Citizenship in the 21st Century
The Common Good

Yearlong campus speaker series explores the pursuit and protection of a "Common Good"
Commencement 2014 | pg 04

The 2014 Commencement graduates the largest class in a decade—and the first in our new Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center.

Citizenship in the 21st Century | pg 10

Not "subjects, citizens." Yearlong theme included a solid schedule of engaging lectures and dialogue. Here are the highlights.

Mountie Athletics | pg 20

Mount Aloysius athletes were honored this past semester for excellence in athleticism, intellect, character, and community service.

Service at MAC | pg 24

Infographic illustrates campus commitment to service, living the Mercy credo of caring.

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President Tom Foley graduates senior baseball player and 2014 Mount Aloysius Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Seth Shaffer who was not able to attend Commencement due to the team’s playoff schedule. They were joined by Michele Foley, the entire baseball team, coaches, and staff from the College.
Dear Friend of Mount Aloysius College:

This year Mount Aloysius College undertook an exploration of “Citizenship in the 21st Century—The Common Good.” Solving the riddle of the 200 year old smudge on the Declaration of Independence, we learned that the word “citizen” lay atop the smudged word “subject.” Someone once wrote that America’s first words were “we, the people.” Citizens, not subjects. Education, not indifference. Let me participate, not tell me what to do.

Board Member, Judge David Klementik, advanced our discussion during Convocation, asking, “What kind of citizen do we need to support an effective democratic society?” He answered, *citizens who are personally responsible participants, serving through a justice-oriented approach to society.*

During Mercy Week, Sr. Marie Michele Donnelly, RSM, from Gwynedd Mercy presented two lectures on, “The Common Good and our Spiritual Journey.”

For Constitution Day, Terry Wright, a longtime senior aide to Vice President Joe Biden addressed our topic. Mr. Wright upheld the nobility of public service as a democratic ideal and encouraged students to consider pursuing this extended exercise of citizenship.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Tony Ross, President and CEO of The Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, took us further. He built upon the self-help philosophy of Dr. Leon Sullivan—founder of the OIC.

Next, the DES/PTK Honor Societies sponsored a multi-faith discussion on the commonality of belief, and the dynamics of tolerance and understanding as we create open and mutually supportive communities.

Earlier this spring, Sr. Mary Ann Dillon, RSM, Ph.D., former President of Mount Aloysius, returned to campus as our Moral Choices Lecturer. Sr. Mary Ann examined the twin pillars of Catholic Social Teaching—the dignity of the human person and the emphasis on the common good. Using both Exodus and the parable of the Good Samaritan, she answered the question, “Who is my neighbor?”

Later this spring we hosted Visiting Scholar and Spring Honors Lecturer—retired Irish Ambassador James A. Sharkey. Diplomat, historian, author and peace-maker—Ambassador Sharkey drew conclusions on our theme and on Mount Aloysius. The education offered at Mount Aloysius College, he said, “will give you the confidence and the courage as citizens – citizens of the United States and citizens of the world – to raise your hand and speak your mind when the voice of conscience beckons, as someday for all of us it surely will.”

And finally, husband and wife—David Shribman and Cindy Skrzycki—provided a Capstone to our discussion, offering the Class of 2014 Commencement Address. They left us with these thoughts: “Let us dare to read, think, speak and write. To separate the wheat of eternal lessons from the chaff of contemporary thought. And above all to consider the purpose of life not to achieve riches, or fame or that most beguiling of goals, happiness. Not any of those things at all. Instead, the goal of life must be to achieve happiness through your work, and ideally through good works, and—above all—to discern what your duty is, and to do it.”

All the best,

Tom Foley
President,
Mount Aloysius College
Like Clockwork

Freshman Heather Picard is captured mid-fastball during a home softball game at Mount Aloysius College. The team made it all the way to the Championship game.
COMMENCEMENT 2014
When Mount Aloysius President Tom Foley announced that a husband and wife team would deliver the College’s Seventy Fourth Commencement Address, there was much anticipation across campus and across the southern Alleghenies.

Held Saturday, May 10th in the College’s new Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center, Pulitzer prize winning-author and Executive Editor of The Pittsburgh Post Gazette, David Shribman and his wife, GlobalPost correspondent and award-winning senior lecturer at the University of Pitts-

burgh Cindy Skrzycki, jointly delivered the Commencement Address and Capstone to the College’s yearlong theme, “Citizens in the 21st Century -The Common Good.” The Mount Aloysius College academic community included 407 graduates, their families, friends, faculty and staff. The couple received the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

In addition to Mr. Shribman and Ms. Skrzycki, Honorary Degree recipients included: former Irish Ambassador to Russia (and 11 other countries on four continents), James A. Sharkey who received the Honorary Doctor of Social Justice Degree; Mount Aloysius Junior College alumna Michelle McGowan, a regionally renowned actress and director, received the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

The events of the day began with music performed by A Touch of Brass. A bagpiper led the procession into the main arena of the Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center.

Member of the Class of 2014 Mr. Bradley M. Mikitko delivered the Invocation for the event. Mikitko, from Hastings, PA graduated summa cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Imaging. He is a member of Delta Epsilon Sigma, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and Lambda Nu Honor Society.

Ms. Rachel E. Wagner delivered the Class Welcome to the assembly. Ms. Wagner, of Cresson, Pa. graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education and a concentration in English. She is a member of the Education Committee, a veteran local actress and director and is an Instructor of Summer Workshops for children at the Altoona Community Theatre.

Chairman of the Mount Aloysius College Board of Trustees, Daniel W. Rullo, Esq. greeted the Class of 2014 on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Mount Aloysius College President, Thomas P. Foley, J.D. then introduced Commencement Speakers David Shribman and Cindy Skrzycki.

Following the Commencement Address, Board of Trustees Member Ann M. Benzel; Mount Aloysius College Vice President for Mission Integration, Sr. Helen Marie Burns, RSM; President Foley and Mr. Rullo assembled to confer honorary degrees upon Mr. Shribman and Ms. Skrzycki, Ambassador Sharkey, and Ms. McGowan.

Associate Academic Dean Paul Farcus, Ph.D., then presented the Class of 2014 to President Foley, who formally granted degrees to the Mount Aloysius College 2014 graduating class. Graduates were introduced by Associate Academic Deans David Haschak, Ed.D., and Rebecca Zukowski, Ph.D., RN.

The Student Commencement Address was delivered by Altoona, PA native, Mr. John T. Moist. John Moist graduated, magna cum laude, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. John’s address was arguably one of the finest student commencement speeches in the nation and is available on-line on the Mount Aloysius website. A Mercy Presidential Scholarship recipient and a member of the Honors Program, Moist was a
Trustees Match 2014 Class Gift

The Class Giving program is relatively new at Mount Aloysius College. Each year, the graduating class raises money for scholarship support and presents a check to the President on the eve of their graduation.

This year, the Mount Aloysius Board of Trustees issued a challenge to all students. The Board pledged to match every student contribution (not just seniors) dollar-for-dollar. The purpose of this challenge was twofold: to elevate awareness of the importance of philanthropy at the College and also to increase the participation rate in the student giving program.

This year, 109 students stepped forward and answered the challenge. That is a 62% increase in the number of donors over the previous year.

This gift will provide scholarships for Mount Aloysius students in the name of the Class. We are very grateful for the leadership of the Board of Trustees and now that the challenge has been established we look forward to building on this year’s success.

Shown here, Pat Gildea ’47, member of the Alumni Association Board and President Tom Foley accepted this check from Bradley Mikitko and Class President Adam Pernelli.

» About the Honorary Degree Recipients

David Shribman and Cindy Skrzycki are familiar friends of Mount Aloysius College. During the previous academic year the College explored the theme of Hospitality. One of the year’s highlights was the Shribman/Skrzycki presentation on “The Hospitality of Writing” to a full-house in historic Alumni Hall. In mid-September 2011, David Shribman was part of a distinguished panel offering a symposium entitled, “The Role of the University in Civil Discourse,” as part of Mount Aloysius President Foley’s Inaugural Celebration. The transcript of that symposium, together with additional readings and a bibliography on Civil Discourse were published in a widely distributed monograph which was subsequently accepted by the Library of Congress.

