

# MARIST

THE MAGAZINE OF MARIST COLLEGE • SPRING 2017



Exploring the  
Hudson River  
Ecosystem







# MARIST

CONTENTS | Spring 2017

## FEATURES

12

### Celebrating the Inauguration of David Yellen

*David Yellen is formally installed as the fourth president of Marist College.*

13

### Hannah Storm Honored with Sports Communication Award

*Stars from the worlds of broadcasting, sports, and literature joined Marist alumni and friends at a New York City gala to celebrate Storm and support the College's Center for Sports Communication.*

14

### Hudson River School

*A boat-based class lets students experience the Hudson River ecosystem firsthand.*

16

### Staying on Course

*For sprinter Santosh Krishnan '20, running as part of Marist's men's track and field team is key to treating his cystic fibrosis.*

17

### Betty O'Brien's Scrapbook

*The four-inch-thick, 122-page scrapbook is a unique addition to primary sources available on Marist College history.*

20

### Road Scholars

*Kyle Mikesh '16 and Cameron Schuh '15 biked across the United States to raise money for ALS research.*

Marist is dedicated to helping students develop the intellect, character, and skills required for enlightened, ethical, and productive lives in the global community of the 21st century.

Marist magazine is published by the Office of College Advancement at Marist College for alumni and friends of Marist College.

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Hudson River School  
Page 14



Sports Communication Award  
Page 13



Alumni Road Trip  
Page 20



Steel Plant Studios Transformation  
Page 7



Alumni Honored for Achievement and Service  
Page 28

22

Red Fox Roundup

## ALUMNI PROFILES

24

From Marist to Mortaritaville and Back  
*HEOP, Marist, and the military shape the work of U.S. Army veteran Mariel Sosa Juarez '02 in counseling combat veterans and their families.*

26

Reel Life

*Successful film screenwriter and producer John Sullivan '00 watched movies as a kid, won awards for his plays at Marist, and never stopped writing.*

## DEPARTMENTS

2

Marist Drive

*What's happening on campus*

7

Advancement News

28

Alumni News & Notes



Gabrielle Kelliher '18 was named Second Team CoSIDA Academic All-American.  
Page 22



**NEWS & NOTES FROM THE CAMPUS**

**Students, Alumnus Receive Fulbright, Goldwater Honors**

**Marist students again have won honors including Fulbright awards and Goldwater scholarships.**

**D**ARRIEL MCBRIDE '17, an English/writing major from the Bronx, NY, and a participant in the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at Marist, was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant to serve as an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in South Africa. McBride is also a Gates Millennium Scholar. As a Humanity in Action Scholar, she will spend a month in Atlanta, GA, this summer with other students from the United States and Europe exploring issues of justice for underrepresented populations. She has been accepted by New York University's master's program in international education.



Awards in Teaching grant to Taiwan. Paulsen is one of approximately 35 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad through the program in 2017–18.

Fulbright is not the only highly competitive honor Marist students and alumni earned this year. Two Marist students have been named Goldwater Scholars: Alec Lee '18, an environmental science and policy major from Albany, NY, and Carolyn Turcotte '18, a dual major in biomedical science and chemistry/biochemistry from Hopewell Junction, NY.

The Goldwater is "the premier recognition of undergraduates in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields and who show promise in pursuing these fields," says Taylor. Recipients receive \$7,500 for their junior year and again for their senior year. Out of 1,286 students nominated nationwide in 2017, only 240 were chosen.

Prior to 2017, four Marist students were awarded the Goldwater Scholarship.

In addition, Elio Velazquez '18, a business administration major from the Bronx, NY, and an HEOP rising senior, was named a Congressional Hispanic Caucus intern for summer 2017. The paid internship places college students in a congressional office or federal agency for eight weeks, allowing them to learn firsthand about the nation's legislative process.

In a first for Marist, Brendon Boldt '18, a computer science major from Osseo, MN, was awarded the DAAD RISE scholarship in Germany. The scholarship, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, matches students from North America, Great Britain, and Ireland with PhD student mentors at top German universities and institutions for summer research internships.

*Adriana Belmonte '17*

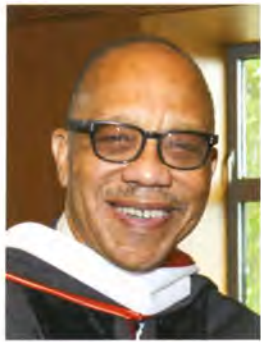
**A Darriel McBride '17 B Samantha Monroe '17 C Andrew Paulsen '12 D Alec Lee '18 and Carolyn Turcotte '18 E Elio Velazquez '18 F Brendon Boldt '18**

All of the students who apply for Fulbrights—12 applied this academic year—are very motivated, says Pat Taylor, Marist's graduate school and fellowship advisor in the Center for Career Services. Taylor administers the Fulbright competition at Marist. She credits Marist's high Fulbright numbers to the institution's "tendency to go global."

"A majority of these applicants have studied abroad," Taylor says, "but some see it as their only opportunity to go abroad."

A Marist alumnus has received a different Fulbright honor. Andrew Paulsen '12 has been offered a Fulbright Distinguished





**Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* columnist and MSNBC political analyst Eugene Robinson spoke at the May 20 ceremony.**



**Emma Joan Talis '17 was the Class of 2017 valedictorian.**



**Marist Trustee Bro. Seán Sammon, FMS '70, former superior general of the Marist Brothers, addressed graduates at the May 19 ceremony.**

## Celebrating the Class of 2017

**“W**HEN PEOPLE OF CHARACTER and intelligence apply themselves to the toughest challenges, the world becomes a better place,” President David Yellen said during the College’s 71st commencement, “and you, the Class of 2017, are people of character and intelligence. You’ve helped make Marist a better place, and now you will go out and do the same for our nation and the world.”

Presiding over his first Marist commencement since taking office last July, Yellen conferred degrees on 1,194 members of the Class of 2017 during the May 20th ceremony for traditional-age undergraduates on the Campus Green before an audience of approximately 10,000 family members and friends.

“I’ve been so impressed with who you are as people and what you’ve accomplished,” Yellen said, mentioning academic success, accomplishments in athletics and the arts, and study abroad. “But even more than your academic achievements, I’ve been impressed by the great character you’ve shown,” he said, noting volunteer, fundraising, and other community work as well as personal obstacles overcome. “You’ve grown tremendously during your time at Marist, but please remember this is just the beginning of your journey. As you move ahead in your career, education, and family, you’ll have the opportunity to achieve great things and make a real difference in the world.”

During the ceremony, Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* columnist, MSNBC political analyst, and chair of the Pulitzer Prize Board Eugene Robinson was presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of his achievements in bringing his “decades of international experience as a reporter, editor, and author to bear on the critical issues of the day—matters of politics, race, culture, and the state of the American Dream.”

The ceremony’s other featured speaker was Valedictorian Emma Joan Talis of Whitehouse Station, NJ, who graduated summa cum laude with a degree in applied mathematics.

The previous evening, Marist Trustee Bro. Seán Sammon, FMS '70, the former superior general of the Marist Brothers, addressed

451 graduates at the ceremony for graduate and adult members of the Class of 2017, also on the Campus Green. Brother Seán was awarded the Marist College Distinguished Alumni Medal, the highest award

given to a Marist graduate. The College presents it to individuals who exemplify Marist’s ideals of excellence in education, a sense of community, and a commitment to service. 📺

**For video of commencement addresses, visit [www.marist.edu/publicaffairs/commencement2017.html](http://www.marist.edu/publicaffairs/commencement2017.html).**



**TEN STUDENTS IN MARIST’S FASHION PROGRAM RECEIVED YMA-FASHION SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARDS of \$5,000 each at the fund’s 80th annual Geoffrey Beene National Scholarship Awards Dinner at Manhattan’s Marriott Marquis in January. The students, joined by Paul Annunziatta of the YMA Board of Governors, are Sarah Katz '18 (not pictured) and (left to right) Maria Stephens '19, Alexis Alexander '19, Samantha Jablonski '18, Kathryn Rizzo '17, Bryn Gorberg '17, Alanna O’Connell '17, Gianna Bazzano '18, Julia DiMarzo '19, and Tara Kilcawley '20.**



**Students in the Marist Fashion Program produced the 31ST SILVER NEEDLE RUNWAY SHOW at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center May 5. A total of 2,000 guests attended the two shows. Garments (above) by Cara Benevenia '17 won the award for Outstanding Collection.**



# ( IN BRIEF )



**Dr. Tia Sherée Gaynor**

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs recently awarded a \$150,000 grant under the W.E.B. DuBois Program of Research on Race and Crime to **Dr. Tia Sherée Gaynor**, assistant professor of public administration. The funding supports the project "Intersectional Subjection and Law Enforcement: Examining Perceptions Held by LGBTQ People of Color in New Orleans, LA" which seeks to empirically evaluate how policing has been used to subjugate individuals with intersecting identities in New Orleans.



**Dr. Paula Checchi**

Dr. Paula Checchi, assistant professor of biology, has been awarded \$261,319 in research funds by the National Institutes of Health, specifically the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The grant funds her project "Role of Higher Order Chromatin Structure in Gamete Formation" and supports research opportunities for students.



**Regina Samelson**

**Regina Samelson**, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen and Ravensbruck concentration camps, spoke at Marist's 27th annual Holocaust Remembrance event April 6 in the Nelly Goletti Theatre. She was interviewed onstage by Brittany Hampton '19.

### Marist College's School of Management

recently had its accreditation extended by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB),



the oldest and most prestigious global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting.

## MARIST DR



The Marist College Center for Sports Communication hosted three-time Emmy Award-winning sports broadcaster **JAMES BROWN** and CBS News Specials Producer **ALVIN PATRICK '86** in a conversation with **DR. KEITH STRUDLER**, center director, on Feb. 6 in the Nelly Goletti Theatre. Shown are (left to right) Patrick, Strudler, President David Yellen, and Brown.



**KEVIN MERIDA**, editor-in-chief of ESPN's *The Undefeated* (fifth from left), met with Marist communication and business students during a Feb. 27 visit to the campus.



**DR. MYRA YOUNG ARMSTEAD** spoke on *The Hudson River Valley in the Antebellum African-American Imagination* in the annual Charlotte Cunneen-Hackett Lecture in Hudson River Valley History. Armstead is the Lyford Paterson Edwards and Helen Gray Edwards Professor of Historical Studies at Bard College and the author of *Freedom's Gardener: James F. Brown, Horticulture, and the Hudson Valley in Antebellum America* and *Mighty Change, Tall Within: Black Identity in the Hudson Valley*. The talk was presented by the Hudson River Valley Institute.





Michael Conte '12, assistant director of the survey center and data management (right), showed Mark Halperin how to make a survey call as Halperin and a crew from Showtime's *The Circus* visited Marist to chronicle the Marist Poll.

## Halperin Visits the Marist Institute for Public Opinion

**M**ARK HALPERIN, co-host of Showtime's *The Circus* and senior political analyst for NBC News and MSNBC, went behind the scenes at the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion to give viewers an inside look at one of the country's preeminent polling operations.

As part of their coverage for *The Circus*, Halperin and a crew of producers and videographers visited the Marist campus for three days and chronicled the Poll as it prepared its latest national survey. The survey, which focused on recent international events and President Donald Trump's job performance, was first released during Halperin's appearance on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* on April 14 at 6 a.m. and then on *The Circus* April 16.

Earlier in April, the Marist College Poll hosted "Changing America: What's at Stake?" a discussion of the first 100

days of the Trump administration, Congress, the courts, the press, and public opinion. The panel, moderated by Dr. Lee M. Miringoff and Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho of the Poll, took place at the Newseum in Washington, DC, and featured E.J. Dionne Jr., Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and columnist for the *Washington Post*; *New York Times* White House Correspondent Maggie Haberman; NBC News Senior Political Editor Mark Murray; and Amy Walter, national editor

of the *Cook Political Report*. The April 6 event was livestreamed on the Marist Poll web site.

Also this spring, Yahoo partnered with the Marist Poll to produce "Weed and the American Family," a look at Americans' attitudes about marijuana use. With a focus on the American family, the survey addressed the impact of marijuana use on relationships, the changing social norms surrounding the use of the drug, and the debate over its legalization. 🇺🇸

**Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho and Dr. Lee M. Miringoff (third and fourth from left) of the Marist Poll moderated a panel in Washington that featured (left to right) NBC News Senior Political Editor Mark Murray, *New York Times* White House Correspondent Maggie Haberman, Amy Walter, national editor for the *Cook Political Report*, and E.J. Dionne Jr., Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and columnist for the *Washington Post*, shown with Marist President David Yellen.**







For the second straight year, a group of Marist students spent the day serving meals to more than 350 clients of Eva's Village, a nonprofit in Paterson, NJ. The students included Class of 2017 members (left to right) **SAM GREENE, CHRIS MILES, CHRISTINA MANCA, DANIELLE DELAPAZ, and SAM LENHART**. The impetus behind the trip came from Greg Garville '74 and his wife, Christine Donnelly Garville '74, who initiated the first such effort in 2016 through their support for the Eva's Kitchen Fund-a-Meal sponsorship program. Garville is a member of the advisory board for Marist's School of Management.

## Princeton Review Names Marist a Top School for Game Design

**M**ARIST has earned the No. 34 ranking on the Princeton Review's 2017 list saluting the top 50 undergraduate schools for the study of game design.

The Princeton Review ([www.PrincetonReview.com](http://www.PrincetonReview.com)) chose the schools based on a survey it conducted in 2016 of 150 institutions offering game design coursework and/or degrees in the United States, Canada, and some countries abroad.

"Marist's game design program provides students innovative and thoughtful training that prepares our students for this billion-dollar industry," said Lyn Lepre, dean of the School of Communication and the Arts, where the program is housed jointly with the School of Computer Science and Mathematics. "What makes Marist's program truly stand out in the crowd is that our faculty truly love games and gaming, and this attitude is expressed in their teaching. The co-curricular PlayLab is also a standout feature, providing students with a space to play, develop, design, and learn alongside peers and faculty."

The Princeton Review is also known for its annual rankings of colleges in dozens of categories, which it reports on its site, and in its books including *The Best 381 Colleges* and *Colleges That Create Futures*, both of which feature Marist. The company is not affiliated with Princeton University. 📖

Marist students raised a record \$56,150 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through their participation in the annual St. Jude Up 'Til Dawn event. The amount was almost \$20,000 more than the total that students raised in 2015.





# Advancement News

The Steel Plant project will feature space useful to both the Fashion and Art departments such as computer labs and photo studios.



Robert A. M. Stern Architects has designed an addition and renovation for the Steel Plant Studios.

## Steel Plant Transformation Begins

**C**ONSTRUCTION BEGINS this summer on an addition and renovation to the Steel Plant Studios to provide more space for Marist's Fashion program, which will move there from Donnelly Hall, and improve space for the Department of Art and Digital Media.

Highlights of the two-story project include MPorium, the highly successful boutique and entrepreneurship lab operated by Marist merchandising students, and a café with tables, seating, and attractive indoor landscaping.

