President’s Report to the Community

President Tom Foley
March 22, 2013

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

Mount Aloysius has been in the news frequently, almost all of it good. I want to focus the executive summary this quarter on that aspect of our work at the College. Let me start with a few words on some major news stories during this last quarter:

1. SCI-Cresson Closure—the closure was very big news here, with over 500 good jobs leaving this community. The Mount Aloysius response—a free semester for anyone who loses their job as a result—was also big news, appearing in both major papers, in several of the weeklies, and on both WTAJ and WJAC. We even came in for an official “Laurel” (as opposed to a “barb”) from the editors of the Tribune Democrat. On March 5, the College hosted 30+ state agency leaders, local and regional elected officials, and local economic development groups in a three hour session on “next steps.” It was positive and forward looking, and Governor Corbett sent his Deputy Chief of Staff (to chair the meeting) and representatives from five Harrisburg departments. Best news—467 of the 502 employees have already accepted positions elsewhere in the system (437) or retired (30). I made opening remarks and Senior VP Suzanne Campbell (herself a former deputy chief of staff to a governor) attended as well. | Mount Aloysius Press Release | Tribune Democrat “Laurel” |

2. Librarian of Congress—Our monograph on The Role of the University in Civil Discourse was officially accepted into our nation’s Library by the Librarian-in-Chief himself, a Pennsylvanian, Lower Merion High grad, Princeton Rhodes Scholar and first generation college student (like 62% of MAC students). He has been “first” librarian for 27 years, appreciated the story and mission of Mount Aloysius, and spent an hour with Michele and me in his office looking out on the Capitol itself. As is often the case, Michele asked him the best question—“what books are on his nightstand right now?” He gave us five titles, and I am reading two of them now. | Magazine article on Library of Congress Visit |

3. Student threat on Twitter—a 19-year old sophomore tweeted to his friends an explicit threat against a MAC adjunct teacher, one of whom forwarded it to the PSP. We removed him from campus immediately, then reviewed his record, his social media usage, interviewed him several times (including by college counselor) and, finally, expelled him (all within four days). The local police reported extensively on the threat and it became a front-page story. AP picked it up and it ran in
dozens of markets. The only quote from the College was that we have “zero tolerance” for this kind of behavior. The Altoona mirror editorialized in our favor several days later. | Mirror Editorial on Twitter Threat |

4. **Mount Aloysius stories “make” the news**—lots of nice coverage of Mount Aloysius stories (other than those above) including feature stories on Sister Eric Marie Setlock, on basketball standouts Demetrius Davis, Lindsy Sammarco, Becky Bard and Kyle Baughman, on service award recipients, on several volunteer activities (Soles for Souls, VITA, Katrina), and even a quick story from national college fundraising guru Jerry Panas (who built his weekly short column about millennials and social media around remarks from an old speech of mine on our website—and was gracious enough to give shout-outs to the College and to yours truly). I attach a representative sample of those stories by date, source, headline and summary. | News Coverage since last President’s Report

Little of this good coverage happens by accident—we have a very engaged communications team, a responsive senior leadership team, and a boatload of good stories to tell—about and from students, faculty and staff. And the list of news in point 4, above, is, of course, a review of just print/TV/radio coverage. Our social media efforts have already won some national recognition, and we are just getting started there!! Bottom line, we have significantly ramped up our efforts to tell the story of this College and its students. And even when the story is not all positive, we are making the best of it—responding quickly, accurately, generously (as much as we can, in the Mercy tradition) and, whenever possible, proactively.

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

1. **Community Service is alive, well, and prolific at Mount Aloysius.** Last fall, more than 500 students performed **8,965 hours of service on 322 projects with 191 separate community organizations**—most of these within driving distance of the College—that’s a street value of over $200,000 in work. As I write this, I am waiting to greet students and faculty/staff who spent their spring break in Guyana, where they worked with three different Mercy programs there. 21 students and 3 staff spent their fall break in New Orleans where Mount Aloysius students have been rebuilding homes ever since Katrina hit seven years ago. Thanks to the many—on and off our campus—who coordinate and collaborate on all this good work. | Summer/Fall 2012 Service Report | Soles4Souls article |

2. **December graduation especially meaningful for "first-gen grads"**—Trustee Bill Polacek spoke directly to the aspirations of our December grads—the vast majority of whom are first generation in their families to attend college—as he recounted the powerful story of his own family. Michele and Elaine
3. **Commencement honorees include Patricia/Dan Rooney, Shirley Pechter, Dr. Jim Walsh**—Commencement speaker Patricia Rooney will conclude our Speakers Series’ focus on hospitality, and she and husband Dan will be honored as a couple for their lifetime of good works in the community and their recent service abroad on behalf of our country. Shirley Pechter is a long time arts, community and synagogue activist who will be honored especially for her groundbreaking leadership and work—nationally and locally—on teen suicide prevention. Dr. Walsh will be honored for his work in higher education and his promotion of “civil discourse” before disparate groups, on difficult topics like terrorism and nuclear war. | [Patricia Rooney Invitation](#) | [Shirley Pechter Invitation](#) | [Altoona Mirror Article on Dr. Jim Walsh](#) |

4. **Admissions efforts continue to pay significant dividends**—despite a 16% decline in the pool of available high school graduates since 2008, Mount Aloysius continues to make steady progress on almost all admissions fronts. Final spring enrollment showed an increase of 45 students (following a 30 student increase last year), which Frank reports is the “best spring on record for full-time undergrads.” Fall 2013 numbers also look promising, with more applications (1401/1355), more acceptances (875/826) and more early deposits (245/226) than at this exact time last year. Kudos to Frank and his team, and all who collaborate with Admissions on special events.