Mr. Shribman became Executive Editor of The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in 2003, after 10 years as the Washington Bureau Chief of The Boston Globe and a stint as political columnist for The Wall Street Journal. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in journalism in 1995 for his coverage of Washington and the American political scene. Ms. Skrzycki is a correspondent for the Boston-based GlobalPost. Previously, she was a weekly regulatory columnist for Bloomberg News. Her column, “The Regulators,” made its debut on the business pages in 1993. She was a business columnist for The Washington Post for 18 years before moving to Pittsburgh in 2003. She also served as an associate business editor at U.S. News & World Report and a Washington correspondent for The Fort Worth Star-Telegram. She began her academic career at the University of Pittsburgh in 2003 as a journalist-in-residence and has since served as a senior lecturer in their English Department, teaching in the University’s Honors College. She is the author of “The Regulators: Anonymous Power Brokers in American Politics.”

James Anthony Sharkey, born in Derry, Northern Ireland, is an Irish historian, writer and diplomat. He most recently served as Ireland’s Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, and chaired the Council’s Human Rights Committee. He has served as Irish Ambassador to a number of countries including Australia, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Russia, and Switzerland. Mr. Sharkey also served as a delegate to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (the Helsinki Conference). As Ireland’s Charge d’Affaires in Moscow, Mr. Sharkey was Ireland’s first official representative to Russia. During his service as political counselor in the Irish Embassy in Washington, D.C., Mr. Sharkey was instrumental in building...
Based on Beverly

If the word “Sabbatical” conjures thoughts of dreamy afternoons of sweet nothing, think again. For Dr. Donald Talbot, Associate Professor of English, Fine Arts and Visual Arts Program Coordinator at Mount Aloysius College, “Sabbatical” meant an endless stream of 12-hour days toiling alone in an old repurposed church in Maine. Talbot was intently focused on the joyous artful tedium of creating complex and striking textile art. In actuality it was a labor of love. His exhibit, “Based on Beverly, A Post-mortem Creative Collaboration,” was a visual and tactile treatise and homage to his valued mentor, the late Beverly J. Semmens, Professor Emeritus, University of Cincinnati, who died in August of 2010.

Dr. Talbot resides in Altoona, PA and maintains a seasonal studio (Atelier 9) in Lisbon Falls, Maine. His artwork has been featured in Fiberarts Design, Book 6, and Book 7 and enjoyed in shows and galleries across the United States. In a sense, Talbot’s show was autobiographical in that it reflected his personal and artistic journey that led him to artist, mentor, and friend Beverly Semmens. “I first met Beverly when I was accepted as a graduate student in her fibers program at the University of Cincinnati in 1997,” said Dr. Talbot. “During my two years there she became one of the most important mentors of my life. She taught me how to think and work as an artist.”

Dr. Talbot explains that the exhibited work was based on sketches made by Beverly Semmens over the years and so is—in fact—post-mortem collaborative art. “My goal was to use Beverly’s ideas as a starting point for my own work—not to slavishly replicate her ideas. Consequently,” explained Dr. Talbot, “I learned more about how she thought and how she evolved as an artist by using her ideas to inform my work. In particular, I learned about her sophisticated use of quiet symmetry, her rhythmical repetition of shapes and motifs, and her balanced interplay of geometric and organic shapes.”

U.S. congressional support for the efforts of Northern Ireland political leader (and later Nobel Peace laureate) John Hume, and others, to find a peaceful resolution to the three decades of sectarian strife known as the Troubles. It was in that capacity that he first became acquainted with President Foley, following his two years of service as a volunteer with the Nobel Prize winning Peace People. Ambassador Sharkey earned degrees in Russian and Russian History from University College Dublin and Birmingham University. He is the author of works on: Scots Gaelic, the folk history of Inishowen, the Russian peasantry, and the writer Patrick Lafcadio Hearn, known also by the Japanese name Koizumi Yakumo. He joined the Irish Diplomatic Service in 1970.

Michelle M. McGowan, a graduate of then Mount Aloysius Junior College, serves as volunteer and Public Relations Director for the American Rescue Workers in Hollidaysburg, PA. She is a well-known regional thespian and has starred as the linchpin persona, Lady Misrule who has reigned over the annual Mount Aloysius College Madrigal for nearly all of the show’s 43-year existence. Her annual dramatic and comedic gifts to the community are considerable - a testament to the Mount Aloysius tradition of service. She has been giving back in this way to her alma mater and to the community all these years, appearing in over 2000 dramatic productions. In addition to her efforts on behalf of Mount Aloysius College, Ms. McGowan’s talents as actor and dramatic director as widely known through the southern Allegheny region of Pennsylvania. §
Tim Michrina is immediately likeable. A tall, amiable guy—and hard to miss at six foot seven—he seems at home in his own skin and takes life in stride. He does not, however, take life for granted. At 24 years old, this May 2014 honors graduate nearly didn’t make it to the second semester of his senior year.

A native of Portage, PA, Tim is the son of Alan and Ann Michrina. Five years ago he was diagnosed with Marfan syndrome. People with Marfan syndrome can have a variety of symptoms. Many are tall and thin, like Tim. Many also have heart problems too, especially those related to the aorta, the large blood vessel that carries blood away from the heart to the rest of the body.

Immediately after he was diagnosed, Tim had surgery to correct an aneurysm and replace a heart valve. With careful monitoring and medication, life was fine for five full years after that surgery.

Tim is multi-talented. He’s an actor—last fall he played the lead in “You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown”—he’s a musician, writer and a solid honors student. He’s a joy to see on stage and happy sharing his talents. On December 12th, 2013, he got news of another success. He would play Jesus—the lead in “Godspell.” The next day Tim almost died.

Tim suffered a massive heart attack at the College. Fast work by members of the Student Activities team and first responders got him to Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center fast. From there he was flown by Life Flight helicopter to UPMC Shadyside in Pittsblown. His eight-hour emergency surgery concluded at 2 a.m., Saturday morning. But his ordeal wasn’t over.

After surgery it was discovered that Tim had suffered a stroke and was paralyzed on his left side. Another surgery followed to remove a clot on his brain. Doctors were unsure about his recovery. And to complicate matters even more, now Tim had developed pneumonia. He wouldn’t regain consciousness for nine days.

The good news and perhaps the miracle of it all is that this story has a happy ending. And it marks for Tim a truly new beginning.

Tim was released from the hospital on Christmas Day. He was quoted three months later in a newspaper article, saying, “That was probably the greatest Christmas present that anyone could hope for.”

He made it back to school in time to start his student teaching—his only assignment for the semester. And, as the photos on the accompanying page bear witness, hundreds enjoyed his performance as Jesus in the Mount Aloysius College spring musical—“Godspell.”

Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley knew Tim Michrina long before his sudden illness. “Tim is extremely bright, articulate, musically gifted and he is generous with his time and talent,” President Foley said. “He has met a life-changing adversity head-on, and will be an even better person for this experience.”

After he returned to school, and prior to the Godspell musical, Tim was quoted in that article in the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat. The issue was Tim’s take on the spiritual implications of his recovery. The piece noted that while he considered himself a spiritual person, he was not particularly religious. The article also noted Tim’s reluctance at referring to his recovery as a “miracle.”

“I believe that miracle is a word that is thrown around nowadays, and true miracles are quite rare. But in my case, I suppose I do consider it a miracle. I’m blessed to be able to do these things, to walk, to talk, to breathe,” he said. “I have to make the most of these gifts; I have to make sure that this blessing is not wasted.” §
The Mount Aloysius Theatre Department put on the musical "Godspell" in mid-March last semester. With music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, based on the book by John-Michael Tebelak, "Godspell" follows Jesus and his nine disciples as they reenact the parables from the Gospel of Matthew. It features such songs as "Prepare Ye The Way of the Lord," "We Beseech Thee," and the chart topper "Day By Day."

