President’s Report to the Community

President Tom Foley
June 6, 2014

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

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

We had a very full Spring Semester and an absolutely outstanding Graduation Ceremony. As to events this last quarter, the Baker’s Dozen in the next section of this report mentions several of them: the Mount Aloysius Research Symposium, the (student-led) Leadership Awards Banquet, Kennedy Center Awards for Godspell, Mercy Presidential Scholars dinner, Sister President (and Dr.) Mary Ann Dillon’s Moral Choices Lecture, and much more. Let me focus this introduction on two recent highlights — the month long visit of Ambassador James A. Sharkey to our campus and our 2014 Mount Aloysius Graduation.

Ambassador Sharkey made a lasting impression, in the course of 27 different scheduled appearances in his 30 days on campus where he stayed in the Old Main guest suite. Sharkey, who was ambassador on four continents and in more than a dozen countries

- Delivered the Spring Honors Lecture on “Citizenship in the Twenty-First Century: A Global Perspective”
- Presented a Mount Aloysius Community Lecture on the “Crisis in Ukraine,” building on his experiences as a resident diplomat before and after the fall of the old USSR
• **Lectured in five classes**: on Irish Dramatist Brian Friel, On Irish Nobel Laureates John Hume and Seamus Heaney and with me in classes on “Violence as a Social Disease” and “Religious Conflict from the Reformation Forward.”

• **Hosted (with Michele and me) two formal dinners**, one with four students on their way to Ireland and the International House of Mercy this summer, the other an old-fashioned barbecue with five Sisters of Mercy (where one and all performed “party pieces”—poems, songs, riddles, stories—customary in his homeland)

• **Was feted at a formal dinner** with trustees, faculty, staff and students (and shared numerous informal meals with students and faculty alike). [Schedule of Events](#) | [Speaker Series lecture video](#) | [My remarks about James](#) | [Lecture on Ukraine](#)

As if that wasn’t enough, Associate Dean Becky Zukowski and Sister Helen Marie Burns **hosted the Ambassador’s wife Sattie with the nursing faculty and in a class on “Women and Global Cultures,”** respectively. Sattie Sharkey practiced nursing and taught nursing education on all four continents on which her husband served. The Sharkey’s also **took an interest in our region and state,** researching Jim’s family connections near Mahaffey and up in Jim Thorpe, visiting those areas as well as Elk County (to see the elks, of course!!), the Horseshoe Curve, Blue Knob, Canoe Creek, Raystown Lake, Falling Waters and even Niagara Falls. [Photos from Jim Sharkey’s Visit](#)

**As to Graduation 2014, it was memorable for many reasons.** Let me suggest a few:

• The **graduation itself was, to use our student’s favorite word, “awesome”** (and not just because students could see themselves on the big screen in the air-conditioned ACWC). David Shribman and Cindy Skzyrcki did a terrific job closing out our year of focus on Citizenship and the Common Good. They also “opened doors” for our newest young citizens—our graduates—underlining the **importance of voting and reading in depth** as keys both to practicing good citizenship and for aspiring to the common good. [David and Cindy’s remarks](#)

• The **presentation of three Honorary Degrees was moving, to say the least.** Board Chair Dan Rullo read the citation for Pulitzer Prize Winner David Shribman and his writer-teacher wife Cindy, ([David and Cindy’s citation](#)) while Vice Chair Philip Devorris helped them to don their
ceremonial doctoral hoods. I did the honors for Ambassador James Sharkey’s citation (Jim’s citation), while Sr. Helen Marie—in honor of the direct connection between the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin and Mr. Starkey’s origin in Derry—helped him with his hooding. Finally, Board Secretary Ann Benzel (who has done so much for the arts in our region and across the state) read the citation for actress and volunteer extraordinaire Michelle McGowan (Michelle’s citation) who was helped into her hood by the woman whom she refers to as her second mother Sr. Eric Marie Setlock. The citations were compelling and the recipients absolutely deserve the honorary doctorates from Mount Aloysius College. Commencement news article | Community Counseling Graduate article | Michelle McGowan article

- The student speeches were superb, especially in delivery—the best in our four years for sure. Brad Mikitko, who delivered the opening prayer, is a four-year medical imaging student who really came into his own at college. Rachel Wagner, a mature student who already had a BA from the University of Pittsburgh, took a second degree in Elementary Education from the Mount. Rachel and her husband Sam are expecting their first child in just a few months. Rachel has appeared on just about every local stage in the area as well as in Alumni Hall and welcomed all to the 188th graduation at Mount Aloysius College.

- Finally, John Moist was just outstanding as class valedictorian. Moist is a young man who came to us with a ton of extraordinary talent, much of which he put on display during his four years at the college. An outstanding musician, singer and writer, he served as the MC for all four years for our MAC’s Got Talent (which he would have won hands down any single year). John also founded the Political Awareness Club, was named outstanding Mercy Presidential Scholar, won a writing prize here and was co-editor in chief of the school newspaper. Both David and Cindy were astounded (and that was their word) with both his content and delivery and are anxious to help advance him to the next stages of his career. John’s speech | John’s last Belltower article

- Most importantly, there were 402 hope-filled graduates this year, second highest total in the history of the college (last year highest by 5). Of course, we heard the obligatory “way to go Mom” as one of our graduates crossed the stage. Chairman Dan Rullo in his fourth and last year presiding over the graduation says his day is not complete until he hears that phrase shouted out.
Best to close this summary of our fourth year at Mount Aloysius with some words from our Valedictorian (who led off with the remark that he and I were both “seniors”). John said:

“...perspective is the third gift of a liberal arts education. Through education, we learn the world of others. We see the humanity, the Christ in each other. I call upon you to join me in passing that torch [of a Mercy education].

Mercy, Service, Justice, Hospitality—what will these mean to us? More importantly, what will they mean to you? Foster these in your heart, and you will see them grow. We are stewards of grace, each and every one of us, and we will show the world that we are not lost, that we are beacons of hope on a small, yearning earth. This is what a Mercy education has done for us. More than teach us, it has instilled hope—a hope which we now pass on to the world. “

And all of you who give of yourselves for the benefit of the College are stewards of grace, too, helping to pass the torch every year at this time. And I thank you for your service to Mount Aloysius, to this community, to these students. We are all in your debt, and we feel that way especially at this time of year.

PART TWO: BAKER’S DOZEN OF HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Mount Aloysius Welcomes 31 Mercy Presidential Scholars (MPS)**—in a first-class event chaired by Caitlin Wilkinson ’12 (a member of Vice-President Frank Crouse’s excellent staff), we honored and welcomed 31 new MPS’s who begin classes in the fall. They come from all parts of Pennsylvania and one from as far away as Vietnam. The Vietnamese student could not attend but forwarded a short video of herself greeting her new expected classmates. VP for Admissions Frank Crouse, Chair Dan Rullo, VP for Mission Integration Sr. Helen Marie and I each addressed separate topics in our remarks to welcome this newest group. We have achieved a high “yield” from the Mercy Scholars class in the last two years (very high—plus 95%) and are hoping to match those results this year. I also had the chance to lecture to our seventy current MPS’s on the subject of technology and education which is linked here. [My remarks] Video of Vietnamese Presidential Scholar
2. **19 Students Win Special Honors at Graduation**—for the first time 19 different students were recognized for their contributions at Mount Aloysius during graduation. These students were chosen on the basis of their academic performance, their contributions to community and their overall engagement at the college. Four students were selected to carry the banners/gonfalons (Whitney Emigh, Timothy Michrina, Sharon Biter, Rachel Harris); five students were selected to present artifacts at the beginning of the graduation ceremony (Christina Maiese, Derek Matthews, Danielle McKnight, Lindsy Sammarco, Mindy Gates); three students were chosen to deliver remarks (Rachel Wagner, Bradley Mikitko, John Moist); four students were chosen as student marshals (Chelsea Pongrac, Tyler Glunt, Amy Oberholtzer, Jalisa Westover). This is all a part of an effort to recognize more deserving students in a public way at the graduation ceremony. This group includes traditional and mature students, parenting students, student-athletes, 4.0 GPA’s, mission trip students, and two- and four-year graduates.

3. **Moral Choices Lecture by Sr. Mary Ann Dillon**—Sr. Mary Ann Dillon, PhD., past President of Mount Aloysius College, addressed this year’s theme of the common good and citizenship as interpreted through the long tradition of Catholic Social Teaching. Dr. Dillon 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?” This is the 8th Annual lecture, all of them principally organized by Sister Helen Marie Burns. We are in her debt. Moral Choices Lecture Monograph

4. **First Mercy Spirit Award Winners Named**—first recipients named in graduation program and bestowed at the Academic Honors Program. (We hoped to call this the Dillon Medal but so far Sister Mary Ann has refused the honor!!). Also hope that this becomes the most prestigious honor bestowed on students who represent the best of the multi-faceted elements of Mount Aloysius education—students whose personal development has integrated well growth in knowledge and skill, character, and concern for the welfare of others. Faculty/staff nominated, five-person committee selected two awardees from among the Associate Degree graduates and two awardees from among the Bachelor Degree graduates. 2014 Mercy Spirit Award recipients were Derek J. Matthews, Chelsey R. Pongrac, Danielle K. McKnight and Bradley M. Mikitko.

5. **Guyana Service Trip Memorable**—8 students and 4 faculty/staff journeyed to Guyana in mid-March to work with Sisters of Mercy on long-existing projects there. They wrote movingly about their experiences in the Belltower, and were written about in several local papers. Students’ comments and reflections offered during a post-trip lunch with Michele, Tommy Shireman and me showed clearly that the experience was valuable in terms of spiritual growth, sense of connection to this College (and their tripmates) and global awareness. Serving Guyana article | Mission of Mercy article | Mounties in the Community article

6. **Belltower Presents 1st Annual Awards**—two graduating senior writers, two upcoming co-editors and two aspiring and improving writers took home top honors in this year’s Belltower awards. John Moist (‘14) and McKenzie Horne (‘16) took home top honors for “best writing” in this year’s six editions. Mindy Gates and Kate Kuzio received the awards for “extraordinary contributions to production” this year and Jenelle Manson and Dylan Sanders were honored for “most improved writing.” Congrats to Dr. Jess Jost-Costanzo, who took over for Dr. Barbara Cook two years ago and has continued to encourage good and creative writing and a much expanded publication. John’s Critic Culture article | Jess’s “S” Word article
7. **Mount Aloysius Research Symposium Thrives**—87 posters representing well over 120 students were on display. I got through about a quarter of the posters this year and was not able to stump a single student with my questions about their projects. It’s a great example of experiential learning and these students are effectively teaching themselves in the course of these projects. Kudos to Dr. Merrilee Anderson and Dr. Natalie Van Breukelen who organize this event, with many others. [Symposium Highlight Video](#)

