative to Mt. Aloysius, and we used the community room to show recent videos about the College and conduct Q&A. I also stole some time with Trustee Sister Jean at Misericordia (was so impressed by her work that we sent our team up a month later to work with her) and Michele and I spent several hours with that institution’s long-time President Mike MacDowell and his wife. I told Chair Dan Rullo that this trip
truly demonstrates our absolute commitment—as Michele and I spent three nights living, sleeping and eating in a convent!!

13. “Digital Grotto” gets rave reviews from students, staff and faculty—after three “grand opening” performances by social media wizard Website Communications Sam Wagner, senior Luke Fragello and our team of student volunteers, we are all very impressed. The “Grotto” (three rooms in basement of Alumni Hall painted and outfitted as an all-in-one campus “studio” (thank you VP Suzanne Campbell and team) has already hosted easily a dozen “events”, ranging from Sister Nancy and Heather Lowe’s two women show, to Dr. Jones’ interview with our spring “visiting scholar” on peace movements from 1968 in Derry to the 2010 Arab Spring, to the showing of “the Might MACs” movie with star Theresa Grentz, to a recent “conversation” about the war and peace poetry of Seamus Heaney with myself and Irish author Maurice Fitzpatrick. We are still exploring all the possibilities of this new resource at the College, from social media to the classroom to the next digital horizon!

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

Six updates:

First, Mt. Aloysius College will host the second Ecumenical Summit, an event co-sponsored with St. Francis University. The Summit is an opportunity to strengthen relationships among and between church leaders in the Cresson-Ebensburg-Altoona-Johnstown area, to share information about programs and projects, and to seek collaboration regarding ecumenical activities in this area. A reactivated ecumenical was distributed in January 2012. Hopefully the newsletter will become a bi-annual publication (January and September).
Second, the Spring Ecumenical Luncheon and Lecture (April 2012) will feature Very Rev. Dr. Thomas Hopko, Saint Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, whose presentation is entitled “From Shadow to Reality: The Old Testament and Christian Liturgical Worship”.

Third, the speaker for the annual Moral Choices in the Twenty-first Century lecture series will be Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamison from the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. On March 21, Dr. Jamison will continue the campus focus on civil discourse in a presentation entitled “Incivility and its Discontents: why the ways in which we talk about politics matter.” She is a frequent guest on the national nightly news, especially on PBS, on the Bill Moyers report and other shows, is the founder of FactCheck and the author of 16 books.

Fourth, over 800 students performed 4,733 hours of community service with 123 different community partners, most of them within driving distance of the College. That is an incredible rate, more than 50% of our FTE of full time students. 29 students spent either their fall or spring breaks in Biloxi, MS (rebuilding houses) or Georgetown, Guyana (3 different Mercy projects). In addition to fund-raising activities (the) kids raise an average of $500 a piece to go on these two trips), grant monies from two funds sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy help defray the costs of this and other service trips.

Fifth, a first-ever SEARCH Retreat was held the first weekend of February 2012. SEARCH is a national program, organized by college students for college students. The format is similar across college campuses - an opportunity to search for and to find God in their lives - but each event is also a unique experience with something special for everyone. Eleven students along with six student leaders gathered with Campus Ministry Director Sr. Nancy and Assistant Campus Minister Kitty McLean to share faith and to reflect upon their relationships with one another, with friends and with God. In addition, Michele participated in and very much enjoyed our annual Busy Person’s Retreat, which attracted an additional fifteen faculty, staff and students for a four-day period of reflection and spiritual companioning in the midst of work and other activities. Mercy Sisters Regina Ward (whose mother—in the small world department—was my Aunt Sis’ closest friend) and Constance Sophy offered their skills as spiritual companions.

Sixth, mid-month Pause events, mid-term De-stressing activities, a nine-week program featuring the virtues corresponding to the seven deadly sins, the Pennsylvania Catholic Campus Ministers Conference, a Soup and Scripture Lenten program and Ash Wednesday rituals have kept Campus Ministry quite busy. Campus Ministry is again sponsoring the Empty Bowl Project in conjunction with the Diocesan Office on Missions Office. Empty Bowls is an international project to fight hunger. Participants create ceramic bowls, then serve a simple meal of soup and bread. Michele, Sister Nancy and several others helped MAC Art Instructor Victor Neri craft the
bowls in our ceramics workshop. Guests choose a bowl to use that day and to keep as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world.