Directed by Theatre Director, Nathan Magee, The Mount’s production featured eight students as well as two staff members and was performed in historic Alumni Hall. Senior Tim Michrina played Jesus with fellow students Pam Young, Kolby Wasnick, Kristy Daniel, Kalyn Blake, Ajai Tanea Timmons, Hannah Corbett, and Anjelique Gorba and staff members Kristy Magee and Jara Dorsey-Lash portraying the disciples. The production performed to nearly sold-out houses all four nights. Additionally, it was awarded two Certificates of Merit by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for Ensemble Work and Stage Management to freshman Courtney Edmundson. "Godspell" was an unforgettable experience for all involved and made for a wonderful evening at the theatre for all who attended.
Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley addressed the assembled class of 2017 together with faculty, staff and members of the Board of Trustees. Welcoming all to Convocation 2013—the start of the 2013-2014 Academic Year, he reminded everyone that the Honorable Judge David C. Klementik would be the first speaker on the College’s yearlong theme of Citizenship and the value of citizenship in the 21st Century. President Foley noted, too, that for over 200 years, there was much speculation on a word which Thomas Jefferson had smudged out from the Declaration of Independence. He replaced the smudged word with, “citizen.” President Foley said that the mystery was finally solved through modern imaging protocols.
The smudged-out word was “subject.” Rather than using the term “subject” like under King George III, Thomas Jefferson replaced it with “citizen” — a word which would define the American way of democracy. “It’s not ‘tell me what to do,’ but ‘let me participate,’” said President Foley.

And so the Speaker Series of the 2013-2014 Mount Aloysius College Academic Year was formally begun. It was—from beginning to end—extraordinary.

» Fall Convocation

Mount Aloysius College marked the start of the 2013-2014 academic year with the traditional Convocation Ceremony on Thursday, September 5th. Convocation took place at 3:30 p.m. on Whalley Plaza, directly in front of the iconic Main Building on the 193-acre Cresson campus. Convocation Speaker was the Honorable David C. Klementik, of the Somerset County Court of Common Pleas. He addressed the College’s theme for the new academic year, “Citizenship in the 21st Century — The Common Good.” The theme was shared just the previous week by President Tom Foley as freshmen and their parents participated in “Move-in Day” for the Class of 2017.

Judge Klementik described three models of citizenship necessary to a democracy, and the important role education plays in promoting the moral development of citizens and inspiring them to exercise their rights and responsibilities as the guarantors of a democratic society.

He asked, “What kind of citizens do we need to support an effective democratic society?” He answered, citizens who are personally responsible participants, serving through a justice-oriented approach to society.

In 1990, Attorney Klementik earned a Master of Law degree from the Dickinson School of Law. In 1995, he retired from the Naval Reserves with the rank of captain. In 2005, he was elected one of the three judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County, PA and currently serves as the Administrative Judge for both the Civil Division and the Orphans’ Court Division of the Somerset County Court.

In addition to his service on the Mount Aloysius College Board of Trustees, Judge Klementik also serves on the boards of Windber Medical Center, where he is chairman; the Windber Research Institute; the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce; the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; and the Naval Academy Foundation.

» Constitution Day

The 2013 Constitution Day celebration featured an address by Terry Wright, a longtime senior aide to Vice President Joe Biden. In his address, “Citizenship Extended—Public Service from The Nation to the Neighborhood,” Mr. Wright upheld the nobility of public service as a democratic ideal and encouraged students to consider pursuing this extended exercise of citizenship in service to all levels of government and in our communities.

Mount Aloysius College invited the community to celebrate the event, held on September 17, 2013. “Terry Wright believes that public service is part of the price we pay for living in a free society,” said President Foley. “It’s optional, but if you don’t do it, who will?”

In 2004, at Senator Biden’s request, Wright moved back to Delaware where, in addition to all of his other responsibilities, he represented Senator Biden at a variety of community meetings around the state. He made the decision to retire from the Senate after the successful 2008 election, but continues to serve Vice President Biden, organizing his Senate Papers as they are turned over to the University of Delaware Library.

In 2011, he was appointed to serve on New Castle County, DE, County Council Redistricting Commission, redrawing the County Council’s district lines, bringing them in compliance with the principle of “one person, one vote” in light of the demographic changes reflected in the 2010 Census. Terry Wright was one of the principal architects of the Commission’s redistricting plan. He shepherd the plan to unanimous and bipartisan approval from both the Redistricting Commission and the New Castle County Council.

» MLK Day Address

The 2014 MLK Day Address was delivered by Mr. Tony Ross, President & CEO of
Clockwise from top left: Tony Ross addressed a packed audience in Alumni Hall, speaking from the legacy of Martin Luther King, and Rev. Leon Sullivan on, “Citizenship in the 21st Century: The Common Good.” Next, Honorable David C. Klementik started the year with Convocation on Whalley Plaza. Mr. Terry Wright offered a treatise on the democratic process and self-less citizenship during Constitution Day. Finally, Sr. Mary Ann Dillon, RSM, Ph.D., was featured speaker for our Eighth Spring Moral Choices Lecture. She was greeted before the lecture by President Foley (right) and Daniel W. Rullo, Esq., former chairman of the Mount Aloysius Board of Trustees.

OIC of America, the national non-profit founded by Civil Rights legend the Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan. “The OIC, through its 44 affiliated programs of employment and training programs, serves over 2.5 million disadvantaged and under-skilled people in 20 states and abroad. Mr. Ross addressed the important legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. Sullivan in promoting a more inclusive definition of “citizen,” and for providing robust models of the core democratic principle of citizen-service to the community.

Mr. Ross brought a distinguished record of service and strong links to historic national and international efforts aimed at fostering basic human dignity around the world. “The OIC chose Tony Ross,” said President Foley, “to forward their mission of ‘self-help’ developed by American civil rights leader Reverend Doctor Leon H. Sullivan and adopted by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in 1999. Called the ‘Global Sullivan Principles’—these strategies are recognized guidelines for achieving human rights by creating equal work opportunities.”

» Moral Choices Lecture

Sr. Mary Ann Dillon, Ph.D., past President of Mount Aloysius College, addressed this year’s theme—interpreted through the long tradition of Catholic Social Teaching. Her address was the 8th Annual Moral Choices Lecture. It was delivered in early April.

President Tom Foley reflected the excitement of the entire College community in welcoming her back to campus. “Sister Mary Ann Dillon is both a theoretical and practical expert on the timely topic of Ethics,” he said. “As a scholar she has advised and lectured on the subject. Today, as a healthcare executive, she is directly responsible for clinical and organizational ethics at one of the largest Catholic health care systems in the country. We welcome her back to Mount Aloysius College, where she served as President for 17 years, leaving her mark on such accomplishments as adding to the academic offerings of the college, introducing the first master plan—completed with our new Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center—and so much more. We are thrilled to have her join us our 2014 Spring Moral Choices lecturer.”

Sr. Mary Ann examined the twin pillars of that tradition—the dignity of the human person and the emphasis on the common good. She explained these concepts through the prism of two paradigmatic bible stories—the Exodus story of the communal building of the Dwelling House for the Lord, and the new testament tale of the Good Samaritan which answered the question, “Who is my neighbor?”

Sr. Mary Ann currently serves as Senior Vice President of Mission and Sponsorship at Mercy Health Systems in southeastern Pennsylvania. In addition to organizational ethics, she is responsible for clinical and organizational ethics education, programs and processes throughout the System as well as for development and implementation of formation programs for trustees, leadership team members and colleagues.

Sr. Dillon is a member of the Boards of Trustees of Misericordia University, Salve Regina University, Gwynedd-Mercy University and the University of Detroit Mercy. She is also a member of the Board of Advisors of the Graduate Program in Health Services Administration of Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH. She has served on the Boards of Directors of Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, Conemaugh Health System and Bon Secours-Holy Family Hospital.