8. **NCAA Good Neighbors Award**—Mountie senior Aaron Patrick was one of ten basketball players from over 1,000 NCAA schools to receive this award for his outstanding academic performance and his service in the community. He is a regular volunteer in a number of activities in his home community, traveled to Guyana with Mount Aloysius delegation, was a mentor in the Mercy Youth Initiative Program and numerous other activities. It was quite something to see Aaron with *Mount Aloysius* in big giant letters across his chest standing (in Jerry Jones version of the Roman Coliseum in Dallas, Texas at the NCAA final Four halftime) alongside student athletes from schools like Ohio State, Utah State, Virginia, Notre Dame, Penn and others. [Elite Honor article](#)

9. **Sports Banquet Closes Out Banner Year**—the big winners were Dan Rullo, who received the Walker Award for his service to athletic programs at the college; Jalisa Westover and Seth Shaffer who received the Scholar Athlete Awards and Lindsy Sammarco (basketball, softball); Shawn Greenfield (basketball) and Derek Capiak (baseball) who received the Male and Female Athlete of the Year Awards. Westover and Sammarco are double winners. Two teams (women’s basketball and softball) made it all the way to championship games—a first for Mount Aloysius. The remarks from the twelve coaches of our fourteen teams were really at a high level and reflected well on the program and on the student-athletes. Kudos to Ryan Smith and his team. [Mount Honors Athlete article](#) | [Top Mounties article](#)

10. **Rullo Rules at Academic Honors Assembly**—for this year’s 3rd Annual Academic Honors Assembly, the keynote speaker was the Board Chair, Attorney Daniel Rullo. Dan spoke to the students about his connection to the College and his hopes that they too will connect back when they graduate. In my introductory remarks, I alluded to Dan’s sterling athletic career and then let the students know he’d been selected as the speaker because of his outstanding academic career both at Pitt and Duquesne Law school. He was a big hit. [My remarks](#) | [Program from the event](#)
11. **Spring Sports Teams Shine**—Senior standouts Lindsy Sammarco (3.7 GPA) and Jalisa Westover (3.91 GPA) led their team to its second championship appearance in their four-year careers. Both finished with batting averages over .400 and in the top five of numerous categories in the AMCC. Westover won the AMCC Player of the Year honors and joined Sammarco and three other MAC students on the All-Star team. Baseball swept Penn State Altoona in the quarterfinals of the AMCC playoffs, finished 4th overall and Junior Derick Capiak (3.4 GPA) brought home the Pitcher of the Year honors. Canadian Connor Bowie was in the hunt for Player of the Year and finished with the top batting average and most hits per game in the conference. 21 of our 31 baseball players made the AMCC Academic all-star team—congrats to Coach Kime.

12. **“Visiting” Scholar Makes “Permanent” Impression**—Ambassador James A. Sharkey, who has served on four continents in more than a dozen countries, delivered the Spring Honors Lecture on “Citizens in the Twenty-First Century: A Global Perspective.” Sharkey also delivered a Mount Aloysius Community Lecture on the “Crisis in Ukraine.” He also gave lectures in five classes: on Irish dramatist Brian Friel, On Irish Nobel laureates John Hume and Seamus Heaney, and with me, in classes on “Violence as a Social Disease” and “Religious Conflict from the Reformation Forward.” Professors Smith, Dragani, Cook, Magee and Coakley hosted the visiting scholar in their Theatre, History, English and Religion classes. Associate Dean Becky Zukowski and Sister Helen Marie Burns hosted the Ambassador’s wife Sattie with the nursing faculty and in a class on “Women and Global Cultures” respectively. Sattie Sharkey practiced nursing and taught nursing education on all four continents on which her husband served. The Sharkeys and Foleys also hosted dinner for four Mount Aloysius students (who will be traveling to Dublin as part of the Mercy Colleges Carlow expedition this summer, where they hope to meet up with the Sharkeys and our Belfast visitors from last summer) and a barbecue for our sisters of Mercy. Schedule of Events | Speaker Series lecture video | My remarks about James | Lecture on the Ukraine

13. **Spring Honors Lecture Delivers International Perspective**—Honorary Irish Consul James J. Lamb came up from Pittsburgh to introduce Ambassador Sharkey to our audience on May 1. This was the culmination of three weeks of appearances. Jim and wife Sattie appeared in seven classes (everything from poetry to nursing); Jim delivered two All College lectures (the other on Ukraine, where Jim also served); they visited their old haunts in Washington, and Jim's family connections near Mahaffey and up in Jim Thorpe, and sojourned to Elk County
(to see the elks!!), Raystown Lake, Niagara Falls, Falling Waters. They stayed right here on campus which was a special treat for students, staff and faculty as they were so approachable, and Michele, I think, had a taste of Sattie’s life as Ambassador’s wife, as she helped to make many of the arrangements and to smooth out both details and feelings!! Photos from Jim’s visit | Jim’s lecture video

14. **Vox Nova Presents Compelling Version of Stations of the Cross**—the Mount Aloysius choral singing group Vox Nova produced a moving choral accompaniment to the Stations of the Cross which Digital Grotto filmed and I forwarded to Mercy colleagues across the nation. Their musical selections combined with topical readings at each Station provided a moving devotional approach for the Easter season and for marking the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Nice work by Vox Nova Director Nancy Way and her ensemble. [Vox Nova videos](#)

15. **Godspell Production brings home first-ever Kennedy Center honors**—A Mount Aloysius theater production brought home its first-ever Kennedy Center honors as the 11-member ensemble cast received the award in that category and Stage Director, freshman Courtney Edmiston, was also recognized with a certificate. The four performances played to nearly full houses and represented a high point at least during my four years at the college. It was well done in every way including its star performer Tim Michrina. Kudos to the cast and crew and to Professor Nathan Magee, now in his second year at the College. [Godspell article](#) | [Recovery article](#)

16. **First graduation service at the “Mountie”**— Michele and I, with help from Ryan Smith and Jack Coyle, *graduated senior Seth Shaffer in front of the ACWC in the shadow of the Mountie mascot, Victory*—when the team returned from the AMCC playoffs hours after the official ceremony. Michele hooded and capped him, I made brief remarks and pronounced the official words, Jack photographed for posterity (and Seth’s scrapbook). Seth, who leaves for Army Airborne service at Fort Benning in three weeks (his road to an eventual law degree), won both the senior Capstone Prize (for his paper applying quantum mechanics theory)
and the Scholar Athlete of the Year prize and was surrounded by his young and admiring teammates—so it was especially meaningful. He never got past two better catchers ahead of him in the lineup, never once complained, hit over .400 in his 25 senior year at bats, and pinch hit successfully in his last at bat in the 8th inning of his last game. True to form, when Coach Kime and I congratulated Seth on that last accomplishment, he immediately credited two teammates who he said clued him in on “what pitch to look for and when” (heat, in).

PART THREE: UPDATE BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY

This section of my report is an update on progress against the Strategic Plan. It is divided into the five themes that emerged in our 2013-15 Strategic Plan, and includes recent activity on action steps in each area. It is a bit harder to segregate College activity/departments into these five themes than it was for the three themes in the old Strategic Plan. The full Strategic Plan and its updated “report card” are on the College website.

This section will focus on some academic highlights linked directly to the Strategic Plan.

Theme I—Academic Futures: Align academic offerings to emerging fields and continue to adapt in ways that ensure access to a college education, and graduation, for a broad cross-section of students.

New Look at Old Programs

1. THE STRATEGIC PLAN CALLS FOR A NEW LOOK AT SOME OLD PROGRAMS HERE AT THE MOUNT, AND THAT “LOOK” IS WELL UNDERWAY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

• In collaboration with the Enrollment Management Division and the Communications Department, the Nursing Division continues its efforts to meet the growing demand for baccalaureate prepared nurses by increasing capacity within both the traditional classroom and online offerings for nursing. This has resulted in an 11% growth in enrollment associated with the RN to BSN program. We are beginning to look at an expedited BA/BS to BSN program as well.

• The Business and Information Technology department offered a special topics course: Internetworking with Cisco Systems. The course utilized an advanced network simulator to provide the students with hands-on experience with the setup, configuration and troubleshooting of multiple products from one of the most popular networking technology vendors. The simulator accurately replicates the functionality of forty-eight different products that would be valued at roughly $250,000, for a fraction of that cost.
The Business and Information Technology department has worked in conjunction with the Communications Department and the Digital Grotto Group to produce a promotional video for the Digital Forensic Investigation concentration. The video has been released virally via Facebook, and will be accompanied by a follow-on campaign consisting of a traditional press release, and a direct fax campaign targeting local and state law enforcement, and the PA Association of Licensed Investigators.

The Business and Information Technology department offered a special topics course: Introduction to Computer Forensics. The course utilized free and open source applications to introduce the students to the discipline of Digital Forensic Investigation. A new cross-disciplinary concentration in Digital Forensic Investigation has since been approved for Criminology Information Technology majors, to be offered beginning in the Fall 2014. In tandem, a certificate in Digital Forensic Investigation, available to licensed law enforcement personnel and investigators, has also been approved. Jeff Sunseri, Information Technology instructor, will undertake professional development this summer to receive Digital Forensic Level-one Training.

The Nursing Division continues to implement and evaluate a faculty-led supplemental instruction model designed to support student success in acquiring knowledge, skills, and abilities in critical thinking as applied to theoretical courses in adult nursing, pediatrics and obstetrics. Faculty members Nicole Custer and Joan Krug had a poster accepted for presentation related to this innovation at the National Nurse Educator Summit in April 2014.

We also continue our research into master’s level programs in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physician Assistant. The last looks the furthest off for us, as the earliest approval from the Commonwealth and accrediting entities would not be prior to 2019.

Dr. Julie Smith worked with Ms. Gloriana St. Clair (Emeritus Librarian, Carnegie Mellon) on the “Open Library of Images for Virtualized Execution” (OLIVE) project by demonstrating the use of the Great American History Machine which she worked on as a programmer during Graduate School. Dr. Smith is looking into ways to incorporate this into her teaching at Mount Aloysius.

Dr. Ryan Costanzo, Associate Professor of Educational Enrichment, presented "Faculty Mentorship in Athletics at NCAA Division III Institutions" at the College Sport Research Institute’s national conference, which was held April 22-25 in Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. Costanzo is part of a three-person team that has spent the past year investigating faculty mentorship in athletics. The team's study is empirical in nature and involves analyzing athletic directors' responses to a survey distributed via e-mail. The key questions that Dr. Costanzo's team seeks to answer are these: (1) How are faculty mentors utilized at the Division III level; (2)
What are the perceived benefits of faculty mentors?; and (3) What challenges are associated with faculty mentorship initiatives? The other members of the research team include Kate Costanzo, Head Women's Basketball Coach at Allegheny College, and Marilyn Gregory, Head Men's and Women's Cross Country Coach at Mount Aloysius. The College Sport Research Institute is housed at the University of South Carolina. This year's conference—the 7th Annual Conference on College Sport—was well-attended by researchers from throughout the US and abroad. Dr. Costanzo, along with Kate Costanzo, presented the team's research findings to-date, which are based on Pennsylvania Division III institutions. Dr. Costanzo's team is in the process of expanding their survey to include Ohio and New York Division III institutions.