5. **Mount Aloysius again achieves A-status on S&P review**—our S&P rating came up for its two-year review, and we were not only reaffirmed at A-, but given a “trending positively” outlook, which means if all else stays the same, we could even improve to an A rating in two years. Our closest competitor is a BBB-, and safe to say that most schools of our size and classification would be delighted with this rating. Donna Yoder and I participated in a 90-minute call on December 5 with two S&P analysts, one from NYC and the other calling in from India. Their questions went well beyond the excellent higher education financial ratios that are part of our annual audit, and we had extensive conversation about the College’s strategies in admissions and development. This is an excellent outcome. | [S&P Report](#) |

6. **“Moral Choices in the Twenty-first Century” lecture attracts top talent**—Dr. Jim Walsh, an expert on international security/Iran/North Korea, prolific author/commentator, currently resident at MIT’s prestigious Security Studies Program (SSP) delivered the seventh lecture in this series. Walsh spoke on “My Five Dinners with Ahmadinejad: Hospitality as a Framework for International Relations.” At MAC, Walsh shared three meals and multiple conversations with students and faculty, community leaders, MAC trustees and local members of the press corps. Dr. Walsh is a frequent commentator on TV news programs from Fox to CNN, and from NPR to the BBC (over 500 appearances since 2001), has published commentaries in the WSJ, NYT, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, the Economist and many more, and is a nationally recognized expert on terrorism, North Korea and Iran. (And yes, he really has had five dinners with Iran’s current leader, and really was my student more than 30 years ago). Thanks to Sister Helen Marie, who conceived and developed our Moral Choices series. | [Press Release on Walsh](#) | add Walsh video link here
7. **High scores for Nursing and Business Programs**—for the fourth time in a row, our nurses are headed to a plus 90% pass rate on state exams (97% at this writing, with only five students to go), ahead of our competition near and far. And our Business/Accounting program saw two teams of MAC students finish the *Capsim ® Capstone Strategy Simulation* in the top 10% of approximately 2,500 teams globally. The simulation calls for students to take charge of a complex business situation in a fast changing market, identify critical variables, and then make decisions aimed at achieving strategic goals. A vital part of the work includes analyzing the cause and effect of various decisions, then moving forward as a team. MAC teams finished at the 96th and 97th percentile nationally. Kudos to Associate Dean for Nursing Zukowski and all her team, and to capstone leader business Professor Chris Mingyar for these excellent results.

8. **Musical and other talents emerge at Mount Aloysius**—*Vox Nova* hosted a fine Valentine’s Eve concert in the Chapel and I attach one of their selections: “*As Time Goes By.*” The spring musical “*You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*” will put nine MAC students on stage for three nights, while *MAC’s Got Talent* showcases more than a dozen individual performers over an eight-week period in our very own “*Cosgrave Café.*” Still in the talent search vein, I had a chance to witness the inaugural *Mount Aloysius Digital Grotto Short Film Festival* | http://youtu.be/bnWQdU_WYAE http://youtu.be/6A76PogH-a8.

Though we are not about to claim any regional awards just yet, it was entertaining and produced three “prize winners” (all in the comedy category). I thought you might enjoy this video put together by our Assistant Director of Communications Sam Wagner—it’s a little out there but far and away the best I saw on the day (and gives you a sense of how much work is involved in these short films). Special thanks to Jack Coyle, Sam Wagner, theater Professor Nathan Magee, music director Nancy Way, Elaine Grant and all our “players.” | “The Surprise” by Sam Wagner

9. **MAC student-athletes crowd AMCC Honor Roll**—54% of all Mount Aloysius student-athletes made the Fall Semester conference honor roll, sporting at least a 3.2 average. That improves on last year’s record of 52%, which was enough to garner the College its first AMCC Dean’s Cup for outstanding academic performance (presented later in spring). Soccer captain Tonya Bibby became the first MAC scholar-athlete ever named to the Women's College Division Scholar All-East Region Honorable Mention Team by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). | Tonya Bibby earns soccer honor

Thanks to our Office of Student Advising and Success led by Heather Lowe and to the many mentors, tutors and other volunteers on faculty and staff who help produce these off-the-field results.
10. **Basketball teams bring home the bacon**—Both men’s and women’s basketball made the playoffs—for the first time *together*. The men finished 16-10, after leading the conference for fully half the season. The women again made the conference final four, Michele and I went on a very full student bus on a Friday night to Pittsburgh where our ladies lost to eventual champs (and NCAA qualifier) LaRoche, and finished a best-ever 17-10 (without a player over 5’8’’). LaRoche Prez Sister Candace Intracusco and I took turns (first half, second half) sitting with each other and our respective fans (MAC won the ballot for best fans by a mile—even the head of referees for the AMCC told me that). For the first time, both MAC teams swept perennial conference power Penn State-Behrend—who, nevertheless, finished first (men) and second (women) in the playoffs. Both MAC teams crowned 1,000 point scorers this year (Demetrius Davis and Lindsy Sammarco), they took three Player-of-the-Week honors for the conference (another first) and the women never missed a beat while their head coach delivered a bouncing baby boy mid-season (with men’s Coach Lance and first lady Coach Michele on the bench). Kudos to Ryan Smith, Coaches Kaack and Loya for the on-the-court success. | [Mountie Madness video](#) | [“Bard Setting Pace” article](#) | [“Mountie Win 5 Straight” article](#) | [“On a Roll” article](#) | [“Sammarco Continues” article](#) |

11. **The Christmas Madrigal was great fun, again**—under the direction (39 years in a row) of proud alum Michelle McGowan. It is a testament to their affection for the College that all these actors, musicians and backstage talent (about half are actual alums) come back together every year to entertain 654 guests (this year) and to help promote Mount Aloysius. Michelle has offered to add another performance next year to facilitate corporate sponsorships. I had another unplanned role 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 Archbishop Bosley (a take on the old “Charlie’s Angels” TV show). We are so very grateful to all our talented performers, and to directors Michelle and Jonathan O’Harrow, music director Nancy Way, the retired Sisters of Mercy (who greet every single guest) and our Institutional Advancement team. | [Video Review of Madrigal 2012](#) | [Article on the Madrigal](#) |

12. **Strategic Plan 2013-15 nears completion**—with Themes, Objectives and Goals in place and approved by Trustees, co-chairs Tim Fulop and Sister Helen Marie Burns have been laboring over the details—specific action steps to complete each goal, with separate “tasks” that are time-lined, priced, individually-owned and supported by metrics. Here’s a look at the latest version on an excel spreadsheet. Final version will be in place by end of March. Many action steps are already in progress. With gratitude to our co-chairs and to all our committee members. | [Strategic Plan Spreadsheet](#) |
13. **MAC gears up for 2015 Middle States review**—the Steering Committee that will lead our preparation for this all important certification process was recently appointed. Psychology Department Chairman Dr. Brad Hastings will work closely with Dr. Fulop (who has engineered several successful re-accreditations at previous institutions) and with me in his role as Coordinator of the Self Study Steering Committee; Dr. Chris Lovett is convening assessment work on the administration side of the house; Dr. Sara Rutledge has agreed to catalogue MAC publications/reports in a digitalized format; and the following link lists those that have accepted appointments to the Committee ([List of Committee members](#)). The Middle States review encompasses fourteen different and very specific categories of higher education performance, from academics to assessment, from finance to mission, from athletics to strategic planning, and more. The 2005 review was generally favorable but highlighted several areas for improvement. The 2010 mid-term review was excellent, and was one of Sister Mary Ann Dillon’s last “gifts” to the College.