She was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in English from Misericordia University, Dallas, PA, a Master of Arts in theology from the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto and a doctorate in systematic theology from Duquesne University. Her doctoral thesis explored aspects of “The Common Good in Catholic/Christian Tradition.”

» Spring Honors Lecture

Former Irish Ambassador James A. Sharkey delivered “Citizenship in the 21st Century: A Global Perspective” in historic Alumni Hall. Ambassador Sharkey discussed his personal experiences wrought through a full career in ambassadorial posts around the world. He was Ireland’s first-ever official representative to Russia and served concurrently in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. As ambassador to Denmark, he held concurrent accreditation to Norway and Iceland, and his duties as ambassador to Switzerland included concurrent service to Liechtenstein and Algeria.

Ambassador Sharkey served as Visiting Scholar and discussed widely diverse topics including a timely evening discussion on the “Crisis in Ukraine” in the Wolf-Kuhn Gallery.

During his service as political counsellor in the Irish Embassy in Washington, D.C., Mr. Sharkey was instrumental in building U.S. congressional support for the efforts of Northern Ireland political leader (and later Nobel Peace laureate) John Hume, and others, to find a peaceful resolution to the three decades of sectarian strife known as the Troubles.

Working closely with Speaker Tip O’Neil, other congressional
leaders, and our own President Foley, Mr. Sharkey helped shift the consensus among America’s political leadership toward active support of a negotiated settlement to the Northern Ireland crisis. These efforts eventually led to the 1998 peace accord known as the Good Friday Agreement. Its provisions for political power sharing and economic development have given birth to a new era of peace and stability in Northern Ireland.

» 2014 Commencement Address

Finally, the Mount Aloysius College community was treated to a first—the delivery of a Commencement Address by a husband and wife team, David Shribman and Cindy Skrzycki. Their Address to the Class of 2014 was also the Capstone, the final word to a full-year of exploration of Citizenship in the 21st Century—The Common Good.

Stepping off on a John Adams quote, they left us with these thoughts: “Let us dare to read, think, speak and write. To separate the wheat of eternal lessons from the chaff of contemporary thought. And above all to consider the purpose of life—not to achieve riches, or fame or that most beguiling of goals, happiness. Not any of those things at all. Instead the goal of life must be to achieve happiness through your work, and ideally through good works, and—above all—to discern what your duty is, and to do it.”

And so the harvest of a full-year of discourse on this theme is a rigorous tapestry of ideas, exchanges and provocations. The year called upon us to educate ourselves, be true to what we know, respect divergent ideas in open dialogue and to act when we are called upon to do so.

But more than that—we are called upon to recognize our brother and sister by the side of the road and to be their keeper. We would hope for no less for ourselves were the vantages reversed.

Kudos to all who participated in a truly first-rate exploration of a timely topic.

At top: Irish Ambassador James A. Sharkey served as both Visiting Scholar and Spring 2014 Honors Lecturer. Ambassador Sharkey offered a true global perspective to our yearlong exploration of “Citizenship in the 21st Century—The Common Good.” Below, husband and wife team, Pulitzer Prize Winner David Shribman, with his wife, journalist and educator Cindy Skrzycki, offered the Mount Aloysius community a Capstone to a memorable year of exploration. Their joint Commencement Address to the Class of 2014 was a first for Mount Aloysius College.
“Victory”— standing strong on the portico of our new Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center — rears up, silhouetted by the Cresson sunset.

Photo Credit: Sean Steffy, ’14
Mount Aloysius College’s science students will see a lot brighter because of a $50,000 gift from the A.J. & Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust. The donation will upgrade the microscopes in the Pierce Hall science building and add several more. Mount Aloysius College has a long history of support from the A.J. & Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust. The organization supported the College with $70,000 towards science equipment over the past two years. In 2007, a $25,000 gift helped in the restoration of historic Alumni Hall.

Dr. Merrilee Anderson, Chairperson of the Science and Mathematics Department at Mount Aloysius College, expressed the gratitude of the Science and Mathematics Department faculty. “We are extremely grateful for the generosity and vision of the A.J. & Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust,” she said. “As these Mount Aloysius students advance in their careers, the commitment of the Trust, both to Catholic education and to the health sciences, will continue to benefit the entire community for years to come.”

The A.J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust is named for Mr. Antonio Palumbo and his wife. He once stated that the greatest investment for the future was in the children and young adults of our country. His overwhelming commitment to youth was clearly exhibited in his support of educational institutions, hospitals, and other charitable organizations. Mr. Palumbo passed away on December 16, 2002, leaving a perpetual gift to benefit the community through his lasting generosity.

Discussing the gift to Mount Aloysius College, Mr. John Kowach, Vice Chairman of the A.J. & Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust said, “Mount Aloysius College is certainly known for its outstanding tradition of academic excellence and faith formation as it prepares students for the personal and professional challenges that they will face in the future,” Mr. Kowach added, “The A. J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust is proud to support Mount Aloysius College, its mission, and its emphasis on the values of justice, hospitality, mercy, and service.”

CAPTION: Mr. John Kowach and his wife, Mary were the guests of the college during a recent visit. From left, are: Mrs. Mary Rae Kowach; Mount Aloysius College President Tom Foley; Mr. John Kowach, Executive Director of the A.J. & Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust; Dr. Paul Farcus, former Associate Academic Dean and Division Chair of Health Studies and Sciences; Mount Aloysius Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Jennifer Dubuque and Jara Dorsey-Lash, Manager of Advancement Research and Grants.

Lee Initiatives Grant Enhances Mount Aloysius Surgical Technology Program

Mount Aloysius College has received a $15,000 grant from the Lee Initiatives Health and Wellness Endowment (LHWE). The funds will be used to upgrade the College’s operating room simulators for students studying Surgical Technology.

Founded in August of 2005, the Lee Initiatives Health and Wellness Endowment was established as the “Legacy of Lee Hospital” in an effort to improve the health and well-being of the residents of the area served by the former Lee Hospital in western Pennsylvania.

The Lee Initiatives Board of Directors annually determines the amount of grant money they expect to make available for grants. The Board believes that these funds will make a significant contribution to programs that provide goods and services to improve the health and quality of life for as many residents as possible.

The Surgical Technology program at Mount Aloysius College is dedicated to influencing and impacting a new generation of medical professionals. The College has two on-campus operating room simulators, allowing students a full clinical experience. Mount Aloysius College Surgical Technology students also benefit from an active Surgical Technology Club. This strong academic major is ranked among the top 10 surgical technology programs in the United States.
Mount Aloysius Mercy Youth Initiative Earns Community Foundation Support

The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies notified Mount Aloysius College that the Mercy Youth Initiative Program has received a grant for $5,000. The grant was made through the Foundation’s Community Initiatives Fund and is aimed at enhanced programming. The Mercy Youth Initiative is sponsored by Mount Aloysius College with assistance from Goodwill Industries of the Conemaugh Valley’s GoodGuides Youth Mentoring Program.

The collaborative mission of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies is to serve the best interests of its donors by perpetuating their philanthropic interest in financially supporting our community, using the Foundation’s integrity, accountability, and community knowledge.

Executive Director and President of Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Mike Kane elaborated on the Foundation’s rationale behind the grant to Mount Aloysius College and the Mercy Youth Initiative. “For the past few years, youth mentoring has been a focal point for the Community Foundation. We’ve learned through various surveys and site visits that these programs can make a real impact on kids, but we also know that they can be challenging to implement. In the case of the Mercy Youth Initiative, we are pleased to partner with Mount Aloysius College to give this existing program the support it needs to expand and reach even more children, particularly in the northern part of Cambria County.”

Sr. Helen Marie Burns, RSM, Vice President for Mission Integration at Mount Aloysius College noted that the Mercy Youth Initiative is designed to work with youth of promise who may need additional help as they near college age. “We are so grateful for this support from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. Their generous recognition of the Mercy Youth Initiative’s value to the community and their thoughtful collaboration will allow us to deepen the program to help more area students as they consider their future and their own contributions to this community.”