- Business and Information Technology department continued to expand utilization of the hands-on technical lab, offering five “hands-on” courses in the Spring ’14 semester, including two introductory hardware courses, two advanced networking and server courses, and the inaugural Digital Forensic Investigation course. This project is all about maximizing technology through a focus on “Smart Teaching Spaces.”

Liberal Arts Experience

2. THE STRATEGIC PLAN ALSO CALLS FOR “BROADENING STUDENTS’ EXPOSURE TO THE LIBERAL ARTS EXPERIENCE IN WAYS THAT COMPLEMENT AND AUGMENT PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND STRENGTHENS THE GLOBAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMPETENCIES OF OUR STUDENTS.” TO THAT END, LET ME DESCRIBE THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES:

- Dr. Jessica Jost-Costanzo, advisor to the Comic Book Club (and to the Belltower), and eighteen Mount Aloysius students, members of the club, traveled to the Steel City Con (comic book conference) on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at the Monroeville Convention Center outside of Pittsburgh, PA. The students were able to meet comic book writers and artists, as well as movie and television actors and screenwriters, all of whom are vibrant contributors to their art/genre. There were numerous panel sessions attended by the students. The excursion was a success for all participants.

- General Capstone students in Dr. Jessica Jost-Constanzo’s and Dr. Michael Jones’ classes presented their research projects in a poster session on April 28, 2014, open to the college community. I enjoyed some interesting conversations with the presenters and did not ask a question that the students could not answer.

- Dr. Michael Jones took two students, Mackenzie Horne ‘16 and Dylan Link ‘15, to New York City from May 11-May 15, 2014 for a program on the Mercy mission at the United Nations. Dr. Jones is the faculty coordinator for the program for all the Mercy colleges this year, worked directly with Moya Dittmaier at the Conference on Mercy Higher Education on this and will also supervise students from other Mercy colleges who will be participating. The focus this year is on global sustainability. Horne and Link are magan cum laude level students, captains of sports teams and very engaged in community service at school and in the region.
• **Digital Grotto student group** worked with Jeff Sunseri (teaches IT in Business Department) to produce a “professional quality promotional video” for the Hollidaysburg Corps of the American Rescue Workers” (as quoted in *The Mainliner* newspaper). ARW is a faith based organization that provides food, clothing, household items, counseling, life skills classes and spiritual aid to those in need in Blair and surrounding counties. Jeff's roles included filming and editing with the club members, acting as an extra, and assisting with supervising the group.

• **Dr. Michael Jones** and spring semester **Connections students** traveled to Washington, DC on April 22. Students visited various Smithsonian museums and national monuments.

• Business **Professor Chris Mingyar** led the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program at Mount Aloysius where students completed federal and state income tax returns for 47 clients this year. Given the five student preparers, this works out to an average return per student of 9.4, which is about double the productivity from last year. Senior Accounting majors Alexandra Mezza and Danielle McKnight did an outstanding job as co-site-supervisors on the project. Student volunteers included: Brock Anders, Dylan Baker, Allen Musselman, BriAnna Perry, Tanner Thomas.

• **Theresa Spanella** partnered with the **Communities in Schools of the Laurel Highlands** to initiate a Peer2Peer Tutor Training Program at area high schools. One training was held at Northern Cambria School District and was attended by seven new Mount Aloysius peer tutors.

**Faculty Education**

3. THE STRATEGIC PLAN ALSO CALLS FOR EFFORTS TO BROADEN KNOWLEDGE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ON-GOING EDUCATION FOR OUR OWN FACULTY. TO THAT END:

• **Nursing Division chair Dr. Becky Zukowski** presented research findings from her national-level study on disaster impacted communities (her doctoral research) to the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health in Rockville, Maryland on April 18, 2014. This is a high honor for Becky and the College.

• **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 “4th Annual Rural Conference for Cancer Survivors”. This year’s theme was “Education to Overcome the Fears.” The conference was free and open to cancer survivors and their family, friends and caregivers with informational vendors and speakers focused on cancer survivorship.

• **Dr. Bonnie Noll-Nelson** from the Nursing Division was an author on an article entitled “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.

• **Dr. Elizabeth Mansley**, our first year Criminology Instructor, presented at the following:
With Dana Hysock-Witham on “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

With Dana Hysock-Witham on “Stalking and Dating Violence: It’s A Grey Area” at the Eastern Sociological Society in Baltimore


- **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. This year, the “R.T. in D.C.” event was held on Capitol Hill. Professors Miller and Holliday met with representatives from the offices of Senator Bob Casey and Senator Pat Toomey. They also met with representatives from the offices of Representatives Lou Barletta, Bill Shuster, Joe Pitt, Jim Gerlach, Mike Kelly, Allyson Schwartz, and Mike Doyle.

- **Medical Assistant Program Director Ms. Cheryl Kowalczyk** hosted the Pennsylvania State Medical Assistant Spring Board meeting at Mount Aloysius College. Patricia Ross presented on “Domestic Violence” and John Onderko, PA-C, lectured on Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Three continuing education units were received by attendees. Mount Aloysius also sponsored the Cambria County Chapter Business meeting at Mount Aloysius College in Pierce Hall.

- **Dr. Juan F. Diaz**, 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 on March 21, 2014. 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. The panel, all graduates from Duquesne’s Ph.D. English Program, presented to the faculty and graduate students about their professional experience. There was a lively question and answer period in which graduate students were able to get practical answers about the hiring process and their future careers. Dr. Jost-Costanzo discussed her teaching experience as an English Professor at Mount Aloysius. Jess reports that the participants and audience members were gratified to learn about the vibrant campus and community at Mount Aloysius.

- **Professors Amanda Minor and Amber Lenhard** attended the PA-AST Spring Conference/Orthopedic Update 2014. The conference was held at the Nemacolin Woodlands Conference Center. The Pennsylvania Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) Annual Business Meeting for the PA State AST was held in conjunction with the Orthopedic Update 2014. The objectives were to recognize national guidelines for managing patients with
orthopedic concerns, recognize current orthopedic-related technologies and techniques to aid in the management and reduction of complications surrounding the orthopedic patient, evaluate and diagnose knee and shoulder pain, provide non-operative treatment of sports injuries, assess the aging process with a healthy musculoskeletal system including sleep patterns, and hormone supplementation in healing, exercise, and the use of biologics in the healing process.

- The Library and Learning Commons was the forum for three Teaching and Learning Seminars this spring:
  - On “The Impact of Educational Reforms on Our Students and the Methods of Instruction” by Dr. Julie Smith
  - On “Fostering Student Success through Early Intervention” by Director of Student Success Heather Low
  - On “First Generation College Students (FGCS): 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 in March 2014. She also participated in the following programs this spring:
  - IUP EGO 2014 Annual Conference, “Enacting Change in a Polarized World: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Inequity” at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in March
  - Laurel Highlands Math Alliance Mathematics Educator Annual Conference at UPJ
  - Presented Best Practices for Integrating Technology into Developmentally Appropriate Early Childhood Programs at the 28th Annual Early Childhood Conference, “Positive Paths”, in April
  - Pennsylvania Association of College and Teacher Educators Annual Spring Conference, “Teaching in Pennsylvania: Successful Preparation and Practice”
  - “Strategies and Solutions across the Spectrum: An Autism Event,” at the Armstrong-Indiana IU 28 Central Office in Indiana, PA.
  - “Reading Secrets: Using Analogies to Engage Readers and Encourage Close Reading and Using QR Codes in Education,” sponsored by the Indiana County Reading Council and Indiana Free Library
  - As a Manuscript Reviewer for the following journals in Spring 2014: 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 (A State Unit of the Association of Teacher Educators and The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Educators).

- Sally Weber, Associate Registrar, and Deanna Hamilton, Records and Registration Specialist, attend a regional VA School Certifying Official Training in State College, PA in April 2014.

- Dr. Michael Engle attended the IGS Metagenome Analysis Workshop. The workshop was held at UMBC and provided attendees with 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.

- **Ms. Cheryl Kowalczyk** helped run, as state vice president, the 2014 Annual Conference of The Pennsylvania Society of Medical Assistants (PSMA) in Allentown.

- **Dr. Natalie A. Van Breukelen** had her manuscript accepted for publication in the peer reviewed journal Environmental Biology of Fishes. The paper, entitled “Interactions between Native and Non-native Cichlid Species in a Costa Rican River,” is the culmination of a multi-year research project in Costa Rica with Mount Aloysius students.

- **Professor AnaLu MacVean** will be co-teaching a Plant Conservation course at the University of Bologna, Italy during the month of May. As part of Ms. MacVean’s stay she will also be studying an ancient collection of Guatemalan plants (Florula Guatimalensis) at the Herbarium of Firenze.

- **Dr. Elizabeth Mansley** delivered the keynote address at FCI Loretto’s Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, in recognition of several initiatives with students and staff that she led there this year.

**Student Success**

4. **FINALLY ON THIS FIRST THEME, THE STRATEGIC PLAN CALLS FOR “DEFINING, SUPPORTING AND INTEGRATING STUDENT SUCCESS FROM ADMISSION TO GRADUATION TO EMPLOYMENT.” RECENT INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:**

- **Career Development** has been busy in the March-May period, as we continue to improve our services on career development, research, search, mock interview, resume writing and other techniques key to finding a career and a job. During this quarter, our team:
  - Conducted 218 individual Resumé Writing/Interview sessions
  - Ran 10 weekly small group resume-writing workshops
  - Produced a resume/interview skills workshop for 80 inmates at FCI-Loretto
  - Created job shadowing opportunities at FCI-Loretto for two Criminology majors (Mary Friend ('16) and Pam Young ('14, '16)
  - Presented the resume critiques/interviews program to 8 classes
  - Facilitated a May Graduate Networking Event
  - Advertising to local employers for Threads, the MAC Thrift Store, to acquire more donated
professional attire for internships/job interviews for students

– **Connected with the Johnstown Area Redevelopment Initiative** (JARI) to promote, solicit and advertise internships for MAC students

– Assisted with April **Education Department Mock Interview Fair**

– Organized **Pizza, Punch & Purpose Career Discussion** on “setting goals and finding purpose” in your career. Kudos to intern, Bethany Bookheimer (’14), senior Psychology student who organized the event.