14. **“Fireside Chats” warm up MAC students (I think!?)**—at the suggestion of our Student Government Association (SGA) President Tyler Pine, I participated in two 90-minute chats sitting by the fireplace in Cosgrave. The students asked me all the obvious questions (what brought us here, what keeps us here, etc.) and a few I hadn’t expected (what am I reading right now, favorite alcoholic beverage, etc.). Both were fun, and the last of this year’s chats will include—at SGA request—Michele Foley as well. I also managed to fit in three lectures this fall (two to Dr. Michael Jones class on terrorism and one on public service to our 70+ Mercy Scholars), received the Top 100 Irish in Education award in NYC (second time running), judged the regional Poetry Out Loud competition (organized by Michele) with PS Altoona Prez Lorie Bechtel-Wherry and was unanimously elected by my AMCC colleagues to the NCAA D-III Presidents Advisory Council (I forgot to take a step backwards)—a post which helps protect the interests of the “have nots” in the D-III world (of which we are one, with no full-time coaches and limited budgets).

### PART THREE: UPDATE BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY

The remainder of my report will outline progress against the three primary goals set forth in the strategic plan. This is my last update based on that strategic plan—the June report will work off the new plan (whose goals and objectives were approved at the December Board meeting), which will, by then, be complete with its 100+ action steps.
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

Eight quick updates on this work that is so central to our mission:

1. **MAC Volunteer Work**—The [Community Engagement Report for Fall 2012](#) was released in December. Students at Mount Aloysius College contributed **8,965 service hours to 322 projects with 185 different community partners**. The increased number from last fall (about 60%) reflects additional activities and more accurate retrieval of information. For the sixth straight year, twenty-one students and faculty/staff assisted victims of Katrina in Louisiana and eleven students and faculty/staff traveled to Guyana on spring break to work in several Mercy projects in that country. Before the end of the semester, students will travel to Young People Who Care (Virginia) and the Mercy Farm (Vermont) to offer assistance in these areas as well. [Photo Gallery of the New Orleans Service Trip](#)

2. **MAC Scholars in Service**—Four Mount Aloysius students continue to work with the campus service-learning program as well as with off-site community projects. Each Scholar in Service to Pennsylvania must do 300 hours of community service between August 2012 and August 2013 to earn an Education Award in the amount of $1,175 from the Corporation for National and Community Service (the same government program that awards AmeriCorps, *VISTA, and the President’s Higher Ed Honor Roll*).

3. **Busy fall retreat season**—The second annual [SEARCH retreat](#) served 20+ students. This retreat is an intense two-day spiritual experience led by five student-leaders under the mentorship of Sr. Nancy Donovan. An additional eleven faculty/staff/students participated in the third annual [Busy Persons Retreat](#) conducted by two visiting Sisters of Mercy: Sisters Regina Ward (a childhood friend of mine) and Connie Sophie. Both events helped prepare the way for various Lenten activities hosted by the Campus Ministry
Office: Wednesday Soup and Scripture gatherings, Stations of the Cross, a "Teach Me to Pray" series, and distribution of free Lenten meditation booklets. Twenty-two faculty/staff/students also participated in Food Fast 2013, a twenty-four hour fast interspersed with videos, Skype interviews and discussions about world hunger. The Fast Food 2013 program is under the leadership of student minister, Heather Golias, and the Campus Ministry Office. A new Student Ministry Team—Heather Golias, Ajia Timmons, and Adam Pernelli—continues to develop and to grow in its ability to support activities sponsored by the Campus Ministry Office.

4. Four MAC Faculty to Ireland—Drs. Thomas Coakley (English), Laura Lansing (Psychology), Patricia Meintel (Nursing), and Sara Rutledge (Education) were selected for a partially expense-paid trip to Dublin, Ireland where they will join colleagues from nine other Mercy colleges/universities for the fifth Carlow Round Table, "Gathering in Mercy's Home". The round table is an opportunity for faculty/administrators from member institutions of the Conference for Mercy Higher Education (CMHE) to share their common interest in the mission of Mercy education across disciplines and across areas of experience. Monies for the faculty award were provided by a grant from the Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community Ministry Fund as well as the operating budget.

5. WISE Women Award to Mount Aloysius—For the third year in a row, Mount Aloysius College and Contact Altoona have been awarded grant monies ($5000) from the WISE Women of Blair County to sponsor an empowerment workshop for women. Past workshops featuring sessions by Mount Aloysius College faculty/staff as well as community organizations have been well-attended and extremely well-received. A joint committee of Mount Aloysius College and Contact Altoona personnel will begin work on the 2013 workshop later this spring.

6. Sr. Helen Marie Burns remains prolific. She recently offered an afternoon lecture at Mercyhurst College in January 2013 and will be offering a Board retreat session at St. Joseph's College of Maine in March 2013. In addition, she, and several Mercy higher education colleagues, will publish articles in "A Mission Officer Handbook: Advancing Catholic Identity and University Mission" which will be released by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities this summer.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
I have divided this section into
- highlights of academic activity;
- recent publications/presentations by faculty;
- examples of student/faculty co-curricular engagement.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACADEMIC ACTIVITY:

The Associate of Science in Nursing program graduated 41 nurses in December. As of February 22, 38 of the December graduates have taken the NLCLEX with a pass rate at 97.36%.

The Associate of Science in Nursing program accepted 89 new level-one students. This is an increase from last year.

The Director of On-Line Education, Dr. Kristine Anderson, reports that 40 on-line courses (4 new to on-line) are scheduled for this spring with 706 enrolled. This compares to 30 on-line courses (9 new to on-line) last Spring with 582 students enrolled.
Ms. Becky Zukowski, Associate Academic Dean of Nursing, attended the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) Nurse Administrator’s meeting in Atlanta, GA. This meeting reviewed expectations of nursing education providers in the continued accreditation process. Our next accreditation visit will be fall 2015.

Dr. Sara Rutledge, Dr. Marilyn Roseman and Dr. Dev Bozella of the Education Department, successfully completed the Mandated Reporter Training: Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse, a 3-hour live, interactive webinar sponsored by the Pennsylvania Support Alliance.