The Mercy Youth Initiative enables Mount Aloysius students to serve as mentors for these “youth of promise” in our region. Participating Mount Aloysius student-mentors are interested in working with youth.

Mercy Youth Initiative programs are held each month during the school year. Each monthly meeting includes a wellness/fitness session, a career exploration session, lunch, and a mentorship session with the college student-mentors and their mentees.

Sr. Helen Marie explained that the term “Youth of Promise” includes children believed to have the ability to further their education after high school in preparation for a career.

Mercy Youth Initiative sessions have included a full-gamut of explorations. Kim Franey, Assistant Program Manager for the College’s Community Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship Department explained. “These monthly programs have included breast cancer awareness, financial literacy, college exploration, the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, heart health, engineering, and the law,” she said. “The students are engaged with the program and they look forward to spending time with their respective mentors.” Ms. Franey also serves as Mercy Youth Initiative Program Coordinator.

Ms. Franey explained that there is no cost to the student-participants. The program is supported this year by Mount Aloysius College, the Community Foundation grant, the Sisters of Mercy and other community partners.

Caption: The Mount Aloysius College’s Mercy Youth Initiative Award Ceremony for Spring 2014 was a great community event. Attendees included, from left, back row: Mount Aloysius President Tom Foley; Angie Berzonski, Communications and Program Officer at Community Foundation for the Alleghenies; Cassidy Graham, Student Mentee from Penn Cambria; Kimberly Franey, Mercy Youth Initiative Program Coordinator; Jessica Maxon, Project Manager for Community Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship for Mount Aloysius College; Francis Hartnett, Assistant Program Coordinator Mercy Youth Initiative; Sr. Helen Marie Burns, RSM, Vice President for Mission Integration at Mount Aloysius College. In the front row, are Mercy Youth Initiative students Michaela Hudak and Quincy Wilmington, both from Penn Cambria.
Mountie Athletes—by any account—had an outstanding year. We’re members of both the NCAA Division III and the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC), and throughout the 2013-2014 year our athletes made remarkable contributions of intellect, character and community service.

A number of Mountie athletes earned spots on the AMCC Sportsmanship Team. This recognition goes right to the heart of Mount Aloysius College Athletics. These included women’s basketball player Alexis Restori (Pittsburgh, PA/Oakland Catholic), men’s basketball player Jake Wyatt (Northampton, UK/Moulton), women’s bowler Courtney Burkett (Roaring Spring, PA/Central), golfer Dylan Link (Ebensburg, PA/Bishop Carroll), women’s tennis player Loreal Housler (St. Mary’s, PA/Elk County Catholic), cross country runners Nikki Binnie (Butler, PA/Knoch) and Nick Frank (Cresson, PA/Penn Cambria), volleyball player Laura Trude (Winburne, PA/West Branch), and soccer players Ryan Hills (Dubois, PA/Brockway) and Zara Apakoh (London, England/Woodhouse Sixth Form College). These Mount Aloysius All-Conference Sportsmanship Team members consistently demonstrated a high level of ethical conduct, respect and fair play in both practice and competition, whether on the sidelines or as an active competitor.

Three Mount Aloysius teams—men’s basketball, baseball and golf—were honored with a Peak Performance award, as these teams earned the highest team GPA among all AMCC member institutions.

Mount Aloysius had 80 student-athletes named to the AMCC Academic All-Conference Team. This number represents almost 50 percent of all Mountie athletes. To earn this honor of Academic All-Conference, student-athletes needed to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher as of fall semester 2013. Mount Aloysius has consistently been at or near the top of the Conference in the competition for this coveted Dean’s Cup for overall academic performance.

Student-athletes inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma, the National Collegiate Student-Athlete Honor Society, are recognized for their academic performance, leadership and character. Among those Mounties honored, 12 were named to the Chi Alpha Sigma Student-Athlete Honor Society. These student-athletes were women’s basketball player Morgan Brosnihan (McHenry, MD/Northern Garrett), men’s baseball pitcher Derrick Capiak (Williamstown, NJ/Williamstown), men’s basketball players Nolan Doyle (Pittsburgh, PA/Central Catholic), Aaron Patrick (Johnsonburg, PA/Johnsonburg), Tanner Thomas (Beaverdale, PA/Forest Hills), women’s soccer captain Elizabeth Josephson (Munson, PA/Philipsburg-Osceola), golf star and All-AMCC Performer Dylan Link, men’s soccer captain Austin Old (Bury St. Edmunds, England/Dubai British), women’s basketball and softball star Lindsy Sammarco (Patton, PA/Bishop Carroll), baseball player Seth Shafer (Schelsburg, PA/Chestnut Ridge), women’s tennis captain Laura Stahli (Johnsonburg, PA/Johnsonburg), and softball standout Jalisa Westover (Flinton, PA/Faith Tabernacle).

The AMCC also honored student-athletes for community service. Student-athletes at Mount
Aloysius, together with other AMCC member institutions, contributed to more than 65 community service activities. The AMCC gave a specific mention to the contingent of Mount Aloysius College students and staff who traveled to New Orleans, assisting with the ongoing rebuilding efforts there.

Throughout the year, Mountie athletes reached out to local communities as well as the global community. Mount Aloysius athletes participated in sports camps for children and hosted youth teams right on campus. They joined events such as Project Bundle Up, the Angel Tree Program, and the Mercy Youth Initiative while also donating time to animal shelters, Christian ministry organizations, highway and park cleanups.

Overall, Mount Aloysius College community service during the 2013-2014 academic year totaled nearly 12,000 hours. During that time, 627 Mount Aloysius students completed 250 service projects throughout the southern Allegheny Mountains region as well as projects like the recent New Orleans service trip that touched people in other parts of the country and around the world in areas like Haiti and Guyana. Mount Aloysius College service opportunities seek solutions to problems in such diverse areas as economic opportunity, education, environment, health and wellness, veterans and deployed personnel. One hundred percent of Mount Aloysius College students perform community service as part of their educational experience. For students' exemplary community service work, Mount Aloysius received six of the 15 AMCC community service awards handed out at the conclusion of the academic year.

On the playing fields and courts, Mountie athletes flew the flag high in terms of team and individual accomplishments. In the fall, men's golfer Dylan Link was named First-Team All-Conference and also took home first place in the MAC Invitational. The men's soccer team reached the AMCC playoffs for the first time in school history, as they defeated Penn State-Altoona in the first round, advancing to the AMCC semifinals. The women's tennis team, in just their fourth year of existence under the guidance of Head Coach Mike Kush, advanced to the AMCC semifinals after finishing in third place in the Conference with a record of 6-2—a program record for Mount Aloysius.

When the weather got cold, men's basketball player Shawn Greenfield heated up and earned All-American honors. The outstanding Mount Aloysius College senior point guard finished fourth in the nation in points-per-game. The women's basketball team, led by Preseason Player of the Year Lindsy Sammarco and fellow First-Team All-Conference honoree Becky Bard (Portage, Pa./Forest Hills), had a record-setting campaign as the team went all the way to the AMCC Championship game—a first in program history.

When spring finally came, Mountie bats and arms really heated up for the baseball and softball teams. Jalisa Westover, the AMCC Preseason Softball Player of the Year, did not disappoint. Living up to her accolade, she went on to earn Player of the Year honors, leading the softball-team's charge to the AMCC Championship matchup. On the baseball diamond, Derrick Capiak was both the Preseason Pitcher of the Year and the AMCC Pitcher of the Year. The junior-ace guided the Mounties back to the AMCC playoffs for the sixth consecutive season.

Perhaps the greatest honor bestowed upon a Mountie athlete went to men's senior basketball player Aaron Patrick. A walk-on player with an uncommonly generous spirit, Patrick was one of just 20 NCAA basketball players in the nation named to the 2014 Allstate NABC Good Works Team. The honor reflects Patrick's outstanding community service efforts and his commitment to improving his community and the lives of others. Mounties everywhere had reason to be proud as Aaron Patrick stood center court in his Mount Aloysius College sweats prior to the NCAA Final Four Playoff Game.