Studios with 14-foot ceilings and plentiful natural light will offer a warehouse-like, industrial aesthetic where Fashion students will design and sew garments. A Fashion resource center will offer books, software, and textile samples for research and inspiration. The project will feature space useful to both the Fashion and Art departments such as computer labs and photo studios.

The architect for the project is Robert A. M. Stern Architects, the

same firm that designed the new residence halls at the north end of the campus, the science and allied health building, the Hancock Center, and the renovation and expansion of the Student Center.

Naming opportunities are available. For information please contact Chris DelGiorno '88, vice president for college advancement, at (845) 575-3412 or [christopher.delgiorno@marist.edu](mailto:christopher.delgiorno@marist.edu).







Don Duet '88 (third from left) spoke to computer science and information technology students at Marist.

## Scholarships Again Funded by Goldman Sachs-Duet Family Technology Scholarship Fund

**T**HREE MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2021 will receive four-year scholarships to study computer science or information technology and systems, thanks to the generosity of Trustee Don Duet '88. Duet recently contributed \$250,000 through Goldman Sachs Gives to support a new cohort of Goldman Sachs-Duet Family Technology Scholars entering Marist this fall. This is the fourth group of Technology Scholars he has supported over the past four years and each cohort has met with considerable success.

In its structure and mission, the Goldman Sachs-Duet Family Technology Scholarship closely aligns with Marist's current National Science Foundation-funded technology scholarships. The NSF program has brought a diverse and talented group of students to Marist, providing them with four-year scholarships. The students benefit from an extensive support network of advisors and mentors and access to internship opportunities with many of the College's Fortune 500 corporate partners. Currently

17 rising seniors are participating.

"The Goldman Sachs-Duet Family Technology Scholarships and the NSF Technology Scholarships have had a tremendous effect on enrollments," says Dr. Roger Norton, dean of Marist's School of Computer Science and Mathematics. "Since the scholarships began, enrollments have more than doubled."

The Goldman Sachs-Duet Family Technology Scholars are often mentored by Goldman Sachs technology executives and receive opportunities for summer employment with the firm.

The fund was established in 2013 by a significant gift from Goldman Sachs Gives. The original gift from the global investment firm's donor-advised fund was made at the recommendation of Duet, who was then Goldman Sachs' global chief operating officer of the Technology Division.

"Marist provided me with a top-quality education that has served me well in life and, in particular, my career," Duet said at the

time the fund was established. "This gift from Goldman Sachs Gives will give students from underrepresented groups who have financial need access to the same education and experiences that have served me so well.

"I see an ever-greater need for graduates in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) majors who have a deep understanding of these complex fields. My hope is that these scholarships will support just that kind of higher learning."

Duet has supported Marist in additional ways. In 2016 he hosted a successful recruitment event for Marist's Admissions effort for the third straight year at Goldman Sachs. He has spoken at Marist's Raymond A. Rich Institute for Leadership Development in Esopus, NY, about leadership in technology and on Marist's Poughkeepsie campus about the future of cloud computing. He also has been a keynote speaker at the Enterprise Computing Community Conference at Marist. 📍



Kevin MacLellan '89 spoke to communication students during a visit to Marist.

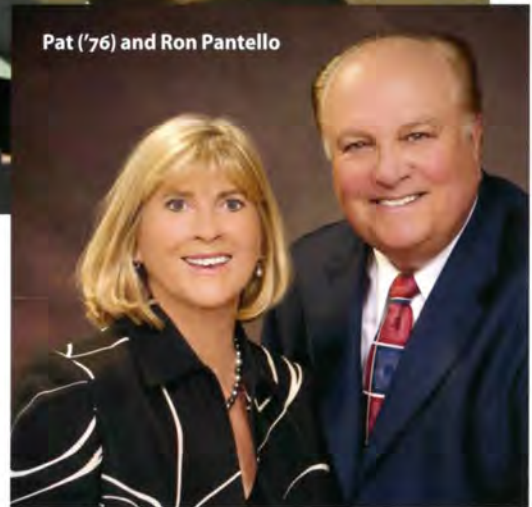


AL NOVA/ON LOCATION



Joshua and Carolyn Matheus '99/'02

JENNIFER ANDREY



Pat ('76) and Ron Pantello

## New Major Gifts and Pledges

**M**ARIST CONTINUES TO BENEFIT from the generous support of alumni, parents, and friends. Among recent commitments:

- Kevin MacLellan '89 and his husband, Brian Curran, have made a generous pledge to establish the Donald & Virginia MacLellan International Scholarship. Created in memory of Kevin's parents, the scholarship will give deserving undergraduate students the opportunity to study abroad for a semester. MacLellan cited his abroad experience as a key factor in his career success, much of which has been internationally focused. Today, MacLellan and his family reside in London, England, where he serves as chairman of NBCUniversal, global distribution and international. In October 2016, MacLellan was on campus as a guest of the Raymond A. Rich Institute for Leadership Development. He spoke to students about his Marist experience, his career success, and the fast-changing global media landscape.
- Dr. Frank T. Bumpus, who recently celebrated his 95th birthday, made a generous gift to Marist's Hudson River Valley Institute to support its ongoing operations. A longtime supporter of HRVI, he established the Frank T. Bumpus Chair in Hudson River Valley History, which is held by Dr. James M. Johnson.
- The James J. McCann Charitable Trust has issued a generous grant for the McCann Scholars program. The trust's total giving to the program now exceeds \$2.1 million. The trust is led by Marist Trustee Michael G. Gartland and Richard V. Corbally.
- Alumni couple Joshua and Carolyn Matheus '99/'02 have made a generous gift to establish a new endowed scholarship to support women studying in STEM majors offered within the School of Computer Science and Mathematics and the School of Science. Josh, a member of the Computer Science and Mathematics Advisory Board, is a vice president and

Technology Fellow at Goldman Sachs, and Carolyn is an associate professor of information systems and internship coordinator at Marist.

- Trustee Patrice Connolly Pantello '76 and her husband, Ron, have made a generous pledge to establish the Connolly-Pantello Family Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will support talented students with financial need majoring in School of Science disciplines. The Pantellos were inspired by Pat's mother, Mary Patricia O'Sullivan Connolly, who was an Army lieutenant stationed on a hospital ship off the coast of France in World War II and Ron's father, George A. Pantello, who served as Director of Pharmacy at the University of Miami Medical School until his death. 🇺🇸



May 11, 2017

Colonel Oliver Hazard Payne Mansion, Esopus NY, Marist College Institute for Leadership Development

## Legacy Society Recognition Luncheon



Legacy Society members gather on the steps leading to the loggia.



Dr. John Scileppi '67, Dr. Lynn Ruggiero '76, Patrick Gallagher '57, Mary Kealoha Gallagher, Suzanne Dale Wilcox, John Wilcox '61, Shaileen Kopec



Sharon and Stephen ('69) Johnson



Paula and Sean ('90) Kaylor



Tom Wade and Bro. Seán Sammon, FMS '70



Martin and Eleanor ('85 M) Charwat





Bro. Donnell Neary, FMS, Bro. Michael Flanigan, FMS, and Barbara LaPietra



Charlotte and Gene ('76) Gumienny with President David Yellen



Dr. Jerome Cuyler and Bro. John Nash, FMS '63



Ted Prenting with Drs. Linda and Gregory Dunlap



McPherson estate

## Legacy Society Celebrates Bicentennial of the Marist Brothers

**M**ARIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT DAVID YELLEN recognized members of the Marist College Legacy Society at a luncheon held at the Colonel Oliver Hazard Payne Mansion in May. He welcomed new inductees, presenting them with Legacy Society pins.

The theme for the gathering, "Celebrating the Bicentennial of the Marist Brothers, 1817-2017," featured historic photos of the Marist Brothers property in Esopus, NY, and the Marist College campus.

Bro. Seán Sammon, FMS '70, Marist College scholar in residence and former superior general of the Marist Brothers, reflected on the life and philosophy of Saint Marcellin Champagnat. "He had a dream and held firm to the belief that to teach young people you had to love them first, and love them all equally."

Brother Seán shared the early history of what became Marist College:

"In 1905, Brother Zepheriny was alerted by the pastor of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish in New York City that the McPherson estate in Poughkeepsie was on the market. Zepheriny, who was looking for a place where young Marist Brothers could be educated, was interested, but there was a hitch. At the dawn of the 20th century, the Marist Institute in France had been suppressed by the government. As a consequence, the funds of the Brothers had been frozen; no money of theirs could leave the country.

Fortunately, Zepheriny was similar to Marcellin—a man of action. He borrowed the money to buy the McPherson estate from his sister in France and then sold it to the Brothers here in the States. Three years later, he borrowed money from a lawyer in Poughkeepsie to purchase the adjacent Bech estate.

A few years afterwards, Monsignor Sheehan, then pastor of Saint Peter's Parish, helped the Brothers acquire property to the south of the Bech estate. These three parcels of land form the main campus of today's Marist College. A dream, ingenuity, and a willingness to take risks: these are the building blocks of any Marist project."

To learn more about the Marist College Legacy Society, contact Joan Gambeski '83, Director of Gift and Legacy Planning, at [joan.gambeski@marist.edu](mailto:joan.gambeski@marist.edu) or 845.575.3942.

By including Marist College in their long-range plans, Legacy Society members embrace the vision and generosity of the College's founders by supporting the education of Marist students for generations to come. 🇺🇸





Board Chair Ellen Hancock installs David Yellen as Marist's president as Immediate Past Chair Rob Dyson looks on.

## Celebrating the Inauguration of David Yellen

David Yellen is formally installed as the fourth president of Marist College.

**M**ARIST COLLEGE formally installed David Yellen as its fourth president in a ceremony Nov. 5, 2016, in the McCann Arena attended by nearly 1,000 members of the College community, delegates from other colleges and universities, elected officials, and others.

Yellen, who came to Marist after serving for 11 years as dean of the Loyola University Chicago School of Law, succeeds Dennis Murray, who stepped down in June 2016 after 37 years in office and is now president emeritus.

"The board has tremendous respect for your reputation as an outstanding attorney, educator, and leader," Board of Trustees Chair Ellen M. Hancock said before installing Yellen. "Your strong commitment to social justice and service is very much in keeping with the traditions of the Marist Brothers, and we are confident in your ability to lead this great institution into the future, while honoring its past."

In his presidential address, Yellen recalled that when he was considering college president opportunities, "I was interested in finding a school that was successful, but not complacent; one that was rooted in the deep values of higher education, but committed to embracing change. I found all of that at Marist."

Yellen went on to discuss the College's many strengths, built upon the three core principles of its Marist Brothers founders: excellence in education, a sense of community, and a commitment of service. He also acknowledged the challenges facing all of higher education.

"So change is coming," Yellen said. "The years ahead will not be quiet ones. They will not always be easy. But we should embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead on our journey."

Earlier in the ceremony, Kurt L. Schmoke, president of the University of Baltimore and a former mayor of Baltimore, delivered the inaugural address.

"What a wonderful culture you have here at Marist," Schmoke said, "a focus on blending liberal arts with pre-professional education; a commitment to quality research and teaching; recognition that your students are citizens of the world and not just the local area; alumni and friends who support the College in multiple ways; and a deep belief in the value of diversity. Those are great pillars upon which strategy is built. They comprise part of the Marist culture of which you should be proud."

Schmoke, himself a former law school dean, went on to say of Yellen, "you have selected one fine human being and leader



Dr. Elizabeth Quinn '95/'95 MA, associate professor of psychology, carries the College mace in the procession.



Kurt L. Schmoke, president of the University of Baltimore, delivers the inaugural address.

to be your president. I was once asked to describe David as succinctly as possible. My reply to that request was two words: optimistic pragmatist."

Yellen's family—wife Leslie Richards-Yellen and daughters Jordan, Meredith (who was unable to attend in person and so participated via video), and Bailey—together read Edgar Albert Guest's poem *It Couldn't Be Done*, which concludes "Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing that 'cannot be done,' and you'll do it."

Other speakers included Brandon Lee Heard '17, president of the Student Government Association; Paul X. Rinn '68, president of the Alumni Association; and Dr. Elizabeth L. Quinn '95/'95 MA, associate professor of psychology and chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Inauguration Weekend also included symposia led by Marist faculty, deans, trustees, and administrators on *Social Justice: Reform and the Marist Tradition* and *Technology: Disruptive Opportunity*. Across the hall in the Murray Student Center, dozens of undergraduates presented posters based on their undergraduate research. 📄





Honoree Hannah Storm (center) was joined on the red carpet by (left to right) President David Yellen, Leslie Richards-Yellen, Dan Hicks, Lisa Kerney, Patrick Kerney, and Dr. Keith Strudler.

Stars from the worlds of broadcasting, sports, and literature joined Marist alumni and friends at a gala to celebrate Storm and support the College's Center for Sports Communication.



Hannah Storm accepts the Lifetime Excellence in Sports Communication Award from Marist President David Yellen.

**"Hannah is one of the most generous and genuine people I know" and "the woman who's continued to redefine success in this crazy business"**  
— ESPN SportsCenter Anchor Lisa Kerney

# Hannah Storm Receives Lifetime Excellence in Sports Communication Award

ESPN legend Bob Ley, tennis great Patrick McEnroe, and best-selling author and screenwriter Nicholas Sparks were among those who turned out April 20 to honor Hannah Storm as Marist President David Yellen presented her with the Lifetime Excellence in Sports Communication award at New York City's Edison Ballroom.

The award recognizes individuals who have exemplified excellence over time in the broadly defined field of sports communication, recognizing the social value and importance of sport and those who cover, analyze, and narrate it.

But, as Dr. Keith Strudler, director of the Marist College Center for Sports Communication, said in kicking off the evening's program, "The Lifetime Excellence Award in Sports Communication isn't really defined by the boilerplate language in the program." Rather, Strudler said, it is defined by its recipients.

Storm's family, friends, and colleagues took to the stage to share humorous and heartfelt stories about her career and her impact on the industry as a trailblazing woman in what, particularly early in her career, was a field dominated by men. NBC Sports broadcaster and Storm's husband, Dan Hicks, led off the dais, while Storm's father and former American Basketball Association Commissioner Mike Storen closed the eve-

ning, telling the audience that his greatest legacy would be as Hannah Storm's father. In between, other speakers included former NBA Commissioner David Stern, ESPN host and reporter Wendi Nix, and ESPN SportsCenter anchor Lisa Kerney, who served as master of ceremonies for the event, at which she praised Storm for being a consummate professional, a role model, a friend, and an advocate.

Several others noted the importance of promoting research and education in the field of sports communication, allowing Marist to prepare the next generation of sports broadcasters to follow in Storm's footsteps. According to Strudler, many of the speakers' remarks sent a strong message about the importance of education in the competitive world of sports media.

"Not only were all the speakers excellent and memorable, as would be expected, but they also stress the importance of the kind of work that happens at the Center for Sports Communication, offering students exceptional learning opportunities in and out of the classroom," he said. "There is no greater ambassador for that message than our worthy award recipient, Hannah Storm."