The proposal for a new Associate Degree program in Fitness/Wellness and Personal Training was approved by the Curriculum Committee and Academic Council and is set to begin this summer. This completely on-line program was developed in partnership with faculty at California University of Pennsylvania which has had great success with their bachelor’s and master’s degree on-line program in Fitness. MAC’s two-year program will be fully articulated with Cal U.

A Technology “Commons” is being added in the Library, converting the old multi-media room (also an ASL lab until that was moved to Old Main last summer). Together with the Learning Commons, the Technology Commons will continue the Library’s role as central location for student learning and engagement.

The Office of Student Success and Advising (formerly “Retention”) under the leadership of Ms. Heather Low completed a new “team” plan with Admissions, Financial Aid and Residential Life to assign to each new student a point person in each of these offices starting next fall. This gives new students the comfort of a direct connection when issues arise in the respective areas, and will help avert some of those issues which precipitate “crisis points” in the first-year experience.

Associate Professor Dr. Sara Rutledge completed on-line iTunes University seminars through Yale University; Yale Child Study Center, covering:

- Autism and Related Disorders Seminar
- Apple Distinguished Educators: Creating Inclusive Learning Environments
- Teaching with Technology

Ms. Cheryl Kowalczyk, Assistant Professor, will serve as Team Coordinator of an on-site accreditation survey for the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs at the Living Arts College in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Cambria County Chapter of Medical Assistants held their monthly meeting at Mount Aloysius College in Pierce Hall. The guest speaker, Ms. Kathleen Hoyne, Coordinator of the Medical Laboratory Technician Program, presented the “Do You Have a Clue…about the Flu?” Continuing education units of 1.5 were afforded to the attendees.

The Spring Study Night was held in the Library under the leadership of the Student Success and Advising Office and the Learning Commons. 81 students, a record for the spring event, battled inclement weather that evening to attend the Study Night. This event offers general assistance and highlights the services of the Learning Commons, and, in addition, faculty offer group tutoring for specific classes. The respective directors of the two hosting offices, Ms. Heather Low and Ms. Theresa Spanella, were invited to give a presentation on the Mount Aloysius Study Night Model at the College Reading and Learning Association meeting at King’s College, March 8.
Dr. Fran Rohlf, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, took part in the book discussion at the spring meeting of the Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies at the University of Pittsburgh, Oakland, PA. Fifteen participants from different universities in western Pennsylvania and Ohio discussed *In the Country of Men*, by Hisham Matar, responding to reflection-questions prepared by Dr. Sami Hermez, visiting scholar at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Barbara Cook, Associate Professor of English, read a poem at the *Poetry Out Loud* event sponsored by the Blair County Arts Foundation held at the historic Mishler Theater in Altoona. Michele Foley coordinates all aspects of this event as a volunteer board member of BCAC, Ann Benzel was on hand to fill in for Mistress of Ceremonies Carolyn Donaldson (last year, Ann filled in for the even more important “Accuracy” Judge), and I served as one of the three judges. Barbara read a Langston Hughes poem beautifully. I did a passable version of Robert Frost’s *Departmental*, and Ann managed to escape without reciting anything at all!!

The **Division of Nursing** has implemented a comprehensive **system of support services** designed to enhance the academic progression of students. Ms. Becky Zukowski, Associate Academic Dean of Nursing, and Ms. Regina Barr, Assistant Professor of Nursing, met with all students during the first two weeks of the semester to explain the services offered and the methods available to access them. Data will be gathered to evaluate the effectiveness of each of these services.

**RECENT PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS BY FACULTY:**

**Ms. Becky Zukowski**, Associate Academic Dean and Nursing Division Chairperson, has been asked by Pennsylvania State Nurses Association to author a continuing education article for the Pennsylvania Nurse journal on the topic “*Vulnerable Populations in Disaster.*” Becky spent part of her Navy nursing career in disaster response, a new and valuable asset for the Mount.

Dr. Fran Rohlf, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, gave a presentation for the Catholic Connections group of Mount Aloysius College Campus Ministry concerning Intercessory Prayer. About twenty interested students and staff attended and were fully involved in the discussion.

Dr. Ryan Costanzo, Assistant Professor, co-authored a journal article that will appear in an upcoming issue of *National Association for Developmental Education Digest*. He and co-author **Ms. Amanda Bender** have titled the article, “*Developmental Reading and Nursing Program Partnerships: Helping Students Succeed in Reading-Intensive Coursework.*” In it, the authors discuss the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration when it comes to preparing students for the reading demands of the nursing curriculum.

Dr. Sara Rutledge, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, was selected to participate and present at the Carlow University Round Table Conference to be held from May 26 – June 2, 2013 in Dublin, Ireland. She will be presenting “*Integrating Service-Learning into a Standards-Based Teacher Education Program at a Mercy Institution.*”
Sr. (and Dr.) Helen Marie Burns offered an afternoon lecture at Mercyhurst College in January 2013 and a Board retreat session at St. Joseph's College of Maine in March 2013. In addition, she, and several Mercy higher education colleagues, will publish articles in "A Mission Officer Handbook: Advancing Catholic Identity and University Mission" which will be released by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in summer, 2013.

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT CO-CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT:

Nursing students have been actively involved in the Nursing Student Organization (NSO). The NSO participated in a number of volunteer activities including: John Paul II Nursing Home visit on February 7, blood pressure screenings in honor of Paul Kirby on February 13, and the Mercy Youth Initiative event held on February 16.

Ms. Nancy Way, Assistant Professor of Music, directed vibrant Vox Nova performances at the:
- Madrigal Christmas Dinner—December 1, 2 in Cosgrave Dining Hall
- Opening Liturgy—January 29 in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel, and
- Vox Nova concert, “Vocal Valentines”—February 14 in the Chapel.

Mr. Dirk Grafton, Assistant Professor of Criminology, reports that former Mount Aloysius Criminology major, Mr. Joshua Kennedy, has been hired by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and is working at the prison in
Allenwood, Pennsylvania. Former student, Mr. Andrew Hoover, started at the Pennsylvania State Police Academy in January.

Associate Professor Dr. Marilyn Roseman reported that the Children’s Advocacy Association made a contribution to the Dorothy Day Foundation at St. Francis University. Members of the club sold candles to the College community, which were lit from the mall to the library. The Club, in collaboration with Student PSEA, also provided decorations and multiple activities for children during Christmas at the Mount.