– Hosted **Accepted Student Day** booth, reaching out to 50+ students/parents

– Helped conduct all day **Graduate Salute**, collecting post-graduate info from 150+

– Facilitated 20 students participation in **Job Fair** at SFU, and followed up on campus with mock interview and resume prep

– Conducted **Resumé Roadshow**, providing last minute critiques to departing students

• The **Learning Commons** partnered with Heather Low and Jenna Shuck of the Office of Student Success & Advising to offer two All-College Study Nights during the Spring semester, with almost 200 students in attendance. Activities included: multiple faculty-led sessions (hosted by Dr. O’Connor, Ms. Nypaver, Ms. Bafile, and Ms. Hoyne); 21 Peer Tutors; 3 Professional Tutors; 2 Workshops (**Fun with Photos**, hosted by Misti Smith and **Misconceptions That De-Rail Student Success**, hosted by Chris Burlingame and Karen Castagnola); 5 Student Initiative Sessions (hosted by students Haley Harshaw, Alice Wittmer, Marissa Lombardi, and Brittany Angermier); 2 Tutor-Led Peer Review Sessions (for Business Law students, hosted by Chris Burlingame); and 2 Nursing NCLEX Review Sessions (hosted by Karen Castagnola)

• The **Learning Commons** also hosted 16 individual workshops through its **Academic Support Workshop Series**. Presenters included Chris Burlingame, Karen Castagnola, Shamim Rajpar, Misti Smith, Theresa Spanella, Rob Stere and Anne Volk.

• The **Business Department** added group tutoring for accounting classes this spring, which seemed to work much better than individual sessions. I actually think students just feel better and open up more when they realize they are not alone in failing to catch on quickly to accounting concepts

• The **Nursing Division in collaboration with Career Services** has provided classroom instruction and follow-up support for upcoming graduates in the areas of resume writing, interviewing skills,
professional appearance, and career progression. In response, many are receiving offers of employment well prior to graduation with the contingency that they are successful in passing the national licensure examination. The December graduating class currently has a pass rate of over 94% which will well over the state and national average.

- Chair Dr. Paula Scaramozzino and her team (Rebecca Hickman, Felicia Holliday, Amber Lenhard, Helen Ritchey) took 78 Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences students from Mount Aloysius to the Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists (PSRT) meeting in State College, PA. Our own Sharon Miller was Acting President of the PSRT for this year. Several of the Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences students participated in the student Techni Bowl, Film Analysis, and the Poster competition. Kayla Lydick and Elizabeth Boyce took third place in the Techni Bowl; and Jenna Lindrose won the Image Analysis on her display of Subcutaneous Emphysema. In the Poster Competition Upper Level: Jenna Lindrose won 2nd place for her poster on “Mammography Quality Standard Act & Digital Mammography”. Poster Competition Entry Level: 2nd place winner was Helen Peachey for her poster on “General Sonography,” 3rd place winners were Sara Myers, Jeanne Ludwig and Skylar Stair for their poster on “Power Plant Worker at Risk.”

- In an effort to engage the graduate students, the first Graduate Student Salute/Reception was held in the new ACWC. Graduate programs also hosted a Graduate Open House on May 2nd and followed up with 300 targeted mailings.

- Dr. Julie Smith, Associate Professor of Social Science, made 6 (six) dual enrollment presentations for recruitment purposes in March and April 2014.

- Aligning to the new “MAC Moves” health campaign, Dr. Sara Rutledge instituted “Walk and Talk” office hours on Thursday afternoons at the Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center. She “walks and talks” with students on the indoor track and/or the treadmill about classes, advising, student teaching, career decisions, etc.

- In an on-going effort to model community engagement as part of career success
  
  - Ms. Cheryl Kowalczyk and The Medical Assistant Club sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Cosgrave Conference Rooms at Mount Aloysius College. 56 productive pints were collected with 75 individuals presenting to donate. Those blood donations have the potential to save 280 hospital patients who rely on our efforts for life-saving blood and blood products.
  
  - Dr. Patricia Meintel led the Nursing Student Organization as they completed a division-wide collection of used textbooks
for donation to World Vision in an effort to assist nursing faculty in underserved communities outside of the United States, one of several dozen projects that led to their receipt of the Outstanding Student Service Club for the fourth consecutive year.

Dr. Elizabeth Mansley organized the Criminology Club: to conduct a book drive for the prison; to provide activities for Johnstown–based youth group Tomorrow's Hope; to host first Mount Aloysius Easter Eggstravaganza (over 50 children attended); to perform improv skits at FCI Loretto prison (8 students, 1 staff member and 2 faculty members performed)

- The Registrar’s Office with the assistance of the IT Services was able to establish a new service for students: Student Self Service through the National Student Clearinghouse. Student are now able to print enrollment verification certificates, find out when deferment notices were sent to student lenders, view your enrollment history, view the proofs of enrollment sent on behalf to student service providers, order a transcript or view the status of previous transcript requests, and print “Good Student Discount” certificates to obtain discounts from auto insurers and other companies. Access to this free service is available when students log into MyMAC.

Theme II—The Complete Student Experience: Promote the campus environment as a vibrant community that engages both residential and commuter students; emphasize holistic personal development as a defining value of student life through commitment to health and fitness and the College values of mercy, justice, hospitality and service; and expand student horizons beyond the campus with the range of services supporting student success.

This section will begin with some comments on the ramp-up of activity in the Residence Halls which continues under Chris Koren. Then, I will provide quick summaries of student activity in three areas: Service, Social and Leadership. Finally, a review of Intercollegiate Athletics. All of this work is supervised by Dr. Grassadonia, with excellent support from Director of Student Activities Elaine Grant, Director of Residence Life Chris Koren, Athletic Director Ryan Smith and Director of Athletic Facilities Kevin Kime.

Residence Life

- Director Chris Koren was again nominated for Advisor of the Year by the Student Government Association (SGA) and the College Activities Board (CAB). She advises the cheerleaders, Women in Business and the Pep Band. She also sat on the Ebensburg Heart Association Board this year. She had 20 MAC students assist with the Ebensburg Heart Chase Event in April.
Assistant Director Matt Lovell was nominated for the School Spirit Award at the Leadership Banquet. Matt is the volunteer PA announcer for most of our athletic contests. He also successfully completed two alcohol education programs this semester- Alcohol Jeopardy and DUI with a golf cart awareness activity working with SGA and CAB.

Residence Life Grad Assistant (and MBA student) Howard Ferguson helped organize and then served as advisor for the Black Students Union.

The Student Resident Advisors end of year celebration and intra staff awards was held on May 6th. Awardees were selected by their peers and are both humorous and serious. Ihmsen was voted the community of the year. Liz Ditty and Jake Wyatt were voted the RAs of the year for their leadership and mentoring of newer staff members. Senior Seth Shafer was recognized as a “Hall of Fame Resident Assistant” for his skills, role modeling and leadership. Seth also won the Capstone Prize for best thesis and the Male Scholar Athlete of the Year Award.

The residence life staff has successfully managed the Student Affairs Thrift Store, Threads, this semester. Very important for some of our students before they go on interviews.

Housing for 2014-15 is ahead of last year’s pace:
- Well planned and organized Housing Signups were held in McAuley Hall in April with 63% of current residents re-signing for housing.
- Incoming freshmen housing deposits are at 332 as of May 12, 2014.

Completed the spring RA/OL/MAAPP Mentor training session in conjunction with Advising and Student Activities.

Residence Life teamed up with Alumni Affairs and Student Activities to plan senior week activities again. Events included a networking social at PJ’s, a Pittsburgh trip, Seniors vs. Faculty Softball game and an Institutional Advancement/Alumni BBQ. The students won the softball game 23-18 though Assistant Campus Minister Tom Shireman was pretty good!!

RA Programs were again abundant and by all accounts worthwhile. They have a scheme around which they build action events, and it is reflected in the third column below. A partial listing of their activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science, Service, and Success</th>
<th>1/28/14</th>
<th>Social/Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Celebrate YOU</td>
<td>2/5/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honesty is the Best Policy</td>
<td>2/6/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana Service trip supplies</td>
<td>2/3/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle of the Sexes</td>
<td>2/4/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA Community</td>
<td>2/27/14</td>
<td>Social/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Services promotional event</td>
<td>multiple times (semester long involvement)</td>
<td>Social/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year New you. (how to care for your skin)</td>
<td>2/26/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana Help</td>
<td>3/3/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Stress Relief</td>
<td>Wednesday March 5th at 9PM</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Stress Relief</td>
<td>3/5/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Frenzy</td>
<td>3/6/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome in the Spring Season!</td>
<td>3/25/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe/Gert/Park Ave Tie Dye to Support Free Hugs</td>
<td>3/26/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T.V guide and display board</td>
<td>3/24/14</td>
<td>Social/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorate &amp; Plant</td>
<td>3/26/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nail Painting Party</td>
<td>4/3/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black light volleyball</td>
<td>3/27/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test De-Stressing</td>
<td>April 2, 9:00pm</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Egg Appreciation/ Service Project</td>
<td>4/15/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pampering &amp; Preparing for Finals</td>
<td>4/24/14</td>
<td>Social/Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Egg Hunt in Ihmsen</td>
<td>4/14/14</td>
<td>Wellness Wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Eggs</td>
<td>4/23/14</td>
<td>Social/Community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Service, Social and Leadership

Student Affairs continues to emphasize service work in much of their offerings. Some prime examples below:

- Mount Aloysius College junior and women's basketball team member Morgan Brosnihan and former tennis player Megan Cioccere spent their spring break on a Campus Ministry service trip to Guyana. "This trip completely exceeded my expectations. We visited orphanages, elderly homes, hospitals, day cares and schools," said Brosnihan. "When people ask me what we did all I can say is we changed their day, they changed our lives. For a country that has so little materialistically speaking, they are rich in love and faith." The lesson she learned was simple but powerful: "It really taught me that one of the best things you can give people is your time. The people I met both from Guyana and Mount Aloysius continue to inspire me every day. I hope to go back in the future, and continue service trips both domestically and internationally. As Mother Theresa said "Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do...but how much love we put in that action." Mission of Mercy article

- Members of the Mount Aloysius College SAAC along with other MAC students participated in “The Pappy Run,” in Chagrin Falls, Ohio in April. The run was organized by a 7th grader who lost her grandfather to cancer. She is the cousin of one of the students at MAC. All the proceeds from “The Pappy Run” benefited the Seidman Cancer Center for research and treatment in all types of cancer. Along with participating in the run, the SAAC made a monetary donation to the cause.

- Through the spring semester SAAC and other student athletes led activities and games for Mercy Youth Initiative participants. The students-athletes did their best to motivate and inspire the students to get active and to work hard.

- The Mountie Men’s Tennis team volunteered at the 2014 Ebensburg Fun Run to Fight Heart Disease. The members of the team assisted in set up/take down, registration, concessions, kids fun park and even ran in the event. All proceeds were donated to the local chapter of the American Heart Association.