Finally, MAC Criminology Instructor Frank Hartnett, Projector Manager for Community Involvement & Social Entrepreneurship Jessica Maxon and AmeriCorp volunteer Kimberly Franey facilitated two successful Saturday gatherings of the new Mercy Youth Initiative: eleven seventh-grade students from Penn Cambria Middle School work with fifteen MAC student mentors. Participants and mentors have so far seemed to enjoy the content--career explorations, a goal-setting presentation, and an introduction to MAC's simulation nursing lab. In addition, they interact over lunch in the cafeteria, in health and wellness activities, and ice-breaking games. This is a first ever attempt to reach potential first generation college students from low income families early enough in the education process to help them reach their goal.

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:

- Learning outcomes for the Associate Degree and the RN to BSN Nursing programs were revised to reflect updated standards in nursing education and the nursing profession. The revised program outcomes were approved by the College Curriculum Committee and the State Board of Nursing. Learning outcomes for the Associate Degree and the RN to BSN nursing programs were revised to reflect updated standards in nursing education and the nursing profession. The revised program outcomes were approved by the College Curriculum Committee and the State Board of Nursing.

- The Nursing Division recently launched a Facebook page which is linked to the Mount Aloysius website. The nursing Facebook page illustrates students at work during simulation experiences and campus lab activities.

- Nursing faculty Ms. Sharon Kisel and Ms. Regina Barr attended the Quality & Safety Education in Nursing Education (QSEN) “Train-the-Trainer” Institute. A post-institute survey has been completed and submitted to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The purpose is to determine the extent to which faculty have incorporated QSEN competencies into the pre-licensure curriculum as well as understanding the impact of the curriculum changes on the faculty, school, nursing students, and clinical sites. The MAC nursing program has made strides in incorporating quality improvement case studies into the curriculum as well as providing simulation exercises where students have the opportunity to identify safety factors and hazards prior to actual clinical experiences.
Assistant Professor of Business & Information Technology Ms. Kimberly Asonevich attended a workshop on “Flip the Switch” presented by Cornell University, in New Orleans, LA. The workshop covered turning mobile devices and digital media into classroom tools.

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Dr. Fran Rohlf joined with other professors for a presentation in honor of Christian Unity Week, entitled, “Changed by Christ” his topic was “Unity in Diversity.” The event was sponsored by Mount Aloysius Campus Ministry with Sr. Nancy Donovan serving as moderator. Also on the panel with Dr. Rohlf were Associate Professor of Social Science Dr. Julie Smith and Pastor Gerald Myers, a local Lutheran pastor. Respondents were Dr. Barbara Cook and Dr. Michael Jones.

Ms. Regina Barr, MSN, RN, Interim A.D. Department Chair and Dr. Jacqueline Beck, D.Ed, RN, RN-BSN Department Chair, met with Trustee and Windber CEO Dr. Barbara Cliff to discuss preliminary steps toward developing a partnership with Windber Medical Center in an effort to create an Interdisciplinary Practice Model for our RN students.

Assistant Professor of Science & Mathematics Dr. Michael Engle represented Mt. Aloysius College at the Foot of Ten Elementary School's Math and Science Saturday (MASS). Dr. Engle will be running a hands-on science presentation entitled "See Your Cells." Elementary students will mount and stain their own buccal cells on microscope slides, and then view their cells under the microscope. In addition, they will be able to view prepared slides of various specimens.

The Cambria County Chapter of Medical Assistants held their monthly meeting at Mount Aloysius College in Pierce Hall, room 105 at 7:00 p.m. The guest speaker, Clinical Coordinator Health Studies Division Ms. Kathleen Hoyne presented the “Human Papillomavirus: Pathology and Treatment.” 1.5 continuing education units will be afforded to the attendees.

The Library, Learning Commons, and Retention & Advising held its first Study Night in the Learning Commons. Peer tutors, professional tutors and professors were on hand to work with students.

Associate Professor of Science & Mathematics Dr. Merrilee Anderson and Assistant Professor of Science & Mathematics Dr. Natalie van Breukelen attended the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) at the Hamilton Crowne Plaza in Washington, DC. The workshop is designed to bring faculty and administrators together with federal agency program officers and grant funders.