Storm has long been recognized for the quality and range of her work, including coverage of major stars—LeBron James, Derek Jeter, Roger Goodell, and

many others—and events, like the Super Bowl, Wimbledon, and the NBA Playoffs. She has spent the past decade at ESPN, where she hosts *SportsCenter's Face to Face with Hannah Storm*, a newsmaker interview-driven show, weekdays at 10 a.m., and *SportsCenter Sunday Morning* during the NFL season. She also hosts *Face to Face* interview specials, which have aired on ESPN and ABC since 2012. In addition, she has covered major news events for ESPN such as Major League Baseball's visit to Cuba, the funeral of Muhammad Ali, and the 2016 Olympics.

She is also an author and the founder of the Hannah Storm Foundation, which supports children and parents of children suffering from debilitating vascular birthmarks and provides scholarships for journalism students at her alma mater, Notre Dame.

All net proceeds from the event supported the Center for Sports Communication at Marist endowment. Sponsors included Marist Trustee Rob Dyson and the Dyson Foundation; Gottlieb Real Estate; the James J. McCann Charitable Trust; the National Basketball Association; Hickey-Finn; 1-800-Flowers.com; Trustee Steve Effron; ESPN; Bond, Schoeneck & King; the Pike Co.; Daniel O'Connell's Sons; Agua; J.W. Hulme Co.; Apple Montessori Schools; BSN Sports; JTR Transportation; and the Red Fox Club. Trustee Jim Barnes '68 chaired the event.

The inaugural Lifetime Excellence in Sports Communication Award was presented in 2015 to Bryant Gumbel. 📺





**"I'm really enjoying this class. Of course I'm fascinated by the topic, but what's fantastic is the method—just going out and learning about things for the sake of improving our lives and expanding our knowledge."**

**Cover Story**

# Hudson River School

**A boat-based class lets students experience the Hudson River ecosystem firsthand.**

**T**HE HUDSON RIVER became a classroom this past fall for 18 students from a variety of majors in the inaugural Honors course Environmental Explorations of the Hudson, offered by the Department of Environmental Science and Policy. In lab sessions aboard Marist College's 28-foot research vessel, the students examined the natural processes that have shaped the river and how humans impact and manage these processes. Guided by faculty members J. Theodore Fink, AICP, and Dr. Zofia Gagnon, chair of the Environmental Science and Policy Department, they sampled river water for microplastics, studied the quality of the Hudson and its relationship to city and town water supplies and wastewater discharge, examined Hudson Valley biodiversity to understand food webs, used seine nets to catch and identify fish, and toured former and existing riverfront industrial sites. The course is designed to build environmental awareness through hands-on activities. Students also learn that, dating back to the early 1800's, the Hudson River Valley has played a significant role in inspiring actions to preserve and protect nature's beauty and resources and that the area has a well-earned historical reputation as the birthplace of environmental movements. Readings for the course included material in special collections of the Marist College Archives: the Hudson River Conservation Society, Inc. and the Hudson River Environmental Society. The course will run again in fall 2017, along with a new boat-based course for environmental science and policy majors. Purchase of the vessel was made possible by a grant from the Cargill Foundation. 📷

**PHOTOS BY TED FINK**

*Text from student journal entries*

former and existing riverfront industrial sites. The course is designed to build environmental awareness through hands-on activities. Students also learn that, dating back to the early 1800's, the Hudson River Valley has played a significant role in inspiring actions to preserve and protect nature's beauty and resources and that the area has a well-earned historical reputation as the birthplace of environmental movements. Readings for the course included material in special collections of the Marist College Archives: the Hudson River Conservation Society, Inc. and the Hudson River Environmental Society. The course will run again in fall 2017, along with a new boat-based course for environmental science and policy majors. Purchase of the vessel was made possible by a grant from the Cargill Foundation. 📷

**"It's such a different experience to learn about fish and ecosystems in the classroom and to go out and look at them — touch them, find them, and observe them."**







**"The freedom to research what we wanted really gave everyone the opportunity to do something they are genuinely interested in."**



**"It has been great to learn the history and significance of the structures and features in this area—not to ace an exam or test but to be a better citizen of the Hudson Valley."**



# Staying on Course

**F**OR MANY PEOPLE WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS, exercise is difficult. The inherited disease caused by a faulty gene clogs the lungs and digestive system, making it hard to breathe and achieve proper digestion. For Santosh Krishnan '20, a sprinter on Marist's track and field team, running is his number-one treatment.

"Marist track and field is one of the best things to happen to me because the team keeps me healthy," says Krishnan, known as "Tosh" by his teammates. "I love being on the ground after a workout, hurting like hell, and huffing and puffing because I know it's the best thing for me."

The only way to get rid of the thick mucus that clogs his lungs is to break it down and spit it out. He clears his airways by using a nebulizer, wearing a vibrating vest, and running.

"Every day, I inhale hypertonic saline through a nebulizer," Krishnan says. "It acts like scissors and breaks down the mucus that may contain bacteria or germs so I can spit it out. The other thing I do is wear a vest. It shakes a lot, vibrating constantly, and shakes my lungs to help break down my mucus. I just take 20 minutes a day to sit down and relax and do my treatments, maybe even read a book during this time and just let the mucus break down. Luckily for me, I don't have the worst case. Some people need the vest and nebulizer multiple times a day, and it's so bad that some can't get to the point of exercising or breathing normally."

The disease, along with its pulmonary issues, also affects the digestive system, blocking the pancreas from breaking down fat and protein. Krishnan takes enzymes in the form of pills to allow him to digest food. "Not only fat and protein but vitamins aren't absorbed as well as a normal person so I take six or seven extra vitamins and multivitamins per day."

His liver has to work hard to process the extra vitamins, nutrients, and enzymes. If he were to drink alcohol, his liver could be at risk to eventually exhaust. "Even if I want to enjoy a cup of wine (when I'm 21) with my family, I have to check with my doctor."

Krishnan was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis (CF) at nine months old. "Because of that, I wasn't absorbing vitamins and such

**For sprinter Santosh Krishnan '20, running as part of Marist's men's track and field team is key to treating his cystic fibrosis.**



Santosh Krishnan '20

for a long time, and this affected my brain to the point where I was placed in special education growing up. I didn't speak until I was 5 because my brain just didn't develop fast enough. Without enzymes, nutrients, and vitamins, I just wasn't functioning the same as everyone else.

"Finally, during my junior year of high school I was taken out of special education because I proved that I could work in school like everyone at that point. I was just a little behind the learning curve at first because I started out behind."

CF also infects the sinuses. As a youth, Krishnan had two surgeries on his nose to drain the mucus that was backed up in his sinuses. "I couldn't breathe through my nose for the first 10 years of my life. My sinuses are a lot healthier now since the surgeries."

Still, he was luckily able to play sports and do just about anything that other kids could do. His talent for running revealed itself when he was in fourth grade. "The state

of Connecticut mandated a mile run for gym class. I found myself out in front of everybody else, almost a minute ahead. People were telling my mom I would be a runner, and she told me I'd rock the track in high school. In my fifth-grade track meet I won the 100-meter dash by a significant amount. That made me love running even more. And to boot, it turns out running improves my condition. So why not continue to be competitive in running in middle school and high school?"

With the support of his mother, Krishnan joined his high school track and field team. "I was putting down some average times to start—mid-50s in the 400-meter dash and mid-20s in the 200-meter dash. As I got better I thought it would be cool to go to college for it."

During his junior year he reached out to college coaches including Pete Colaizzo '86, head coach of Marist cross-country and track and field programs. "I didn't tell him about CF until I was here," says Krishnan. "I didn't see it as a disadvantage to my running, and I knew if I told any coach, they wouldn't know what it was, anyway."

"I was totally surprised when I learned about Tosh's CF," says Colaizzo. "My first reaction was, 'I don't want to put this kid in any danger.' But he handles it seamlessly and without issue. In fact, he had no CF-related issues at all that I am aware of during his freshman year."

Prior to a race, Krishnan says he does "normal track stuff"—listening to music, warming up—and uses an albuterol inhaler. "I actually had to tell the NCAA about all the enzymes I was taking, in case I am a subject for drug testing."

Colaizzo says Krishnan is a super-great kid and an inspiration to both him and the team. "Tosh is an earnest young man and a very hard worker. Because of that, he is well liked and well respected among his teammates. We anticipate that with hard work and dedication, he will continue to work his way up the ladder on our team.

"We are thrilled to have him in our Marist track family, and we're all rooting for him each and every day." 🏃‍♂️

*Stefan Morton '17 was a distance runner on the Marist track and field team.*

BY STEFAN MORTON '17



# Betty O'Brien's Scrapbook

The four-inch-thick, 122-page scrapbook is a unique addition to primary sources available on Marist College history.

**M**ORE THAN 50 YEARS AGO, when Marist College was populated by young Brothers and male lay students, Elizabeth "Betty" O'Brien bought herself a large loose-leaf binder, covered it with red-and-white-striped fabric and eyelet lace trim, and as a finishing touch put a gold-foil Marist seal on the cover. She then began to fill her personal scrapbook, not realizing that someday it would become an unofficial Marist time capsule.

Serving almost all of the lay male classes at Marist, Mrs. O'Brien—as she is fondly identified by alumni of her era—was a mainstay of the Registrar's Office for eight years. Hired in 1963 and soon named the College's first recorder, O'Brien was one of Marist's first female administrators. Her trailblazing at the longstanding male school did not go unnoticed.

She made the campus livelier, recalls former Director of Admissions and Dean of Students Tom Wade, who helped hire O'Brien when he was a young administrator working for Director of Admissions Bro. John Malachy. "A warm, caring person" was his first impression of her.

O'Brien's impact as a female presence in Donnelly Hall was echoed by Tony Campilii '62/'79 M, Heritage Executive and former CFO/vice president for business affairs. "She added a flair to the campus that never existed before," he says. "Everybody loved her. Students were drawn to her and she became a motherly advocate for them."

"We were family," recalled Bro. Joseph L. R. Belanger, FMS '48, the venerated long-time faculty member, in 2001, "and the heart of that family was Betty O'Brien. She was 'Mother' to all the students, and like a good mother she loved them all equally. She would

bargain and finagle for them all, even the undeserving, and get them through and launch them on their careers."

Preserving vestiges of Marist's formative years as a lay institution, the four-inch-thick, 122-page scrapbook is a unique addition to primary sources available on Marist College history.

After Mrs. O'Brien's passing in 2000, the scrapbook was held by her daughter, Valeda Wagner, who was married in the Marist Chapel to Bruce Wagner '66. Before Val's own passing, she gave the book to Marist and was assured that it would be in good hands in the Archives and Special Collections of the James A. Cannavino Library.

The book is a Marist trove of memories. It includes invitations from class presidents and other student officers to annual events, such as the Ring Ceremony, the President's Cup Regatta, the Senior-Faculty Cocktail Party, the Varsity Club Picnic, the Senior Farewell Dinner Dance, and



the Sophomore Class Hootenanny. Some of these invitations originated in the College's legendary print shop, while others were reproduced in vibrant purple ink from a bygone ditto machine. Programs were saved from many commencements, and there is one from a 1966 Marist fundraising dinner honoring

Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and Joseph A. Beirne, president of the Communication Workers of America, as "Great Contemporary Americans." The seating chart lists as many as 1,000 guests in the Grand Ballroom of the Commodore Hotel in New York City.

**A clipping from the Poughkeepsie Journal 50 years ago notes that Marist installed its first computer system.**



BY SHAILEEN KOPEC

Shaileen Kopec retired from Marist College in 2015 after a 43-year career that included 14 years as vice president for college advancement. She continues to reside in Poughkeepsie, NY, with her husband. Tony '77 MBA.



# Betty O'Brien's Scrapbook

Announcements of historic note include groundbreaking ceremonies for Champagnat Hall on Oct. 1, 1964, and dedication ceremonies for the William H. Martin Boathouse on Nov. 5, 1964. Capping the semester was the momentous announcement on Dec. 3, 1964, of Marist's full accreditation as a four-year liberal arts college by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities.

**A**MONG several *Poughkeepsie Journal* press clippings is one dated Dec. 10, 1967, and headlined "Marist Starts Computer System." The article reports that according to Bro. Nilus Donnelly (legendary for his Marist building achievements, but cited in this article as director of the computer center), "Marist is inaugurating its first computer system in order to 'provide computer orientation to the student' in an increasingly electronic world... The computer, a 16k model which is the largest of the 1401 IBM series, has a working memory of 16,000 banks of informative items. At the moment the college has six packs which operate much like magnetic tapes ... each pack is capable of retaining two million items of information."

President Emeritus Linus Richard Foy '50 recalls that one of the first uses of the computer was to automate the work of the

Registrar's Office, then a groundbreaking application for higher education. In anticipation of this, the Registrar's Office was moved from Donnelly Hall to the former Adrian Lounge, which was repurposed to house the new computer center. It would be a challenging transition for the work environment, but "Betty was very open to it," Foy says. "She led by example with a positive attitude. Her acceptance provided leadership to the staff and other administrators" at Marist. According to the *Journal* article, O'Brien indicated "all those connected with the program have taken a 12-week course in operating the machine."

O'Brien also kept her Marist employee contracts in the scrapbook. Beyond business records, they chronicle Foy's annual thanks for her dedicated work on behalf of the students and the College. He notes in one, "Now that you have been with us for some time, there may be a tendency to take you for granted, but believe me, those of us in administration who remember the old



Betty O'Brien's portrait from the 1968 Marist yearbook

days are sincerely grateful for the enthusiasm, efficiency, and genuine interest in students which are shown by our favorite recorder."

For all the illumination of Marist's past, the dominant theme of the book is the love that students had for O'Brien. The Class of 1970 bestowed on

her their own honorary degree, signed by Class President Michael Towers. The Class of 1967 dedicated its yearbook to her, and part of a letter from Alan Bruens, the class's corresponding secretary, explains why: "All too often, those whose dedication has merited silent but nonetheless sincere praise go unrecognized by those who are affected most. In view of this, the Class of '67 has selected you, Mrs. O'Brien, to take the spotlight—to you the '67 Reynard will be dedicated."