- Aaron Patrick, a senior guard and four-year member of Mount Aloysius College men's basketball team was named to the 2014 Allstate NABC Good Works Team, by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). The NABC, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) and Allstate Insurance Company named 20 men's and women's college basketball student-athletes to the 2014 Allstate NABC and WBCA Good Works Teams (Notre Dame, Virginia, Utah State, Hope, Penn, et al). Now in its second year, this preeminent community service honor
recognizes college basketball players who have made a commitment to improving their communities and the lives of others. In his nomination, I remarked that “Aaron Patrick personifies the highest ideals of Mount Aloysius College and the traditions of our founding Sisters of Mercy. He carries himself with a quiet humility that hides his magnanimous spirit, generous heart and disciplined intellect. He is a tough and selfless athlete on the court and we are very proud to have Aaron Patrick represent himself and Mount Aloysius College in such elite company.” Among his community service contributions, Patrick, an education major from Johnsonburg, Pa., helped out in Guyana, South America during spring break of 2013. While there, he worked at St. John Bosco’s orphanage in Georgetown, donating his efforts to teaching reading and writing to underprivileged elementary-aged children. In addition, he helped clean and perform needed repairs at the orphanage. Leading up to his visit, Patrick helped organize fundraising projects with the proceeds being used to purchase school supplies for the orphaned children. Patrick's other community service efforts included participation in an afterschool program at Penn Cambria Middle School, where he taught reading to at-risk students. He has volunteered time in the last two years to cook and serve meals at a homeless shelter in Johnstown through the Campus Crusade for Christ. On various weekends, Patrick helps host high school and middle school students who visit the Mount Aloysius campus as part of the Mercy Youth Initiative. He has also participated in the international Soles4Souls drives that collect and distribute needed footwear around the world. During the summer months he has worked at several youth camps throughout the east coast. Aaron said that “it's a genuine honor to be selected and mentioned in the same breath as so many other distinguished players. I feel very blessed to have parents and coaches who have set such a great example for me and taught me the value of helping others." Elite Honor for Mountie article

- Finally, I include a laundry list of other service work by clubs and student organizations at the Mount completed (just during the last three months) with leadership from our Student Affairs team:
  - Colleges Against Cancer hosted a mini “Relay for Life”
  - Student Vets & Nursing Student Organization Table at Mini Relay
  - Dance Team helped with set up and clean up at Mini Relay
  - Swim for Multiple Sclerosis hosted by Swim Club
  - Swimming Safety Tips by Swim Club
  - Children’s Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Criminology Club
  - Little People’s Place Easter Bunny Visit & Party by Criminology Club
  - Diabetes Awareness Project hosted by The Drama Club
  - Several Blood Drives
  - Recycling efforts led by the Biology Club
– Soup Kitchen in Johnstown served by the Dance Team
– Painting a Church Basement by The Gay/Straight Alliance
– “Pappy Run” by Dance Team
– Hospice service provided by Nursing Student Organization
– Navigate Nursing Day by Nursing Student Organization
– Pennsylvania State Nursing Association Speaker hosted by Nursing Student Organization
– Tomorrow’s Hope Visit by Criminology Club
– Food Collection for St. Vincent DePaul Assumption Chapel Food Pantry by Mount Aloysius Political Awareness Club
– Blood Pressure Screening by Nursing Student Organization
– Mingle Mentoring by Nursing Student Organization
– Blood Pressures at the Mountview by the Nursing Student Organization
– The Heart Chase Run by Residence Hall Association, Tennis Team & Others
– Nursing Simulation by Drama Club & Nursing Student Organization
– Electronics Recycling by ENACTUS & IT Club
– Thrift Shop Assistance by Women in Business & RHA

Social Activities, not surprisingly, continue to thrive on campus and are critical to building bonds that will survive into their alumni years. These are some of the activities in the last three months that ran for the benefit of the entire campus:

Glow Volleyball Tournament
Musicians Jen Grinels & Tiffany Houghton
Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt
Children’s Easter Egg Hunt
That Drummer/That DJ Performance
Easter Jam
Black Students Union Barbeque
Campus Spa Day
Senior Week Events: Networking Night at PJ’s, Pittsburgh Trip, Softball Game-Faculty/Staff/Senior Institutional Advancement BBQ

A lot of progress on both staff and Student-led Leadership Efforts here at the college
• **National Association of Campus Activities Festival:** in March at East Stroudsburg University was attended by three of our students (for free because they worked as stage crew). They met new people, attended educational sessions, and picked up “outside of the box” tips for planning campus events.

• **The National Society of Leadership and Success:** hosted their final and always well attended lecture of the semester—Carly Fiorina, who started her career as a secretary, and went on to become the first woman to lead a Fortune 20 company, serving as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hewlett-Packard from 1999 to 2005. She was named Fortune’s Most Powerful Woman in Business for six consecutive years. Fiorina currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Good360, the world’s largest product philanthropy organization.

• **National Orientation Directors Association Region VIII Student Conference:** held at Rider U in NJ this spring. Five of our students attended educational workshops and leadership development sessions around the core values of community, diversity, integrity, learning, scholarship, and service as it relates to College Student Orientation, Transition and Retention.

• **2014 S.T.E.P.S. Diversity Conference:** Ten Students attended this conference sponsored by Penn State, Saint Francis and Mount Aloysius. The conference offered networking, leadership training and helped students understand the importance of creating an environment where diversity can be appreciated and understood.

• **Residence Life, Orientation Leader, and MAAPP Mentor Training:** almost 50 students involved in organizing/delivering/mentoring/participating/learning from these three events. They get better every year, in all three programs.

• **Student Leadership Banquet:** beautifully organized by the students with a Rat Pack theme. They nominated winners in about 15 categories, chose a panel of experts from staff/faculty/students and
presented the awards. We still have work to do on some of their public presentation skills, but all the details were carefully and (sometimes) cleverly handled. My remarks

- **National Society of Leadership and Success Induction Ceremony**: This was their first formal induction ceremony, and I was glad to keynote. Five students had speaking roles, 200 family members in attendance and our student speakers each did very well. This program is paying dividends—our students know how to do the hard work that makes events successful; now they are beginning to take leadership roles at the podium as well. My remarks

**Intercollegiate Athletics**

Let me provide some highlights from last three months, then a quick summary of our annual award winners.

**Major Recent ACWC Events**

- **Hosted our first high school playoff games in ACWC.** PIAA District 6 AAA boys and girls basketball championships were held at the ACWC. Attendance over 1,000. This marked the first time MAC has hosted a PIAA basketball playoff game since the 1990’s.

- **Hosted the Altoona/Johnstown Diocese 7th and 8th grade boys and girls championship basketball games at the ACWC.** Over 200 people attended the event.

- **Hosted our 3rd Altoona Mirror Classic, first at the new ACWC** on March 28, 2014. Over 1,700 people attended the event to watch men’s and women’s basketball all-stars from Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Bedford, Somerset and Fulton counties. The event not only showcased the new ACWC but Mount Aloysius College as a whole. This event attracts potential recruits and their families, along with media outlets from the various counties involved. There were many who left very impressed with the event, the new ACWC, the videos we put up on the screen and Mount Aloysius College.

- **Hosted the MAC Athletics Annual Banquet**, where all team and individual awards for the year were presented. Helped, along with Board of Trustee members Dan Rullo and Ann Benzel, to recognize Scholar-Athletes of the Year (Jalissa Westover 3.91 GPA, .420 BA, AMCC MVP; Seth Shafer, 3.6 GPA, .400 BA, Capstone Prize) and the Athletes of the Year Shawn Greenfield, AMCC MVP, 3rd team regional All-America; Derick Capiak, 3.4 GPA, <2.0 ERA, AMCC MVP Pitcher; Lindsy Sammarco, 3.7 GPA, .427 BA, two sport captain, All AMCC in basketball and softball). A complete list of award winners and accomplishments can be viewed in the last section below.

- **Hosted our first men’s and women’s basketball Alumni games at the new ACWC.** Overall, more than 30 former players turned out with their families for: a game, recognition at half-time of the scheduled home games, lunch/dinner in the Hospitality Suite and recognition on the video board. The event was a success and everyone loved the new facility.
• Michele and I, with help from Ryan Smith and Jack Coyle, graduated senior Seth Shaffer in front of the ACWC in the shadow of the Mountie mascot, Victory—when the team returned from the AMCC playoffs hours after the official ceremony. Michele hooded and capped him, I made brief remarks and pronounced the official words, Jack photographed for posterity (and Seth’s scrapbook). Shaffer leaves for Army Airborne service at Fort Benning in three weeks, won both the senior Capstone Award and the Scholar Athlete of the Year prize and was surrounded by his young and admiring teammates—so it was especially meaningful. He never got past two better catchers ahead of him in the lineup, never once complained, hit over .400 in his 25 senior year at bats, and pinch hit successfully in his last at bat in the 8th inning of his last game. True to form, when Coach Kime and I congratulated Seth on that last accomplishment, he immediately credited two teammates who he said clued him in on “what pitch to look for and when” (heat, in).

• Dan Rullo wins 2014 Walker Award, following in footsteps of Sisters of Mercy last year, Mike McLanahan two years ago and Bob McGowan three years ago. It was an easy choice for the three-person committee and Dan was typically humble in his acceptance remarks, preferring to receive it on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The award is named for Ray and Louise Walker, grandparents to BOT member Derek, who made the major gift that helped to build athletic fields here at the Mount and have remained our friends ever since. Article on Dan | My remarks

Significant Intercollegiate Performances since my last report

• 80 Mount Aloysius student-athletes were named to the AMCC Academic All-Conference Team as part of NCAA Division III week, just a tick below our performance last year. This ranks in the top two or three in the entire AMCC. To be named to the 2013-14 Academic All-Conference Team, student-athletes needed to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher as of Fall 2013. Among those Mounties honored included 12 members of the Chi Alpha Sigma Student-Athlete Honor Society: Morgan Brosnihan,
Derrick Capiak, Nolan Doyle, Elizabeth Josephson, Dylan Link, Austin Old, Aaron Patrick, Lindsy Sammarco, Seth Shaffer, Laura Stahli, Tanner Thomas and Jalisa Westover. Those inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma, the National Collegiate Student-Athlete Honor Society, are recognized for academic performance, leadership and character.

- **13 Mount Aloysius athletic teams performed over 20 community service projects this past year.** Seven of those projects were selected for profiles on the AMCC website, and five more were submitted to the AMCC for consideration in this year’s AMCC Community Service awards program. Last year, Mount Aloysius received four of the eight honors given out by the AMCC, including the Gold Award for “Best Overall Program of Community Service Work.”

- The **MAC Women’s Basketball team completed a very successful 2013-14 season by finishing second in the AMCC.** Coach Kaack’s women won two playoff games for the first time, upset Medaille for a first ever semifinal win (when the Mounties injured captain Sammarco returned from a seven game layoff to lead them with 20). Although they lost to #1 seed LaRoche (3 years in a row in playoffs, though first time in the final) in the championship game, Coach Kaack has now reached the final four all three years, advanced a step each year, and led only the third Mounties team (in 11 years in the AMCC) in only her third year as a head coach to an AMCC championship game (baseball and softball). The ladies also had two first team all AMCC players (Sammarco and soph Becky Bard), also a first for basketball at the Mount.