The BU490-Business Integrative Seminar, which is the capstone course for Accounting and Business Administration majors, taught by Assistant Professor of Business Administration Mr. Chris Mingyar, had two teams of students finish the Capsim® Capstone strategy simulation in the “Top 10” (the top 10%) of approximately 2,500 teams globally. The simulation calls for students to take charge of a complex business situation in a fast changing market, identify critical variables, and then make decisions aimed at achieving strategic goals. A vital part of the work includes analyzing the cause and effect of various decisions then moving forward as a team. Five teams in the class competed directly against one another, and indirectly with teams globally via comparative scores in a Balanced Score Card performance measurement tool. The first team, comprised of Ms. Alicia Strittmatter, Ms. Cindy Gampe, and Ms. Stephanie Moyer, finished at the 97th percentile; and the second team, comprised of Ms. Cindy Gage, Mr. John Feltch, Mr. Kyle Lawson, and Mr. Matt Ocipa, finished at the 96th percentile. A third team, comprised of Mr. Luca Farina, Ms. Chelsea Perehinec, Mr. Blaise Pezek, and Ms. April Tewksbury, finished in the 71st percentile, globally.

Dr. Julie Smith, Associate Professor of Social Science, and the following HS/PS students, judged History Day at the Tyrone Middle School: Mr. Ryan Bressler, Mr. Seth Shaffer, Ms. Jen Smith, Ms. Mackenzie Horne, and Mr. Dylan Link. This is the second year Dr. Smith and students have judged the competition and all the students at both levels enjoyed the interaction. The college students were impressed with the quality and variety of the middle-school projects. Ms. Emily Winters, who is student teaching at Tyrone, also participated but could not judge as she began working with her Tyrone cooperating teacher and students last September.

Ms. Karen Watt, Assistant Professor, and two Junior IT majors served as judges at the PA Technology Student Association Region 8 Leadership Conference, held at the Altoona Junior High School. Judged events included: Leadership Strategies, System Control Technology and Transportation Systems.

STUDENT AFFAIRS
Three areas of focus this quarter:

1. Student athletes
2. Residence life
3. Campus activities

STUDENT ATHLETES: some updates on results, service and recognition from this group led by MAC Athletic Director Ryan Smith and his team:

✓ The men’s and women’s basketball teams both secured playoff berths in the 2012-13 AMCC playoffs. Each team entered the tournament as the #5 seed. The women got MAC’s first-ever road
playoff win against Pitt-Bradford (who had beaten us twice during the season) and lost once again in the final four to LaRoche (35-1 in last two seasons in conference play). The women’s team finished the season at a best ever 17-10. The men’s team finished the 25 game schedule at 16-9 and 12-6 in AMCC play. The men’s team spent three weeks as the #1 team in the conference and finished just two games (and four points) out of a first place tie. The men lost in the first round to Medaille.

✓ The Mount Aloysius Women’s and Men’s Basketball teams hosted the 500 attendee Think Pink game on January 30, 2013. The team sponsored the event with help from Elaine Grant and the Campus Activities Board. All proceeds from the game went to the Blair County branch of the American Cancer Society.

✓ The men’s and women’s basketball teams honored
  - Graduating seniors from each team (with their parents or guardian) with flowers and photos of their careers: Alexis Tellish (Altoona, PA/Altoona HS) and Ashley Lechner (Bellwood, PA./Bellwood-Antis HS), Demetrius Davis (Altoona and South Philadelphia HS), Jeff Stem (MD, Garrett County HS) and Kyle Baughman (Lorain, OH/Clearview HS).
  - Faculty during the Faculty Appreciation Night with each student-athlete and team manager nominated their favorite faculty member, who were each presented certificates from President Foley and Dr. Tim Fulop (while the student essay was read to the crowd). Over 30 faculty received these honors.
  - Alumni at the (now) Annual Alumni Day, with full court games, T-Shirts, lunch, and halftime recognition (during the varsity games against Pitt-Bradford).

✓ The MAC Athletic Department hosted the 2nd Annual Winter Prospective Student-Athlete Day on February 9, 2013. Recruited athletes were invited on campus to hear and meet their potential coaches and team members. The Admissions Department presented to the recruits and their parents. Financial Aid also presented along with the Athletic Department. The recruits and their parents were then invited to lunch, and then to the home basketball games. In all, over 35 recruits attended. The Athletics Department showed a video of the new construction of the ACWC.

✓ Mount Aloysius Athletic Director Ryan Smith and Assistant Athletic Director Brianna Baker attended the 2013 NCAA Convention in Dallas, Texas. The AMCC/NCAA also paid all expenses for attendance by two AMCC student-athletes, one of them from MAC—Jalisa Westover (softball player). She went on her first plane trip, engaged in activities surrounding NCAA legislation, AMCC legislation and took part in the national SAAC meetings. Jalisa enjoyed the experience and even met Tony Dungy at the Honors Dinner hosted by the NCAA. Jalisa’s was interviewed by the Altoona Mirror and her story appeared in the College Corner. Jalisa gave a great description of the events and her experience. | “NCAA Convention Rewarding” article |
18 NEW members (record was 19 last year) will be inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma Honors Society for student-athletes. The requirements are 3.4 GPA and a junior or senior.

MAC junior women’s basketball player, Lindsy Sammarco (Patton, PA./Bishop Carroll HS) was twice named AMCC Player of the Week and during the two-overtime game against Penn State Behrend, Lindsy scored her 1,000 career point. At the beginning of the game against LaRoche College, Lindsy was recognized as the sixth player in our history to score 1,000 points. She was presented with the ball used for this historic event and also the net from the basket where she scored her 1,000th point. I was happy to present the awards with AD Ryan Smith, and Coaches Kristi Kaack and Adam Kaack.

MAC senior men’s basketball player, Demetrius Davis (Philadelphia, PA/Altoona HS) scored his 1,000 point against Franciscan University with 10 members of his family in attendance. Demetrius became the 10th player in MAC men’s basketball history to score 1,000 points. He will receive the ball and the net at the Mac Sports Banquet in April.

MAC senior guard, Jeff Stem (Oakland, MD./Southern Garrett HS) was named AMCC Player of the Week when he averaged over 20 points in a three game stretch.