Twelve Mounties were named to the Chi Alpha Sigma Student Athlete Honor Society:
1. Lindsy Sammarco, AMCC Women of the Year
2. Seth Shaffer
3. Jalisa Westover
4. Tanner Thomas
5. Derrick Capiak
6. Nolan Doyle
7. Morgan Brosnihan
8. Laura Stahli
9. Aaron Patrick
10. Austin Old
11. Elizabeth Josephson
12. Dylan Link
SERVICE AT MAC

2013/14

11,998
HOURS OF SERVICE

250
PROJECTS
Deep within the spirit of Christmas is the truth that the holiday celebrates giving. The season offers a multitude of opportunities to give back to those among us who need it most. Sponsored by the Mount Aloysius College Office of Campus Ministry, 23 students and three staff members spent a pre-Christmas week helping the still struggling residents of New Orleans restore their community.

The lasting devastation from Hurricane Katrina goes well beyond obvious property damage. There are misplaced people, jobs once handled by workers who never came back to the city, animals abandoned that need care, and still so much restoration needed for damaged buildings throughout the region.

President Tom Foley, who volunteered in Biloxi, MS immediately after Hurricane Katrina, understands the lingering devastation that is still disrupting life throughout the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. “The scale of destruction was just unprecedented,” he said. “And the government response was slow, incomplete, and cumbersome at that time.”

The Mount Aloysius College helpers landed in New Orleans in mid-December and were welcomed again at Camp Restore. Camp Restore is a volunteer Christian mission in New Orleans, LA. The well-established destination operates with the goal of restoring faith, home, and community to still struggling New Orleans. Camp Restore provides housing, food, and equipment to volunteer groups like the Mountie helpers who rebuild houses, churches, and schools and work on a wide range of New Orleans community projects. Mount Aloysius College and the sponsoring Sisters of Mercy have a long history of helping in the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast.

Sister Helen Marie Burns, RSM, Vice President of Mission Integration at Mount Aloysius, sees the New Orleans experience as an essential component to the complete student experience at the College. “This is our eighth visit to the Katrina-ravaged Gulf Coast,” she said. “Our students come away with a real sense of accomplishment. The work allows them to gain a sense of their own power for good by helping create a better life for those in need of their skills and, finally,” added Sister Helen, “they gain real gratitude for the gifts that make up the fabric of their own lives.”

Mount Aloysius College graduate Bradley Mikitko of Hastings, PA, saw the New Orleans service trip as a great learning experience for himself and fellow students. “Each of the sites we visited during the week had unique challenges and opportunities for us to learn new skills and provide help to these non-profit organizations and various New Orleans communities. Even though the time passed really quickly, we had a wonderful experience. The people we helped will remember the Mount Aloysius students,” he said, “and we’ll be sharing those memories, too, for years to come. These service trips are important and successful programs for students and staff members.”

Mount Aloysius students participating in this year’s service trip to New Orleans included: Adam Pernelli, Latrobe, PA; Ajai-Tanea Timmons, Allentown, PA; Alexcia Acosta, Boswell, PA; Ashley Skowronek, Saltsburg, PA; Austin Toth, Conemaugh, PA; Bradley Mikitko, Hastings, PA; Brandi Levish, Freeport, PA; Brooke Descavish, Altoona, PA; Emily Edwards, Tyrone, PA; Hannah Hoffman, Bedford, PA; Jennifer J. Craig, Portage, PA; Kalyn Blake, Cherry Tree, PA; Kerri Wingard, Brockway, PA; Laura Trude, Winburne, PA; Mardiá Gibson, Lancaster, PA; Marissa Lombardi, Newry, PA; Marra Balmer, Hershey, PA; Megan Ruddock, Indiana, PA; Michelle Ubens, Saylorsburg, PA; Montana Peightal, Tyrone, PA; Rachel Harris, Saint Marys, PA; Rebecca Collins, Lewistown, PA; and Sarah Geer, Brookville, PA. §
Again this year, while many college students spent spring break enjoying a needed rest, a group of Mount Aloysius students traveled to South America, visiting Guyana for a service trip. The impact of the experience was significant all around—for the residents of Guyana touched by the Mount Aloysius students and for the students and staff too.

Dr. Penny O’Connor, Associate Professor of Science and Mathematics who served as trip leader and liaison shared her thoughts on the Mount Aloysius College spring break service trip. “Independence has not been an easy path for Guyana. The country has moved from the oppression of the colonizer to the oppression of poverty. Guyana is indeed economically a very poor country,” Dr. O’Connor observed, “but when you meet the people and spend time to hear their stories, you understand that while life is often difficult, they find much joy in celebrating any and every occasion. The country is ethnically and religiously diverse but they show such tolerance and respect for one another and for foreigners. Our students experienced this daily.”

Mount Aloysius College student and Mercy Presidential Scholar Danielle McKnight shared her experiences as a student-missionary on this trip. “Happiness is a misused term,” said Ms. McKnight. “We think we need money, possessions, and hundreds of friends to be happy. When in Guyana, I saw so many happy people who didn’t have much in the way of money, personal property, or even security in their futures. I met some wonderful young boys and girls with no money and no stereotypical family, yet they were smiling and playing and laughing. They knew no other way. They were content with the food they received, the roofs over their heads, and the friends and care providers that accompanied them.”

Another Mount Aloysius student, Jenna Levin, said, “In just one week I felt my outlook on life completely changed. I encountered some difficult situations at the beginning of the week, but by the end I was well aware of how strong the people of Guyana truly are.”

Mount Aloysius student, varsity basketball player and Mercy Presidential Scholar Morgan Brosnihan brought certain expectations with her when she left Cresson for Guyana. “This trip completely exceeded my expectations. There are no words or pictures that can fully describe the experience and the relationships I’ve been blessed to build with the people of Guyana and the 11 inspiring individuals who accompanied me. I hope this is the first step to a long line of experiences that continue to exceed my greatest expectations.”

The mission contingency from Mount Aloysius College included chaperones Tommy Shireman, Associate Director of Campus Ministry, faculty members Dr. Penny O’Connor, Associate Professor of Science and Mathematics, Ms. Amber Lenhard, Instructor in Medical Imaging and Radiology Science, and Dr. Merrilee Anderson, Professor of Science and Mathematics and Chairperson of the Science and Mathematics Department. Mount Aloysius students included Megan Chicoine, majoring in general science/chiropractic (3+1) from Surry, NH; Danielle McKnight, majoring in accounting with a minor in business administration from Reedsville, PA; Chelsey Pongrac, majoring in physical therapist assistant from Stoystown, PA; Taylor Clark, majoring in Psychology with a minor in art from Hollidaysburg, PA; Catherine Walsh, a nursing major from Johnstown, PA; Tiffani Finnegan, an elementary education major with a concentration in history from Imler, PA; Jenna Levin, majoring in biology with a specialization in pre-health professional, from Grampian, PA; and Brosnihan, a business administration major from McHenry, MD.
Dr. Michael B. Jones Named Library Director

Dr. Michael B. Jones was named Director of the Library. Dr. Jones served previously as Associate Professor of Political Science in the Justice, Law & Society Department, and as Program Coordinator of the Freshman Seminar and Senior Capstone programs.

Dr. Jones is a native of New Orleans, LA. He earned his Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree summa cum laude from Loyola University, New Orleans, LA. He received his Master of Arts in political theory and American political thought from the University of Massachusetts—Amherst. His doctor of philosophy degree was also earned at the University of Massachusetts. His doctoral dissertation topic was Religious Fundamentalism and Politics: A Case Study of the Southern Baptist Convention. His work was titled, “The Priesthood of the Believer in the Public Square: Religious Fundamentalism, Politics, and the Southern Baptist Convention.”