- **Men’s basketball** did not make the playoffs, but 11th year Coach Loya said goodbye to five outstanding senior role models, who earned three academic all-star nods and a prestigious NCAA Good Neighbor Award, and turned in a 3.1 team GPA (their highest since I have been here).

- The Mountie **Baseball and Softball teams kicked off their seasons at Myrtle Beach, SC.** Both got in 8 games against quality opposition, finished around .500 and were HQed nearby to each other so they could lend support.

- **The Mountie softball team completed another stellar regular season, finishing second, at 15-7 in AMCC play and going six games into**
the AMCC tourney only to lose 10-5 in the championship game—just ran out of arms in the sixth inning after grabbing a 5-3 lead. Coach Teeter is the winningest coach in Mount history winning two games of every three in his six year career (he is also the college’s certified electrician and member of B&G team). Senior co-captains Jalisa Westover and Lindsy Sammarco produced almost 100 hits, 80 RBIs and 70 runs scored and joined two Mount frosh on the AMCC all-star team. Westover, from Flinton, was named AMCC Player of the Year, giving the Mount two of the four major individual conference awards in baseball and softball.

- **Men’s tennis**, in its second full season, sported athletes from four different teams at the College, did not bring home any wins, but built camaraderie (and kept in shape for their other sports). They really did enjoy their season and are looking forward to next year.

- **Mountie baseball earned the AMCC #3 seed with a 10-6 AMCC record.** The Mounties swept PSU Altoona in the quarterfinal games at home on May 3 (21-2), led by the pitching of Derick Capiak and the hitting of Connor Bowie. In double elimination at the AMCC tournament, the Mounties lost 8-2 to Pitt-Greensburg in the semi-final round on May 10, 2014. Derrick Capiak, a junior from Williamstown, NJ, was named AMCC Pitcher of the Year, and Conor Bowie finished second in Player of the Year voting. They graduated only one player and return 21 freshman/sophomores, the entire pitching staff and all five AMCC All Stars.

- **Bowling team members Sarah Rosazza and Jennifer Craig were named Academic All Americans** by the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association and were also on the Academic All-Conference Team.

- Listed below are **award winners throughout the 2013-14 year** (most all AMCC performers, most Players of the Week and most league MVPs in one year) and from the athletic banquet All Conference All Star Teams

  **Golf**
  - Dylan Link – First Team
  - Zach Morgan – Third Team

  **Men’s Soccer**
- Patrick Chea – Second Team
- Winston Crozier – Second Team
- Xavier Cardona – Third Team

**Women’s Tennis**
- Brittany Johnson – First Team #3 Singles
- Loreal Housler – First Team #4 Singles
- Ericka Klavuhn – Second Team #6 Singles
- Brittany Johnson – Second Team #2 Doubles
- Cheyenne Feathers – Second Team #2 Doubles

**Women’s Soccer**
- Olivia Woodley – Second Team

**Men’s Basketball**
- Shawn Greenfield—First Team and AMCC Player of the Year

**Women’s Basketball**
- Lindsy Sammarco—First Team, pre-season player of the year
- Becky Bard—First Team

**Women’s Bowling**
- Courtney Sable
- Ashley Skowronek

**Softball**
- Jalisa Westover  pre-season player of the year, 1st team and AMCC Player of the Year,
- Hayley McGowan, catcher 1st team
- Lindsy Sammarco, 3rd base, 2nd team
- McKenzie Moore, Designated player, 3rd team

**Baseball**
- Derrick Capiak – preseason pitcher of the year

**All Conference Players of the Week**

Sept. 9th – Golf - Dylan Link

Sept. 23rd – Women’s Tennis – Brittany Johnson

Jan. 20th – Women’s Basketball – Lindsy Sammarco

Feb. 24th—Men’s Basketball—Shawn Greenfield

Mar. 10th—Baseball—Brock Gladfelter
Mar. 31st—Softball—Alex Teeter
Apr. 7th, May 6—Baseball—Derrick Capiak
Apr. 7th—Baseball—Connor Bowie
Oct. 14th – Women’s Soccer – Olivia Woodley
Nov. 4th – Men’s Soccer – Kevin Ouellette
Jan. 6th – Men’s Basketball – Shawn Greenfield

All Conference Sportsmanship Teams
Volleyball – Laura Trude
Golf – Dylan Link
Women’s Cross Country – Nicole Binnie
Men’s Cross Country – Nicholas Frank
Women’s Soccer – Zara Apakoh
Men’s Soccer – Ryan Hills
Women’s Tennis – Loreal Housler
Women’s Basketball—Alexis Restori
Men’s Basketball—Jake Wyatt
Women’s Bowling—Courtney Burkett

Non-Conference Awards
D3 Hoops National Team of the Week (Feb. 27th)—Shawn Greenfield
D3 News All-American Team—Shawn Greenfield
NABC All-Region Team—Shawn Greenfield
NABC Good Works National Team—Aaron Patrick

Mount Aloysius Athletic Honors
Men’s Tennis: MVP—Justin Fleegle | Coach's Award—Matt Hample
Women’s Tennis: MVP—Katie Morris | Coach's Award—(Laura Stahli)
Softball: MVP (Jalisa Westover) | Coach's Award (Chelsea Engleholm)
Baseball: MVP (Connor Bowie) | Coach’s Award (Seth Shaffer)
Men’s Cross Country: MVP (Bryson Long) | Coach's Award (Tim Kestermont)
Women’s Cross Country: MVP (Kelsey Molnar) | Coach's Award (Nikki Binnie)
Golf: MVP (Dylan Link) | Coach’s Award (Daniela Battisti)
Volleyball: MVP (Ashley Pipon) | Coach's Award (Brianna Cunningham)
Men’s Soccer: MVP (Patrick Chea) | Coach’s Award (John Ouellette)
Women's Soccer: MVP (Olivia Woodley) | Coach's Award (Liz Josephson)
Men's Basketball: MVP (Shawn Greenfield) | Coach's Award (Dameon Turner)
Women's Basketball: MVP (Lindsay Sammarco) | Coach's Award (Ali Maruca)
Women's Bowling: MVP (Courtney Sable) | Coach's Award (Shanice Fauntleroy-Woods)

Male Senior Scholar Athlete of the Year—Seth Shaffer
Female Senior Scholar Athlete of the Year—Jalisa Westover
Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete Male—Tanner Thomas (basketball), Dylan Link (golf), Chris Nolan (baseball)
Honorable Mention Scholar Athlete Female—Morgan Brosnihan (basketball), Mackenzie Horne (soccer), Nikki Binnie (xcountry), Liz Josephson (soccer)
Athletes of the Year—Shawn Greenfield and Derrick Capiak
Athlete of the Year—Lindsay Sammarco
Ray and Louise Walker Award—Mr. Daniel Rullo

Theme III—Community Engagement: Position the campus as a center for the community; empower all students to become involved in community service; and position the College as a leader in community engagement.

Mission as Central to the Mount Aloysius Experience

- Four students received scholarships to the Mercy Youth Pilgrimage at Mercy Internationale Center (Dublin, Ireland) and had the pleasure of supper with James Sharkey, Ambassador for Ireland to several countries. Together with President Foley, the Ambassador spoke to the students of the Irish experience and global concerns. Chris Koren, Director of Residence Life, will accompany Elizabeth Boyce ‘15, Mackenzie Horne ‘16, Aaron McGuire ‘17, and Courtney Sable ‘17 to the August 2014 event. They will also return a visit from the Belfast basketballers who were here last summer, and travel to Corrymeela, an ecumenical retreat where I spent some time during my two years as a full time volunteer in Belfast during the late ‘70s and early ‘80s.

- Dr. Michael Jones coordinated the Conference for Mercy Higher Education’s United Nations experience in May 11-15, 2014. Two students—Dylan Link and Mackenzie Horne—accompanied him to New York for the UN Justice Advocacy program to build capacity and skills in our college students for analysis and advocacy consonant with the Sisters of Mercy’s critical concerns and the goals of the United Nations. I spoke at some length to Mackenzie, also a soccer captain, newspaper editor and criminology club leader—who felt it was the experience of a lifetime. She was especially moved by remarks from a Bolivian woman who addresses the session she attended. Both the UN experience and the Youth Pilgrimage are possible through grants
received from the Mid-Atlantic Community and the West Midwest Community of the Sisters of Mercy.

- Moya Dittmeier, Executive Director of the Conference for Higher Education, let us know that Mount Aloysius College is scheduled for its Mission Peer Review in October 2014. This is still a relatively new process (I think we may be the third school so evaluated, and all are sequenced along with normal accreditation reviews) which has been created to help fill the gaps as there are so few Sisters of Mercy actually left on these campuses. The idea is to use the peer review to insure that the Mercy charism is best preserved.

- Sister Helen Marie is working on our plan for responding to the five queries at the heart of the study: 1. What does the Catholic, Mercy Mission mean for Mount Aloysius College? 2. How does the College apply its meaning of mission through programs, policies, & practices? 3. What evidence is provided to judge the effectiveness of mission efforts? 4. What might this evidence tell about mission integration effectiveness at the College? 5. What will be done with the information collected about effectiveness at the College? Since the College is in the midst of its preparation for a Middle States Review in Spring 2015, much of the data is already available on-line and in the Middle States Self-Assessment Report. The initial Self-Study Report is due September 2, 2014 and the on-site Peer Review will occur on October 5-7, 2014. Dr. Michael James, Fellow, Barbara and Patrick Roche Center for Catholic Education, Boston College, will chair the Peer Review Committee. He will be joined by Dr. Denise Hammon, new President of Marian Court College, and Sr. Kathleen Sullivan, RSM, Vice-president of Mission, St. Joseph’s College of Maine (and Helen’s counterpart).

- The College submitted application for the 2015 Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement in May. Applications are received every five years and the process is both complex and comprehensive. A committee collecting data for the questionnaire/application noted that Mount Aloysius College is strong in several areas of the review, but also that the overt consideration of service-learning and service in faculty evaluations and promotions may be an area needing improvement. The Project Manager of the Community Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship worked with Sister Helen Marie and myself on the lengthy application. We will find out in December 2014—we applied because our mission is so consistent with the classification and it may help us in some grant applications. There are only a few schools in PA who have achieved this honor.

- For the second year in a row, the Campus Ministry Office sponsored an Easter Jam in Cosgrave Center lobby which featured student artists/band members performing Christian music for the campus community. For the first time, the Student Ministry Outreach Team sponsored a MAC
Goes to Church event in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel. The event consisted of Testimonies, Scripture readings, hymns and communal prayer. Both events were well-attended and evaluations encouraged “more of the same next year.”