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Dr. Fran Rohlf represented Mount Aloysius College at the Spring Book Colloquium of the Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic
*Studies* (CERIS), a 27-University organization to coordinate and promote Islamic studies, held at the University of Pittsburgh. He took part in the discussion of “*Journey into America: The Challenge of Islam*” by Akbar Ahmed, a book on the Muslim perspectives in the United States. The Meeting and discussion brought about 25 scholars together to discuss Islam in United States.

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

- **Bonnie Noll-Nelson, DNP, MSN, RN** and **Patricia Meintel, DNP, MSN, RN** graduated from Carlow University with a Doctorate of Nurse Practitioner (DNP). They bring to three the number of Ph.Ds in the nursing division, tripling the new requirement from the state. They completed their degrees in three hardworking years, without missing a class here.

- **Instructor of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences Ms. Megan Beaver** has been requested to be a reviewer for an Abdominal Ultrasound text for Jones & Bartlett Learning titled “*Abdominal Ultrasound, A Practitioner's Guide.*”

- **Assistant Professor of Nursing Ms. Kim Garman** has recently obtained the credential of Certified Nurse Educator. This credential is awarded by the National League for Nursing to nurse educators who successfully passed the National Nurse Educator Certification Exam.

- **Ms. Kimberly Asonevich** presented on the topic of “*Creating Small Business Growth Opportunities through Big Box Mistakes*” at United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship in New Orleans, LA.

- The **Nursing Department** hosted an Inter-professional Symposium that was attended by faculty and administration from across campus. The purpose was to develop an interest in working towards inter-professional practice among MAC groups and majors.

**THIRD, EXAMPLES OF STUDENT CO-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT:**

- **Vox Nova**, under the direction of **Director of Vox Nova Ms. Nancy Way** were again outstanding musicians, players and singers at the annual Christmas Madrigal Dinner at Cosgrave. They were also fabulous in a joint concert entitled “A Talented Treasure” with 57 members of the Holy Name Grade School choir from Ebensburg in the Chapel. They also performed at our Spring Opening Liturgy for new students and with Holy Name and Bishop Carroll choirs to open Catholic Schools week.

- **Assistant Professors of Science & Mathematics Dr. Penny O'Connor** and **Ms. Sandra Nypaver** went to Biloxi, MS, working with Mercy Housing to restore some of the Katrina cottages by helping with cleaning and painting. The service trip was sponsored by Campus Ministry with 16 Mount Aloysius College students also participating. **Dr. Patricia Meintel** and **Dr. Fran Rohlf** joined **Sister Nancy** as volunteers with 13 students in Guyana.
Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education Dr. Sara Rutledge and her students are currently engaged in three service learning collaborations that are semester-long service learning projects and involve a total of 40 Mount Aloysius students:

✔ The first is collaboration between the Education Department and The Johnstown Children’s Museum. Students in ED 119 “Aesthetic Experiences for Young Children” serve as docents at the museum. The students serve in a variety of capacities from assisting with school group field trips to assisting with the museum’s “Winter Fest” in February.

✔ Secondly, students in ED 320 “Applied Learning Strategies for the Exceptional Learner” serve the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 Bridge Program by teaching, mentoring, and socializing with students from the IU8 on the MAC campus while those students are engaged in school-to-work transition experiences.

✔ Additionally, students in ED 320 serve The Arc of Blair County by tutoring students in their afterschool program.

Sara Bibby and Jolene Stell, sophomore General Science Majors, were accepted to the Chatham University Physician Assistant program where they will earn a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree—through an articulation agreement with the College. Ms. Bibby’s advisor is Ms. Sandra Nypaver and Ms. Stell’s advisor is Dr. Penny O’Connor.

February 23 - Nursing Student Organization (NSO), along with Ms. Kim Garman’s Girl Scout troop, visited John Paul II Manor, for assisted living. The theme for the event was St. Valentine’s Day.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

First, Student Activities continues to maintain a high level of on-campus action for students, with 39 different, generally nighttime events—from comedians to singers to movies to MAC’s Got Talent to crafts and even kickball (109 competitors).