Dr. Jones began his teaching career at the University of Massachusetts—Amherst. He served as a Visiting Professor at Mount Holyoke College before being named Assistant Professor at Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA. He came to Mount Aloysius College in 2008.

Dr. Jones is a member of the Academic Advisory Board for Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism Publications at McGraw Hill Publishing Company. He is also a member of the American Political Science Association and Southern Political Science Association.

He assumed his new role as Library Director at the conclusion of the 2014 spring semester.

The Mount Aloysius College Library is the campus hub for technology and study. With a Buhl Electronic Classroom and more than 80,000 print and nonprint titles, the Library is an impressive 31,000-square-foot facility with ample seating space, four group-study rooms, a reading lounge, Learning Commons, a legal studies collection, an unparalleled 18,000-volume Ecumenical Collection donated by Pastor Gerald Myers, and ample room for expansion. This facility is completely automated, with an online catalog and access to remote libraries and the Internet through more than 30 workstations. The Library also houses the Information Technology Center, 15 multimedia workstations and the latest educational software.

Dr. David Haschak Named Associate Dean

Dr. David Haschak, N.C.C., L.P.C., has been named Associate Dean of Humanities Social Science and Professional Studies of the College. Dr. Haschak has been serving in the position in an interim capacity since May of 2013.

As Associate Dean of Humanities, Dr. Haschak will serve as faculty administrator for the departments of Business, Education, English, Fine Arts, Law, Justice and Society, History, Educational Enrichment, and Psychology. He will oversee curriculum on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Haschak has been affiliated with Mount Aloysius College since 2008 and, in addition to teaching duties, has served as Director of Counseling/Disability Services and Coordinator of the Community Counseling and Behavioral Specialist Consulting graduate programs.

Prior to coming to Mount Aloysius College, he served the Alternative Community Resources Program, Inc. (ACRP) as Program Director for their Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic, and for the ACRP Peer Specialist Program. He began his duties there as a staff therapist in their Family Preservation and Careworker Programs. Dr. Haschak took on increasingly more responsible roles at ACRP including directing the Behavioral Health and Rehabilitative Services and Children's Summer Therapeutic Programs.

Dr. Haschak began his counseling career at Northwestern Human Services, Cambrian Hills, Johnstown office. He served Northwestern as a Behavioral specialist consultant, mobile therapist and support staff.

Dr. Haschak is a nationally certified counselor and licensed professional counselor. He is a member of the American Counselor Association and the Health Care Providers Association.

Dr. Haschak earned his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. and the Master of Arts degree in community counseling from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA. He earned his doctoral degree in Counselor Education and Supervision from Duquesne University.
Academic Notes

With the retirement of Dr. Paul Farcus, Professor Merrilee Anderson, Ph.D., Chair of Science and Mathematics was named Interim Associate Dean, Chair of Health Studies and Science. Dr. Anderson joined the faculty in 2000 and has a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Penn State. She studies abandoned mine drainage, including microbial life found in acidic systems.

Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences Chair Dr. Paula Scaramozzino was a keynote speaker at the DiSepio Institute for Rural Health and Wellness on the campus of St. Francis University in Loretto, PA at the Fourth Annual Rural Conference for Cancer Survivors. This year’s theme was “Education to Overcome the Fears.”

Dr. Elizabeth Mansley, Criminology Instructor, presented at the following events: “Stalking as the New Courtship: Exploring the Portrayal of Stalking Behaviors in the Twilight Saga and the 50 Shades of Grey Trilogy” at the American Men’s Studies Association in Seattle; “Stalking and Dating Violence: It’s A Grey Area” at the Eastern Sociological Society in Baltimore; and The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Philadelphia on “Sins of the Fathers: Abusive Men’s Narratives on the Influence of Fathering on Intimate Partner Violence.”

Professors Sharon Miller and Felicia Holliday attended the American Society of Radiologic Technologists’ “R.T. in D.C.;” an annual event to advocate for the passage of the CARE and MARCA bills. These bills impact medical imaging through education of personnel and reimbursement for performed medical imaging procedures. The “R.T. in D.C.” event was held on Capitol Hill.

Medical Assistant Program Director Ms. Cheryl Kowalczyk hosted the Pennsylvania State Medical Assistant spring board meeting at Mount Aloysius College. She is Vice President of the state association.

Dr. Juan F. Diaz, Jr., a member of the Committee on Education (COE) of the America Physical Society attended the Annual Meeting of COE at the Headquarters located in the University of Maryland. Dr. Diaz is a member of the Undergraduate Subcommittee working on strategies on how to attract women and minorities groups into the field of physical science.

Dr. Jessica Jost-Costanzo presented on an alumni panel at Duquesne University’s English Department. Dr. Jost-Costanzo presented with Dr. Steve Wells of Allegheny County Community College, Dr. Megan Swihart Jewell of Case Western Reserve University, and Dr. Danette DiMarco of Slippery Rock University. These graduates from Duquesne's Ph.D. English program presented to the faculty and graduate students about their professional experiences.

The Library and Learning Commons was the forum for three Teaching and Learning Seminars this spring. Mount Aloysius faculty and staff presenters and their topics included: “The Impact of Educational Reforms on Our Students and the Methods of Instruction” by Dr. Julie Smith, “Fostering Student Success through Early Intervention” by Director of Student Success Heather Low; and “First Generation College Students: Understanding and Supporting their Efforts in the Classroom” by ALS Program Leader Kierstin Muroski.

Dr. Sara Rutledge was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi: International Honor Society in Education. Dr. Rutledge also participated in seven additional programs throughout the region. Dr. Rutledge also served as manuscript reviewer for the following journals: Betwixt and Between, Education for Young Adolescents, A Journal for the Pennsylvania Professors of Middle Level Education; Pennsylvania Teacher Educator, A Journal of the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges; and Teacher Educators.

Dr. Michael Engle attended the IGS Metagenome Analysis Workshop. The workshop provided in-depth training on analysis of bacterial community sequence data, both whole metagenome shotgun and 16S. Tools for community profiling, gene clustering, and annotation were explored.

Professor AnaLu MacVean taught a plant conservation course at the University of Bologna, Italy. As part of Ms. MacVean’s stay, she also studied an ancient collection of Guatemalan plants (Florula Guatimalensis) at the Herbarium of Firenze.

Ms. Nicole Custer and Ms. Joan Krug, Assistant Professors of Nursing, presented a poster at the ATI Nurse Educator Summit this April in Orlando, FL. The title of their presentation was “The Impact of Faculty-led Supplemental Instruction on Associate Degree Nursing Students.”

Nursing Division Chair Dr. Becky Zukowski authored the following publication based upon her dissertation research: “The Impact of Adaptive Capacity on Disaster Response and Recovery: Evidence Supporting Core Community Capabilities” Prehospital and Disaster Medicine, 29 (4). The article appears in the August edition of the journal. She was an invited presenter on this topic at the FEMA Higher Education Conference in June 2014. She also presented this research to the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health in April 2014, and to the World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine in July 2014.

Ms. Margaret Boyce, Assistant Professor of Nursing, has been selected by The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) as a member of the RN Item Writing Panel for the national nursing licensure exam. This panel met this August 2014 in Chicago.

RN to BSN Department Chair Dr. Bonnie Noll-Nelson was an author on an article titled “Assessing the Readability and Usability of Online H-E-L-P Intervention for IPV Survivors.” It appeared in the March 2014 Open Journal of Nursing.
1993

Pete Bartolomucci was named Windber Medical Center’s 2013 Key Player of the Year. This award recognizes staff members who consistently go above and beyond their usual duties in providing exemplary patient-centered care.

2001

Chantel (Plummer) Ventura (’01 & ’04) was recently named a Trustee of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art. Co-owner of OzzVen, LLC, she will be the chair of SAMA’s annual fundraiser, Think Pink, in November.

2002

Melissa Meyers has been elected to serve on the Mount Aloysius College Alumni Board of Directors. She is CEO of Meyers Consulting Group. After earning a master’s in organizational leadership from Geneva College, she has also become an adjunct professor for the school, teaching Business Communication and Interventions and Training.

