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A message from the president

I taught my first class at what was then Mercyhurst College in 1985 and have had an unbroken affiliation with the institution ever since. This fall that affiliation will reach 30 years – a third of the time Mercyhurst has existed.

When I started teaching here in 1985, Mercyhurst itself was quite a bit younger than I am now. Many things have changed since then. The 1,300 total students are now nearly 4,000. The 26 graduate students have become 300; the 87 full-time faculty members then compare to more than 200 now.

During those 30 years, Mercyhurst North East came into existence, as did “new” signature programs in intelligence studies, forensic science and anthropology/archaeology. Many other academic programs arose as well, some destined to become even “newer” signature programs. Mercyhurst created institutes to connect the life of the mind to the well-being of the community, and, of course, it added many new buildings.

I’ve come to think of these individual academic programs, initiatives, buildings and campuses as beautiful beads on a necklace. The beads represent what stands out, individuality, discreteness. Over time the beads may change, some are lost and some are added, but in order to have a necklace, you always need a thread holding the beads together. The thread represents continuity, the background, the connections.

Here at Mercyhurst, despite all the growth and development of recent decades, we want to preserve the same necklace that Mother Borgia Egan and her colleagues first threaded in 1926. Without the thread there would be no coherence, no unity, no continuity. The thread, of course, is our particular mission, with its references to “women and men,” “faith and reason,” “liberal arts and professional preparation,” “the dignity of work” and “striving for a more just world.” It also includes the warm and hospitable style we aspire to manifest as we confront our mission challenges.

This thread is what Mercyhurst’s president is obligated to sustain. It’s no coincidence that all these commitments derive from the Sisters of Mercy who founded Mercyhurst. Our mission commitments demonstrate the unity of the practical and the sublime, which I find is a hallmark of the Sisters of Mercy. I believe it’s precisely what we strive for in our educational efforts.

We do not propagandize here at Mercyhurst. Respecting the freedom and individuality of each member of the community is an essential aspect of Mercy hospitality. Nonetheless, I believe that once you spend any extended time on The Hill you realize, even if only implicitly, that integrating the practical and the sublime in oneself, in one’s relationships and in one’s community is what a Mercy education is all about.

Here on The Hill we come to realize that an appreciation for the practical respects human dignity every bit as much as does an appreciation for the sublime. The “Walking Nuns” taught us this fundamental lesson when they insisted they would go out into the streets of Dublin and physically care for those who were poor, or sick, or uneducated, and we try to pass the lesson on to our graduates as well.

I am confident that we will continue to do so under my successor with even more elegance and energy than we have yet to see. God bless you all and God bless Mercyhurst University.

Thomas J. Gamble, Ph.D.
President, Mercyhurst University

ON THE COVER:
Outgoing President Thomas J. Gamble, Ph.D., right, welcomes his successor to campus. Michael T. Victor, J.D., LL.D., had just been introduced as Mercyhurst’s 12th president when the two stopped in front of the Sister Damien Spirit Bell on campus. (Photo by Jeremy C. Hewitt ’07)
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Evolution of a university

A look back through the Gamble administration

The birth of Mercyhurst University in 2012 may have been the high point of Tom Gamble’s tenure at Mercyhurst, but it’s just one of many developments that shaped the university during the 9+ years of his presidency.

The following pages capture many of the milestones of the past decade, from new academic programs to new construction, from new outreach to underserved populations to initiatives that improve life in the Erie region.

Gamble began his life’s work in the field of children and youth services. He joined Mercyhurst as an adjunct instructor in 1985 and soon founded the Mercyhurst Institute for Child and Family Policy, which evolved into the Mercyhurst Civic Institute in 1999. It has grown into a thriving college community partnership dedicated to the social, educational and civic well-being of the Erie region and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In tribute to his service, the Mercyhurst Board of Trustees voted to rename the organization the Thomas J. Gamble Civic Institute of Mercyhurst University. After a sabbatical, Dr. Gamble plans to return to the psychology department and to again focus on teaching, research and writing.

Mary Gamble’s contributions to the college and community were also recognized. The art collection she has assembled will now be known as the Mary M. Gamble Permanent Art Collection of Mercyhurst University. Valued at more than $1 million, the collection includes pieces contributed following the nine “Friends of Mercyhurst” Art Shows she curated during her husband’s term.
2006
• Dr. Gamble is inaugurated.
• Mary Gamble organizes first of nine annual “Friends of Mercyhurst” Art Shows.
• Center for Public Safety organized.

2007
• Mercyhurst debuts in top tier of U.S. News ranking of Best Colleges as a “master’s university.”
• Mercyhurst buys and renovates First National Bank building in North East.

2008
• AIM – the Asperger Initiative at Mercyhurst – welcomes students on the autism spectrum.
• Evelyn Lincoln Institute for Ethics and Society established.
• Mercyhurst adds vice president for mission integration to president’s cabinet.
• Mercyhurst Civic Institute launches new project aimed at reducing poverty in Erie County.
• Mercyhurst North East offers its first bachelor’s degree— an R.N. to B.S.N. completion program.
• Mercyhurst dedicates Janet L. Miller Center for Growth and Excellence in North East.
• Freshmen move into new Frances Warde Hall.
• Center for Mercy and Catholic Studies formed.
• Mercyhurst unveils Hirtzel Human Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology Laboratory at North East.
• Mercyhurst launches largest capital campaign in its history with a 10-year goal of $50 million. (It’s already nearing completion.)

2009

• First Mercyhurst students spend term studying in Dungarvan, Ireland.
• Fifteen students enroll in new urban education program at Erie’s Booker T. Washington Center.
• Mercyhurst Center for Applied Politics (MCAP) begins public opinion polling.

2010

• Mercyhurst hosts women’s hockey Frozen Four.
• Mercyhurst launches new public health initiative.
• Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture (MIAC) formed to enhance arts programming.

2011

MIAC
2012
• Mercyhurst College becomes Mercyhurst University.
• Mercyhurst opens international center in Dungarvan, Ireland.
• Mercyhurst launches Carpe Diem Academy for K-2 students in inner-city schools.
• Mercyhurst opens $10.5 million Center for Academic Engagement to house intelligence studies, hospitality management.
• Mercyhurst starts first doctoral program – in anthropology.
• Mary Garden created in front of Old Main.

2013
• Mercyhurst creates School of Health Professions and Public Health.
• Mercyhurst transitions from trimesters to 4-1-4 academic calendar.
• Core curriculum updated.
• Thomas J. and Michele Ridge Collection opens in Hammermill Library.
• Bob Miller donates nine-acre estate to be developed as home for culinary and hospitality programs at North East.

2014
• Gamble joins area college presidents to write “The Path Forward” on how Erie’s higher education assets can help improve region’s future.
• Tom Ridge School of Intelligence Studies and Information Science created.
• Mercyhurst opens Helen Boyle Memorial Archive in honor of Sister Joan Chittister, OSB.
• ‘Hurst enrolls largest international class ever and launches English as a Second Language program.
• Dance Department offers new Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree.

2015
• Christ the King Chapel refurbished.
• DNA lab dedicated.
• Master’s program in data science established.
• Master’s program in physician assistant studies enrolls first class.
• Fiscal year 2015 sees largest fundraising total ($6.3 million) and significant gains in the Annual Fund.
Michael Victor named Mercyhurst’s 12th president

Michael T. Victor, J.D., LL.D., takes office as Mercyhurst University’s 12th president in August. While his vision for the school will unfold over the coming months and years, he wasted no time taking his first action.

At the May 22 news conference announcing his appointment, he told the community he had secured a donor to replace the carillon in the O’Neil Tower. Out of commission for the last couple of years, the bells are again ringing out the hours this summer. The Mercyhurst Alma Mater plays each afternoon at 2. The gesture makes clear both Victor’s appreciation for Mercyhurst history and tradition and his expectation for rebirth and renewal going forward.

Victor, who served as dean of Mercyhurst’s Walker School of Business from 2002 to 2006, has been president of Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio, for the past nine years. Throughout his tenure there, he maintained his family home in Erie, where he is widely respected as a civic and business leader, attorney, entrepreneur and fundraiser.

“\n
“This is an amazing leadership opportunity at this stage of my career as well as a chance to come home to an institution and city I love,” said Victor. “I am deeply honored to be named the 12th president of Mercyhurst University and am excited to engage the entire Mercyhurst community in creating a future that sustains the university’s distinct mission in an ever changing higher education environment.”

While at Lake Erie College, Victor doubled enrollment, raised more than $40 million for the institution, and launched 12 new academic programs, including a master of physician assistant studies in partnership with University Hospitals and an MBA graduate program. In addition, he grew the athletics program from 11 to 19 varsity sports, including a new football team, and made the transition from NCAA Division III to Division II. He says he used strategies at Lake Erie that he’d already seen succeed at Mercyhurst, especially the creation of niche academic programs and the expansion of athletics.

Victor, a summa cum laude graduate of St. Vincent College, earned his juris doctorate from Duquesne University School of Law. He is the former CEO of Pyramid Industries, and began his professional career as an attorney in the corporate law department of MacDonald, Illig, Jones & Britton in Erie.

He is married to Jean Craige Pepper, who is first vice president and senior financial adviser at RBC Wealth Management and serves on the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. She and three of their four grown children (and one granddaughter) were on hand for the announcement of his return to Mercyhurst.
Mercyhurst opens new DNA sequencing lab

By Deborah W. Morton

Mercyhurst cut the ribbon Feb. 18 on a new state-of-the-art DNA sequencing center designed to educate students and the public on the mysteries of biotechnology, genetic engineering and advances in DNA.