Here is a sampling of activities from February:

✔ Student Government Meeting, February 2, McAuley
✔ Thursday Night Live: The Muppet Movie, February 2, Cosgrave
✔ Building A Birdhouse, February 6, Cosgrave
✔ Campus Activity Board Meeting, February 7, Cosgrave
✔ Craft Night make a ribbon bulletin board, February 9, Cosgrave
✔ Valentine’s Day Dance, February 10, Cosgrave
✔ American Red Cross Blood Drive, February 14, Cosgrave
✔ MAC’s Got Talent – with Singing Telegrams, February 14, Cosgrave
✔ Craft Night , February 16, Cosgrave
✔ Mighty MAC’s with words by Theresa Shank Grentz, February 17, Alumni
✔ Mardi Gras Lunch and Craft, February 21, Cosgrave
✔ Craft Night, February 23, Cosgrave
Second, student athletes continue to engage and occasionally inspire. Some quick highlights:

- **80 Mt. Aloysius student-athletes made the AMCC Academic Honor Roll, a record** for the College, and one of the highest percentages in the ten team league. 20 student-athletes, also a record, were named to the Chi Alpha Sigma Honors Fraternity (junior/senior with at least 3.4 GPA). The overall **GPA for student-athletes this fall was 3.0, a record.**

- Lady Mounties basketball team and a vocal contingent of fans and MAC cheerleaders, including Michele and I, traveled by bus to LaRoche College for the **Mounties first ever appearance (for men or women) in the AMCC “final four.”** The MAC women’s basketball team finished the season as the fourth seed and hosted (and won) its first ever home basketball playoff game (men or women). First year **head coach, Kristi Kaack,** becomes the first MAC coach to lead a team to a home playoff game and to the league semi-finals. **Sophomore Lindsay Sammarco** and **senior** (and 1,000 point scorer) **Kaelee Keagy** made the AMCC Second Team All Stars. The men missed the playoffs and had one player, transfer Corey Gibson, named to the third team.

- On February 11, 2012 the women’s and men’s basketball teams held their **Senior Recognition events.** The women’s team honored four seniors: **Dani Rhoades, Kaylee Keagy, Spring Krepps and Erica Matko.** Each senior was presented with flowers and a framed action photo of themselves. Their teammates gave speeches about each senior and the senior’s parents escorted them to center court. The men’s team recognized their lone senior, **Howard Ferguson,** also named AMCC Sportsmanship Award winner. Howard was escorted by his parents and was presented with a framed action photo. **Head Coach Lance Loya** spoke about Howard’s accomplishments and his dedication to MAC. Both teams went on to defeat Hilbert College.

- On February 15, 2012 the women’s and men’s basketball team held their annual **Faculty Appreciation Night.** Each team member nominated a professor that has made a difference in their time at MAC. The student-athletes each wrote a brief essay on why their nominee and while these essays were read the certificates were presented to the professors by **President Foley, Sr. Helen Marie Burns and Dr. Timothy Fulop.** Both teams defeated Penn State Altoona that evening, completing a four game sweep.
Also on the evening of February 15, 2012, the women’s basketball team held their Pink Out game to promote awareness to breast cancer. The team wore pink t-shirts, socks and shoelaces to show their support. Free pink t-shirts were given out to the fans and breast cancer awareness items were sold by the members of the Colleges Against Cancer committee.

The women’s and men’s basketball teams invited local youth basketball teams to campus in order to play a scrimmage game during the half-time of one of their January games. Teams from Portage, Cresson and Lilly participated. Each team member was recognized and their name was announced if they scored a basket. We received positive feedback from the parents, youth team members and our fans.

Over the Christmas holiday the men’s basketball team traveled to Orlando, FL to participate in the 2011 Land of Magic Classic. The team played two games against other Division III opponents who were from Wisconsin and Connecticut respectively. They received an All-Access tour of the Daytona 500 Speedway along with a tour of the Disney Wide World of Sports complex. The team fundraised all year in order to pay for this trip. Although the game results were not what we wanted, the team gained a valuable experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives. The Women’s team will attend the same tournament next year.

The MAC baseball team traveled south for its annual Spring Break trip. Games were played in Tennessee and in Winter Haven, Florida. The two-time defending AMCC champs MAC softball team traveled to Myrtle Beach, SC for its annual Spring Break trip. This year the softball team played a few Division II teams and some very competitive Division III teams.

The construction of the Mountie Stables and the new dugouts are nearing completion. With the addition of these new facilities, MAC has already been approached by AAABA baseball and PIAA in order to host baseball and softball games at MAC. The college has not previously been able to host these outside events.

The Mount Aloysius Student Athlete Activities Committee (an NCAA acronym, SAAC) was featured several times on the AMCC website for its wealth of service activities; conducted a food drive before the Christmas break. The SAAC decorated boxes and placed them in all residence halls in order to collect any non-perishable items from
students before they left for the Christmas vacation. Overall, 400 items were collected and donated to the Blair County Food Pantry.