- The first recipients of a newly-established Mercy Spirit Award were announced at the Academic Honors Program in May 2014. We hope this award grows to become the most distinguished and prestigious honor bestowed on students who represent the best of the multi-faceted elements of a Mount Aloysius College education – students whose personal development has integrated well growth in knowledge and skill, moral character, and concern for the welfare of others. Nominations were received from faculty and staff who were asked to submit the names of the woman and man in the 2014 graduating class whose active involvement in the life and the values of Mount Aloysius College whom they thought merited consideration for the 2014 Mercy Spirit Award. A committee of five persons reviewed these nominations and determined to select two awardees from among the Associate Degree graduates and two awardees from among the Bachelor Degree graduates. Recipients of the 2014 Mercy Spirit Award are Derek J. Matthews, Chelsey R. Pongrac, Danielle K. McKnight and Bradley M. Mikitko.

Community Engagement

- **First-Semester Final Community Service Numbers**: our students performed over 7,896 hours of community service in the first semester, working on 222 community projects with 164 different community-based partner organizations and individuals. From my perspective on the PA Campus Compact statewide board and as the former chair of PennServe, I can confirm that these are very compelling numbers and the stories behind them often even more compelling. Community Service full report

- **Guyana Mission trip**: 8 students and 4 faculty/staff journeyed to Guyana in mid-March to work with Sisters of Mercy on long existing projects there. They wrote about their experiences in the Belltower, and were written about in several local papers. Students’ comments and reflections offered during a post-trip lunch with Michele, Tommy Shireman and me showed clearly that the experience was valuable in terms of spiritual growth, sense of connection to this College (and their tripmates) and global awareness. Serving Guyana article | Mission of Mercy article | Mounties in the Community article

- **Student Affairs Service Work**: hundreds of students through dozens of clubs and all 13 intercollegiate athletic teams volunteer around the region, doing everything from blood drives to food drives, clothing collections to cancer collections, painting courts, playrooms and community centers. For a more complete sense of that work, please see The Complete Student Experience in this report.

- **Higher Education Honor Roll**: The Project Manager of the Community Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship also submitted an application for the President’s Higher Education Honor Roll. Mount Aloysius College has received this distinct honor five out of the last six years. In addition, the third annual Community Engagement Report has been submitted to the President
and includes the bi-annual report of faculty/staff volunteerism and community engagement as well as the activities of students.

- **The last service trip of the year:** a joint effort between the Campus Ministry Office and the Community Engagement and Social Entrepreneurship Center left for western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio on Sunday, May 12. Four students from MAC and one student from St. Francis University, accompanied by Tommy Shireman and Jessica Maxon, will join others in an experience in faith, farming, and community. Their week will conclude with a special conference to study environmental concerns.

- **MYI Graduation:** Mount Aloysius College’s Mercy Youth Initiative graduated its first class this past May. These ninth-grade students began the program as seventh graders and enjoyed three years of input, mentoring, campus environs, and various games and activities. Nearly ninety persons – family, mentors, and staff – gathered for awards and food. Sister Helen Marie reports that four of the graduates may return next Fall as peer mentors! Evaluations continue to be supportive and very positive.

**The College as Leader in Community Engagement**

Mount Aloysius has long been a regional leader on community engagement on many fronts, following the example of the founding Sisters of Mercy. Four recent examples:

- **Sister Mary Ann Dillon Delivers 8th Annual Moral Choices Lecture:** on the moral implications of this year’s campus theme: “Common Good: Citizens in the 21st Century”. Sr. Mary Ann holds a doctorate in systematic theology from Duquesne University and her doctoral thesis explored aspects of the common good in Catholic/Christian tradition. She explained these concepts through the prism of two paradigmatic bible stories— the Exodus story of the communal building of the Dwelling for God-in-their-Midst, and the new testament tale of the Good Samaritan—which answered the question, “Who is my neighbor.” She left us all hanging in a way, as her lecture was so well paced we were all ready for more. About 40 members of the Mount Aloysius community enjoyed Sister Mary Ann’s company at dinner. [Sister Mary Ann monograph](#).

- **Spring Ecumenical Luncheon and Lecture:** featured Dr. Maureen Crossen, RSM, Associate Professor in Sacred Scripture at St. Vincent College (Latrobe), author of several book and magazine publications (including on “Women in the New Testament”), and Scripture scholar with a concentration in the writings of St. Paul. In addition to the luncheon lecture, she did an afternoon session open to the students, faculty, and the general public. This every semester
event (16 over 8 years) attracts 30 to 50 local ministers from various denominations and owes all of its success to Sister Helen Marie.

- **Mercy Youth Initiative:** now in its third year, gathers seventh, eighth and ninth graders from Penn Cambria Elementary School once a month (for career exploration, self-development exercises, physical engagement, and interaction with about 50 Mount Aloysius college mentors). Angie Berzonski, Program/Communications Officer, attended the event on behalf of the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies which awarded a $5000 grant to the program to expand activities, especially field trip options for participants (a June Altoona Curve baseball game and an August Discovery Museum trip). Enrollment this year was steady with previous years: seventh graders – 12; eighth graders – 9; and ninth graders – 10. Kim Franey and Jess Maxon have worked very hard on this program, are now moving on to the next stage in their young careers and they will be missed. Frank Hartnet and as yet unnamed successors will continue. **Program from MYI event.**

- **Bishops Meeting:** the College hosted again this quarter a gathering of the leaders of multiple religious denominations in our region. Eight of those leaders enjoyed fellowship, a full agenda, lunch (courtesy of the College) and brief remarks from me during their half day on campus. We are happy to serve this convening, ecumenical role.

**Theme IV—New Horizons:** *Expand employment of technology in our areas of academic strength, grow our presence outside our region, and attract an increasingly diverse student body.*

Quick update on our communications efforts, especially as we expand our reach and then I want to focus on admissions, as we close in on deadlines for deposits and registration—both for new enrollees, for transfers, for re-admits and for returning students.

**Communications Inside and Outside Our Region**

Seven quick updates on these efforts, led by Jack Coyle and Sam Wagner:

- **Print Communications efforts show results**—in the last quarter, over 400 articles about Mount Aloysius have appeared in print (75% non-duplicates), with over 125 of those outside the Blair Cambria area. We ship stories to student’s home newspapers whenever possible. We also have a new Professor in the Sciences who is a paleontologist and managed to get quoted all over the world on the latest dinosaur discovery in Argentina in mid-May—his numbers are not included in the totals to date this quarter. We get a monthly report on “impressions” and dollar value of this media outreach. **Here is the report for this quarter.** These stories generated 12.7 million impressions, assessed at a dollar value in excess of $898,000 in free media.

- **Op-Ed Pieces:** My spring Op-Ed on the US Department of Education proposed rating system ran in 4 newspapers across the state and in the Inside Higher Education on-line publication
(probably the most widely read higher ed on line service (Inside Higher Ed”). It was also distributed by the Conference on Mercy Higher Education, reprinted by the state association (AICUP) and highlighted on the website of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. We discussed this topic at our last board meeting.

- **Monographs:** We produced several monographs this quarter which we distribute to other Mercy Colleges as well as to opinion-shapers in the region. The monographs concern the Moral Choices Lecture by Sr. Mary Ann Dillon, the Spring Honors Lecture by Ambassador James Sharkey and my final message to the graduating class of 2014. As in the past few years, we will be consolidating six or seven presentations of this year’s theme, “21st Century Citizens: The Common Good” into a single publication which we will then distribute to about 400 opinion shapers, college presidents, guidance counselors and others across the region and the country. It all helps to broaden the message about Mount Aloysius College.

- **Digital Grotto Productions:** Our digital grotto team continues to refine its editing abilities and produced forty-five digital video products this quarter. Included in that number are: two digital grotto conversations between Ambassador Sharkey and myself, Sharkey’s lecture on his close friend Nobel Poet Seamus Heaney, Sr. Mary Ann Dillon’s Moral Choices Lecture, the students annual Research Symposium, Vox Nova’s presentation of the Stations of the Cross, and many more. A complete list of the newest videos is attached here. Users have viewed our MAC’s videos over 6,000 times for a total of more than 8,000 minutes. In April, we reached the 100,000 views milestone. In the last year, our Digital Grotto has produced over 155 new videos. Many of the print stories are available in an easy read format on the BOT portal and all the videos are linked at the YouTube icon on the webpage. Thanks to Jack Coyle and his team for their systematic approach and careful writing.

- **Superconference:** The College once again hosted what is now referred to as the “Superconference,” which is a gathering of high school students from schools from Blair and Cambria County, their principals and guidance counselors at Mount Aloysius College. This year we had about 200 students and 20 superintendents, etc. Frank Crouse and his team organized presentations by our faculty on a variety of subjects (health sciences, criminology, etc.) during the day for the students. Frank and I had lunch and talked about past, present and future of Mount Aloysius College with the school leaders. Cambria County Commission Chair Doug Lingenfelter delivered the keynote address. It was a great opportunity to get out our message about all the good things at Mount Aloysius College.

- **Alumni Magazine:** keeps getting better and better and, of course, sends our message across the continent to our graduates and friends. We thank Jack Coyle and his team for paying such close attention to the writing and the layout. The next edition will be out shortly--stay tuned. This quarter, we sent the first ever Mount Aloysius Academy Newsletter to all those alums and it was extremely well received. Read the newsletter here.
TPF Board Service: most of my board service is in the region, and is connected to economic development initiatives, on which I have some prior expertise and which are all helpful to larger college objectives. I do serve on two state-wide higher education boards (AICUP, PACC), one interstate (AMCC), one out of state (St. Xavier’s University) and two national (CMHE and NCAA). Carla has worked out my meeting schedules for these assignments, and though there is a prodigious number of meetings, the vast majority are conference calls and early in the morning. Chairman Dan and I discuss these each time I am chosen to serve, and so far so good—the net benefit to the College is real, in my judgment. Current assignments are:

- Blair County Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, 2014-
- Altoona Blair Development Corporation (ABCD), Board of Directors, 2013-
- St. Xavier’s University, Chicago, Board of Trustees, 2013-
- Blair County Chamber of Commerce, Executive Roundtable, 2013-
- NCAA, Division III Chancellors/Presidents Advisory Council, 2013-
- PA Campus Compact Presidents Board, 25th Anniversary Committee, 2012-
- Allegheny Mountain Athletic Conference, (Chair 2012– 2013) 2010-
- Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in PA [AICUP] State Board, 2012-
- Conference for Mercy Higher Education [CMHE]; Sub-Committee Chair (3), 2011-
- Johnstown Area Regional Industries Executive Committee [JARI], Secretary, 2010-
- Greater Johnstown Regional Partnership Board [GJRP], 2011-

Admissions

Four comments on: Comparable Numbers so far, Geographical Expansion, status of Athletic Recruitment and Return on Investment on our three-year old admissions reorganization.