The half-million-dollar science lab – the Orris C. Hirtzel and Beatrice Dewey Hirtzel DNA Sequencing Center on the first floor of Zurn Hall – will offer valuable hands-on learning experiences for Mercyhurst science students.

Here are just a few ways Mercyhurst students expect to use the new equipment:

• Mercyhurst faculty and student researchers have captured hundreds of deer ticks from Presque Isle State Park and will use DNA testing to identify what percentage of the ticks carry Lyme disease, a bacterial infection that can cause significant health problems in humans if left untreated. The goal, according to Sara Turner, Ph.D., is to consider mitigation strategies to help protect the estimated four million local residents and tourists who visit the park each year.

• A project led by Michael Foulk, Ph.D., will use DNA sequencing to monitor water quality in waterways around Erie County, including Lake Erie. Foulk and his students will collect water samples, sequence the genomes of all of the organisms in the samples, then identify and quantify the microorganisms present. Foulk will also study the DNA amplification in the fungus fly, Sciara coprophila, which may have applications in cancer research.

• Researchers in the public health department plan to study Erie County soils for the presence of the disease causing parasite Toxoplasma gondii. Thomas B. Cook, Ph.D., said, “We are determining if the parasite is present in soils in and around Erie County and, if so, are there ways to prevent its spread into places of frequent human exposure (children’s playgrounds, beaches, etc.).”

• In forensic science, DNA sequencing is used to analyze evidence from a crime scene to provide a definitive DNA fingerprint of a potential suspect. Mercyhurst’s center was built with the capability to function as a crime lab, and seeking certification is a future consideration. For now, forensics students will have the opportunity to work directly with equipment that they would expect to see in a professional capacity after they graduate. The lab will afford them “a great hands-on experience and an important addition to their résumé,” said Dennis Dirkmaat, Ph.D.

In addition, the center is the impetus for a new major launching at Mercyhurst this fall – bioinformatics. By merging biology, computer science and information technology, bioinformatics combines mathematics and computers to gain a better understanding of biological processes and interpret genomic data.

Plans for Mercyhurst's new DNA lab began in 2013 when the university purchased an Illumina MiSeq DNA sequencing machine courtesy of a $125,000 grant from the George I. Alden Trust. More recently, Mercyhurst collaborated with the Lake Erie Research Institute in securing two additional grants: $150,000 from The Orris C. Hirtzel and Beatrice Dewey Hirtzel Memorial Foundation for an ABI DNA sequencer, and $10,000 from the Black Family Foundation through the Erie Community Foundation for additional supplies.
The greatest mathematician no one ever knew

By Susan Hurley Corbran '73

Noted mathematician Herb Wilf gave that title to Sister M. Celine Fasenmyer, the humble woman who spent 73 years of her life as a Sister of Mercy and more than 34 years teaching students at Mercyhurst College.

Wilf, who died in 2012, was in a good position to know. The prize-winning WZ theory he helped create grew directly out of Sister Celine’s research. And, 70 years after she wrote her doctoral thesis, other researchers are still building on her ideas.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania’s oil country, Mary Fasenmyer entered the Mercy order during her senior year in high school in 1923. She taught in parochial schools around the diocese for the next 10 years, while taking evening, weekend and summer classes until she earned a degree in mathematics at Mercyhurst.

Looking back, she traced her love of mathematics to a single high school math class. The teacher usually told the class to take a theorem and memorize it. But a substitute teacher, unfamiliar with the day’s lesson, instead suggested “Now, let’s think this through.”

“From that moment on I never memorized any mathematics,” Sr. Celine told Wilf during a visit in 1993. Once she began teaching, she didn’t expect her students to memorize either. “I try to get them to think. It isn’t memorizing; it’s thinking and using the concepts.”

Mother Borgia Egan – a master at grooming talented young sisters for the Mercyhurst faculty – sent Sr. Celine to the University of Pittsburgh to get her master’s and then to the University of Michigan to pursue a Ph.D. (A Mercy hospital within walking distance of the university housed sisters from all over the country while they took classes there.)

She spent three years at Michigan, working with mentor Earl Rainville, Ph.D. She became interested in special functions, completed her thesis titled “Some Generalized Hypergeometric Polynomials,” earned her doctorate in 1945, and published two academic papers. Then she returned to Erie to run Mercyhurst’s math department.

“My whole aim in getting my doctor’s degree was for our college,” she told Wilf. “I didn’t want to do more research, except what would help me be a better teacher.”

Her work might have languished on a library shelf forever were it not for Rainville. Fifteen years later, in 1960, he credited Sr. Celine’s work in his own book on special functions.

But the full impact of Sr. Celine’s work wouldn’t be revealed until a couple more decades had passed. Wilf, of the University of Pennsylvania, and Doron Zeilberger, then at Temple University, discovered the obscure paper and built on it. Together they developed “WZ theory,” which used computers to prove many combinatorial identities. Their landmark 1996 book A=B devoted two chapters to Sr. Celine’s polynomials. WZ Theory earned the prestigious Leroy P. Steele Prize from the American Mathematical Society in 1998.
The Celine Solution

Dr. Lily Yen was a graduate student when she accompanied Wilf to Erie to meet Sr. Celine. Now a faculty member at Canada's Capilano University and a researcher at Simon Frazier University, she says she and other researchers are still exploring and developing Sr. Celine's ideas.

She tried to put "The Celine Solution" into laymen's terms. Mathematicians, she explains, have always had to prove very difficult identities – that the left side of an equation equals the right side, or, as Wilf and Zeilberger titled their book, A=B.

Before Sister Celine, there was no pattern or algorithm to tackle such proofs. "She was the first person to devise an algorithm or a list of steps that would work for all similar proofs," Yen said. At that time, the proof wasn't difficult, but it still required very time-consuming calculations.

"We didn't realize the power of her method until the '80s when Wilf and Zeilberger found her paper and started testing it with a computer," Yen said.

"When you put my research on 'Generalized Hypergeometric Polynomials' in a computer, marvelous things come out," Sr. Celine reflected later. Ironically, she didn't much like computers. "I stay away from computers," she told oral historian Larie Pintea. "Mechanical things don't interest me."

Long-overdue recognition

When Wilf visited the Mercy Motherhouse in 1993, he invited the 87-year-old Sr. Celine to be his guest at the 25th anniversary meeting of the International Conference of Mathematics Researchers the next year. Wilf's topic was "Computers Prove Identities: A 50-Year Study," and he introduced the woman who started it all to 500 researchers from 15 countries. He described the moment later: "She said, casting a level gaze at the assemblage of distinguished mathematicians, 'I want you all to know – I really did that work.' There wasn't a dry eye in the house."

After her death in 1996, Zeilberger also paid tribute to the woman he calls one of his great heroes. "Sister Celine Fasenmyer was an obscure college professor, who did not publish anything beyond her thesis work, and of course never had any Ph.D. students." Zeilberger called her "grossly under-rated" and added "Sister Celine's greatness only started to emerge with the WZ theory … I am sure that the future will prove her even greater."

In his foreword to A=B (published in 1996), Donald Knuth wrote, "Science is what we understand well enough to explain to a computer. Art is everything else we do. During the past several years an important part of mathematics has been transformed from an Art to a Science: No longer do we need to get a brilliant insight in order to evaluate sums of binomial coefficients, and many similar formulas that arise frequently in practice; we can now follow a mechanical procedure and discover the answers quite systematically."

And that procedure owes its origins to Sr. Celine Fasenmyer.
We are...

Ambassadors of Service

By Colin Hurley ‘13

Each year, a few Mercyhurst graduates take a leap of faith and plunge into a year or more of intense service to the community and world. They detour from their paths toward lucrative careers, instead choosing to live in intentional poverty and marginalization – but they often find incredible gems of wisdom and personal transformation along the way.

It’s a natural choice for some graduates, who have immersed themselves in Mercyhurst’s mission of service to others throughout their years on campus. Encouraged by faculty members as well as by the service-learning program (which marked its 20th anniversary last year), they feel called to explore their gifts and passions further while helping to improve our world.

Graduates can choose from hundreds of full-time service programs that have developed since the 1960s, including the Peace Corps, VISTA and many faith-based volunteer corps.

A few recent (and soon-to-be) ‘Hurst alumni were willing to share the stories of their adventures as “Ambassadors of Service.”

“\textit{I think that the call from the Sisters of Mercy to act for social justice is one that I will always carry with me.}” – Zach Pekor ’09

**Lisa Sirois ‘14**

History major Lisa Sirois joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps after her 2014 graduation.

She worked as an outreach caseworker with Christian Senior Service - Meals on Wheels in San Antonio, Texas, and lived in a community of six volunteers who worked at nonprofits throughout the city.

“Together we encouraged each other to challenge ourselves and step out of our comfort zones by exploring the four values of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC): simple living, social justice, community and spirituality,” she says.

Lisa says her JVC experience allowed her to continue the growth that started at Mercyhurst. “Without the experiences and relationships I formed at Mercyhurst, I would not have found the understanding and passion for human dignity in all persons that I have today. JVC gives me the opportunity to serve and be in communion with those individuals who have been cast out by society and who deserve to be valued regardless of life circumstance.”

She says her year with JVC – besides allowing her to serve others – provided an opportunity to solidify her career goals and to reflect on where she has been and where she is going. She’ll continue her service journey next year with JVC Northwest, working with homeless and underserved populations at the Poverello Center in Missoula, Montana.