- The SAAC also teamed up with Campus Ministry/Mission Integration and volunteered in the new Mercy Youth Initiative. The SAAC members along with SAAC advisor, Brianna Baker, volunteered their time on three Saturdays during January and February. The project involved team building, exercise and group projects with youth from the Penn Cambria School District.

- The SAAC participated in the annual tree decorating contest sponsored by the Student Activities Department. The tree was decorated with a sports theme and was lit up for an entire month.

- The MAC Athletic Department kicked off its Soles for Souls program, in which old shoes are collected and donated to those who are in need. Boxes were set up around campus for a month and the shoes that were collected were dropped off in Altoona. This marked the first time MAC Athletics participated in the Soles for Souls program.

- The MAC Men’s Basketball coaches participated in the annual Sneakers and Suits weekend at a home game against Pitt-Bradford. Coaches from both teams wore sneakers with their suits while coaching in the game. The Sneakers and Suits event was scheduled in order to bring attention to the fight against cancer.

- MAC Athletics had a great speaker in basketball Hall of Famer Theresa Grentz, high school teammate (and college opponent) of Michele Foley. The day featured a luncheon for the women’s basketball team and women leaders at the College with former Olympics Coach Grentz. Both the women’s and men’s teams along with many members of the community watched “The Mighty Macs” about the Immaculata College team on which Theresa played that won the first televised women’s national title prior to the inception of Title IX.

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

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

**ENROLLMENT**

Recruitment and Admissions work is well under way for spring and fall 2012. Some quick observations:
First, the spring semester numbers were good. Despite a 16% decline in the pool of available high school graduates since 2008, Mt. Aloysius continues to make steady progress on almost all admissions fronts. The new spring semester class grew by 31 as compared to last year (161 vs. 130, or +24%), with 8 more full-time students (+6%) and 23 more part-time students (+130%) than last spring’s entering class.

Second, the latest numbers for next fall show continued increases in applications (+14%), in acceptances (4%), and most importantly deposits (+5%) as of March 2, though it is still early. Slow and steady, even with the smaller pool, the increase in competition and gas prices (a real factor when 40% of your students come from families with federally classified “low” incomes). Thanks to Frank and his terrific team, who have broken their own record for open houses, school visits and personal phone calls to prospective students.

Third, Frank gave me his annual list of positives and negatives for next year, and thought worth sharing--

- **Positives for fall 2012:**
  - Current trends point to a successful fall class
  - Nursing activity is strong even with increased competition
  - Visitation thru February 2012 has been our strongest ever
  - Vibrant and hard-working directors in the Enrollment Management Division coupled with supportive staffs
  - Presidential presence on and off campus
  - Financial Aid packages released earlier this year
  - Students attracted to career responsive programs
  - Activity and buzz on campus – approaching convocation center

- **Concerns for fall 2012:**
  - Economic Climate, gasoline and families we serve – the outcome for fall 2012 could prove to be unfavorable
  - Penn Highlands, Penn State Altoona followed by Saint Francis, UPJ and state system of higher education with increased competition for similar students in a shrinking primary market and state (all down by 16% compared to all time high in 2008)
  - Fall 2011 class fell short of 30 traditional recruited athletes as compared to fall 2010 and 2009 – this means the returning cohort for fall 2012 – could be smaller compared to previous years – impacting residence life too. Efforts are in place to assure this does not happen for fall 2012 in the new class
  - Health care programs in OT, PA, PT and Medical imaging areas have lost momentum – cyclical nature of health care – especially for Medical Imaging programs
  - Sign Language has lost momentum too and not sure we will enjoy a final solid yield again this fall
  - On-line competition is strong and we are not recognized as leaders in this area

Fourth, and I am quoting VP Crouse here, “all activity to date is positive--however, it is still early for making a final predictive analysis for fall; especially with uncontrollable outside factors.’’ His team continues to work well together and to touch every possible base under his leadership.
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Five updates:

First, on Security--Campus Security continues to work closely with County Emergency Management and local and state law enforcement to enhance preparedness. All maps, roads, buildings and room numbers within buildings have been updated and shared with emergency personnel as well as with staff and faculty. We are planning two large scale “live shooter” drills on campus. These drills are federally funded and are critical to emergency preparation.