1. Recruitment efforts for fall 2014 thus far have resulted in:
   - An increase in visits as of April 30 — 1,242 compared to 1,226 in 2013
   - An increase in applications as of May 12 – 1,791 compared to 1,741 in 2013
   - An increase in acceptances as of May 1 – 1,252 compared to 1,225 in 2013
   - An increase in deposits as of May 12 – 562 compared to 542 in 2013

2. Five Observations on Geographical Outreach:
   - The numbers are good, as you see in the charts below. Still, it is a more difficult “sell” to out-of-area students (but one we know we have to make, with declining pool in this area).
• **Guarded optimism from Frank Crouse**: “Our geographical outreach beyond the 50 mile radius has had a positive impact on visits, applications and acceptances, but making Mount Aloysius College a final choice becomes touchy as we go beyond our primary market (true for many colleges and universities). In many ways, this is reflective of mission, degree programs, and our geographical location in terms of rural nature of the college. College Board reports that associate degree seekers, first-generation college students, lower socio-economic students, and marginal academic students do not go far to college or university. Most go within one hour or less. We see this in our own work as we track all students who say no to Mount Aloysius College as a college choice.”

• **Clear increase in out-of-primary market (PA markets outside of a 50 mile radius)**
  - Fall 2000 – 86
  - Fall 2001 – 101
  - Fall 2003 – 110
  - Fall 2005 – 152
  - Fall 2007 – 145
  - Fall 2009 – 195
  - Fall 2011 – 168
  - Fall 2013 – 260

• **Slight increases in out-of-state enrollment**
  - Fall 2000 – 22
  - Fall 2001 – 30
  - Fall 2003 – 35
  - Fall 2005 – 30
  - Fall 2007 – 54
  - Fall 2009 – 67
  - Fall 2011 – 63
  - Fall 2013 – 68

• **Fluctuations in international students**
  - Fall 2000 – 20
  - Fall 2001 – 25
  - Fall 2003 – 26
3. Athletics

- We clearly have room for growth in men’s and women’s cross country (harder to recruit without a track program), in volleyball, in men’s tennis and now in bowling.

- We have added small supplements to the very part-time salaries of two coaches to help recruit in these sports. At the D-III level, it is often a matter of simply collecting lists of preseason “runners to watch” and calling to let them know we exist and would like to have them here. We have a good x-country coach, who just does not have time with her full-time job to put much effort into recruiting.

- Again, directly from Frank: “This area of work continues to bear some fruit and the Enrollment Management and Student Affairs/Athletics Divisions continue to rebuild to move athletic recruitment in a favorable direction. Fall 2013 demonstrated a positive increase. Linked to increased competition for student athletes, fall 2014 continues to be a challenge in some athletic areas due to demographic shifts and aggressive recruitment of students by a variety of colleges to play sports. D-III recruitment is similar to Enrollment Management endeavors at small colleges—it requires both an art and science that appeals to both parents and student-athletes. Our baseball, softball, bowling, soccer, basketball coaches have truly mastered this work, and some are models for such work in many ways.”

4. ROI on Unified Division

- A Unified Enrollment Management Division has been a plus. In year three of this work, with all major admissions and recruitment functions falling under one umbrella, Frank feels strongly that the structure and approach is paying dividends.

- Frank reports that all our market segments are tracking ahead of last year—Freshmen, Con. Ed., Graduate, Transfer, Summer School and Dual Enrollment).

- General Positives
  - Day School deposits continue to track ahead of last year in the midst of extreme chaos across the Northeast.
  - The Graduate and Continuing Education Director reports graduate school and continuing education programs will show enhancements for fall 2014.
  - Financial Aid sign-offs for new and returning students are tracking ahead.
  - Summer school is tracking ahead of last year.
Dual Enrollment was a success this year and has aided in College name recognition, additional revenue for College, and potential leads in freshmen class each year.

Theme V—Build our Capacity to Thrive: Modernize our administrative procedures and culture, expand our visibility in the region and beyond, attract and retain high-quality faculty and staff, and improve governance and fundraising infrastructures.

This quarter, I want to update you on progress in Fundraising, Finance and General Administration.

Institutional Advancement

I include VP for Institutional Advancement Jennifer Dubuque’s report almost verbatim. It covers three areas—the campaign, the annual fund, and events.

1. Campaign Report

- *Expanding Horizons: The Campaign for Mount Aloysius* has broken the $17 million mark. We have raised $17,059,049 in new gifts and commitments through the third quarter (March 31, 2014). The breakdown is as follows:

  1. Buildings $12,532,984
  2. Unrestricted $ 1,678,244
  3. Restricted $ 2,058,685
  4. Deferred $ 789,136

  **$17,059,049**

- At the same time last year, we reported $14,190,824.

- Largest gifts received this past year include $500k pledges for the renovation of the old gym and another $500k for ACWC (neither included $17M, not “booked” until all documents signed), the $246k from the DCED for the Greenways and trails project, a $250k commitment from Metz and $282k as an in-kind contribution for equipment in the new ACWC.

- The Campaign Steering Committee focused meetings on prospect activity, the EITC program and a new initiative “The Trustee Challenge” which challenged the students to support a scholarship named for the graduating class and every dollar would be matched by the Board. Last year we raised $1k from 68 donors. With the challenge, we raised $3,200 from 109 donors – a 62% increase in the number of donors. We look forward to continuing this challenge with our students next year.
• In the Fall of 2014 we will have a formal dedication, ribbon-cutting on the new building and use that opportunity to include a donor recognition event also.

2. Annual Fundraising Progress Report

• At the end of the third quarter, (March 31, 2014), we have raised $1,836,988 in cash and pledges which is more than double the same time last year ($775,841 at March 31, 2013). The major commitments mentioned above have boosted our numbers.
• Improved tracking, reporting, database processes and higher pledge fulfillment rates along with an increase in grant applications are also impacting our results.
• Annual unrestricted dollars are also ahead having raised $437,280 over $408,374 over the same time last year.
• We increased the number of appeals to unrenewed donors, anyone we missed during our phonathon and other segments to improve our results.
• We developed a timeline and mailing for the EITC program. Letters were mailed to about 140 companies that have used EITC credits letting them know Mount Aloysius was an approved institution. We are working on follow-up calls before the application window opens on May 15.
• We have submitted applications for $630,268 in grants and have been awarded $363k to date this fiscal year.

3. Advancement Events & Activity Report

• Our annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held at Cresson Country Club on Friday, June 13th. We are working to renew all sponsors from last year and hope to meet our goal of realizing $50k for student scholarships from the event (that would triple our net from 2012, which we doubled in 2013).
• Alumni Weekend is scheduled for October 3 – 5, 2014 in conjunction with Parents Weekend and Cresson Heritage Days. We anticipate a good turnout from our Golden Grads – the Class of 1964.
• October 3, is also the date for our ACWC building dedication and ribbon-cutting event. A committee is working on all the details for the weekend.
• We hosted several key Foundations for campus visits in the past few months:
- The Highmark Foundation
- Community Foundation for the Alleghenies
- The Lee Initiatives
- The A.J. Palumbo Charitable Trust
- In addition, we have met with representatives of the Stabler Foundation in Harrisburg and the Central PA Community Foundation in Altoona.
- Scheduling a campus visit for The Charlotte Newcomb Foundation over the summer.

- The first issue of our Mount Aloysius Academy Newsletter was mailed in April. Feedback has been very positive and we plan to mail a second newsletter in early fall. We are working with our Communications staff to coordinate the production and mailing of our magazine and the newsletter.
- We will begin working on the solicitation plan for next year which will include: direct mail, phonathon, electronic solicitation, EITC, foundations grants and social media.

General Administration

Quick updates on three areas: Safety, IT and Buildings and Grounds (B&G). Suzanne supervises these and other areas and, as with the ACWC, her team continues to bring work in under budget and ahead of schedule.

Campus Safety

Campus security chief Bill Trexler works closely with student affairs and residence life under the supervision of Senior VP for Administration Suzanne Campbell. The goal is to always make sure the left hand knows what the right hand is doing in our security efforts.

- The building Card Access system came online this semester for the ACWC and for Misciagna/McAuley/Ihmsen. On deck is St. Gertrude Hall and St. Joseph Hall. With cameras all in place, this continues to upgrade security and enhance safety. At this point, we rarely deal with a student misconduct case where we don’t have access and video records that help clarify the facts of the situation.
- With heightened drug activity in the region, our security team continues efforts to stay on top of topics and warning signals, and participated in the recent Drug Trends in Cambria County seminar led by the DA.
- With an uptick in international students on our campus, our security team all attended a US Department of State Consular Notification Officer seminar at PSU Altoona, regarding law enforcement interaction with international students here and some tips for our students travelling abroad.
**Information Technology**

IT Director Rich Shea and Suzanne continue efforts to keep us “up to date” in this ever changing higher ed technology arena. In addition to all the traditional maintenance, upgrades and service, four special projects this quarter:

- **Commenced the new Generator project** for Main building server room and the *Demarc* data closet.
- **Moved Blackboard resources to a hosted environment** off campus—more efficient and economical.
- **Rolling out the Abra systems HR and Payroll upgrade** which will 1) allow for much more user friendly options; 2) provide access to a website where employees can track their days, payroll, time and benefits. This system will also significantly reduce paper reports and should further limit the risk of identity theft.
- **Completed the Bookstore MBS system tie to Jenzabar** funding stream significantly reducing data entry, and increasing mobility for bookstore operations on and off line

**Physical Plant**

These folks were enormously busy in the weeks leading up to graduation. They work extremely well as a team.

- **Convened numerous sessions of workgroup** (including outside architects Spillman Farmer) to re-purpose the old Rec Gym into a multipurpose area with a cyber café, technology commons and student activity center. The main floor will remain and the building will host large dinners and gatherings so that we may free up the cafeteria for renovation (with funds already raised).
- **Set up for 17 graduation related events** throughout campus culminating in the first commencement held in the ACWC.
- **Commenced seasonal boiler shut down and chiller start up.** All HVAC systems have been serviced and are functioning.
- **Completed a significant in house renovation of space in lower level Main for Art.** It brings art much needed natural light and additional space while moving them out of the center of nursing and freeing up significant space for nursing to grow.
- **Completed a campus wide energy audit.** We will now work with Honeywell on equipment upgrades and cost saving programs campus wide. Focused areas of significant savings may include:
  - Lighting improvement and controls
  - Boiler replacement
– Building management system upgrades
– Efficiency Motors

- **Commenced painting and summer clean** of all dormitories and classroom space on a schedule we put in place two years ago.
- **Installed the large, new baseball scoreboard** donated by Sheetz and Pepsi on back of ACWC.
- **Repaired potholes, cement cracks and all the other little projects left for us by Mother Nature this winter!!**

I am glad to finish this quarterly report with some updates on Building and Grounds. The growth, beautification and preservation of the physical plant begun during Sister Mary Ann’s tenure is key to so much other progress at Mount Aloysius. We will continue to pay attention to the “hardware” so that the “software” of education at Mount Aloysius can thrive.

Michele and I thank you for another great quarter.

Tom Foley