**Karl Gustafson ’13**

Karl Gustafson, who earned his master’s degree in applied intelligence in 2013, chose the Peace Corps after deciding that life behind a corporate desk wasn’t right for him.

He spent two years in China, teaching university oral English classes in the region outside Chengdu, where he impacted his students in many ways.

He secured grants to build an English language library, and participated with his students in the International World Map Project. Started in 1988 by an earlier Peace Corps volunteer, the project encourages interest in geography by helping students paint brightly colored world maps directly on classroom walls.

He also works closely with the university radio station and has been interviewed many times about American cultural topics. Karl started an American film club that screens movies outdoors, choosing lesser-known films that accurately portray American life.

He enjoys the freedom he has in his classroom, adding, “I don’t know if I’ll ever have this much control over my own work ever again.”

His intel training does come in handy, as he attacks problems more deliberately now and builds his lectures as he once constructed presentations for briefings. “Also I think Mercyhurst made me more durable,” he says. “Nothing gets to me now.”

Karl finished his Peace Corps assignment at the end of June and headed off for a solo trek through Southeast Asia before returning to America.
Patrick Scherer '11

From his first overseas trip with Chinese professor Dr. Daliang Wang, international business major Patrick Scherer knew he wanted to live and work abroad. He chose a two-year assignment with the Peace Corps because it would allow him to use his skills to impact the lives of others.

He worked with Lyamujungu (Liya-moo-JUNE-goo) Cooperative Financial Services Limited, a large savings and credit cooperative in rural Kabale, Uganda. He wrote a grant application that earned $200,000 to establish an agricultural cooperative for more than 10,000 coffee farmers. Co-op members can now borrow needed funds using their harvests as collateral. And, by pooling their harvests, they can increase their bargaining power and share the risks and expenses of packaging and storing their harvests.

Patrick also directed a youth camp called Camp BUILD (Boys of Uganda In Leadership and Development) & GLOW (Girls Leading Our World). The camp educated more than 200 young men and women in entrepreneurship, conflict resolution, leadership, HIV/AIDS prevention and testing, malaria prevention, and life skills.

He calls his service in Uganda the most challenging and eye-opening experience of his life. "For the first time in my life, I was looked to for answers and I had to provide them because my coworkers and village depended on me," he reflects. "I think I will be able to draw upon those experiences when faced with any type of challenge in my life going forward to help me really see the big picture and put things into perspective and to not sweat the small stuff."

Patrick stays in touch with fellow students and professors from his time at Mercyhurst. "It's nice knowing that I can go halfway around the world and I can still count on them for guidance and support. I think that's what makes Mercyhurst unique: it really is a family."

He's now pursuing an MBA with a concentration in marketing and data analytics at Wake Forest University. He hopes to remain in Charlotte as a brand manager and to one day travel and work overseas again.

Zach Pekor ‘09

“After graduating from Mercyhurst, I wanted to take what I learned and apply it to the real world and really give back to those who might not have the same resources and opportunities that I did," says Zach Pekor.

A 2009 graduate in environmental intelligence studies, he joined the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), an AmeriCorps program. He worked primarily in Louisiana and Mississippi, where he and his team built two houses. He also worked as a teacher’s assistant in a Title I school in St. Tammany Parish outside New Orleans.

The experience transformed him, he says. "I learned so much about myself, how I view larger social issues and how I interact with others, that I can honestly say I am not the same person as when I first started my year of service." Once certain he wanted to earn a Ph.D. and teach at a university, he changed course after his NCCC year. Now he wants to ensure that more underrepresented students have the opportunity to go to college.

Today he’s a project director for the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, working with a Baltimore City school to increase STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education. He runs an after-school STEM program for 1st-4th graders and writes grants for other STEM education projects.

“Mercyhurst helped foster an environment in which service in all forms was celebrated and encouraged.” – Lisa Sirois ‘14
“While I couldn’t recite the core values off the top of my head, the message from them still resonates and I definitely carry with me the idea that we are ambassadors of service.” – Alicia Cagle ’13

Jeff Cagle ’07

Jeff Cagle says he’s always had a personal passion to make the world a better place. And he credits Mercy sisters Michele Schroeck and Geri Rosinski for showing him that he didn’t need to rush through life for the sake of success, that he could spend a year positively affecting the world and still one day return to his studies.

Assigned to work in Nashville, one of his duties was teaching a GED math class to students who had been out of school for years. He recalls, “They had to learn their multiplication tables, pretty standard stuff that I have taken for granted since learning it in 3rd grade. We started simple: anything times zero is zero, any number times one is that original number. Then, we skipped to 9. My students FLIPPED! I wrote all the multiples of 9 in the table on the chalkboard and then I told them to look reallllllllly close at the numbers.”

“I asked them a simple question: when you multiply any number 1-9 by 9, what can you do to check that your answer is right? I sat back and just had them look at their tables…and slowly….very slowly….the lights started to pop on in a few brains….until Nancy blurted out: if you add the numbers they equal 9. BOOM! 9x6=54….add 5 and 4 and you get 9!!! They went absolutely CRAAAAAAZY with excitement! They couldn’t believe it! Honestly, it was one of the coolest moments ever!”

After an AmeriCorps VISTA year (2007-2008) working on an anti-bullying campaign with PENNCREST School District, Jeff earned a Master of Theological Studies degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School, and then opted for a second year of service as an AmeriCorps State Volunteer, working with inner-city youth and adults in Nashville. Then, coming full circle, he came back to Pennsylvania and taught at Mercyhurst as an adjunct professor. Jeff recently moved to Washington, D.C., with his fiancée, Jennifer, and is again teaching GED classes, this time at Sasha Bruce Youthwork. He hopes to start work on a doctorate soon.

“I realize just how lucky I was to go to a school like Mercyhurst that values the liberal arts tradition and taught me the value of social justice,” he says. “I really appreciate all the service learning opportunities I had when I was a student and hope that students at Mercyhurst today also value the ability to serve the Erie community.”

Nicole Zeak ’12

For Nicole Zeak, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh was a natural choice when she decided to devote a year to service. When she was growing up, her father was the construction foreman for the organization, and her older sister did a graduate internship there.

As a National Direct Service member with AmeriCorps, she worked in community relations for the nonprofit, both working directly with families and fostering community relationships to support Habitat’s mission.

She dedicated three new homes for deserving Pittsburgh families, worked on countless home repair projects, and even traveled to Wisconsin to help with a build. “I also got to work alongside Andrew McCutcheon, Pittsburgh Habitat’s spokesperson, so that wasn’t too bad either!” she says.

Nicole, a social work major, says she gained a year of memorable and quality experience, while also learning a lot about herself and the service industry in Pittsburgh. Flash forward two years and she’s now the family assistance coordinator at South Hills Interfaith Ministries, running basic needs programs that serve more than 400 families each month, including two large food pantries, a clothing room and utility assistance.

“Serving that year with AmeriCorps truly changed my life and helped me start my career.”
Michelle Ahrens ’16 & Sarah Anderson ’15

Michelle Ahrens and Sarah Anderson got a head start on the year of service experience while they were still undergraduates. The two left campus life behind and moved right into the House of Mercy, living and working with Sister Michele Schroeck, RSM. Established in 2002, the House of Mercy on Erie’s eastside is modeled after Catherine McAuley’s original House of Mercy in Dublin.

The two remained full-time students, but lived at the residence at a reduced rent and averaged 10 hours of service a week. They primarily interacted with neighborhood children, helping with homework after school and engaging in evening activities like crafts, games, holiday baking and environmental projects.

Michelle, a senior social work/religious studies major from Erie, says the year was an opportunity to break free from the “bubble” many college students find themselves living in. “The constant contact with the neighborhood’s children and families caused me to remain grounded in the fact that, while academics are important, there is so much more to this world, both negative and hopeful,” she says.

Sarah, who graduated this year with a religious studies major and a Catholic studies minor, adds that she particularly enjoyed learning how the neighborhood’s refugee families have adapted to life in the United States, and says she learned a great deal about their cultures, religions and practices.

The year proved so rewarding that Sarah has opted for another year of service post-graduation as a Mercy Volunteer Corps member serving at St. Peter’s Adult Learning Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Eventually she hopes to work with children and teach them about the Catholic faith.

Michelle is moving back home and commuting to campus for her senior year. She says she sees herself eventually in the social work field, working with children in some capacity – or maybe living in a log cabin on top of a mountain where she’ll sit and knit by the fire with her pet St. Bernard!

Alicia Cagle ’13

Communication major Alicia Cagle chose to serve with AmeriCorps – just as her brother Jeff ’07 had done earlier.

She was placed at Higher Achievement Richmond. Though she was involved in many projects, she is most proud of her work with the 7th and 8th grade scholars and the development of Higher Achievement Richmond’s High School Placement program. She planned and ran the Green Apple Awards graduation ceremony for all the 8th graders, guided scholars and their families through the high school admissions process, and made sure all students knew the opportunities available to them that best fit their goals.

“Nothing is more rewarding to me than the impact I had on the scholars and the impact they had on me,” she says. “The scholars would greet me with hugs, ask me for help on homework, come to me for advice for any middle school problems, and knew that, overall, I would be there for them.”

Besides hands-on experience with volunteer management, event planning, social media, capacity building, etc., she absorbed the Higher Achievement culture – celebrating coworkers for their accomplishments, collaboration, striving for excellence – and sees it crossing over into other jobs.