Most touching are the dozens of notes, cards, and letters sent to O'Brien from former students, thanking her for timely help and encouragement during their years at Marist. Pre-Internet, almost all these keepsakes are neatly handwritten on formal stationery. The words "kindness," "generosity," "thoughtfulness," "patience," and "friendship" appear over and over. Some letters are long and thoughtful. But even simple requests for transcripts conclude with the writers telling O'Brien how important she has been to

Quang Tri, Vietnam, September 1969: From left, Bill Kuffner '68, Mike Santimauro '68, John Casserly '67, Brendan Burke '68, and Jim Barnes '68



QUANG TRI VIETNAM  
SEPTEMBER 1969

- LEFT—RIGHT—  
BILL KUFFNER  
MIKE SANTIMAURO  
JOHN CASSERLY  
BRENDAN BURKE  
JIM BARNES

2/Lt. Brendan T. Burke 0106740 USMC.  
7th Motor Transport Battalion  
B Company  
FPO, San Francisco, California 96602

Mrs. Elizabeth O'Brien  
Recorder's Office  
Marist College  
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

18 March 1969  
Dear Mrs. O:  
Well here I am in sunny  
South Vietnam! I arrived 2 days ago  
and I've been assigned as a platoon  
commander up at Quang Tri which  
is about 10 mi. N. of the DMZ.  
I'm free  
News to you  
also stationed  
who graduated  
and I'm other  
same hootch  
her I saw her  
another former  
quit after my  
here. This  
This is a Sgt.  
really

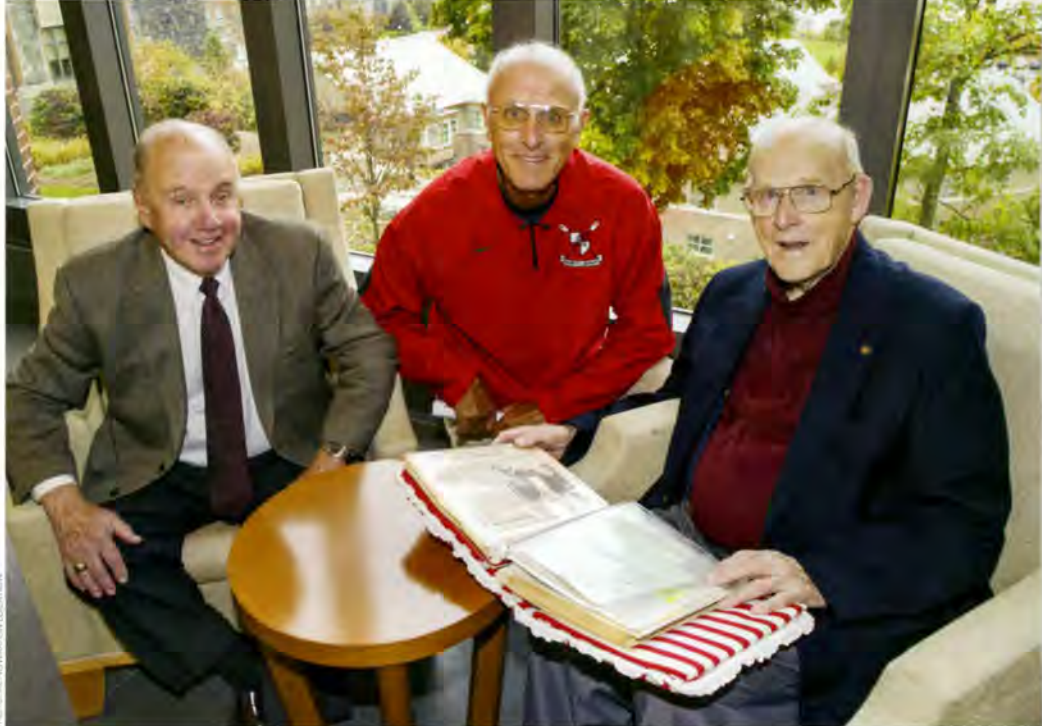


them. Also saved are invitations to students' graduation parties and alumni weddings.

O'Brien had an especially close relationship with the Marist Brothers, both the students and the College's administrators. As Brothers left for teaching or new administrative assignments, many took time to write letters of gratitude and friendship to her. Even as they moved far from Poughkeepsie—whether it be to Texas or Taiwan—they sought a connection with this special woman. In 1966, three Brothers in transit to the Far East sent her a postcard from Hong Kong. After mentioning "a slight earthquake" and receding floods from a recent typhoon, they wrote, "Finally, we'd like to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation for all the wonderful services you rendered us at Marist, and above all for the wonderful person you are!"

O'Brien was the "keeper of the grades," and during the mid-1960s this was an unusually weighty responsibility. The Vietnam War was underway and before a draft lottery was instituted in 1969, young men enrolled in college at this time were exempt from military service as long as they remained in good academic standing. Compounding the pressure on students to succeed was the uncommonly high number of courses then required at Marist, a carryover from its days as a seminary.

Bill Zabicki '66 recalls taking 17 courses his freshman year; many were two credits each. (The College's accreditation by Middle States in 1964 spurred a realignment of Marist's typical course load.) O'Brien was acutely aware of these challenges, says Zabicki. "Professional and caring in her approach, she respected the incoming freshman in a most special way, realizing that he was entering a challenging period of life, at a time when our country was [under] the clouds of war."



From left: Tom Wade, Bill Zabicki '66, and President Emeritus Richard Foy '50 view O'Brien's scrapbook in fall 2016 during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend.

Reflecting on the recorder's legacy, Zabicki says, "It is impossible to capture all that Mrs. O'Brien meant to Marist and its students. She was an integral part of so many lives, selfless and dedicated in her duties, and tireless in her willingness to make the Marist experience the best it could be. Though alumni might have differences of opinion over who was the best coach or faculty member, Mrs. O'Brien stood alone in her category of that special someone who will always be remembered by everyone."

And, he adds, "She was unanimously voted Class of '66 Sweetheart in our senior year."

After graduation, Zabicki served as a U.S. Army officer in South Vietnam. He wrote to O'Brien several times from there, and a letter in the scrapbook dated March 18, 1969, shows his wry wit: "I have already had one final exam in NVA (North Vietnamese Army) ground assaults—and I fared quite well. You don't know when the 'exams' are scheduled, so you have to be ready at all times. (By the way, can I receive graduate credit for them?!)"

Zabicki went on to a 25-year career in the Army, retiring as a lieutenant colonel, and then a 15-year federal career as transition services director with Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio,

TX, preparing families for life after military service.

Also in the scrapbook is correspondence from Brendan Burke '68, who had just arrived in Quang Tri, South Vietnam, as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps 7th Motor Battalion. He communicated several times with O'Brien in the year he was stationed there. From halfway around the world, Burke wrote on March 18, 1969, "The most interesting news to you will probably be that also stationed here is John Casserly, who graduated in 1967. He, myself, and two other officers live in the same hootch. I didn't believe it when I saw him for the first time." Six months later, the two posed for a photo in Quang Tri with three other Marine officers from Marist—Bill Kuffner '68, Mike Santimauro '68, and Jim Barnes '68. Harbored in the scrapbook all these years, the snapshot is well-known among Marist alumni who are Vietnam veterans.

Following military service, Burke had a 30-year career as a human resources professional in New York City, starting at NBC and retiring after 25 years at ABC. He also served Marist as president of the Alumni Executive Board and was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees.

Looking back almost 50 years, Burke says, "I continue to be emotionally moved by the amazing mixture of the Marist College and the Marine Corps experiences. That combination involved issues like loyalty, honesty, intelligence, respect, and, yes, bravery. I know unequivocally that Betty O'Brien knew that too, and she will always have a place in my heart. God bless Marist College, the U.S. Marine Corps, and most of all, God bless Betty O'Brien." 📖



David M. Flynn (left), director of admissions, and Dr. Daniel Kirk, chair of the Department of Psychology (right), presented a plaque to O'Brien upon her retirement in 1971 at a dinner in her honor at the Lamplighter Inn attended by 60 guests.





# Road Scholars

**Kyle Mikesh '16 and Cameron Schuh '15 biked across the U.S. to raise money for ALS research.**

**K**YLE MIKESH '16 AND CAMERON SCHUH '15 made it on their bikes all the way up Colorado's Million Dollar Highway, from 7,000 to 11,000 feet over a "brutal" 13-mile climb, without a mishap, and down as well. It was just one of the many memorable moments of their 61-day, 3,400-mile ride across the U.S. from Plymouth, MA, to Ventura, CA, to raise money for research on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in memory of a close friend, Michael Hamill, who passed away after a long battle with the illness.

Mikesh and Schuh, who were teammates on Marist's men's rowing team, began their ride on July 17, 2016, at Plymouth Rock. Although they packed the minimum amount, they nevertheless rode with 30 to 40 pounds of camping gear. "We got used to wearing the same thing every day," Schuh says. "When I came back home, I realized that I didn't need all this stuff in my closet."

"Rather than splurge on fancy new carbon lightweight Lance Armstrong racing bikes, we each made the choice to customize an old reliable," Schuh wrote in their blog on Day 4. "Steel tubing, ball bearings,

sturdy frames, tough wheels. My bike is a 1986 Schwinn Sprint, and Kyle's is a 1990 Centurion Ironman. Both bikes had to be converted to touring models with a little ingenuity and elbow grease."

The pair camped, stayed with friends and family, or bunked with volunteer hosts through the Warm Showers program.

"We were camping on top of mountains with some of the best scenery," Mikesh says. "I felt like a kid. We camped in Arizona and just looked up and saw the stars. We went where other people with cars were unable to go."

"There were some places where I felt as if we were literally the first people to camp there," Schuh says.

Despite enduring hot and cold temperatures, the two quickly adapted. They generally biked from dawn to dusk and were at the mercy of the sun. Sometimes, during the hottest part of the day, they cooled off by hanging out in a Walgreen's or going to the movies. "I 'saw' *Star Trek*, but 20 minutes into

BY ALEXIS WATSON '17  
AND ADRIANA BELMONTE '17

the movie I promptly passed out and woke up once the movie was over," Mikesh wrote in the blog. During cold nights, they relied on their sleeping bags.

Dinner consisted of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, ramen noodles, or rice. "It wasn't a healthy dinner, but we were biking almost 75 miles a day," says Schuh, who lost 25 pounds during the trip. Breakfast and lunch were at local diners, where they charged their phones and caught up with friends and family back home.

Their route took them south to Virginia, then west through Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri (where in Columbia their bikes were vandalized and their things stolen), Colorado, Arizona, through the Four Corners where Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona meet, and across the Navaho and Mohave deserts before ending in Ventura, CA.

In the end, the two raised \$3,000 towards ALS research and also broadened their perspectives. Schuh says he realizes more and more how valuable the trip was for him as a 23-year-old just one year into the real world.

"One of the most impactful changes it had on me was a much better understanding



**Left: Kyle Mikesh '16 (left) and Cameron Schuh '15 in Ventura, CA, the end of the road.**

of America as a nation and just how diverse the people all across our country are, especially during such a divisive election year," he says.

For Schuh, who left a sales job right before heading out on the road, the trip also brought clarity, careerwise. "Among the many epiphanies I had on the trip was that when I got back I needed to create a fulfilling professional life for myself where I can make a daily positive impact on the world around me, rather than just going through the motions in the 'business world' as I was before. I can now say that I'm right where I want to be—I love my work and what I do now."

Schuh lives in Long Beach, NY, and works two jobs. During the day he is an analyst for residential solar company 1st Light Energy, meeting with homeowners to design and finance solar arrays for their homes. In the evenings he teaches piano from a small studio in his apartment.

Mikesh lives in Westport, CT, and commutes to Stamford where he is a project coordinator on the account team for Daymon Worldwide's design agency, Daymon Creative Services.



**Mikesh and Schuh stop for lunch at a church barbecue in Delaware.**

Schuh and Mikesh are writing a book together and have more adventures ahead. "Kyle and I have been talking about doing a similar bike trip again in a few years, but this time out in Asia," says Schuh. "We heard from several other cyclists we met during our

trip that traveling through certain parts of China, India, and Nepal is unrivaled in its beauty and adventure. We also have a much smaller trip planned for this summer with a few other friends to spend a week hiking the Appalachian Trail." 📖

**Schuh and Mikesh kept a blog during their bike trip: [alsoasttocoast.wordpress.com](http://alsoasttocoast.wordpress.com). Here are some excerpts:**

**JULY 25, 2016 WASHINGTON, DC**

**Cameron:** Nearly everyone we've met has been helpful, kind, friendly, and has enriched our experience in some way, as I hope we have theirs. One story comes to mind in particular, which happened as we took the wrong ferry

from Manhattan into Sandy Hook, NJ, and instead found ourselves in Hoboken. When they noticed our mistake, the crew and captain called in a series of favors and for the next hour we were whisked from boat to boat along the New York Waterway system. We only found ourselves on course because of the good deeds of ferrymen—a statement you would expect to see in an old-world travelogue rather than the 2016 blog post of two college grads.

**SEPT. 3, 2016 MILLION DOLLAR HIGHWAY**

**Cameron:** Now, the Million Dollar Highway isn't something we had to do. It's adding mileage and elevation and probably a day onto our trip. It's a dangerous route and the most difficult climb we'll have faced, going from 7,000 to 11,000 feet over a brutal 13-mile climb.

The highway was terrifying, dangerous, and extremely difficult. The road had no shoulder, and in some places the edge of the road drops down into a cliff. Looking down was dizzying, and looking up disorienting.

However, the views were breathtaking. Absolutely the best, most rewarding views we've had. Traffic was moving very slowly and drivers were very courteous towards us. We stayed in the middle of the lane most of the time, and cars would take the opportunity to pass only when appropriate. We didn't slip, fall, or die, and overall (apart from the threat of the sheer drop-offs) we felt safe.

**"We didn't slip, fall, or die, and overall (apart from the threat of the sheer drop-offs) we felt safe."**



**Colorado's Million Dollar Highway: "terrifying, dangerous, and extremely difficult."**

**SEPT. 11, 2016 GRAND CANYON**

**Cameron:** We took a shuttle to Yaki Point to catch the final glimpse of daylight. As we watched in silence the day turn to night, the whole trip to date—all 3,000 miles of experience and hardship—sunk in with the setting sun. We took the long way to get here, sure, and yet we've seen and learned a lot along the way. And while we may never be compelled to do such a thing again, to cross deserts and farmlands to reach a far-off coast, when we look back and reminisce on the trip we won't be remembering the moments of pain or difficulty, the heat and the hills and the long weeks without showers or beds to sleep

in. We'll be remembering that moment watching the sun shrink into a sliver and vanish behind the vast walls of the canyon.

**SEPT. 15, 2016 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**Cameron:** Days 58, 59, and 60 have been the most challenging and most demanding days so far, but to have the biggest challenge occur right before the final stage seems appropriate. We've been plagued with mishaps and equipment failures and been at the mercy of the elements for days straight. The last rest day we took was in Denver, but we're persevering with one goal in mind: the Coast.

Several things were new to us on this leg of the trip. First, I had never in my life considered the climate to be an adversary. But now, with 90-degree+ days and no shade or respite from the sun to be found, with 20+ miles per hour headwinds, with sand and ash and grit whipping us with every chance, well, I think of it as a foe to overcome. To combat the sun and shade we wear long sleeves and sunscreen, and I drape my bandana under my helmet to provide maximum shade. We try to rest from 2 to 5 to stay away from the hottest part of the day. To combat the winds, we switch off drafting on one another, with a mile-on, mile-off switch, to share the load.



**OCT. 27, 2016 VENTURA, CALIFORNIA**

**Kyle:** It took Cameron and me only five hours to get from San Francisco International Airport to JFK in NYC! What took us two months to achieve was a short ride on this plane. That feeling was hard to describe. . . Cameron and I had seen and learned so much from the places we saw along our bike trip. It seemed sad to just fly over all those places and people without saying hi. 📖





Under the leadership of 41st-year head coach Larry VanWagner, the men's and women's swimming and diving programs have combined to win a total of 36 championships across all conferences.