Second, on Automatic External Defibrillators--have been placed throughout campus and seminars were held for employees on the proper use of these devices.

Third, on our Partnership with the Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet Program--MAC will host June 29 thru August 3rd.

Camp Cadet is a summer camp for boys and girls from Pennsylvania between the ages of 13 to 16. The camp is held at various locations throughout the State and staffed by Troopers, local police officers and many other volunteers. The goal of Camp Cadet is to introduce participants to the diverse criminal justice system and establish a positive relationship with law enforcement personnel. Camp Cadet is open to all youth and is structured similar to training at the police academy. All participants who attend Camp Cadet are addressed as “Cadet” during the week. Cadets are required to participate in all scheduled events. The camp focuses on discipline, self-esteem, teamwork, drug and alcohol education, violence prevention and many other issues facing today’s youth.

Fourth, on Facilities and Maintenance.

✔ The Athletic, Convocation and Wellness Center first bid package for structural steel went out and has just been awarded. We continue to work closely with Cambria County, Cresson Borough, Cresson Township, and the Commonwealth on permits and expect no issues. PJ Dick, our construction manager, now has a visible presence at the site.

✔ The new Dugouts are almost complete, with final fencing, dirt work and painting being completed this week, as weather permits.

✔ The Mountie Stables ceilings are done, interior painting and interior finishes are being completed. Exterior painting as weather permits. Electrical work is 90% complete and plumbing fixtures will be installed as painting is completed. Exterior site work is proceeding as weather permits.
Fifth, on Information Technology.

- We negotiated and signed agreement with Comcast to provide a 100meg connection to the Internet to the College. This will quadruple our current bandwidth.
- In addition, a 200meg connection to other Colleges and Universities via the AICUP sponsored WAN initiative will finally be able to realized. In the past the biggest obstacle was the running of approximately 25 miles of fiber and who would bear the cost of that. The growth of the college has allowed us to justify to Comcast that it is worth the investment and they are just about complete with laying the fiber. The WAN itself serves as the infrastructure for academics to work together on applications. Instead of one college being an application, now 14 can band together and realize significant savings, speed of implementation and increased bandwidth. Disaster recovery and video applications are two examples of this type of collaboration made possible by the WAN.
- Implemented Google Docs. Since the campus migration to Gmail everyone has access to Google Docs. As Google Docs expands it uses the College will benefit as more tools are developed. Since the College migration to Gmail, personal cell phone support for students, staff, and faculty continues to increase as more of the college community purchase smart phones.
- Installed Alertus desktop on College owned computers for broadcasting of Campus emergencies. This feature allows us to get critical information out immediately and via multiple modes of communication (text, web, twitter, facebook, email).
- Cyber recruiter – We are 100% complete with customizing Cyber recruiter which will automate our staff, faculty and adjunct recruiting and “on-boarding” process. It will allow real time sharing of qualified applicant information and opportunities as well as accelerate the hiring process.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Five updates:

First, Expanding Horizons The Campaign for Mount Aloysius is off to a great start with a total of $2,388,780 in gifts and pledges as of the date of this writing. Our Board of Trustees and our President’s Advisory Council have responded generously. We thank all of you for this support on behalf of our students, present and future. Our campaign initiatives (Convocation Center, Excellence in Healthcare, College Bound, Community Involvement, Faculty Development and Unrestricted) are all on the scoreboard! College Bound with $1,175,537 and the Convocation Center with $753,550 lead the way. We will shortly begin publishing a formal quarterly update to all trustees on our progress.
Jack has prepared a lovely graph and its purpose is to either scare or inspire us. This graph shows our progress towards a working goal of $12,000,000 (not yet set by the Campaign Committee), as well as our progress as compared to the 2003-2008 campaign.

**Second,** The Campaign now moves into the critical private phase for the next 18 to 24 months during which we hope to garner lead and additional major gifts. The Campaign Committee will be meeting quarterly but everyone’s help will be essential to our success. Every gift is truly a team effort and we thank all of you in advance for your hard work.

**Third,** the dedication of our Mountie Stables is set for March 23rd, directly following our Trustees meeting. The event will be held in McAuley Hall with tours of the facility immediately following the ceremony (weather permitting).

**Fourth,** save Thursday, April 19th at 11 a.m. for the formal groundbreaking of the Convocation Center project. We are hoping for a great crowd to celebrate this milestone in the College’s continuing success—and possible visit by the Governor!