Since wrapping up her AmeriCorps assignment, Alicia has started a master’s program at George Mason University in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, including a summer study abroad experience in Jordan.

“I carry the Mercy Mission, plain and simple. It is what inspires me and what I aspire to in my life.” – Jeff Cagle ’07
Wheaton offers jump-start for new Erie businesses

By Deborah W. Morton

It started as wishful thinking: could Kris Wheaton achieve the same success for others that he had for himself in the world of crowdfunding and, more importantly, could he sustain it?

In a word: Yes!

Wheaton is an associate professor of intelligence studies at Mercyhurst who, although born in Dallas, Texas, and raised in the South, is one of Erie, Pennsylvania’s, biggest cheerleaders. Through crowdfunding platforms like Kickstarter, he sees the potential to transform the Great Lakes city into an “idea hub” by taking local entrepreneurial projects to the next level and, in some cases, morphing them into full-fledged businesses.

To date, he has managed successful Kickstarter campaigns for seven out of eight projects, and he has 13 more waiting in the wings. This, he says, is just the beginning.

Wheaton is a key player in the new Ignite Erie: Industry-University Business Acceleration Collaborative, led by Mercyhurst University and Penn State Behrend with a $750,000 grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. The collaborative is part of EGRA’s three-part, $3.9 million initiative to catalyze small business development and strengthen the region’s entrepreneurial ecosystem.
Wheaton is all-in.

A little over two years ago, Wheaton decided to go the route of Kickstarter, the world's most popular crowdfunding engine, to finance production of a game he had invented called “Widget.” He had 30 days to reach his goal of $4,000 or, according to Kickstarter terms, forfeit it all. He raised $6,575 from 193 backers, raising 164 percent of his goal. “Cthulhu vs. The Vikings” was the next game he sought production funds for via Kickstarter. Seeking $9,500, he once again surpassed his goal, raising $12,877 from 185 backers.

He seemed to be on to something. So, he ventured forth again, this time to raise money for three of Mercyhurst’s liturgical dancers to travel to Jerusalem to perform. He mentored a team of Mercyhurst students with skills in intelligence studies, graphic design, writing and social media to do much of the work. To Wheaton's delight, they, too, met with success.

“Yes, I want to help Erie; yes, I want to support entrepreneurship; but I am equally if not more focused on getting our students real experience doing the things they came to Mercyhurst to learn to do,” he said.

On deck were local residents Liz and Michael Augustine with an ambitious project. They wanted help from Wheaton to open their own restaurant, Like My Thai, in downtown Erie. In just 15 days on Kickstarter, the Augustines raised nearly $14,000, surpassing their modest $4,000 goal by $10,000. The restaurant is now doing business at 827 State St.

“When Kris speaks, you listen very, very carefully. You don't want to miss a thing,” said Michael Augustine. “His advice is invaluable. I don't think I would have done this without him.”

Wheaton and his students also completed a successful Kickstarter campaign to help fund a local coffee business called Roast Assured, which received a coveted “Staff Pick” award from Kickstarter. Only 5 percent of all Kickstarter projects are chosen as staff picks, Wheaton said. He credited students Hannah Corton for her management of the campaign and Brent Clapper for the promotional video he produced.

Oddly enough, Wheaton saw his success wasn’t being replicated Erie-wide. In fact, compared to other cities of its size, Erie had a disproportionately low success rate of 33 percent on Kickstarter. Perplexed, he did what any good intelligence analyst would do: he analyzed. He studied Kickstarter projects, particularly the failures, and saw a pattern.

Most people make rookie mistakes, he said. They include videos that are too long or unprofessional, copy that isn’t clever and rewards that don’t incentivize. Wheaton's formula for success had bypassed those mistakes and added a Facebook campaign before each project launch to create awareness and build a following of backers that would later translate into dollars on Kickstarter. Wheaton called his strategy “Quickstarter.”

To date, grants from Mercyhurst University and Ben Franklin Technology Partners have supported Wheaton's Quickstarter initiative. The new ECGRA collaborative will build on that momentum, and will engage students from other universities in the process.

For Wheaton, it's not only about creating financial opportunities for Erie people and keeping the money in Erie, it's about changing the mindset of the entire region.

“All of a sudden people start to notice and Erie becomes the place to come with your idea,” he said.

If anybody can be this kind of change-agent, it’s Kris Wheaton, adds colleague Brad Gleason, director of the Center for Intelligence Research Analysis and Training at Mercyhurst. “He’s able to stir passion and inspire it,” Gleason said. “If something interests him, he’ll roll up his sleeves and jump in - 100 percent committed. Truth be told, I don't think he sleeps.”
Marcia Federici ’72 helping Mercyhurst student Meaghan Kinkaid.

Coming back to pay it forward

By Susan Hurley Corbran ’73

Marcia Federici ’72 believes students today have a hunger to experience what the real world is like, and says she’s in a unique position to help satisfy that hunger.

Now retired after a successful career in biotechnology, she spent January back at Mercyhurst, shepherding 17 students through a J-term course she developed on Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Development.

J-term, now two years old, allows students to focus exclusively on one course for three weeks. Her students got a peek into the biotechnology industry and a taste of what it’s like to work on a research-and-development team as it tries to bring a new drug to human clinical trials.

Why did she do it? “I have the time now that I’m no longer working full time,” she says, “and I have a real passion for teaching and giving back to students.”
Groundbreaking research

Perhaps she’s channeling Sister Mary Charles Weschler and Dr. Clifford Cox, the Mercyhurst chemistry professors who became her mentors and were ultimately responsible for her scientific career. They let her – and classmate Kathy Blieszner – work on original research in their laboratories. That’s not unusual now, but it was groundbreaking in the early ’70s, and it motivated both of them to head to grad school. As Marcia explains, “I didn’t want to just run experiments – I wanted to design them!”

After graduating in 1972, Marcia went directly into a Ph.D. program in biochemistry at West Virginia University. She did a three year postdoctoral fellowship with the National Institutes of Health, and then moved into industry and the emerging field of biotechnology.

Over the next 25 years, she worked for half a dozen companies that make biopharmaceuticals, medicinal products that come from biological sources. Over the course of her career, working for companies like Genentech and GlaxoSmithKline, she managed product development, quality control and manufacturing teams. She worked extensively with the FDA to gain approval to market new drugs, and she even helped develop international guidelines for the introduction of biotech products.

Marcia worked on many drugs that are now used to treat various forms of cancer, growth deficiencies and stroke. One of the drugs she worked on (Activase®) has had great success treating patients immediately after stroke symptoms begin.

Mentoring the next generation

Marcia left the corporate world in 2006, retiring as vice president of a biopharmaceutical manufacturing operations group at GlaxoSmithKline. She continued to consult with biotech firms for several years, but most recently has devoted herself to teaching and mentoring the next generation of young scientists at a variety of universities.

Marcia reflects on her Mercyhurst experience. “Mercyhurst taught me to be a strong woman in science when not a lot of women were entering the science field. It encouraged me to have my own ideas and speak my mind. I saw a lot of wonderful role models here, like my cousin Sister Marcia McDonald. Sister Marcia is an accomplished Mercy nun and was in charge of admissions at Mercyhurst College for many years.

“I’m a scientist today because of three people – Sr. Charles, Dr. Cox, and Sr. Maura Smith, who taught me biology in high school,” Marcia says. “It’s that mentoring – that’s why I’m here to give back to the next generation of scientists.

“I hope to spark an excitement about science in my students…. All it takes is one good teacher to spark an interest that will last a lifetime.”

What’s her advice to those students? “I tell them to find their passion and follow their heart,” she says simply. “There’s no way to look down the road of your career and know what’s going to happen. When I was in grad school, there was no such thing as a biotechnology industry. You have to be flexible and ready to reinvent yourself – and if you are lucky you get to do what excites you.”

Family ties

In 1990, Marcia traveled to Peru to adopt her son, Paul, who’s now 25. She was single, and it was pretty unusual to adopt alone then. “Adopting a baby and having my son was the best single decision I’ve ever made in my life.” Ten years later, she met and married Tom Jamrogowicz, a fellow chemist at GlaxoSmithKline, and they formed a new family. Marcia and Tom now live in the Philadelphia area, where Paul graduated from Drexel University and is pursuing a career in photography and welding.

Marcia has also stayed close to the friends she made at Mercyhurst. “They have been with me my entire life. We’ve seen each other through the ups and downs of careers and families. I have a group of women friends I cherish tremendously. They’re like sisters to me – sisters of my heart.” Tom, Paul and his girlfriend Carey, Marcia’s brothers and sisters and many of those friends were on hand at Reunion Weekend in 2014 when Marcia received a Distinguished Alumni Award for contributions to her chosen field.
Standing are Craig Woodard ’96, John Melody ’90 and James Sherrod ’85. Seated are Julie McChesney Stiles ’95, Tracy Cross Hoza ’96, and Claire Scanlan ’96.

Six inducted into Hall of Fame

Tracy Cross Hoza ’96
WOMEN’S SOCCER
Tracy played from 1991 to 1995 for head coaches Trevor Warren and Rich Hartis. She missed the 1993 season due to injury. Mercyhurst went a combined 55-12-2 during her playing career. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. Cross was named All-Region three times and was an All-America selection twice – Second Team in 1994 and First Team in 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995. She was a member of three NCAA-qualifying teams, including Division II Final Four teams in both 1994 and 1995.