The Marist women's swimming and diving program won its eighth consecutive Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship.

# Red Fox Roundup

## Women's Swimming and Diving Wins Eighth Consecutive MAAC Championship

**T**HE MARIST women's swimming and diving program won its eighth consecutive Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship on Feb. 11.

The Red Foxes captured the title by amassing 810 points over the four-day event, 194 more than second-place Rider. The conference title was the 18th for the program, the most of any program in conference history. Under the leadership of 41st-year head coach Larry VanWagner, the men's and women's swimming and diving programs have combined to win a total of 36 championships across all conferences.

Meredith Wurtz '17 and Sara Nestrowitz '18 were honored as Co-Swimmers of the Meet. It was the second straight year Wurtz earned this award, as she was the sole recipient of it in 2016. Wurtz (50 freestyle, 100 freestyle) and Nestrowitz (500 freestyle, 1000 freestyle) each captured two individual

MAAC championships. Both Nestrowitz and Wurtz were each a part of two championship relay teams.

Megan Berardelli '18 was named Most Outstanding Diver for the second straight year. Berardelli won both the 1- and 3-meter boards and later went on to compete at NCAA Zone Championships. VanWagner was lauded as MAAC Coach of the Year for the eighth time in his career. A total of 11 Red Foxes were named to the conference's All-Academic Team, which is open to those with at least a 3.20 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale with at least two prior semesters at the institution.

The team was honored with a luncheon organized by President David Yellen at the Raymond J. Rich Institute for Leadership Development in Esopus on April 5.

## Recor, Rigothi Named Sportspersons of the Year

**J.**D. RECOR '17 AND JULIA RIGOTHI '17 were honored as male and female Sportsperson of the Year at the Marist Athletics Department's Senior Awards Banquet, held May 1 at Christos Restaurant in Poughkeepsie.

Recor helped lead the men's lacrosse program to a MAAC championship and victory in the NCAA Tournament in 2015. He concluded his career as the MAAC's all-time leader in assists with 131 and was second in program history in points with 226. In 2017, he became the second student-athlete in school history to be named a finalist for the Senior CLASS Award, which measures



J.D. Recor '17 and Julia Rigothi '17 were honored as male and female Sportsperson of the Year at the Marist Athletics Department's Senior Awards Banquet.

BY MIKE FERRARO '01

*Mike Ferraro '01 is assistant athletic director/sports information at Marist.*



competition, character, community, and classroom activities.

A rower, Rigothi was a four-year member of the Varsity Eight and a two-year captain. In her career, the Varsity Eight was honored as MAAC Boat of the Week five times. Rigothi was also a standout in international competition. She was a gold medalist at the 2016 Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in the U23 Women's Quad. Last summer, she competed at the U23 World Championship United States National Team Trials in the Women's Double.

Abigail Witzcak '17 of women's lacrosse and Greg Kocinski '17 of baseball earned the James Pizzani Award. The Pizzani Award is given to those who best embody the qualities of the late James Pizzani '64, which are consistent with the College's core ideals of excellence in education, a sense of community, and a commitment to service. Kate Mosca '17 (women's swimming and diving) and Jae Wong '17 (men's soccer) earned the President's Academic Achievement Award, which is presented to the senior student-athletes with the highest GPA. The Strength and Conditioning Awards were presented to Alyssa Pitonzo '17 and Olivia Pitonzo '17 of women's lacrosse and Frankie Brier '17 of men's lacrosse.

## Academic Achievements

**O**NCE AGAIN, Marist student-athletes are shining in the classroom as well as on the playing fields.

Gabrielle Kelliher '18 of the softball team was named Second Team CoSIDA Academic All-American, becoming the 18th CoSIDA Academic All-American in school history. Including Kelliher, a total of six student-athletes were named CoSIDA Academic All-District this season, as Chris Apicella '18 (football), Brandi Coon '19 (softball),



## Baseball Captures MAAC Championship

**T**HE MARIST BASEBALL TEAM reached NCAA Regionals for the seventh time in program history. The Red Foxes won three games in three days to capture the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship, which culminated with a 5-1 triumph over Iona on May 27.

Tony Romanelli '18 was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player for his outstanding work out of the bullpen. Romanelli earned saves in all three of the Red Foxes' victories. In Marist's first game, a 6-2 victory over Canisius on May 25, Romanelli tossed three scoreless innings. The next day, he struck out the game's final two batters in Marist's 11-8 win over Fairfield. In the championship game, he struck out the game's final batter, who represented the tying run. Scott Boches '17, Frankie Gregoire '19, Matt Pagano '16, and Andrew Rouse '18 earned All-Tournament Team honors.

Head coach Chris Tracz '05 became the program's all-time leader in victories. This year marked Tracz's fourth NCAA appearance as a Red Fox. In his standout career as a pitcher, he helped Marist capture MAAC championships in 2001, 2002, and 2005.

Charlie Jerla '18 was honored as MAAC Pitcher of the Year with a 9-1 record. Jerla and Gregoire were both named First Team All-MAAC, while Tyler Kapuscinski '19 earned Second Team All-MAAC honors.

Andrew Rouse '18 (baseball), Manuel Garcia '17 (swimming and diving), and Steven Rizzo '18 (cross country/track and field) were also honored. To be eligible for CoSIDA Academic All-District consideration, student-athletes must have a GPA of at least 3.30 on a 4.0 scale, have spent at least two prior semesters at their current institution, and have played in at least 50 percent of their team's games.

Six teams—men's and women's track and field, women's cross country, women's soccer, women's tennis, and volleyball—earned NCAA Public Recognition Awards for their multiyear Academic Progress Rate (APR). Teams earn Public Recognition Awards for earning APR scores in the top 10 percent of their respective sports nationally. The APR measures eligibility, graduation, and retention each semester or academic term. The most recent multiyear rates are based on scores from the 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 academic years. The total of six teams marks Marist's highest total in 10 years.

In the fall 2016 semester, the GPA for the Athletics Department was 3.27. A total of 16 student-athletes had a perfect 4.0 GPA, and 72.1 percent (430 out of 596) had at least a 3.0

GPA. Of Marist's 23 varsity programs, 21 had a team GPA of at least 3.0.

For the 2015-16 school year, a school-record 261 student-athletes were named to the MAAC Academic Honor Roll. The Red Foxes led the conference in honorees for the 15th straight year. Marist's honorees represented its growing geographic diversity, with student-athletes from 25 states and 10 countries recognized. 🇺🇸

**Gabrielle Kelliher '18 was named Second Team CoSIDA Academic All-American.**



Pizzani Award winner Abigail Witzcak '17 (center) is shown with (left to right) Marist head women's lacrosse coach Jessica O'Brien '08 and Eleanor Pizzani.



**HEOP, Marist, and the military shape the work of U.S. Army veteran Mariel Sosa Juarez '02 in counseling combat veterans and their families.**



# From Marist to Mortaritaville and Back

**E**VEN AS A TEENAGER in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, Mariel Sosa Juarez '02 was planning for the future. Unsure she'd be accepted by any colleges, she visited the local Marines recruitment office during her senior year of high school.

"I was thinking more of security and a way to go at a living, get out of the neighborhood," she recalls.

She was accepted to Marist through the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program and remained focused on life after college. She chose to major in social work because "it was something obtainable, and I knew I could get a job afterwards."

She took an additional step toward establishing a secure future. During her senior year at Marist, she enlisted in the U.S. Army.

Her focus and planning paid off. After graduating from Marist and serving four years in the Army, she is now a readjustment counselor therapist and licensed clinical social worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Staten Island, NY. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and son, with a second child due this summer.

It wasn't the easiest of roads. Two weeks after graduation Juarez was in basic training at Fort Jackson, SC, a 52,000-acre hot and buggy campus in the middle of the state near the capital city of Columbia.

"'Relaxin' Jackson,'" she smiles.

After basic training Juarez went to Fort Eustace, VA, to become a cargo specialist. Then she was stationed at Fort Campbell, KY, with the 101st Airborne Division.

As a cargo specialist she operated forklifts, moving materials on and off airplanes. No driver's license was required, which was good, because she didn't have one.

In March 2003 her unit, the 372nd Transportation Company, was deployed to Balad Air Base in Iraq. Her job entailed loading and unloading supplies such as food, clothing, and equipment on and off trucks and C-130 airplanes.

After a few months she was assigned to administrative work in the Supply headquar-



**Juarez's gift to Marist's Higher Education Opportunity Program established the HEOP Fund.**

ters. "Because I had a bachelor's, I was picked up from what they call the line platoon and put in the headquarters."

She remembers ordering items such as battering rams. "You worked as part of a battalion. You worked together to get enough tools and equipment for everybody."

In February 2004 her unit returned to Fort Campbell, and in October to Balad. The air base had developed from a place with a PX and one eatery to a bustling garrison with a coffee shop, Pizza Hut, Baskin Robbins, and Subway. It was almost like being stateside. "Except you had to walk around with a Kevlar and a helmet in your arms." And a rifle.

"Mortaritaville is what we called the place."

The constant threat of incoming mortars took its toll. "There was a long time where I would wake up in the middle of the night over there, and the only thing that would make me feel better was using my inhaler. I'd have trouble breathing so I'd use my inhaler.

And then I was able to fall asleep. Repeated exposure to that, it kind of jars you."

After her second deployment to Iraq, her Army time was up and she was officially discharged in January 2006. She served a year and a half with the Army Reserves while pursuing a master's degree in social work at New York University. She began working for the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Staten Island Vet Center in 2006 as an outreach coordinator for outpatient counseling clinics. Once she completed her master's in 2010, she became a readjustment counselor therapist for the VA and earned a license in clinical social work. She is also a mayoral appointee to the New York City Veterans Advisory Board.

Today, as a readjustment counselor therapist, Juarez provides individual, couples, and group therapy for combat veterans and survivors of military sexual trauma and bereavement counseling for surviving family members.

She too had to readjust. "They train you how to become this soldier. They don't really train you how to become a civilian. I know I've spent more years as a civilian than as a service member, but there's something to being in the military; they tell you what to wear, where to be, where to go, and you come out and your time is your own. The world is your oyster, and there are so many things you can do. It's incredibly overwhelming. So trying to make the right decisions and figure out this path that's going to be successful is really, really daunting. I spent a lot of time trying to find my footing in the world again."

She married in 2014, had her first child in 2015, and expects her second on July 4. She has remained friends with her freshman college roommate, Tenille Clyburn '02, and others she met at Marist.

"HEOP was a magnificent program. To be this inner-city kid in this environment where a lot of people are well-off is a culture shock by all means. And some people don't adjust to it. A couple of students dropped out. But those of us who stayed really bonded

BY LESLIE BATES



together. We're still friends now. Half of those girls came to my wedding."

She also has kept in touch with former HEOP Associate Director Kristine Cullen, now assistant dean in Marist's School of Professional Programs. Cullen remembers Juarez as vibrant, full of life, and fun-loving. When Juarez enlisted, Cullen worried for her safety. But she knew Juarez was preparing for her future. "She didn't want to start off in her career with student loans, with having that burden her."

## Marist College Veterans Day Address

Nov. 11, 2016 / Mariel Sosa Juarez '02

It is an honor to stand before you as keynote speaker this Veterans Day. My years at Marist were some of my most memorable, and they shaped and influenced my military experiences. I'm proud to be both a Marist graduate and an Army veteran.

In the early spring of 1998 I was sitting in a Marine recruiter's office thinking, "What now?" You see, math was never my strong suit. So I'm staring at the ASVAB [Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, an aptitude test] thinking, "Why didn't they tell me this was in German?"

At the time, I was a senior in the High School of Fashion Industries where I quickly observed that these students are really into sewing, and I just like to sketch. Fast-forward four years, graduation is nearing, and I'm thinking of my future—and fashion designer was not in it.

In the midst of all the marketing colleges do, I came across a pamphlet from this place in Poughkeepsie named Marist College. I thought, Marist, Mariel, M—A—R: those are good letters. This is a good sign. The pamphlet was a drawing of the campus and its lovely rolling green hills. Drawings: another good sign.

So I applied and convinced my mother to take a campus tour while we waited for a response.

When we got to the campus, it was everything I hoped a college would be, absolutely beautiful and completely different from Brooklyn. You know, Brooklyn was not the hipster haven it is today. It was Bed-Stuy do or die, not Bed-Stuy rent or buy.

After the college tour I find the Admissions office and ask, all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, "Did I get in? Is Mariel going to Marist?" and the Admissions guy looks me and says, "Nah, your SAT scores are meh. Your English scores are OK, but the math, not so much."

After he saw the light die in my eyes and my deflated bushy tail, he told me about the Higher Education Opportunity Program, a program that could help students like me, students with potential, who need additional academic nurturing. So, I became a little hopeful and applied.

Folks, my entire SAT score was my English score, so you can understand my exasperation when I'm in the recruiter's office staring at the military entrance exam thinking, "Now what?" The military was my backup. It was my fail-safe ticket out of the hood, and once again, my mortal enemy, math, was standing in my way.

The recruiter was kind enough to direct me to the library where I could use study books to improve my chances. So, like a dutiful troop I went and stared blankly at the practice books thinking, "Yeah, I'm going to teach myself? Ha!"

I left the library in a daze, and as soon as I walked through the door of my apartment, the phone rang. It was Marist College, specifically the HEOP program, telling me I got in!

While Juarez was in Iraq, she sent flowers to Cullen and the HEOP office. "How she did that, I don't even know," Cullen laughs. "But she sent flowers to the office."

The occasion? "Out of appreciation and giving back," Cullen says. "That's the kind of person she was. She realized the opportunities she had, and appreciated everything that she was given and worked for."

Juarez also has given back in other ways. While in Iraq she sent a donation to HEOP (see sidebar).

And this past fall, she returned to Marist to deliver the keynote for Marist's 2016 Veterans Day luncheon at the invitation of the Alumni Relations office. In her speech she praised HEOP as a program that has helped and continues to help many.

"I am proud to be a product of it, Marist, and the military; it does not escape me that each of my accomplishments was possible because I was part of a larger group made up of committed, caring citizens and service members, slowly changing the world." 🇺🇸



Mariel Sosa Juarez '02 was the keynote speaker at Marist's 2016 Veterans Day observance.

I became a student at Marist, making some of the best friends who I still have today, all the while gaining a stellar foundation in social work (a major I chose because it had the least math requirements), building a family among the HEOP staff and students, having the ultimate experience I just know I wouldn't have had elsewhere, because Marist College is special. It's beautiful and challenging and there wasn't a day that I wasn't grateful to be given the opportunity to grow and learn at Marist.

September 2001 the towers are hit in downtown Manhattan, where that very summer I had worked as a greeter at Express, one of the clothing stores located in the basement of the World Trade Center. Again, it's my senior year and I'm left with a choice: graduate and find a job as a social worker when, at the time, Home Depot paid more, or enlist in the service and give back to my country in a way that no one in my family had never done.