MAC student-athletes were featured on the AMCC website for community service projects multiple times this past quarter, including:
- The MAC women’s basketball team “I Backpack” project. The team and coaches filled backpacks with food, toiletries and school supplies for those in need in and around the Altoona area. The team collaborated with Altoona’s Wright Elementary School.
- Brianna Baker and women’s soccer player Brittany Mazur’s Christmas break trip to New Orleans for Katrina relief efforts. This was a collaboration with the Campus Ministry Department and The Mercy Presidential Scholars.
- The MAC SAAC’s “Soles 4 Souls” project. So far over 1,600 pairs of shoes have been collected and donated to this charity.
- Our athletic conference (AMCC) has adopted my proposal to honor and promote outstanding community service projects by student-athletes at the end of each year. The idea is to propagate examples of good work by recognizing projects at each of the ten AMCC schools and then to choose some overall “winners,” using a model already in place at the D-III national level.

RESIDENCE LIFE: The Resident Assistants, under the direction of Doctor Jane and Res Life Director Chris Koren have really upped their game on activities designed to build dorm loyalty and community. Here is their program chart for the last quarter:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Program</th>
<th>Building and Hall</th>
<th>Date and Time of Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residence Life Halloween Door Decorating Contest</td>
<td>All Residence Halls, and Park Ave. House.</td>
<td>The week of Oct 22nd and winners announced October 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gameboard Night</td>
<td>Ihmsen 2nd Floor</td>
<td>11/1/2012 21:00:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Halloween</td>
<td>Ihmsen</td>
<td>10/31/12 all day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be Thankful</td>
<td>All of Joe's and Gerts.</td>
<td>Thursday, November 8th @ 9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed Dating</td>
<td>Group Program</td>
<td>Nov. 9th, 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals Study Tips</td>
<td>McAuley 2nd floor</td>
<td>11/16/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Craft</td>
<td>Cosgrave</td>
<td>Sunday 11/18/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Saints Catholic School</td>
<td>Ihmsen Hall, First Floor</td>
<td>11/16/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Room Safety</td>
<td>2nd floor of St. Joe's/St. Gert's</td>
<td>11/26/12 All Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball Drills</td>
<td>All Saints School</td>
<td>11/28/2012 12:30- 1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Lessons</td>
<td>Ihm 2nd Floor</td>
<td>November 29, 2012; passive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Bullying Lesson</td>
<td>All Saints Catholic School</td>
<td>11/29/2012 1-1:40pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give thanks</td>
<td>Ihmsen hall</td>
<td>11/19/12 12-2PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misciagna pizza social</td>
<td>Misciagna 3rd floor</td>
<td>1-26-2013 @ 8 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Pie Baking</td>
<td>Ihmsen Hall</td>
<td>January 31st at 7PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance of getting involved on campus</td>
<td>Ihmsen Hall, First Floor</td>
<td>1/31/2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henna Tattoos</td>
<td>All Residents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be my Valentine</td>
<td>McAuley 3rd floor</td>
<td>2/4/2013 19:30:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fan Bus</td>
<td>All residents</td>
<td>2/6/2013 17:00:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Auction</td>
<td>All students invited</td>
<td>2/14/2013 at 8:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chocolate Hearts</td>
<td>Ihmsen 2nd floor</td>
<td>2/9-2/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoothie/Bird House Night</td>
<td>St. Joe's and St. Gert's</td>
<td>Wed. Feb 20. 9:30pm, lasted until 10:40pm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: another very busy start to the semester with well attended events on campus coordinated by Elaine Grant, Director of Student Activities. A few programs are pictured below:

MLK DAY
- MLK presentation of King’s Dream by Key Arts Production, January 22, Alumni

MAC’S GOT TALENT
- MAC’s Got Talent, February 5, February 12 (Featuring Camara African Drum & Dance), February 26, March 12, March 26 & April 9 in Alumni Hall

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS SERIES
- Rudy Giuliani, Live Video Broadcast “Principled Leadership: In the Face of Change and Crisis,” February 5 Alumni Hall
- Panther Leadership Summit, February 23, Pittsburgh
- Brad Meltzer Live Video Broadcast of “How to Write Your Own Obituary” February 26, Alumni Hall
- Peter Bregman Live Video Broadcast “18 minutes: Find Your Focus, Master Distractions and Get Things Done “ March 19, Alumni Hall

WINTER WEEKEND
- 2 Home basketball games
- Hat Give-Away, Photobooth, and more
- Laser Tag
- Dessert Bingo

BSU SOUL FOOD LUNCH

REVERSE ORDER
Boy band Reverse Order, March 22

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

Four quick points here:

First, Spring Enrollment 2013 is the best on record for full-time undergrads (1149 compared to 1104 budgeted).

Second, Fall 2013 fulltime numbers forecast very positive as of Feb 22, 2013 (see chart below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apps</td>
<td>1401</td>
<td>1355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepts</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frank Crouse’s ever conservative estimate: “All market segments, to date, are on reasonable track (freshmen, transfers, Grad, Con. Ed) as to goals. The majority of our activity is proving to be favorable to date, though it is far too early to make a final predictive analysis for fall 2013 given the uncontrollable external factors.”

Third, Frank tells me there are some significant positives for fall 2013 new enrollment:

✓ Current trends point to a similar class for fall 2013 (in the midst of enrollment drops state-wide)
✓ Visitations to campus through Jan. 2013 have been very strong
✓ Best financial aid packages ever will be released this year—an effort to increase final yield and stay competitive with our major cross-application colleges/universities
✓ Students attracted to career-responsive programs
✓ Team approach with recruitment, admissions and other administrative office functions
✓ Strong directors who recognize the importance/relevance of their jobs coupled with energetic staffs
✓ Forging partnerships with external agencies for graduate school enrollments
✓ Built and maintain relationships with local and regional two-year colleges for transfer and Con. Ed. enrollment. MAC presence at these institutions monthly!