John Melody ’90
MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SOCCER COACH
John was a two-sport (soccer, golf) athlete at Mercyhurst in the late ’80s before making his mark as men’s and women’s soccer coach from 1997 to 2001. His men’s teams had an overall record of 70-21-4 in five years and a perfect 27-0 record in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) play. The men recorded five GLIAC titles and reached the NCAA Playoffs in 1998, 2000 and 2001. The women reached the Final Four in 1998. The women finished his five-year tenure with an overall 72-19-6 record and were 37-4-3 in the GLIAC. The ladies made the NCAA Playoffs in 1999, 2000 and 2001. Melody was named GLIAC Men’s Coach of the Year three times and GLIAC Women’s Coach of the Year twice. He was twice chosen both Men’s and Women’s Regional Coach of the Year during his five years at the helm. Melody is currently an Erie businessman.

Claire Scanlan ’96
WOMEN’S SOCCER
Claire played soccer from 1992 to 1995 for head coaches Trevor Warren and Rich Hartis. Her teams went a combined 55-12-2 during her career, the most successful four-year run in program history.

Julie McChesney Stiles ’95
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Julie played for head coaches Paul Demyanovich and Jim Webb from 1991 to 1995 and was part of the first two women’s basketball teams to qualify for the NCAA Tournament. In 1995, Mercyhurst reached the Elite 8 in Fargo, North Dakota, before bowing to Stonehill, 80-78. McChesney averaged 17 points and 8.8 rebounds in five NCAA Tournament games and posted two double-doubles. She is third all-time in scoring (1,486) and rebounding (799), second in blocked shots (136), fifth in free throws made (326), and sixth in scoring average (14.7). She led the team in rebounding during the team’s NCAA years of 1994 and 1995. Mercyhurst went 72-36 during her career, the most successful four-year run in program history.

James Sherrod ’85
FOOTBALL
James played football from 1981 to 1984 and was a member of the first football team under head coach Tony DeMeo. Although the program has been in existence for 34 years, Sherrod is still tied for 6th in tackles-for-a-loss (36 in just 34 career games), 12th all-time in sacks (14, and 21st in tackles with 221 (72 solo, 149 assisted). Sherrod had 17 tackles-for-a-loss in 1984, tied for fifth-most in a single season. He also had nine sacks in 1984, a number that is currently tied for seventh-most in a single campaign. Sherrod is the executive director of the Martin Luther King Center in Erie.

Craig Woodard ’96
FOOTBALL
Craig played football for head coaches Jim Chapman and Joe Kimball from 1992 to 1995. He was the first player in school history to rush for 1,000 yards in a season, finishing with 1,166 in 1992, and held the single season rushing record until 2007. He is second all-time in rushing yards (2,315), a record he held until 2008. During his stellar career, Woodard had nine 100-yard games with a career best of 222 against Canisius in 1992. He is one of five players in program history to rush for at least 200 yards in a game and still holds the record for the longest run from scrimmage, a 94-yard TD against Canisius. Woodard held the single-season record for most rushing yards per game and most rushing yards per game by a freshman (116.6 in 1992) until both were surpassed in 2012. He had four straight 100-yard games in 1992 and is currently fifth all-time in all-purpose yards with 2,940. Following graduation, Woodard worked five years as a sportscaster for Erie television station WICU before shifting to the financial services industry.
Distinguished alumni honored at Reunion Weekend

Mercyhurst University honored five outstanding graduates as Distinguished Alumni during ceremonies at its annual Reunion Weekend, held June 12-14 on the Erie campus.

Two alumni were honored for Outstanding Contributions to their Chosen Fields.

David Armstrong, J.D. ‘86 is the president of Thomas More College, a Catholic diocesan college in northern Kentucky. In his two years in that position, the college has seen steadily increasing enrollment and the institution of a variety of new academic and extracurricular programs. A graduate of the Cleveland Marshall College of Law, he has had wide-ranging experience in higher education at Mercyhurst, at Thiel College and at Notre Dame College of Ohio. Armstrong, who played football, is also a member of Mercyhurst’s Athletics Hall of Fame. (Classmates will remember him as “Crazy Dave.”)

Kathleen Lynch Murphy ‘63 traveled the country and the world as a military wife for 22 years, while also earning three graduate degrees, master’s degrees in teaching and management and a Ph.D. in leadership. She went on to teach at the college level for many years, and traveled internationally to present papers or consult. In 2005 she was a visiting professor of international management at a Chinese university. Now retired, she and her husband Bob are working on a book called “Untying the Gordian knot: Management versus leadership” that’s due out soon.

Two alumni were recognized for Outstanding Contributions to the Community.

Elisa Guida ’76, a two-time survivor of breast cancer, has made it her mission to aid others fighting the disease. She created the nonprofit StringsforaCURE® Foundation (SFAC), which recycles strings once played by famous musicians into unique pieces of jewelry and has already raised well over $110,000. An art major at Mercyhurst, she has worked as a jewelry designer and operated her own business, La Petite Jeweler. SFAC uses proceeds from jewelry sales and other fundraisers to provide gift cards that help pay patients’ expenses, medical grants, comfort baskets and educational materials.

Camille Licate ’96, a dance and anthropology major at Mercyhurst, today works as an actress and a writer in California. Her first book, Small Shoes: Outgrowing Old Relationships & Finding the Right Fit, used shoe metaphors to offer practical advice on coping with change, and she’s currently at work on a screenplay for an animated children’s movie. She offers popular self-empowerment workshops and has also founded Kids for Positive Change, which encourages kids to take action on local, national and global issues, especially environmental issues.

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award went to Kristen Hudak ’05, who is in her first year as director of public relations for the Baltimore Orioles of Major League Baseball. After earning a master’s degree in politics from Catholic University, she went to work in public relations where she focused on the regional sports network MASN. That work in turn led to a post as a senior publicist with ESPN. Hudak has always maintained a strong connection to Mercyhurst, serving on the national alumni board and being active with regional alumni chapters.

Hundreds of Mercyhurst alumni returned to campus for Reunion Weekend, which featured gatherings of classes marking milestone anniversaries, including the 50-year Class of 1965. For the first time this year, Mercyhurst presented a special “Golden Gates Award” to an outstanding graduate whose accomplishments merit special recognition and who “has lived the spirit of Mercyhurst as a student within our gates and in their life beyond our gates in their community.”

The inaugural award went to Margaret “Peg” Hock Heetman ’65. After teaching for several years in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, she became a stay-at-home mom when her two children were born, although remaining an active community volunteer and piano teacher. In 1986, she returned to work. Within 11 years, she had purchased the company, Promotion Mechanics, Inc., which handles logistical details for sweepstakes, games and contests for all sorts of clients. She continues to run the firm today, and is a generous benefactor to Mercyhurst and to many other causes.

Members of the Class of 1965 presented Mercyhurst with a cash gift of more than $50,000 during their reunion. In addition, members announced planned giving intentions that will bring the total gift close to $300,000. The money will fund a scholarship, which will be awarded for the first time this fall.
Headlines from the Hurst

TWO NEW MASTER’S DEGREES OFFERED

Mercyhurst welcomed a full cohort of 20 graduate students to its new Master of Science program in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies this summer.

Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine on a team under the supervision of physicians and surgeons. They are educated to examine patients, diagnose injuries and illnesses, and provide treatment.


The 24-month, 97-credit program is open to students with bachelor’s degrees in a variety of fields and could also be an option for healthcare professionals seeking to change jobs within the industry.

Also beginning this fall is an interdisciplinary graduate program in data science, the first of its kind in the United States.

Housed in The Tom Ridge School of Intelligence Studies and Information Science, the Mercyhurst program combines data science and intelligence while also incorporating curriculum from public health and business.

As public and private organizations attempt to address the challenges posed by the data revolution, they will need to hire skilled practitioners educated as data scientists.

A McKinsey Global Institute report stated, “The United States alone could face a shortage of 140,000 to 190,000 people with deep analytical skills as well as 1.5 million managers and analysts with the know-how to use the analysis of big data to make effective decisions.”

At the undergraduate level, Mercyhurst will also introduce new majors this fall in bioinformatics, environmental studies and physics, as well as an associate degree program in interior design.

ICONIC CHAPEL GETS UPDATES

Christ the King Chapel reopened in March. It had been closed for more than two months to allow completion of some needed restoration, including new paint, refinishing of the original wooden pews, and an improved lighting system specifically designed to highlight the massive mural that surrounds the altar.

The project cost about $410,000, all funded by donations, including a 50th anniversary gift from the Class of 1964.
TWO GRADUATES JOIN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Two Mercyhurst graduates were elected to the university’s Board of Trustees during its October meeting.

Margaret “Peggy” Meagher Pietraszek ’68 is an Erie native who earned a degree in elementary education and served as editor of the *Praeterita* yearbook. She also holds a master’s degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Now retired, she was formerly a teacher and team leader in the Millcreek School District and Libertyville (Illinois) School District. She taught English in Tokyo and was a member of the board of directors for the American School in Japan for four years.

She and her husband Henry spend summers in Chicago and winters in Naples, Florida. They have been major philanthropists to Mercyhurst, carrying on her parents’ long association with and support of the institution.

Her father, the late Joseph E. Meagher, a veteran Erie newsman, was among the first lay advisory board members at Mercyhurst, and her mother, Marie, was a member of the original Carpe Diem Society.

Yvonne J. Maher ’93, a native of Dungarvan, Waterford Co., Ireland, is the university’s first international alumni Trustee.