In 2002 I enlisted in the Army as a specialist. Basic training was exciting, after that brief moment where I thought, "I have a bachelor's degree. Why in the world are you yelling at me?" In advanced infantry training (AIT), I learned to operate a forklift, among other heavy equipment. I chose to become a cargo specialist, because why the hell not? I knew as a social worker, which I intended to become after my contract was up, I'd be behind a desk most days, so why not do something completely different?

After AIT I was stationed at Fort Campbell, KY, and in 2003 I was in Iraq, where at 10 a.m. it's 110 degrees, stationed in Balad Airfield where some folks go for R&R and others, like me, know it as Mortarville, a place where incoming mortars can hit you on the way to the PX. I'm nervous and afraid wondering if I'll leave this place whole, yet proud that I was becoming a part of history, surrounded by some of the bravest people I'll ever meet, doing my part to support those on the front lines to the best of my ability.

And it was in Iraq where I heard, mistakenly, that Marist was considering ending its relationship with the HEOP program and I thought, "No way! HEOP is why I am here today. It's the program that gave me an opportunity to change the direction of my life." So I wrote a check and mailed

it to President [Dennis] Murray with a letter saying "You can't end this program. This program changed my life." After a few weeks I received a letter from Dr. Murray saying "Mariel, don't be crazy, no one's doing that. We love HEOP. Thanks, though!"

It was HEOP that brought me to Marist, and the social work program was where I earned my stay here, and because of both, that foundation helped ease my own anxiety and that of new friends in basic training. It was that education that kicked in when battle buddies turned to me to intervene when a friend was suspected of an eating disorder. It was that social work foundation that fortified me in Iraq, when my battle buddy confided in me her suicidal thoughts. And it continues to shape my current work with returning combat veterans and their families in my role as a clinical social worker.

Marist was where I learned to take risks, social work was where I applied myself, and the Army was where it all came together. Having served my country with dignity and honor is what I am most proud of, especially during this volatile time. Reflecting on the experiences that got me here today is what keeps me grounded and hopeful.

Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Although the HEOP program may not have been at risk, it felt significant to advocate for it and to be able to back up that advocacy with financial support the way it supported me through my four years here. It is a program that has helped and continues to help so many students. I am proud to be a product of it, Marist, and the military; it does not escape me that each of my accomplishments was possible because I was part of a larger group made up of committed, caring citizens and service members, slowly changing the world.

And so, here I am, 2016; two Iraq tours later, with a master's in social work, a husband, a son, and an incredible career with the Department of Veterans Affairs. I stand before you to say that a significant life is obtained through risks; that honor is achieved through humility and reflection; and that people may turn to you for inspiration despite your insecurities. Thank you. 🇺🇸



# Reel Life

**Successful film screenwriter and producer John Sullivan '00 watched movies as a kid, won awards for his plays at Marist, and never stopped writing.**

**J**OHN SULLIVAN was still a student at Marist when he first attempted to break into screenwriting in 1998.

"I just loved films as a kid," says the 39-year-old, who lives in West Hollywood, Los Angeles, CA, with his wife. "My parents knew they could go out and I could be occupied by just having a movie for me to watch."

Like many, he didn't know that writing films was an actual job. "Then, in high school, I found out differently," he says. "I fell in love with the movie *Speed* and thought 'writing screenplays is something I should try to do.'"

At the time, scripts were often commanding six and seven figures. Sullivan eventually found those deals, but his is not the story of the quick pop. It's one of determination, early low-budget selling, and pushing forward.

"I didn't think the Universals and Warner Brothers out there wanted to talk to me," he says. "So I sent to the low-budget people."

One bit and offered \$500. The movie was never made but it was a great deal of money to him at the time.

"I felt my confidence growing, and it had a lot to do with what I learned at college," he says. "For example, one class helped open my mind through the analytical criticism that went on. I remember we watched *Robocop*, and you wouldn't normally think of that movie for a film class." Sullivan recalls that the professor made the class realize that the movie was a throwback to some of the classic movies in the 1930s and 1940s film-noir genre.

"I never thought about it that way," he notes. He cites as another example the class *Women in Film*. "I remember talking about



BY ERIC BUTTERMAN



Sullivan says he loved his education and his time at Marist. The plaque he received when he won the John P. Anderson Award for Playwriting in 1999 remains in his hallway.



*Blue Steel* in the class and how it gets into the dehumanization of a woman at the hands of the man.

"Looking deeper with the help of these classes allowed me to inject more layers into my writing. ...You look at the importance of things like character interactions. I think it's easier to write the action parts in movies; it's harder to write the relationships."

Sullivan says he loved his education and his time at Marist. The plaque he received when he won the John P. Anderson Award for Playwriting in 1999 remains in his hallway. His winning one-act play, *The Devil and Mike Faust*, was based at a college like Marist and focused on "a kid who sells his soul for a term paper." The following year he won the award for Best Play for *The Restless Nights of Roxy Thrill*, his one-act about "an '80s hair band reuniting after breaking up, and trying to reclaim their glory."

Graduating with a degree in communications in 2000, he kept trying the low-budget route. Sullivan's second sale was a script called *Fear of the Dark* which he recalls brought him \$5,000.



Sullivan's work includes *Phantom Theater*, *Fear of the Dark*, *Recoil*, and *Security* starring Antonio Banderas and Ben Kingsley.

*Fear of the Dark* centers on a teen-aged boy who tries to calm his younger brother when it comes to fear of the dark and ultimately starts to question the dark himself. Sullivan remembers watching a copy of it.

"You see many things you might have done differently than what they did," he says. "But, on the other hand, it was made! It was a good feeling."

Despite the sale of the script, Sullivan didn't quit his day job as office manager at the famed talent agency Gersh, a setting from which many a screenwriter has emerged. Roughly six months later, he sold a script called *Rapid*. Imagine the agents' surprise when they read the trades, saw the name John Sullivan, and asked the guy who sometimes changed the lightbulbs if it were him and

if he'd really made a six-figure deal. It was and he had.

Sullivan, whose production company is called Blackout Films, went on to have more movies made from his scripts, including two direct-to-video sequels of a horror franchise and an action picture, *Recoil*, starring "Stone Cold" Steve Austin and Danny Trejo.

His career turned a corner in 2015 when he found out a script he worked on would feature Antonio Banderas and Oscar winner Sir Ben Kingsley. "That was an unbelievable day!"

In the action genre, *Security* tells the story of security guards in a mall trying to protect a girl from the bad guys outside. The film is scheduled for release in theaters and on Netflix in June.

Currently he's working on a "fun thriller" called *Final Exam*, based on college experiences, which he will produce under his Blackout Films banner, and on the thriller/comedy *Phantom Theater* with director Byron C. Miller, another project he will produce.

No matter what, no one can ever say Sullivan was an overnight success.

"Many steps have taken awhile," he says. "But I've been patient and I always kept writing—and writing!" 📝



John Sullivan '00 with his father, Dr. James Sullivan '66



## Dr. Richard Couto '64 Awarded Marist's Top Alumni Honor



Paul X. Rinn '68 presented Dr. Richard Couto '64 with Marist's Distinguished Alumni Medal.

**D**R. RICHARD COUTO '64 received the highest award given to a Marist graduate, the Marist College Distinguished Alumni Medal, on Feb. 6, 2017. The award is presented to individuals who exemplify the College's ideals of excellence in education, a sense of community, and a commitment to service. Alumni Association President Paul X. Rinn '68 awarded the medal to Couto, who was unable to travel because of a serious illness, in central Virginia. Richard Couto passed away three weeks later.

Four former Marist classmates and one former student traveled to Couto's home from as far away as Michigan to take part in the medal presentation ceremony: Dr. Bill Reger-Nash '65 from West Virginia, Dr. Ronald Diss '64 from Virginia, John Reynolds '64 from Michigan, and Bro. Rene Roy, FMS '64 from Massachusetts. In addition, Paul Browne '71, vice president for public affairs at the University of Notre Dame and a past recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Medal, did not miss the opportunity to honor his former teacher from Mt. St. Michael Academy in the Bronx, NY. Richard was joined by his wife, Patricia, his daughter, Barbara, and her husband, two grandchildren, and several former students from the University of Richmond.

Diss, who submitted the award nomination, thanked the Alumni Association for honoring Couto:

*Richard was overwhelmed with joy and gratitude at the presentation ceremony on Monday, and I'm sure his family, former students, classmates, and colleagues will continue to celebrate this recognition for years to come. The presentation of this award at Richard's bedside was a solemn event conducted with dignity and warmth by Paul Rinn and punctuated with contributions of stories and fond memories by those in attendance. It was a day that will be long remembered.*

Since graduating from Marist in 1964, Couto dedicated his life's work as an educator, researcher, and author to better the conditions of those living in one of the poorest areas of the

United States. He worked for more than 50 years to improve lives in Appalachia through his teaching, scholarly research, intervention programs, and related professional services.

Couto grew up in Lawrence, MA, and after graduating as a Marist Brother obtained a master's degree from Boston College. He earned a PhD in political science from the University of Kentucky and began his academic career directing Vanderbilt University's Center for Health Services in 1975.

He focused his efforts on low-income areas of Appalachia and the rural South where he is considered a pioneer in the service-learning movement and a champion of the social change emphasis within it. His Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship from 1982 to 1985 recognized his work and permitted him to extend his studies internationally.

He was a founding faculty member of the Jepson School at the University of Richmond where he held the George M. and Virginia B. Modlin Chair in Leadership Studies (1991–2002). There he developed a curriculum that integrated classroom instruction with community services. He also taught at Tennessee State University Institute of Government. His most recent appointments were with Union Institute and University and as a founding faculty member of the Antioch University PhD Program in Leadership and Change.

As a renowned scholar, he garnered universal respect and recognition as evidenced by his legislative and expert-witness testimonies before the U.S. Senate. He served as a consultant to many agencies and numerous institutions of higher education and his published work includes 13 books, 200 journal articles, book chapters, reviews, and academic reports on poverty, public policy, and responsible leadership. 🇺🇸



Alumni Association President Rinn (left) joined Richard Couto's former classmates and student who traveled to Virginia for the award presentation (in front, from left): Dr. Bill Reger-Nash '65, Dr. Ronald Diss '64, John Reynolds '64, (in back, from left) Bro. Rene Roy, FMS '64, and Paul Browne '71.

**Send Your News**

If you have news to share, let your fellow alumni hear from you.

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The flag denotes 2017 reunion classes.



# Homecoming and Reunion Weekend 2016 Highlights

**H**OMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND 2016 was held Oct. 21–23. On Friday evening, Marist students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends gathered in Fontaine Hall to dedicate a classroom in honor of John G. “Jerry” White. On Saturday morning, the fifth annual Alumni Awards ceremony took place, recognizing Peter T. Higgins ’67 with the Dr. Linus Richard Foy ’50 Outstanding Alumnus Award; Daniel P. Kuffner ’68 with the Dr. Dennis J. Murray Distinguished Service Award; and Neil S. Bhatiya ’06 with the Marist College Young Alumnus Award. Later in the day, the eighth annual Theatre Hall of Fame induction and reception honored five graduates for their outstanding contributions to theatre at Marist: Glenn Casale ’72, Bill C. Davis ’73, Scott Altomare ’94, Tauren Hagans ’96, and Laurie Benner Bruderek ’04. On Saturday evening, all graduating classes ending in “1” and “6” celebrated reunions at locations on and off campus, and on Sunday a special reception was held after a Mass in Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel to celebrate the retirement of Campus Minister Fr. Richard LaMorte. Photos from many of the weekend’s events are available at <http://maristconnect.marist.edu/homecoming>.



Alumni inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame were (left to right) Bill C. Davis ’73, Scott Altomare ’94, Tauren Hagans ’96, Laurie Benner Bruderek ’04, and (not pictured) Glenn Casale ’72.



Alumni honored for achievement and service were (left to right) Peter T. Higgins ’67—Dr. Linus Richard Foy ’50 Outstanding Alumnus Award; Neil S. Bhatiya ’06—Marist College Young Alumnus Award; Daniel P. Kuffner ’68—Dr. Dennis J. Murray Distinguished Service Award.



During Homecoming and Reunion Weekend 2016, Marist students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends gathered in Fontaine Hall to dedicate a classroom in honor of Professor Emeritus of History John G. “Jerry” White, who passed away in January 2016. Cutting the ribbon on the classroom were his godson Courtney Caldwell (far right) and Zachary Sargent ’18 (left) and Jack Barry ’17, honors students who took classes with Professor White.

## REUNION

### 1967

**George J. Searles, PhD**, continues to teach English and Latin at Mohawk Valley Community College. He has remained professionally active during the past several years, delivering the keynote address at the 2015 Technical Education Colloquium in Honolulu, publishing several poems and a new college English text, and seeing one of his earlier books, *Workplace Communications: The Basics* (used on more than 200 campuses) published in a Mandarin translation from Tsinghua University in Beijing. Since turning 70 he’s won more than 25 age-group awards in



George J. Searles ’67

5K road races. George is married to Ellis Gage (Ladycliff ’69); they have two sons.

### 1968

**Jim Farley** has recently published eight novels and a new philosophical/epistemological work. All are available on Amazon.com.

### 1971

**Bill Spenla** retired as global director, talent management and leadership development with Axalta Coating Systems and has since founded a professional human resources services business called P4 Advisors (People, Potential, Possibilities, Performance). Bill and **Mary Jane ’71** remain the first Marist graduates to marry. They live in Kennett Square, PA, and enjoy

visiting their children, Brad and Carley, and their families, especially the three grandchildren. “Life is good.”

### 1973

**David Liggera** retired in 2016 after 38 years of service with the IRS. He now has a part-time job with MAXIMUS Federal, a company that supports multiple federal agencies and foreign governments. ■ **John G. Siolas, PhD**, and Catherine Tsounis have written *The Greek American Experience III*, a comprehensive exploration of Greek language and culture, published by the Pan-Macedonian Studies Centre.





Professor Emeritus of Communication and Marist College Heritage Professor Jephtha Lanning taught at Marist for 29 years.

## Remembering Dr. Jephtha Lanning

**P**ROFESSOR EMERITUS OF COMMUNICATION and Marist College Heritage Professor Jephtha Lanning passed away on Feb. 5, 2017. After receiving a BA from Marist, Dr. Lanning taught English at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx, NY, while completing an MA in English at St. John's University. He returned to Marist in 1964 after completing his doctoral studies at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

At Marist, he taught American literature, drama, theatre, speech, and public relations and was the first moderator of the Marist College Theatre Guild. In addition to serving as chair of the English Department in the 1970s, he was instrumental in developing the Communication Arts major. From 1979 to 1991 he was director of the Marist Abroad Program and, in the 1980s, again chaired the Arts and Letters Division, which encompassed the departments of English, communication, foreign languages, art, music, and fashion design. Jep taught at Marist for 29 years, retiring in 1993. 📧



Ron Vuy '74, community manager of the World Tennis Club Inc. in Naples, FL, greeted Claire Schmitz '19 of Marist's tennis team who was visiting her uncle, Bob Schmitz, at the club.