**Fifth,** preparations are underway for the Annual Celebrity Golf Outing at Summit Country Club in Cresson on Friday, June 8th. Invitations will be in the mail in the next few weeks. Thanks to our hard working Golf Committee headed up by Mike McLanahan for their usual great effort, and to L.S.Fiore & Sons and Link Computer for again signing on as Platinum Sponsors. Former Steeler great Edmund Nelson will be our guest celebrity and Senator John Wozniak serves as honorary chair. This event usually nets over $25,000 for the general scholarship fund of the College.

Thanks to VP Jack Anderson and his team for all their dedicated work on all these initiatives—it is not easy!
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.

Five quick updates:
First, we completed our first semester-long survey of community service work at the College and the results are astounding—see Baker’s Dozen Highlight Number One at the beginning of this report. 800 volunteers (half our student body), 4,733 hours of service, 123 community partners—and we just found out we were named to the President’s Honor Roll for Community Service (an honor we somehow missed out on last year). I actually enjoy being peppered by our students raising money for good causes--Soles for Souls, clothing drives, United Way, Biloxi rebuilding, Guyana projects, the “empty bowls” project and a host of other fundraising campaigns—I make them tell me a little about each project before I take out the wallet. They have cornered the market on this—you cannot get into Cosgrave for lunch without passing through a phalanx of student fundraisers all calling out to me—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!”

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 (see the faculty section of this report for many examples), and I believe that we can and should do more at the leadership level for some of those organizations. The next Community Service survey at the College will pool our information on all the work done by staff and faculty as local volunteers, and point some new directions for us.

Second, after 18 months getting my feet wet, I have begun to wade a bit more deeply into formal positions with community activities on behalf of the College—see Baker’s Dozen Highlight Number 11—and please don’t trip over the acronyms. I am now a member in good standing of the boards of JARI (executive committee and officer), GJRP, CHME (our association of Mercy Colleges, project co-chair), AMCC (our all sports conference, incoming chair of the President’s Council), and have just been elected to the board of AICUP (our statewide association of colleges) and accepted the Chairman’s invitation to join the board at the ABCD (all acronyms laboriously explained at Number 11 on page 6)! I have also just accepted a post on NCAA Division III women’s sports Committee.

Michele remains active “across the boards” as well, and just finished about six weeks work as the volunteer coordinator of the Poetry Out Loud competition for high school students in Blair, Cambria and Bedford counties—all part of her duties serving with Ann Benzel on the board of the Blair County Arts Council. I had the pleasure of judging the final competition, held in the fabulous Mishler Theatre in Altoona, where I was joined by Laurie Bechtel-Wherry, Carolyn Donaldson and Ann.

Third, we are very excited that the Profiles program on the College will appear on national TV sometime next month. We will inform you of the specific date once it is identified. Mt. Aloysius is, we think, only the second College in PA (University of Pennsylvania) to be chosen for segment in the series and
we are hopeful that this first ever occurrence will spread our name and mission even further. We will also release the monographs on our two Inauguration symposia (“The University’s Role in Civil Discourse and “The University’s Role in the Social Fabric”) in April, as a way to conclude our year’s focus on Civil Discourse. They are registered documents with the Library of Congress and will carry that official imprimatur.

Fourth, 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); will host the second Ecumenical Summit; enjoyed the local Peewee basketball teams at halftime of varsity basketball games; and hosted the Knights of Columbus for Free-throw Tournaments. The Presbyterian Village used the Cosgrave meeting rooms in January to host a training seminar called "Fierce Training". In celebration and observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day, we invited regional community members to join us in Alumni Hall for a video/music presentation by Key Arts Productions and to hear guest speaker Reverend Funteller Jackson, Associate Minister, Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Finally, 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. We have enjoyed their company as a group on several occasions lately, in receptions in my office for guest speakers, at The Mighty MACs movie and reception and most especially last Saturday at the Simply Sinatra Night at the Mishler Theater—where I served as their chauffeur and they as our guests. I can report that the Sinatra guy was really quite good, that trustee Ann Benzel was honored as this year’s “Arts Angel” (as part of the evening) and that the Sisters were all well behaved!! I do want you to know that Sister Eric Marie—who has been slowly downsizing her hours in Jack Anderson’s office over the last year--broke her hip recently, complicating an already bad knee. She is strong but will be on the mend for a bit longer.

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

Thomas P. Foley