During the past 10 years, she has risen rapidly through the ranks at The Pittsburgh Foundation, where today she is vice president of development and donor services. Previously, she was a director of development in the Pennsylvania State University system.

A communication major at Mercyhurst, she received the President’s Award for Excellence in Arts and Humanities and was hired by the college immediately upon graduation. She worked for five years as assistant director of external relations and assistant director of the then newly opened Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center.

She holds a master’s degree in communication studies from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She holds dual citizenship in the United States of America and Ireland. She has been a professional resource appointment to the board as a member of the Trustee Committee on Advancement and the Committee on Endowment Management and Investment.

LANZILLO, NECASTRO NEXT LEADERS OF BOARD

Trustee Richard A. Lanzillo was elected chair elect of the Mercyhurst University Board of Trustees and Trustee Joseph G. NeCastro was elected vice chair elect at the Trustees’ annual meeting on June 20.

The two men, both Mercyhurst graduates, co chaired Mercyhurst’s recent presidential search.

They’ll work closely this year with Trustee Marlene Mosco, who is completing her final term as chair, and will take office at the board’s annual meeting in 2016. Sister JoAnne Courneen remains vice chair.

NGUYEN JOINS ADMINISTRATION

Hoa Nguyen joined Mercyhurst in March as executive vice president for finance and administration. He came to Mercyhurst from Saint Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana, where he was vice president for business affairs and treasurer to the board of trustees. Previously, he was executive vice president for administration and finance at Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

While at Saint Joseph’s, he implemented a new budget planning model, overhauled business practices, and identified cost reduction strategies and key revenue enhancement opportunities. He also implemented a tuition guarantee, oversaw campus-wide technology upgrades, and made decisions to improve campus infrastructure.

A native of South Vietnam, he came to the United States in 1975 as a refugee and settled in Okemos, Michigan, where he met his wife. Nguyen holds an undergraduate degree in business administration from Aquinas College and an MBA from the University of Detroit Mercy, and is completing doctoral studies in education and human resource studies at Colorado State University.

They have three daughters.
CLIMB TO ‘ROOF OF AFRICA’ RAISES AUTISM AWARENESS

He had only about 20 minutes to savor the victory after reaching “The Roof of Africa” – the 19,341-foot Mount Kilimanjaro. Brad McGarry, director of the Autism Initiative at Mercyhurst (AIM), watched the sun rise from the summit on Feb. 17, but then quickly had to begin the descent to base camp.

He and his two climbing partners, with a 23-member support team, spent about eight days climbing the peak and another two days heading back down. They started in temperatures over 100 and ended up with subzero temperatures and dangerously low oxygen levels.

While the trek was exciting, McGarry’s real goal was to “Raise the Roof for Autism,” drawing attention to the need to create vocational opportunities for adults on the autism spectrum.

AIM recently added a Career Exploration Program to its curriculum, but few such resources are available to assist with the transition from college to the work world and unemployment rates among adults on the spectrum range as high as 85 percent.

McGarry used the publicity surrounding his climb to encourage businesses to commit to hiring well-qualified adults on the autism spectrum.

You can find videos and photos from the trip at facebook.com/RaisetheRoofAutism.

THE CARPE DIEM SPIRIT

Each Mercyhurst senior class caps its Senior Week activities with a “100 Days to Graduation” party at the nearby Cornerstone. It starts the countdown to commencement, but also celebrates the fact that the students have 100 more days at Mercyhurst – time to finish strong, to spend with friends and to make lots more Mercyhurst memories.

Since 2012, a similar party has marked the end of the first 100 Days at Mercyhurst for the freshman class. In true “Carpe Diem” spirit, these bookend events remind students to seize every opportunity during their time at Mercyhurst.

Shown getting ready for the Class of 2015 celebration are Julie Smicinski, Amanda Marley, Katelyn Bailey and Anna Wills, chairs of the Senior Class Gift Committee.
CONVERSATION DRAWS A CROWD

Two women who share a passion for issues of peace and justice – especially as they affect women – shared the stage April 9 when Mercyhurst hosted the second annual Joan D. Chittister Lecture.

Author, journalist and former California First Lady Maria Shriver joined Joan D. Chittister, OSB, “In Conversation” in front of a packed house at the Mary D’Angelo Performing Arts Center. Chittister is a 1962 Mercyhurst graduate.

While the two come from vastly different backgrounds, they became good friends after Eunice Kennedy Shriver introduced her daughter to Chittister’s writings. Shriver invited Chittister to serve on the planning committee for two editions of her groundbreaking Shriver Reports on issues affecting women. Chittister was also a major speaker at The California Women’s Conference Shriver hosted in 2008.

The Chittister Lecture Series began in 2014, when Mercyhurst dedicated the Helen Boyle Memorial Archive in Honor of Joan D. Chittister, OSB, in Hammermill Library. Both the archive space and the lecture series were endowed by the Boyle Family in honor of Helen Loebelenz Boyle, Mercyhurst Class of 1934, a longtime friend of Sister Joan.

MCFEE HONORED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

A faculty member known for his energetic, engaged and challenging teaching style was honored with the 2015 Teaching Excellence Award. Daniel McFee, Ph.D., who was promoted this summer to full professor, earned the right to address the Class of 2015 at commencement.

McFee, who currently chairs the Department of Religious Studies, has taught at Mercyhurst since 2002. As a co-founder and co-director of the Evelyn Lincoln Institute for Ethics & Society, he has helped bring dozens of influential speakers to campus. Their focus on ethics in connection to business, the environment and technology has helped enrich dialogue about ethical decision-making.

Active with the Faculty and Student Academic Travel (FSAT) program, he has traveled abroad with students five times, including a three-week tour of Italy, Ireland and England in 2005. He’s also a widely published author, focusing on areas of science and religion, environmental ethics and ethics of emerging technologies.

He graduated from Bowling Green State University and went on to earn a master’s of divinity degree in religion and ethics from Duke University and a doctorate in religion and ethics from Marquette University.
Hurst athletes make marks in competition and in classroom

MERCYHURST LAKERS

Aided by a sensational spring season, Mercyhurst University posted a record-breaking finish in the 2014-15 Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup standings. Mercyhurst finished 15th in the country, accumulating 526 points, and surpassing the school’s previous best finish at 16th in 2010-11. The Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup was developed by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and USA Today. Points are awarded based on each institution’s finish in up to 14 sports - seven women’s and seven men’s. Mercyhurst picked up 332 points during a spring season that saw five teams reach the NCAA playoffs and score big points in the standings. Women’s rowing finished second in the country, baseball finished fifth in the country and men’s tennis was ninth in the country. The women’s tennis and men’s golf teams also earned points. Mercyhurst was the top finisher among Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) schools.

Academically, Mercyhurst led the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) with 288 scholar-athletes -- 45 percent of the 641 student-athletes who competed for Mercyhurst in 2014-15. A PSAC Scholar Athlete must have a 3.25 cumulative GPA. Mercyhurst also had four teams – football, women’s lacrosse, men’s tennis and wrestling – earn the PSAC Top Team GPA Award. The school’s cumulative GPA was 3.359 (second in the league) and all 17 PSAC teams had team GPAs of 3.0 or better, the only school in the conference to achieve that feat.

The baseball team made its first appearance at the NCAA Division II World Series in May and ranked fourth in the nation in the final Division II rankings. The Lakers finished with a 40-11 mark; the 40 wins tied for the second most in program history. Nine players were named All-Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) and three were named All-Region. Jon Klein was PSAC Pitcher of the Year and an Honorable Mention All-American. He and pitcher Ben Nolan were Academic All-Americans while head coach Joe Spano was the PSAC Coach of the Year and the Atlantic Region Coach of the Year.

The men’s golf team also made NCAA postseason play. Blaze Hogan and Chris Kupniewski were named All-PSAC while Kupniewski claimed his second straight Erie District Golf Association (EDGA) Match Play Championship in June and qualified for the U.S. Amateur.

Men’s lacrosse lost in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) semifinals and finished with a record of 8-6. Michael Grace was named ECAC Goaltender of the Year. Trevor Vargo was an ECAC Second Team choice, a Capital One Academic All-District First Team selection and an Honorable Mention All-American.

In rowing, the lightweight men made their first appearance in the International Rowing Association (IRA) championship in late May and finished third in the Petite Final. The Lakers finished ninth nationally in lightweight fours.

The men’s tennis team made the NCAA Sweet 16 for the first time in 20 years and ended the season 15-7. Four players made All-Conference while Kyle Hosier won the Atlantic Region’s Arthur Ashe Sportsmanship and Leadership Award.

Gaelin Carrig of women’s golf was named senior Female Athlete of the Year. She was chosen Second Team All-PSAC and was named to the Capital One Academic All-District First Team.

Women’s lacrosse capped a splendid 15-4 season by finishing 10th in the final IWLCA poll. The Lakers reached the PSAC championship game for the second straight year. Seven players were named All-PSAC and four were selected All-Region. Rebecca Himes was chosen First Team All-ECAC and First Team All-American. Rebecca Muscella and Mackenzie Jordan were picked to play in the IWLCA North/South All-Star Game.

Women’s rowing ended its season ranked second in the country. The Lakers won silver in both the four and the eight at the NCAA Championships in California in late May. Hanna Schumacher and Kristine Wright were named First Team All-Americans.

Softball finished a rain-plagued season with a mark of 16-28. Becky Malaga and Kayla Larson were chosen to the Capital One Academic All-District First Team.