### 1974

**Raymond DuPont** retired after 34 years with IBM and 17 years with ClearCube Technology. He plans to continue with his activities supporting the poor through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

### 1984

**Kathleen Lloyd's** son, Charlie, was commissioned in the U.S. Navy and is an ensign on the *USS Forrest Sherman* (DDG-98).

### 1985

**Donald E. Goess '85** received his doctorate in educational administration from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) in May 2015. He is a lecturing professor at UTSA. He resides in San Antonio with his wife, April, the director of education at the Culinary Institute



A ski trip became a mini-Marist reunion on top of Bromley Mountain in Peru, VT, on Jan. 7, 2017, bringing together Paul Ceonzo '79, Thomas Kaelin '79, Jim Flynn '79, Jay Sparkes, Tom Crane '79, Ken Eason '78, and (not pictured) Keith Hollman '79 and Gregory Clifford '79.

of America San Antonio campus. They have three large Labradors and one boxer mix they rescued.

### 1986

**Michael O'Brien** was appointed chief client officer at global communications firm Ketchum. O'Brien, a partner, was formerly director of client development for North America. ■ ESPN.com columnist **Ian O'Connor** won three recent national writing awards. He took first place in the Golf Writers Association of America's annual contest for a column on the death of Arnold Palmer. He won first place in the Pro Football Writers Association of America's annual contest for a feature on Green Bay Packers icon Bart Starr. And he was named one of America's top 10 sports columnists by the Associated Press Sports Editors.



### 1987

**Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia** was appointed associate justice of the village of Wappingers Falls, NY. She is also a licensed pilot and an attorney at her own firm. The *Poughkeepsie Journal* featured

### 1989

**Chris Algozzine** ('95 MS) retired from IBM in July 2015 after 26 years and rejoined the Marist community as a full-time faculty member in the School of Computer Science and Mathematics. As a professional lecturer of information systems, he is teaching upper-level electives. ■ **Ken Foye** is lecturer of English at the Hokkaido University of Education in Japan. He also recently became an oblate of St. Benedict (a lay member of the Benedictine religious order) affiliated with a Benedictine monastery in Japan.

### 1989

**Rodney McRae** was appointed executive director of the Nassau County (NY) Human Rights Commission by the Nassau County Commission Board of Directors in February 2015.

### 1990

**Tom McCarthy** and his wife, Michelle, became the new owners of the Wildflower Inn Bed and Breakfast in Great Barrington, MA.



**Ted Millar '98** (left), an adjunct instructor in literature at Marist and a teacher in the Mahopac (NY) School District, and **Linda McCauley Freeman** (right), former poet-in-residence for the Putnam County (NY) Arts Council, created the Ulster County (NY) Poetry Project with a grant from Mid-Hudson Arts. The project aims to give area residents the chance to share, read, and publish their work through monthly workshops at the Marlboro Public Library in Marlboro, NY.





While studying in Italy during the fall 2016 semester, Shamus J. Barnes '18 welcomed family members for a visit. Shown are three generations of Marist alumni: (left to right) Shamus, his father Shamus M. Barnes '91, his sister, Kayla Barnes '19, his mother, Debbie (Joyce) Barnes '90, and his grandfather, Marist Trustee Jim Barnes '68.

## 1991

**Anthony Azzara** is a film/TV production accountant working on Matthew Weiner's new project *The Romanoffs*. ■ **Dr. Kristin (Siebrecht) Bohan** was honored by Coastal Carolina University as one of its 2017 Inspiring Women. She is a psychologist working with girls and women who suffer from eating disorders, body-image issues, anxiety, and depression. She is also the founder of the Coastal Montessori Charter School in Pawleys Island, SC.



## 1992

**Joseph Stanford** was appointed director of information technology and network for Rocky Mountain Ham Radio, which maintains a private emergency intranet on mountain tops from Cheyenne, WY, to Sandia, NM, and throughout Colorado.

## 1994

**Kathleen Donohoe's** debut novel, *Ashes of Fiery Weather*, was published in August 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



## 1997

**Kathryn Palmer** has begun teaching fashion design after spending 15 years working in the New York City fashion industry. ■ **Blanca Vasquez** married Jason Rajkowski on July 29, 2016.



Rickey Ruff '17 addresses Marist students, faculty, and staff at CURSCA.

## 1998

**Matthew Laskowski** is a paralegal in the Financial Restructuring Group at Stroock, Stroock & Lavan, LLP, in New York City. ■ **Danielle (Battiloro) Vaphides** was promoted to managing director at Accenture.

## 1999

**Dylan Edgar** is serving as executive producer of a production studio at Vayner Media. ■ **Kathleen (Wisniewski) McEnroe** has been teaching for 12 years. She teaches third grade at a Queens, NY, elementary school. In addition to teaching, she has decided to turn her photography hobby into a business. Her first photo was published in *Forbes* magazine in December 2016.

## 2000

**Chris Bythewood** is a writer on the Fox series *Shots Fired*. The series is a 10-hour event which premiered in March.

## 2001

**Jennifer Bradish** and her husband, Andrew Kernan, welcomed their first child, a daughter named Genevieve Grace, on April 8, 2016. ■ **Tracey Carangelo** moved to Los Angeles to pursue her passion for spiritual arts and creative endeavors. An entrepreneur, she founded the Muse Crypt (TheMuseCrypt.com) in April 2015. ■ **Linda Fakhoury** was named one of the 2017 Forty under 40 "Movers and Shakers" by the Dutchess County (NY) Chamber of Commerce. ■ **Dominick Giordano Jr.** owns and operates Kool Toys & Games. Specializing in collectibles and pop-culture memorabilia, it is now in its 10th year of business. ■ **Raymond Philo (MPA)** co-authored the textbook *The Corr of the American Justice System: Lessons and the Anatomy of an American Tragedy*. Published by Kendall Hunt Publishing, the book became available in January 2017.



## 2002

**Jose Aron-Diaz** got married on June 4, 2016, and was promoted to associate director of business solutions at the Rockefeller Foundation. ■ **Michael Ellison** ('12 MPA) became engaged to Nicole Ettlinger in December 2016.



Sports agent Sean Stellato '02 (far right) represented four players who played in the Super Bowl including (left to right) Brandon King, Nate Ebner, and Ryan Allen.

## 2003

**Jessica Thornhill's** great great aunt, Elisabeth Hesselblad, a Swedish nun, was canonized in June 2016. ■ **Stacey Willis** continues to travel the world, having developed a passion for international travel after spending the spring semester of her junior year in Madrid, Spain, back in 2002. She has since traveled to more than 30 countries.

## 2004

**Sean Barnes** spent 10 years in the New York commercial real estate business, which led to a career in hotel restoration with Structure Tone. He purchased McCoy's Upholstery, which serviced the auto market for upholstery and convertible tops, in Woodside,

# Rickey Ruff '17 is Keynote at Research Conference

**R**ICKEY RUFF '17 was the keynote speaker at the Celebration of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (CURSCA) conference April 19, 2017, in the Murray Student Center.

Ruff is a global manufacturing and sourcing manager at Ralph Lauren Corp. He has carried out roles in design development, technical design, global business, and production and currently works on Ralph Lauren's runway collection. He was the first person in the history of Marist to play football for the Red Foxes while majoring in fashion.

CURSCA is Marist's annual showcase of student scholarly and creative work, providing a forum for students to share their work with, and be celebrated by, the College community. 📍



NY. Sean added corporate theater seating and hotel upholstery to the company's services. Within 18 months, Sean and his father, **Jim Barnes '68**, have transformed the auto upholstery shop into a huge production shop for the New York marketplace. ■ **Stephen Geraghty-Harrison** relocated to Denver, CO, in November 2016, after living in Florida for 12 years, to start a new role as compensation manager for Children's Hospital Colorado. ■ **Jessica Revoir** married Anthony Tortorice on Dec. 10, 2016. A wedding Mass was held at St. Veronica's Roman Catholic Church in Howell, NJ, followed by a Christmas-themed reception at the English Manor in Ocean Township, NJ. Jessica is vice president of marketing at First



President David Yellen, Leslie Richards-Yellen, President Emeritus Dennis J. Murray, and Marilyn Murray led Marist alumni, friends, and families up Fifth Avenue in New York City on March 17, 2017, for the 256th St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Marist contingent was once again joined by the Amerscot Highland Pipe Band of Staatsburg, NY. Carrying the banner were Student Government Association President Brandon Heard '17 (left) and Nicholas Homler '13.

Financial Federal Credit Union, and Anthony works in law enforcement. ■ **Dr. Eddie Summers** ('06 MPA) is the chief strategy and planning officer for Long Island University. ■ **Bobbi Sue** and **Travis Tellitocci** ('14 M/'14 M) welcomed son Hudson in July 2016. Travis took a new job as assistant commissioner for football and basketball at the Ohio Valley Conference and they now live in Nashville, TN.

## 2005

**Jennifer Tiller** joined the House Agricultural Committee as professional staff for nutrition and welfare issues. She has been working in Washington, DC, since 2012.

## 2006

**Andrew Marley** has been working for the past 10 years at Liberty Mutual Boston. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Hopkinton, MA. ■ **Rebecca (Nowak) Smith** and her husband, **Brendan '07**, welcomed their second child, a boy, on April 14, 2017. Tanner Eugene Smith joins big brother Cameron. Becky works as a development specialist for the March of Dimes.

## REUNION 2007

**Meaghan Calnan** is director of communications at *National Geographic*, overseeing public relations activities for their travel and licensing divisions. ■ **Linda Gaines** completed three years

of study, receiving her Doctor of Education from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. Her dissertation focused on how faculty use web-based technologies, both within and outside learning management systems (LMS), and how that affects student engagement. She teaches at Dutchess Community College and is an academic coach. She has taught online for Marist in the past. ■ **Melinda Martinez** was recognized as one of the 2016 40 Under 40 Rising Stars by the Hispanic Coalition NY, Inc. Melinda is the director of the Liberty Partnerships Program at Marist College. ■ **Matthew Sacco** has accepted a position as program officer in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. ■ **Brendan Smith**



Eric Wrigley '13/'14 MBA and his combat robotics team, Bots FC, came in third at the Orlando Maker Faire with his robot Mega Melvin. He hopes to become a contestant on the ABC show *BattleBots*.

is working as a project specialist for Brooks Brothers Corporate. He and his wife, **Rebecca (Nowak) '06**, welcomed their second child on April 14, 2017. Tanner Eugene joins big brother Cameron.

## 2008

**Stephanie Novia** and her husband Jon Bassi welcomed their first child, Owen, in October 2016. ■ **David Hochman** and his wife, Cari, welcomed a son. Nicholas Daniel was born on Sept. 24, 2016, in Hackensack, NJ. ■ **Jon Infanti** and **Gina Pennisi '10** tied the knot on Sept. 9, 2016. ■ **Rachel Klauber** was married to Jason Rainha on Sept. 10, 2016. ■ **Casey Paluskiewicz** and James Hegarty were married on Sept. 24, 2016, in Piscataway, NJ. The couple resides in Woodbridge, NJ. **Fr. Matthew Reiman '09** officiated the wedding Mass.

## 2009

**Freddimir Garcia** ('14 M) was recognized as one of the 2016 40 Under 40 Rising Stars by the Hispanic Coalition NY, Inc. Freddy is a Presidential Fellow at Marist College. ■ **Alison Jalbert** joined Pratt & Whitney as a technical writer in September 2016, working on proposals, reports, and other documents in the company's Military Engines unit. ■ **Amy Martin** has been a police officer in Virginia for more than two years and is pursuing a rank of detective. She received her master's in forensic psychology with a concentration in intelligence studies in 2014. ■ **Christina Tello** was married on Oct. 15, 2016.

## New Alumni Board Elected

**NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** Executive Board officers were elected on March 11, 2017, and will assume their positions this summer: president, Daniel E. Moran II '03; vice president, Eileen Gilfedder Altobelli '82; secretary, Michael C. Accuosti '98; treasurer, Anthony W. Loretto '86; and membership chairperson, Robert P. McAndrew '79.

The Marist Alumni Association is extremely grateful to Paul X. Rinn '68 for his dedicated service as president for the past three years. His vision of a veterans memorial on campus became a reality in 2015 when Marist installed and dedicated a granite fixture next to the flag pole near Donnelly Hall. As a retired U.S. Navy captain, Rinn is very passionate about recognizing veterans and active military. He also played an integral role in Marist's search for a new president. The year-long process included many meetings and conversations in conjunction with Marist's Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students. The Marist Alumni Association is happy that Paul Rinn will continue his involvement with the association as a member of the Greystone Board. 🍷



# Marist Kiva Team Helps Entrepreneurs

**D**URING HIS TIME AT MARIST, Chris Buccella '06 double-majored in economics and information technology. So when he learned about Kiva, a nonprofit organization that facilitates microlending in more than 80 countries, he immediately became interested, describing it as "the intersection of economics and technology."

Buccella, a software engineer at Synchronoss Technologies who lives in Poughkeepsie, NY, created the Marist Kiva lending team in 2008. The goal, he says, was for the Marist team to outrank other collegiate lending teams such as Vassar and Siena. "We've done that quite handily, and have even surpassed larger teams such as NYU."

He introduced Dave Bedoukian '06 of Danbury, CT, to the organization.

"At the time, I was just starting to travel internationally for business," says Bedoukian, sales director at Bedoukian Research. "When you see some of the poorest places, you naturally want to help but aren't sure how. While charities are great, with Kiva you know exactly where your money goes. It's very rewarding to see the updates and success of the small businesses you've helped."

Bedoukian calls it an honor to be co-captain with Buccella. "One of the great things about Kiva is that when you lend even \$25, you are opening up a world of opportunity for someone else that's really a 'teach a man to fish' story," he said. "Over 97 percent of the time, you are paid back when a business succeeds. Our goal is to build the team, rally the troops, and have Marist become an even stronger platform to help entrepreneurs in the developing world."

BY ADRIANA BELMONTE '17



David Bedoukian '06

Loans are made through microfinance institutions and nonprofits which Kiva calls "field partners," according to Kiva's web site. The partners screen borrowers and distribute loans, usually before the loan has been completely funded on the Kiva site so that borrowers can benefit right away. Partners collect repayments from borrowers and repay Kiva, which deposits repayments into lenders' individual Kiva accounts.

Kiva also lends directly to borrowers once a loan has been fully crowdfunded.

Kiva's web site provides information about the borrower, and then it's up to the Kiva user to decide which loans to support. Kiva users fund a loan in \$25 increments until the goal is reached.

Most loans, Buccella says, are for business needs, but some loans are also for personal use, such as education.



Chris Buccella '06

"On our team, our focus areas are female borrowers in the agriculture and food sector," he says. "Often a borrower will need a loan at the start of the planting season for supplies and then pays back the loan after the harvest is sold."

One loan involved a group of Indonesian farmers who wanted to rent a tractor and purchase fertilizer. Another, one of Bedoukian's favorites, was to a man in Mexico seeking to restore his taco truck.