2003

Tobie Gunby received the 2014 Professions Award from the YWCA of Greater Johnstown, honoring her service to the community and to her career. She earned a Master of Human Resource Management from St. Francis University and holds memberships with several national and local HR and career development organizations. She is certified as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) and as a Certified Career Coach (CCC). She serves as the Assistant Vice President of Human Resources for Ameriserv Financial and is the newest addition to the Mount Aloysius College Alumni Board of Directors.

1957-A

Sara Jean (Hudson) Wise (A) had a severe stroke several months ago. She’d appreciate hearing from any of her classmates. Email Sister Robin Stratton, OCD, ’57A at robin@baltimorecarmel.org if you would like to contact Sara.

Elaine Domenick (A) and Sister Robin Stratton, OCD, (A) had a wonderful get-together. Elaine lives in Florida, but was visiting family in New Jersey and stopped on the way. She brought her Mount photograph album and they had a grand trip down memory lane.

Barbara (Vargo) Menichino (A) still resides with her daughter in the large house in which she raised her family in Illinois. Her daughter is very involved in Special Olympics, which keeps Barbara happy and busy.

Anne (Miller) Schwee (A) has been dealing with some health issues and would appreciate prayers from her classmates.

1959

Joan (Bye) Herr treasures her time spent at Mount Aloysius. Her life has been blessed with a fine husband, three children, and four grandchildren. May God continue to bless the faculty and students in their present and future endeavors.

1981

Bonnie Riga completed her doctorate in nursing practice from Chatham University. She is the Administrative Director of Medical Specialties for Conemaugh Health System.

Class of 1973

Jim Catalano is working as a professional drummer and percussionist in the Northern, Indiana area. He has been working in the music industry in marketing since 1978 and for the past 31 years with Ludwig Drums.

Jim has been married for 20 years and enjoys his grandchildren. He is looking forward to retirement in the next few years and to spending more time with family, making and teaching music, and simply enjoying each day The Lord gives him.

Class of 1980

Claudia Sheehan (’80 & ’82) has been promoted to nurse manager of the OR at UPMC Altoona.
We want to know what's new with you! Submit your notes at: mtaloy.edu/classnotes

2009

Marissa Gracey has been the Director of Pennsylvania Highlands Community College's Huntingdon Center since July 2011. In addition to running the Huntingdon Center, she is a full-time student pursuing her Doctorate of Education degree from NCU. She is a member of the Huntingdon County Chamber where she serves on the Education Committee. Marissa is member of the Board of Directors/Trustees for New Day Charter School, and is a substitute teacher at First Baptist Church of Saltillo. She serves on several different community groups and committees throughout the region. In her spare time she enjoys spoiling her long-haired Domestic Maine Coon cat Roxy, giving to charities, participating in her church, and spending time with her family. She joined the Mount Aloysius Alumni Association Board of Directors in 2014.

Brooke Coffman has been appointed the new Special Project Development Coordinator for Fay-Penn Economic Development Council. Her main focus will be the start-up and development of the VFW Food Co-Op project in Uniontown.

Class of 2004

Alissa (Buchanan) Myers and husband Edward Myers, welcomed a baby boy into their family.

Parker Owen Myers was born on October 1, 2013 at 5:56 p.m.

2011

Steven McMullen ('11 & ’12) became the Jobs Specialist for the Blair County Domestic Relations Office. In this newly created position, he will assist clients with overcoming barriers to entering the workforce.

Marriages

- Kelsi Hite, ’12 and Aaron Benner – 8/10/13
- Brett Hazlett, ’13 and Amanda Rosepink – 4/5/14
- Samantha Hoover, ’11 and Cole Everhart – 4/26/14
- Whitney Lenhart, ’14 and Tyler Edwards – 2/22/14
- Melanie Over, ’07, ’11 and Joshua Rosella – 2/15/14
- Dr. Cory Wonderly, ’09 and Shana Swan, ’09 – 10/26/13

Engagements

- Tiffany Clingerman, ’13 to Tanner Bence
- Gary Dougherty, Jr., ’91 to Melinda Baker
- Erica Goss, ’05 to Kyle Crotty
- Heather King, ’13 to Kellen Snell
- April Tewksbury, ’12 to Eric Tourscher
- Chantel Ventura, ’00, ’04 to Dr. James Garofalo

In Memoriam

- Sarah Elizabeth (Whatmore) Polacek Mihalaki, ’77 – 6/20/14
- Matthew Bart, ’13 – 4/28/14
- Grace (Rhoads) Ferrier, ’44 – 3/23/14
- Jacquelyn McCandless, ’58 – 2/28/11
- Pauline "Polly" (Baum) Witmer, ’79 – 3/4/14
In the spring of 2012, Mount Aloysius College embarked on its second fundraising campaign: “Expanding Horizons: The Campaign for Mount Aloysius.” The campaign was built around five priorities.

- **The Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center:** Now completed, this 87,000 square foot facility offers classrooms, offices and meeting rooms, a state-of-the-art Wellness Center open to the community and a new arena for our athletics program. We look forward to a formal opening event on October 3, 2014.

- **Excellence in Health Sciences:** Mount Aloysius College is recognized as a regional leader in health sciences education and we need programmatic and technology upgrades to stay ahead of the curve.

- **Service to Community:** Our emphasis on service sets Mount Aloysius students apart and puts into practice the core Mercy values of service, justice, hospitality, and mercy.

- **Increased Opportunity:** Access to education goes hand in hand with affordability and preparedness. This campaign priority seeks to strengthen and increase the available scholarships for students while partnering with school districts to ensure students are well prepared for college curriculum.

- **Faculty Enrichment:** Providing opportunities for our faculty to pursue research, publications and professional development will ultimately enhance their skills and make the college environment more rewarding.

Still in the “quiet” phase, we are hoping to announce the goal in the near future. As of June 2014, we have raised a total of $17.5 million in new gifts and commitments, which doubles the total raised in the prior capital campaign from 2003–2008 ($8.3 million). Our largest gift to date, is a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania grant for $10 million to fund the construction of the new Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center.

The Board of Trustees stepped forward and has supported these campaign priorities and we are very proud to announce we have 100 percent participation from the members of our Board.

Their leadership sets a wonderful example for others. $
A LEGACY FOR MOUNT ALOYSIUS

» Adele Kiel Kupchella, is a graduate of the Mount Aloysius Academy Class of ’60, and currently serves on the Mount Aloysius College Board of Trustees.

In addition to providing leadership through her service on the Board, Adele has chosen to make a gift to the College using a charitable bequest and we are very grateful for her support. This type of gift offers these main benefits:

- **Simplicity.** Just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed.
- **Flexibility.** Because you are not actually making a gift until after your lifetime, you can change your mind at any time.
- **Versatility.** You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make the gift contingent on certain events, or leave a percentage of your estate to Mount Aloysius.
- **Tax Relief.** If your estate is subject to estate tax, your gift may provide an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift’s full value.

Gift annuities, trusts, and life insurance policies can also benefit both the donor and the College.

A common misconception is that gift planning is only for the “wealthy.” The truth is, even people of modest means can make a difference through gift planning. Call Jennifer Dubuque at (814) 886-6331 to learn how you can support our mission while ensuring your family’s financial security.

“My husband and I both received help in our college and post-graduate work and are aware of how a college education can open doors for success. We would like to help others in financial need to further their education. A Charitable Bequest is a relatively simple, effective way to accomplish this goal and perhaps encourage a continuation of helping those who follow.”

You can request information about including Mount Aloysius College in your estate plans by contacting Jennifer Dubuque at (814) 886-6331 or jdubuque@mtaloy.edu.
You won't want to miss this one! Join Us:

**OCTOBER 3-5 2014**

**HOMECOMING WEEKEND & ALUMNI WEEKEND ARE MERGING!**

mtaloy.edu/homecoming