Fourth, Frank voices some concerns/challenges for fall 2013 (very similar to last year):

✓ Economic climate, gasoline on the rise again, lay-offs for parents and adult student spouses, etc.
✓ Health care programs are cyclical in nature in terms of enrollment
✓ Increased competition due to colleges across the board being down in enrollment this past fall 2012 – therefore, Increased financial aid competition
✓ Decrease of available traditional students in our core market
✓ On-line education is a competitive market and we are not recognized as a leader in this market – even with our nursing strength

FINANCE AND PHYSICAL PLANT RESOURCES
First, our S&P rating came up for its two-year review, and we were not only reaffirmed at A-, but given a “trending positively” outlook—which means if all else stays the same, we could even improve to an A rating in two years. Our closest competitor is a BBB-, and this rating compares very favorably to most schools of our size and classification. Donna Yoder and I participated in a 90 minute call on December 5 with two S&P raters, one from NYC and the other calling in from India. Their questions went well beyond the excellent higher education financial ratios that are part of our annual audit, and we had extensive conversation about the College’s strategies in admissions and development. This is an excellent outcome.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

This is the first report covering the tenure of new VP for Institutional Advancement Jennifer Dubuque, who began here mid-January. The report covers activity for the 2012-13 fiscal year-to-date (July 1, 2012 through Jan. 31, 2013) and the fundraising data is through the second quarter (12/31/12) (Jack Anderson’s last quarter here). Jennifer feels it is important that we report quarterly on alumni contacts and on the work product of the Advancement Division staff—I agree, and these new report items are included here. The three key areas for this report are:

1) Campaign Report
2) Annual Fundraising Progress Report
3) Advancement Division Activity

Campaign Report

✓ *Expanding Horizons: The Campaign for Mount Aloysius* has raised $13,354,208 in gifts and commitments through Jan 31, 2013. Not much change in the last six months.
✓ The campaign committee met in early January to review progress and focus activity on the top prospects. Included in the discussion was the list of contractors and vendors working on the new convocation center and the point of contact for each. Specific strategies were designed for this group.
✓ Now that the building is enclosed and the interior walls are going up, we will review the list of naming opportunities and look at additional options.
✓ Campaign committee members will be focusing efforts on securing leadership commitments in the next 12 to 15 months before the convocation center opens.

Annual Fundraising Progress Report

✓ Since July 1, we have raised $659,696 in new gifts and commitments to the College. This is broken down:
  o Unrestricted    $160,782
  o Restricted      $284,037
  o Grants          $180,429
  o Events          $  34,448

✓ We are increasing our direct mail appeals for the spring semester while developing more segmented, targeted pieces to try and increase our alumni participation rate (currently at 7%).
✓ Our spring phonathon is underway and students will be calling for eight weeks in the spring.
Institutional Advancement Division Activity Report

✓ Alumni Relations
  o **Alumni Magazine** is in the final stages of production and should be in the mail shortly.
  o In addition to the magazine, Jennifer is reviewing all our **alumni communications**. She feels we need to **increase the frequency** of our communications and to promote the College to alumni using social media.
  o **Increased one-on-one sessions.** Over **70 face-to-face meetings** have occurred with alumni this fiscal year. In addition we have been traveling to meet graduates, hear their stories and re-engage them with the Mount.
  o The **Alumni Association Board** will be meeting in March to review their service project for the College. We also hope to include the alumni board in the graduate toast event before Commencement.

✓ Advancement Services
  This spring Jennifer is laser-focused on training our staff to use the database software and learn its capabilities and strengths for mailings, metrics and tracking activity.

✓ Events
  o This past December we hosted the **Madrigal Feaste** for two nights. A total of 654 attendees came to campus and we are looking to increase our sponsorships for the 2013 event.
  o **Spring Events** in the planning stages include:
    ▪ **Monthly “Mountie Mixers”** scheduled to encourage alumni in the local counties to network and reconnect with the College.
    ▪ **Golf Tournament** scheduled for June 14, 2013 at the Summit Country Club in Cresson. Our celebrity guest is Chris Hoke from the Pittsburgh Steelers. Sponsorships are available for this popular event and proceeds are directed towards scholarships. This year our goal is to exceed $33k in scholarship support, a 10% increase over the prior year ($29,417)
    ▪ **Alumni Weekend** – July 19 – 21, 2013. The Save-the-date postcard has been mailed and staff are working on the final schedule of events for the weekend. We are looking to build on the successes of the past couple of years. This year there will be a special emphasis on the 50th reunion class, and staff are working with class volunteers to contact alumni and encourage their attendance.
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Last quarter, I gave you detail on the work of the HR and IT divisions. This quarter, I want to bring you up to speed on three aspects of all the work in this area, supervised so well by Senior VP for Administration Suzanne Campbell:

1. ACWC—interior and exterior progress
2. General Facilities update
3. Safety and Security upgrades and updates

1. Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center (ACWC)

Progress continues to push forward in spite of the February weather.

On the exterior of the building the mason has completed the north Main entrance. The iron workers installed the entry canopy. Next week we will install the curtain wall and glass at the front entrance. The masons have bricked all of the brick arches on the Event Level north and west with the exception of the arch over the north Event Level entrance. They will be working on this one as weather permits. The roofers have the standing seam roofing on the west side of the sloped roof completed and have the east-sloped roof materials stocked. They are waiting for another break in the weather to work on this side. The flat roofs have been proceeding. All are on, with the exception of about one third of the west side. As weather permits they are installing small sections of the flat roof. The siding insulation and furring at the south elevation has started.

On the interior, the electrician has the permanent power on in the building. We are working to turn on the gas to the building next week. We had the heat to the main gym on by March first. The main gym has the drywall installed. We have started installing drywall in the administrative offices. The drywall will then proceed to the East side of the Concourse level. The masonry at the Event level is complete on the East, South and North sides of the main gym. They are currently working on the West side rooms. Elevator #2 is built. Elevator #1 is on site and just starting to be built.
2. General Facilities
Some of this work is scheduled maintenance/upgrade, some of it of the emergency repair variety:

- Installed new support system for new x-ray equipment Pierce Lab 006.
- Installed new dimmable lighting in Pierce Ultra Sound Classroom 004.
- Patching, painting and cleaning of the Memorabilia Room.
- Converted Storage room to conference room 114 Main.
- Completed the installation of new locks for Ihmsen.
- Compressor replaced on 1 of the 3 walk-in coolers in Cosgrave.
- HVAC equipment repaired in Academic Hall, Boiler House, Cosgrave, Ihmsen, Library, McAuley, Misciagna and St. Joe’s. Most of the work was completed by the Maintenance staff.
- Water line repaired in the Main Complex.
- Replaced hot water storage tank in the gym.

3. Safety and Security
This is just to give you an idea of the monthly activities of our security team, led by Suzanne and former Cresson police and fire chief Bill Trexler.

- January 1 to February 18 the department responded to 61 incidents, ranging from lost books to traffic accidents to liquor violations to personality disputes. These do not include the calls for vehicle jumpstarts, unlocking office/dorm/classroom doors, etc.

- Campus Security Authority Training: Security & Res Life is complete. Athletics is in progress. Next is Faculty. This training is critical to continued proper participation with the Clery Act.

- All new Ihmsen locks were coded and keys distributed.