Women’s tennis made it all the way to the Atlantic Region Championships before bowing, concluding with a 13-5 record. Saioa Gomez de Segura was named both PSAC West Freshman of the Year and Atlantic Region Rookie of the Year. Teammate Adrianna Jeffress was selected Second Team All-PSAC.

The women’s water polo team finished spring competition 12-13. Kennedy Watson was named a First Team All-American by the Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches (ACWPC). Watson was also chosen an All-Conference Honorable Mention. She was one of only two non-Division I student-athletes to be honored with an All-Conference nod by the CWPA.
During the winter, the wrestling team finished fourth in the country, the highest finish by the team in program history. The Lakers had a school record six All-Americans who finished in the top eight in their respective weight classes at the NCAA Division II National Championships. The Lakers won their third consecutive PSAC Division II Regular Season Dual Championship and finished with a dual record of 18-1, tying school records for wins in a season and winning percentage (.947). Head coach Mike Wehler was named the Division II National Coach of the Year.

Men’s basketball advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history before losing to Fairmont State, 68-63. They finished the 2014-15 season with a 20-9 overall record. Head coach Gary Manchel was named PSAC West Coach of the Year while junior Gerrae Williams earned All-Conference honors.

Women’s hockey earned its 14th consecutive regular season championship and its 14th consecutive 20-win season in 2014-15 with a 23-9-3 overall record. The Lakers lost in the CHA Semifinals, however, ending their bid to make the NCAA Division I Tournament for the 11th consecutive season. The 10 straight tournament appearances is an NCAA record. Junior Emily Janiga was named CHA Player of the Year while senior Amanda Makela earned the league’s Goaltending Trophy.

Men’s hockey advanced to the Atlantic Hockey Conference Championship for the second time in the last three years, but fell to a hot Rochester Institute of Technology team in the finals, ending a heart-pounding run through the postseason. Mercyhurst came from behind to defeat Bentley in game three of the best of-three quarterfinal series in Waltham, Massachusetts, and then came from behind to win in overtime against regular season champion Robert Morris in the semis. Nine of the team’s seniors went on to sign professional contracts.

Women’s basketball fell just short of qualifying for the PSAC Tournament but had a superb season from sophomore Natalie Piaggesi, who recorded the program’s first triple double since Mercyhurst Hall of Famer Teresa Szumigala in 1993. Piaggesi scored 19 points, grabbed 17 rebounds, and blocked 10 shots in a win over Mansfield in early January. The 10 blocks marked the first time since records were kept that a Mercyhurst player blocked 10 shots in a game. She was named the National Player of the Week for her efforts.
Baseball’s magical season reaches D-II World Series
By David Leisering ’01

For years, the Mercyhurst baseball team had been on the cusp of advancing to the Division II College World Series but ended up falling just short.

That goal finally became a reality this year when junior closer Jake Hall registered the final out in a 2-0 victory over arch-rival Millersville University in the Atlantic Regional Championship.

Thanks to a phenomenal 2015 regular season, Mercyhurst was the top-ranked team in the region and hosted the Atlantic Regional Tournament at Jerry Uht Park in downtown Erie.

“We hosted it here in 2000, my first year as a head coach,” said Head Coach Joe Spano after defeating Millersville. “I don’t think I appreciated it – how great it was, what a beautiful venue it was, how much of an advantage home field was. We were committed to winning this thing one way or the other.”

Mercyhurst topped West Virginia State 3-1 in the opening game of the regional on May 14, but then lost to Seton Hill on day two, forcing the Lakers to win out to advance. The path would not be easy.

On May 16, Mercyhurst needed 11 innings, but defeated West Chester 6-4. Mercyhurst had to return later that night to play Winston-Salem State, the only unbeaten team remaining. That game against the Rams seemed to be the point where something magical was about to happen.

Having used his other weekend starter (junior Matthew Jaskolka) in the first game of the day, Spano turned to redshirt senior Jon Corbi against Winston-Salem. Corbi had success in the past but pitched in only two games during the 2014 season due to arm injuries. Before his start in the regional, Corbi hadn’t pitched a game in roughly a month.

He delivered a gem, striking out seven in 4.2 scoreless innings, and the bullpen did the rest. The Lakers advanced to the title game with a 2-1 win in the wee hours of Sunday morning.

The Lakers had to come right back early Sunday afternoon to attempt to win their third game in 24 hours. Spano turned to redshirt sophomore Colin McKee, who had already pitched the opening game of the tournament. McKee, like Corbi, lasted 4.2 scoreless innings and struck out eight before giving way to the bullpen. Mercyhurst scored a run in the sixth and another in the seventh to take a 2-0 lead. Hall, pitching for the fourth time in five tournament games, blanked Millersville over 2.2 innings to earn his third save of the regional and to break the school record for saves in a season (10). He was named Tournament MVP for his efforts.

“It just felt like something I dreamed about for a long time,” said Spano, who is four wins shy of 500 for his career with the Lakers. “I wasn’t sure if it was real. I just had to focus on the game and make sure we got the outs we needed. We had our other closer, Ben (Nolan), up in the bullpen because we didn’t know how much Jake (Hall) had left in the tank. He gave us everything he had and it was one of the most unbelievable performances I have seen.”

Mercyhurst wasted little time once it reached the USA Baseball National Training Complex in Cary, North Carolina, posting a 3-1 victory over Truman State, in 11 innings, to advance to the winners’ bracket. The game wasn’t without some tense moments.

With the game tied 1-1, Truman State loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the ninth. Hall fell behind 3-0 on the Bulldogs’ leadoff hitter before striking him out on the next three pitches. Hall then got out of the jam with a force out at home to end the inning.

Junior Brendan Cox delivered the go-ahead run with an RBI single in the top of the 11th and Hall remained in the game to record his first win of the season.

The Lakers, however, would lose their next two games – one to eventual national champion Tampa – to end their historic run with a 40-11 overall record.

Mercyhurst put together, arguably, the most dominant season in program history. The Lakers won their first 14 games of the season before suffering their first loss at Slippery Rock on March 24. That loss didn’t faze the Lakers as they rattled off another 11 consecutive victories to improve to 25-1.

Expect the Lakers to make another run at the Division II National Championship in 2016.
CAREER AND EDUCATION NEWS

Josephine Fioravanti Pelham ’64 retired recently as a scientific review officer at the Center for Scientific Review of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Her husband designed a unique piece of jewelry for her that links her 10-, 20-, 30-, 40- and 50-year service pins into a circle to mark her 50 years with NIH.

Mary Ellen Dahlkemper ’73 recently retired from her position as president of Mercyhurst Preparatory School in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Mary A. Finn, Ph.D. ’83 has been named director of the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University.

Eric Chase ’90 has joined the Oklahoma State Department of Health as an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Administrator. He lives in Yukon, Oklahoma.

Timothy J. Stranko ’92 has been promoted to regional manager with First Watch Restaurants in the Pittsburgh market, with locations in Cranberry Township and Robinson. A third location is under construction in McCandless.

Brian J. Krawczyk ’95 won the New York State Tree Climbing Competition in October 2014 and advanced to the International Society of Arboriculture’s International Tree Climbing Competition in March in Tampa, Florida. He placed 13th in the weekend-long competition among 40 world-class tree climbers from 18 countries.

Ann Rozdlewicz Badach ’98 has been named executive director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Erie. The cabinet-level position oversees a myriad of programs and agencies designed to respond to people of all faiths who are in need.

Joel M. Uzzo ’99 has been promoted to controller with R.R. Donnelley in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Christina Maffei ’01 has been named director of food & beverage operations at the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki, Hawaii. She also owns Liquid Artistry, a restaurant/bar and beverage consulting company, and Wedding What-Knots, which specializes in custom wedding accessories. She was dubbed one of the “Top 10 Mixologists to Watch” for 2013.

Daniel Schuch ’01 started a new job as legal counsel at Shell Oil Company in Houston.

Adam Blahut ’02 completed his Ph.D. in history at the University of New Mexico in May 2014.

Brandon Gabler ’02 accepted a new role as cultural resources practice lead at HDR, Inc., with technical and regulatory oversight for the company-wide Cultural Resources Practice Group, including more than 100 archaeologists, architectural historians, historic architects, historic preservationists and ethnographers.

Richard Johns ’03 was appointed assistant commissioner of budget with the New York Department of Housing, Preservation and Development (HPD), the largest municipal housing agency in the nation.

Michelle Logsdon ’03 earned certification as a muscle activation technique specialist.

Shannon King Capellupo ’04 is director of events for the Pittsburgh Symphony. Their 2013 Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Opening Night Gala and Soirée won a 2015 Gala Award for Best Fundraising Event from Special Events Magazine and Shannon accepted the award in January at a black-tie event.

Ashley Gardner ’04 joined the U.S. Department of Education in the Office of Non-Public Education as a management and program analyst.

Lindsey Weber ’04 is vice president and assistant general counsel to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Kristen Hudak ’05 has joined the Baltimore Orioles as director of public relations after spending more than three years with Disney/ESPN. She is the second ‘Hurst alum in the organization, joining outfielder David Lough.

Howard Orton ’05 became president of the Annapolis chapter of the Latin American Motorcycle Association.

Brian Valero ’05 was sworn in as a New Jersey state law enforcement officer on Dec. 16, 2014. Brian works as a parole officer with the New Jersey State Parole Board.

Capt. Kirk Shoemaker ’10 returned to the United States in November after concluding a nine-month deployment in southern Afghanistan, during which he was promoted to captain.