- Academic Hall slidlocks are now in place internally in each classroom. This was an after action item to the active shooter scenario where we noted that we instruct faculty and students to lock themselves in the room in certain situations yet there were no internal locks.

- Local Fire and EMS departments were given a tour of the Convocation Center as part of our due diligence.

- Annual Uniform Crime Report Report is finished and filed with the Pennsylvania State Police and assurance letter has been submitted to the PA Department of Education.

- In partnership with PennDOT, the Drinking and/or Texting While Driving Simulator was held on campus on Feb 20th (while the local papers were covering the Saint Patty’s Day issue, WTAJ ran a story on this program at the Mount). Officers assisted with the unit as well as answered students’ questions.
**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.**

Four quick updates here, summarizing the work of Mount Aloysius as a community host, as a community service provider, as a community partner and as a community (and occasionally higher education) leader:

1. **Community Host**: We continue to open the College to outside and community groups as appropriate. In the last two months:
   - Knights of Columbus held their free-throw tournaments in our gym
   - PARID (PA Registry Interpreters for Deaf) Held a Board Meeting here in December (we are working to build even stronger connections in this community on behalf of our ASL program)
   - Cresson Area Ambulance and local emergency management professionals held a Child Abuse Recognition Continuing Education (for credit) class here on Feb. 25, which was covered on local TV. [News Coverage](#)
   - We continue to sponsor the regular meetings of the ecumenical group, which includes the leaders of numerous denominations in the region and concludes with lunch in the President’s Dining Room
   - Mount Aloysius was host to thirty-plus state, regional, community elected, appointed leaders working on the SCI-Cresson issue. The Governors Deputy Chief of Staff chaired the three-hour session, the College provided lunch and refreshments, and I was invited by the chair to address the group (in his intro, he reminded the audience that I was “not only President of the host institution, but a former state Cabinet official who participated in many meetings of this nature”).
   - The College accepted one of its own back “home”, the burial service for Sister Maria Josephine, who spent 57 years on this campus teaching art. I asked the President’s Executive Council to on and serve as Saturday morning pall bearers in the small private ceremony at the cemetery on our grounds, and that proved both appropriate and necessary (appropriate—as our entire PEC totals fewer years at the College than Sister Maria Josephine did on her own; and necessary—of perhaps 20 at the gravesite, most were peers of the deceased, come back to say their final farewell). Michele and I got to spend three days with her last January—she was a sweetheart raised in South Philly (not far from Michele), but she dearly loved Mount Aloysius, best of all. [Article from upcoming Alumni Magazine on Sister Maria Josephine](#)

2. **Community Service**: Our students continue to take community “engagement” to new levels in our local community.
   - After a successful partnership with the Digital Grotto Club to create a video for the Cresson Fire Company last summer, our students volunteered to put together a video for the non-profit American Rescue Workers based in Hollidaysburg. [ARW Service Video](#)
Our student athletes completed a range of projects in the local community, and three of them were profiled on the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference website—for volleyball, basketball and baseball.

The Offices of Student Affairs and Mission Integration co-sponsored our MLK Day event, to which we invited the local community. We had a few folks from outside the college, and over 200 students at the two performances. The program was outstanding, and included a mini-documentary on Dr. King and the Civil Rights movement in America. I spoke about Dr. King’s impact all the way over in Ireland, during their civil rights era in the late ‘60s and ‘70s. | MLK Jr. Day at MAC Video | MLK Jr. Day Remarks

3. Community Partnerships:

- We continue the work with our Mercy partners at CMHE to build a database that will reflect shared values and “products” from amongst the Mercy Colleges in America. As chair of this effort, I helped present our report on this project at the annual CMHE board meeting in DC in January. Mercy CMHE Presentation

- I am happy to serve on the Search Committee for the next President of Carlow University. President Mary Hines asked me to serve, and (after discussion with Chair Dan Rullo and CMHE Executive Director Moya Dittmeier) I agreed. I am the only outside-the-region person on the committee and also the only college president, so the input is somewhat unique and appreciated. I also continue to serve as “mentor” to one of the newer Mercy College leaders at St. Joseph’s College in Maine and have been asked to join the board of St. Xavier’s University in Chicago, led by my closest colleague among the Mercy Colleges (President Christine Wiseman, also an attorney, though she spent 20 years as Provost at schools like Creighton and Marquette). We will shortly consider her nomination as Trustee at MAC—which will fill a gap on our own board.

- Michele and I continue to engage across campus and around the community. Recently, Michele organized the Poetry Out Loud regional competition for the Blair County Arts Foundation, on whose board she serves (with thanks to Ann Benzel). Michele persuaded Penn State Altoona President Lori Bechtel Wherry and me to serve as judges, enlisted Mount Aloysius English Department Chair Barbara Cook and me to read poems to the contestants (I read Robert Frost’s Departmental, Barbara read beautifully a powerful Langston Hughes selection). Top local newscaster Carolyn Donaldson served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening, and the cultural editor of the Altoona Mirror was the “Accuracy Judge.” Michele also continues tutoring (she and Jack Coyle’s professional-writer spouse Ellen tutor writing 10 hours a week, by appointment, in the library), mentoring, occasional singing (in the choir) and even cooking (ask the young ladies in the Christian Living House or on the basketball team). Michele is clearly now an accepted representative (when I can’t be in two places at one time) at most campus functions and increasingly some off campus. I continue my service on the Johnstown Area Redevelopment Initiative (JARI) board (and executive committee), on the Greater Johnstown Regional Partnership
Board (GJRP), on the state board of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in PA (AICUP), on the state board of College Compact (organization of 80+ schools involved in community service), as chair of the President’s Council of our conference (AMCC) and now as a member of the NCAA D-III President’s Advisory Council.

4. Communications in the Community: Finally, we also continue to spread the message of Mount Aloysius and to tell its story, and that of its students, through numerous on line, print and visual communication efforts here at the College, many of them led by Jack Coyle. He and Sam and their legion of student photographers and amateur filmmakers are omnipresent at campus activities, and the winter coverage in the local media on all our campus activity reflects that—

excellent stories and TV coverage for numerous events and awards (including our CSI-Cresson scholarship offer, the numerous successes of our student athletes, the volunteer service awards dinner, the Pink Out Breast Cancer Awareness events, and more).

I hope this gives you a sense of the energy and the activity at Mount Aloysius College. We are grateful to all in our community for your commitment to the College and its students.

All the best.

Tom Foley
President