Sean Fedorko ’11 has been appointed chief executive of the Technology Council of Northwest Pennsylvania and has been involved in space and telecommunications policy discussions in Washington, D.C.

Charity M. Moore ‘11 and Matthew Victor Weiss ’11 have both been promoted to junior principal investigators in archaeology and cultural resource management at AllStar Ecology in Fairmont, West Virginia.

Nicole Vondrau ’12 earned a master’s degree in school counseling in May 2014 from the University of Tennessee and is an elementary school counselor with Collier County Public Schools in Naples, Florida.

Jeremy Dickey ’13 has been appointed marketing specialist for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Zachary Tordik ’13 works with an after-school art program for children in the Howard County schools.

Matthew Gernold ’14 is an adult probation officer for Warren County, Pennsylvania.

Amy Mays ’03 married Bob Grabowski on Feb. 7, 2015, in Buffalo, New York. Michelle is a social studies teacher at Mount St. Mary Academy in Buffalo and Bob is an IT consultant at Canisius College. Katie Krupa Agen ’03 was maid of honor.


Michelle Mays ’03 married Bob Grabowski on Feb. 7, 2015, in Buffalo, New York. Michelle is a social studies teacher at Mount St. Mary Academy in Buffalo and Bob is an IT consultant at Canisius College. Katie Krupa Agen ’04 was maid of honor.


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Michelle Laslawic ’08 married Michael Kawa in Augusta, Maine, on Aug. 9, 2014.
BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Mary Armstrong Grose ’94 and husband Ryan had their first child, daughter Jensen Elizabeth, on Dec. 14, 2013.

Mark Erié ’97 and wife Heather had their third child, Lydia Rose, on Sept. 23, 2014.

Megan Zuza McHale ’00 and husband Bill had their third son, Eamon William, on Aug. 16, 2014. Eamon joins brothers Brendan and Colin.

Lynn Falbo Graham ’01 and Earle Graham ’01 had a son, Sean Dominic, on Aug. 13, 2014. He joins sister Natalie Rose.


Brandon Gabler ’02 and wife Rachel had their second daughter, Adelaide Pearl, on Dec. 20, 2014. She joins sister Juniper.

Mackenzie Dexter Chafin ’03 and husband Brad had their first child, Reagan Elizabeth, on Sept. 13, 2014.

Erin Hardman Simic ’03 and husband Anthony had a daughter, Baylee Marija, on Dec. 8, 2014.

Hannah Gehman Stream ’03 and husband Joshua had a daughter, Evelina Fugier, on June 13, 2014. She joins brother Xavier Kulp.

Katie Krupa Agen ’04 and husband Chad had a son, Matthew James, on Dec. 21, 2014.

Jill Gloeckler Curry ’04 and her husband had a son, Henry.

Jaime Rinne Mahoney ’04 and Brendan Mahoney ’03 had their first child, Morrigan Maeve, on April 12, 2014. The family resides in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Joseph Betz ’05 and wife Kristin had a son, Ezra Joseph, on Nov. 23, 2014, in Boston.

Amanda Williams Kollman ’05 and husband Andy had a son, Weston Andrew, on April 21, 2015, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Kristen Wanner Mekota ’05 and husband Chris had their second daughter, Grace Katherine, on Oct. 26, 2014. She joins sister Ava.

Melissa Newell Reynolds ’05 and Scott Reynolds ’06 had their second child, Scarlett Layne, on Aug. 22, 2014.

Jennifer Ferranti-Stanicki ’05 and husband Jim had a son, Max, on May 20, 2014.

Margaret Harold-Rauch ’06 and husband Jeremiah had their first child, Cora Patricia, on Feb. 28, 2015.

Joshua Long ’06 and wife Melissa had their first child, daughter Emma Rose, on March 29, 2015.

Edward Golden III ’07 and wife Heather had their first child, Kali Grace, on Jan. 15, 2015. They reside in Mentor, Ohio.

Maeve Kelly Gavin ’07 and husband Sean had a son, Finn Patrick, on Nov. 4, 2014 – fittingly, on Election Day.

Carrie Schwabenbauer Gaw ’07 and husband Chuck had their first child, Peyton Hunter, on Jan. 27, 2015.

Jennifer Anderson Michel ’07 and husband Tim had a daughter, Abriella, on Aug. 20, 2014.

Michael Aiello Jr. ’08 and Janine M. Pizzo Aiello ’08 had a daughter, Eliana Marie, on Nov. 1, 2014, in Rochester, New York.

Denise Koontz Ford ’08 and husband Andrew had their first child, Vera Josephine, on July 9, 2014.

Heather Schwager Schmuhl ’09 and husband Eric had their first child in October 2014.

Christina Drushel Williams ’09 and Gary Williams ’08 had their first child, Julian Everett, on Nov. 16, 2014, in Baltimore.

Jacquelyn Pyrdek Woodward ’09 and husband Joe had their first child, Scarlett Layne, on Aug. 22, 2014.

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DEATHS

ALUMNI

Ruth Mae Headley Braunger ’36
Elizabeth Montgomery Fleming ’36
Mary Mahoney McMahon ’37
Anne Morin Brown ’38
Rita Ressler Downey ’38
Mary E. Blodgett ’40
Mary L. Comella ’40
Esther Gorsuch Garfeld ’40
Leora Riley Allaire ’41
Elizabeth English Eno ’41
Giovina Musi Bradley ’42
Elizabeth Donatelli Lofnk ’42
Valma Blakey Mumford ’42
Yvonne Levoie Nolan ’43
Josephine Cirrito Sciarino ’43
Danuta Wawrzkowicz Wantuch ’43
Charlotte Cushman Stoddard ’44
Sister Eileen Pentecost, OP ’45
Susanne Cummings Merritt ’47
Marion Lyman Nemetz ’47
Janice Wirges Sanscrainte ’47
Helen Walters Donley ’48
Rosemary Buehler Martyn ’48
Theresa A. Dietsch ’49
Antoinette Marino D’Onofrio ’49
Teresa Marshall Kelly ’49
Ann Louise Mohr ’49
Lois Lyons Casey ’50
Catherine Larkin Crowley ’50
Mary Lou Haight Dey ’50
Audrey Dudenhoefler Hersch ’50
Joan Cunningham King ’50
Kathleen Kelly Cassetta ’51
Jane Breyley Olson ’51
Patricia Muir Roach ’51
Jean Slavin Saad ’51
Mary Witt Sprows ’51
Dorothy Roth Bergquist ’52
Jeanne Farrell Finn ’52
Sister Gloria Ruocco, RSM ’52
Joan Davis Goodknight ’53
Barbara Coole Ayers ’56
Sister Audrey “Peter” Clauss, RSM ’56
Mary Pyne Lillis ’56
Daniele Schmidt Grose ’58
Vivetta Petronio, Ph.D. ’58
Patty Haven Otto ’60
Sister Therese Dush, CA 63
Sister Mary Dolores Jablonski, RSM ’63
Marlene Guerra Landon ’66
Teresa Defino Mannen ’66
Julie Samick Van Volkenburg ’74
Mary Hergenrother Murosky ’75
Bernard Kishston ’77
Jean Doran Wheeler ’77
Barbara Stachera Makay ’78
David Stingl ’79
Bridget Beck Williams, RN ’80
Kenneth B. Chapin ’81
John F. Applebee ’85
Bryan M. Doherty ’85
Jennifer Richardson ’94
Daniel Sutton ’00
Wan Huan Gong ’02
Christopher H. Spada ’04
Jason Lappies ’06
Tamika McClelland ’10

CONDOLENCES

HUSBAND OF:

Dorothy Maloney Stiglmeier ’49 (Donald Stiglmeier)
Mary Jachimczyk Bankowski ’53 (Edward Bankowski)
Barbara J. Ronksley ’78 (Robert Ronksley)
Sydne Mamofo ’91 (Terry Lee)

WIFE OF:

P. Barry Mc Andrew, long-time English professor (Elaine Mc Andrew)
Trustee Emeritus Bruce H. Raimy (Kathleen Raimy)

FATHER OF:

Donelle Davey ’76 (Dr. Donald Davey)
Linda Rieger Graves ’87 (Ronald Rieger Jr.)
James Muscato ’91 (James Muscato)
Patrick Kotek Sr. ’94 (Paul Kotek)
Anthony D’Abruzzo ’03 (John D’Abruzzo)
Emily Dietz ’08 (Robert Dietz)
Christopher Taddiken ’11 (Russell Brian Taddiken)

MOTHER OF:

Mary Tupek Bates ’73 (Frances Tupek)
Marc McAndrew ’88 and Brian P. McAndrew ’89 (Elaine McAndrew)
Earle Graham ’01 (Margaret Graham, also mother-in-law of Lynn Graham ’01)

Michael Flick ’12 (Louise Flick)

MOTHER AND MOTHER-IN-LAW OF:

Daniel Bukowski ’75, Dr. Kathleen Bukowski ’75, Gary Bukowski ’73, Roberta Donley-Bukowski ’78, Linda Bukowski Lipchik ’85 (Mary Genevieve Lukasiewicz Bukowski), Mrs. Bukowski is also the grandmother of Jordan Bukowski ’11 and Justin Bukowski ’11.

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY:

Mercyhurst benefactor George J. D’Angelo, MD

FORMER FACULTY MEMBERS:

David Cooper, history
Vivetta Petronio, Ph.D. ’58, languages
Bob Ronksley, criminal justice

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