"We all put our \$25 in," Bedoukian says. "We forgot about this for a while, but then saw an update of his that business was booming!"

As of February 2017, the Marist Kiva lending team has made 1,500 loans totaling nearly \$38,000. The most recent statistics are available at [www.kiva.org/team/marist/impact](http://www.kiva.org/team/marist/impact).

"You can lend to any country, any profession, any gender, so you can support whatever you're the most passionate about or what seems the most interesting," Bedoukian says. "With even \$100 to start you can initially lend to four different businesses. After the business succeeds, you can take that same money and lend it out again." More information is available at [www.kiva.org/team/marist](http://www.kiva.org/team/marist). 🇺🇸



John Martin "Kevin" Carolan '54

## Remembering Kevin Carolan '54

**J**OHN MARTIN "KEVIN" CAROLAN passed away on March 28, 2017, in Murfreesboro, TN. He was 85.

Originally from New York City, Kevin and his wife, Donna, raised their family in Poughkeepsie, NY. After graduating from Marist College in 1954 as a Marist Brother, he went on to obtain a master's degree in math from St. John's University in 1960. From 1955 to 1961 he taught mathematics at Cardinal Hayes High School in New York City. In 1962 he returned to Marist where he held a variety of roles and retired in 2002 as associate professor of mathematics after serving the College with distinction for 40 years. In 2003, Kevin was among a very special group of faculty designated as Marist College Heritage Professors in recognition of their unique contributions to the early development of Marist and their commitment to excellence.

Kevin is survived by his wife, his son Sean and his wife Magdalena, his daughter Sarah and her husband Trevor de Clercq, two sisters, four grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. A funeral Mass was held in Tennessee in late March. 🇺🇸



## 2010

**Amanda Cicero** ('12 MPA) was to graduate from law school this spring and will begin working as an assistant district attorney at the Bronx District Attorney's Office in September 2017. On March 3, she and **Christopher Yusko '07** celebrated their five-year anniversary. ■ **Leah Bobb** and **Stephen Maroney** welcomed twins, Stephen and Aella, on March 6, 2017. ■ **Gina Pennisi** and **Jon Infanti '08** were married on Sept. 9, 2016. ■ **Christopher Ritters** and his wife, an alumna of the Culinary Institute of America, were married on May 7, 2016. They recently purchased their first home. ■ **Osamu Tanimoto** continues to paint, focusing on sacred art. He is painting for the Diocese of Nagasaki and will curate an exhibition of sacred art in Tuscany, Italy, in the summer of 2017. ■ **Colin Walker** completed his doctoral degree in 2016 with a dissertation focusing on student veterans titled "Phenomenological Study of Student Veterans' Acculturation to Higher Education." He is an assistant professor of digital production at Valdosta State University after being a lecturer of mass media for four years.

## 2011

**James Ferrigno** and **Rachel Maleady** were married on Sept. 10, 2016, in Rockland County, NY. Many Marist alumni from the Class of 2011 attended the wedding. ■ **Nick Fierro** joined the Internal Audit Department at Goldman Sachs. He previously spent five

years at Ernst and Young in its Risk Management/Independence Department. ■ **John Rodino** is the head teacher at St. Bernard's School in New York City, where his study abroad experiences in Spain, Ecuador, and Argentina while a Marist student "are an asset." He plans to take his students to Ecuador each spring. ■ **Jessica Stevenson** ('13 MA) married Christopher Miles in San Clemente, CA, on Dec. 17, 2016. She now resides in Nashville, TN, with her husband and two dogs.

## REUNION 2012

**Carly DeCoursey** trained for several months and finished the 2017 Boston Marathon on the Dana-Farber team, raising money for cancer research. For more information on Carly's fund-raising initiative, visit [www.rundfmc.org/2017/carlyd](http://www.rundfmc.org/2017/carlyd). ■ **Joanna Foss** has been



Joanna Foss '12



**Danielle DeZao '12** (center), an advocate for domestic violence survivors, spoke at Marist on Feb. 22 about her own experience in an abusive relationship. After the presentation, she joined a panel for a discussion and Q & A with **Kathy Peluso**, coordinator of training and outreach for Family Services' Center for Victim Safety and Support; **Lt. Gary Hulbert '15** of the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department's Community Policing Unit; **Edward Freer**, Deputy Title IX coordinator at Marist; and **Dr. Naomi Ferleger**, director of counseling services at Marist.

## 2014

**Christina D'Arco** is pursuing her PhD in immunology at New York Medical College. She also had an article published in the scientific journal *Vaccine*.

## 2015

**Alma Haddadi** is enrolled in the Integrated Marketing Communication Program at Marist and expects to graduate in May 2018. ■ **Courtney Lawlor** accepted the full-time position of retail assistant at Frontier Ranch, a Young Life camp for high school students in Buena Vista, CO. ■ **Cara Mooney** has been an English Teaching Assistant in South Korea through a Fulbright grant. She documented recent events in South Korea at [www.caramooneyphoto.com](http://www.caramooneyphoto.com), where she also writes about her international travels and displays her photography. ■ **Connie Myers-Kerr** (MA) was hired by Columbus State Community College as an adjunct faculty member in the Communication Department to instruct students in the College Credit Plus program. She teaches at Franklin University as well as Columbus State.

## 2016

**Naomi Batson** celebrated six months of employment with Central Hudson. She was hired immediately following graduation from Marist. ■ **Kevin Bruckner** joined IBM as a software engineer for content design and development at the company's Poughkeepsie site. ■ **Kevin Byrne** (MPA) was elected to the New York State Assembly in the 94th Assembly District. ■ **Sydney Coffey**



The Association of Public Historians of New York State presented the 2016 Hugh Hastings Award to **Denise Roe '11** MPA, Madison County clerk, on Sept. 15, 2016, in recognition of Roe's distinguished service to the public history community of New York State.

elected executive board student representative for the Association for Applied Sport Psychology (AASP), an international professional organization that promotes the field of sport psychology. She is a doctoral student in counseling psychology with a subspecialty in sport psychology at the University of Missouri and is a mental health performance coach in the University of Missouri Athletic Department, working with athletes and coaches. ■ **Lindsay Mesh** was honored at the 40 Stars Under 40 event hosted by the *Queens Courier*. She is an associate at Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana LLP, concentrating her practice in the areas of real estate finance, banking, foreclosures, and creditors' rights.

## 2013

**Erin Graetzer** spent two years after graduation in eastern North Carolina as a Teach For America Corps member. She teaches first grade with the New York City Department of Education and will graduate from CUNY Queens in May 2017 with a master's in literacy. ■ **Aimee Nienstadt** was admitted to the New York State Bar in March of 2017. Aimee graduated cum laude with a juris doctor degree from Pace University Law School in May 2016. In August 2016 Aimee joined the law firm of Catania, Mahon, Milligram & Rider, PLLC, in Newburgh, NY, as an associate. While at Pace Law School, Aimee was an articles editor for *Pace Law Review*. Her article "The Insufficiency of the Law Surrounding Food Allergies" was published in the *Review*.



## In Memoriam

### Alumni

Bro. Julian E. Roy, FMS '52  
Edward R. Castine, Jr. '55  
Gerard A. McCann '55  
Bro. Francis F. O'Malley, FMS '57  
Bro. Robert J. Kamarad, FMS '58  
Bro. William P. Lally '59  
Lt. Col. Thomas F. Erts, USA (Ret) '61  
John M. Collins '63  
James V. Gargan, Esq. '63  
Dr. Richard A. Couto '64  
Jerome A. Weyant '65  
John P. Glackin '66  
Charles R. Cassidy '67  
Irving Lowe '68  
Rev. Joseph G. O'Connell '68  
Vincent Avallone, Jr. '69  
Peter P. Mack '69  
Willard Snyder '69  
Milton A. Jacoby '70  
Edward L. Lynn, Jr. '70  
Robert T. Silvestri '72  
Margaret Bellino Cox '73  
Nicholas Squicciarini '73  
Robert V. Moran '74  
Richard F. Nero '74/'82 MBA  
Sayel R. Zeidan '74  
Alan V. Cwik '76  
Winifred Saitta Dunn '78  
Margaret M. Corley '79  
Jenny Krevolin '79 MBA  
John A. Trumpetto '80  
Beatrice Newkirk Duplessis '81 MBA  
Arlene R. Corso '82  
John Bahret '84 MPA  
Mark R. Ayers '86  
Ann Voshardt Salituro '88  
Jeffery C. Benchich '89 MBA  
Timothy J. Bell '90  
Ann Marie Caputo Rung '90  
Robert F. Roe '92 MPA  
Katie L. Patenaude '98  
Antonia Koroxenos Adair '03  
Roberto Rios, Jr. '10  
Alexander F. Killian '13  
Deborah J. Dickson '14  
Scott B. Friedman '14

### Friends

Dr. Erich Bloch  
Ray F. Boedecker  
Rocco Dino Caridi  
Kate Doherty  
John C. Foster  
Marilyn Foster  
Ina B. Friedman  
Paul Ganci  
Charles P. Kerrigan  
Bernard Kessler, Esq.  
Jacqueline Melan  
Elsie Mula  
Daniel W. Sullivan  
Ann D. Whalen

### Employees

Kevin Martin (John) Carolan '54  
*Associate Professor of Mathematics, School of Computer Science and Mathematics 1962–2002*

Dr. Jeptha H. Lanning '53  
*Professor Emeritus of Communication, Heritage Professor 1964–1993*

Margaret Monti  
*Information Technology Card Services Coordinator*

Please visit [maristconnect.marist.edu/inmemoriam](http://maristconnect.marist.edu/inmemoriam) for online remembrances of members of the Marist College community.



Michael D. Johnson '13 and Brittany M. MacLeod '13 (above sign) went on a cruise to Cuba and the Dominican Republic in March 2017 that integrated community outreach and service in place of traditional excursions. After touring Santiago De Cuba, they participated in two service activities near Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic: volunteering at a recycled paper collective and (above) helping local university students learn English.

joined the roster of the Ringwood Lady Hawks of the Ringwood Hawks Basketball Association in Australia. ■ **Norman Cottrill** worked briefly for World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) before being called upon to serve on the civilian side of the U.S. Army, producing training material for warfighter exercises. The position enables him to utilize his Marist education and prior military experience. ■ **Danielle Dake** is an interpretive guide at the National September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Museum. She is carrying out research for more material to add to her museum tour. ■ **Rebecca Davis** (MA) is a school psychologist. ■ **Leo Dylewski** (MPA) was recently promoted to lieutenant after serving as a patrol officer and sergeant. He says his MPA degree from Marist was a major factor assisting in his promotion. ■ **Kerin Haft** is working at Broadridge Financial Solutions in financial operations as an AR analyst. She plans to attend graduate school to earn an MBA. ■ **Laura Jensen** (MA) was hired by



Marist alumni, retired faculty, and friends gathered in Naples, FL, on Feb. 22, 2017, to welcome President David Yellen to the Marist community. Florida Alumni Chapter President Ernie Arico '76 (right) presented Marc Hamlin '89 (left) with the Florida Alumni Chapter Award in honor of his achievements and with gratitude for his dedication to Marist. Since 1990 Hamlin has been with the City of Tampa Police Department where he is now assistant chief of operations. He was instrumental in arranging the partnership between the Tampa PD and Marist's MPA program that has been a feeder for students into the MPA program.

Pinckney Hugo Group as an assistant account manager. ■ **Courtney Magnusson** is a sales assistant at CBS. ■ **Annalise Masten** (MA) has been working in the human services field, helping youth in the city of Syracuse. ■ **Daniel McNamara** (MED) is enjoying work as a long-term leave replacement teacher for seventh grade social studies at Suffern (NY) Middle School, which is in the school district he grew up attending. ■ **Nicole Nazi** (MA) was promoted to assistant vice president of National Bank of Coxsackie. ■ **Breanna Newsome** is attending a Physician Assistant program in Savannah, GA. ■ **Shannen O'Brien** received a New York State Master's-in-Education award to attend the University of

Albany on a full-tuition scholarship. ■ **Kimberly Pedicini** is thrilled to be working in the Farmingdale (NY) School District as a certified elementary education and special education teacher for grades 1-6. She is enrolled at CW Post and pursuing a master's in literacy. ■ **Jonathan Schwind** plays baseball with the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. In 2016 he received the Pirates' Community Commitment Award at the Double-A level and was presented the award in a pregame ceremony at PNC Park in Pittsburgh. ■ **Venkata Siva Uppala** (MS) joined Cognizant Technology Solutions as a web/front-end developer. ■ **Nina Vultaggio** (MBA) was appointed vice president of sales and marketing for Gorilla Marketing. 📧



Laura Jensen '16



# Chapters Hold Receptions

Alumni from the Boston, New York Metro, and Washington-Baltimore chapters of the Alumni Association gathered for holiday receptions this past December. The Boston chapter gathered at the famed Liberty Hotel, Julie Lavin '09 hosted the New York group for the second year in a row at the New Amsterdam Theatre in midtown Manhattan, and Christopher Heath '95 sponsored and hosted alumni at CXIII Rex in Old Town Alexandria, VA. 🇺🇸



New York Metro, Long Island, New Jersey, and Connecticut



Boston



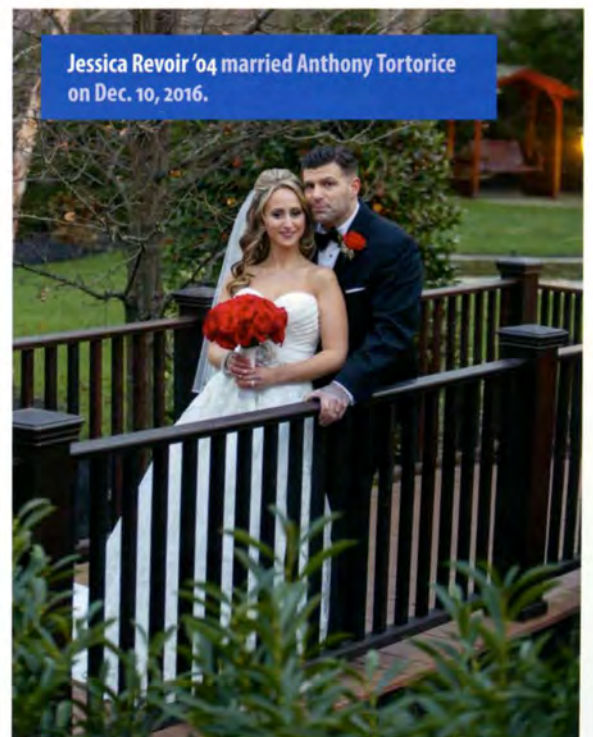
Washington-Baltimore

# Marriages

Sera Laganelli '08 married Kevin Glover '09 on Oct. 29, 2016, at the Thayer Hotel at West Point, NY.



Jessica Revoir '04 married Anthony Tortorice on Dec. 10, 2016.





# You, too, can help build the future of Marist College.



This photo of the Marist Brothers "construction gang" appeared in an ad for Marist College in the July 26th, 1968, issue of TIME magazine.

## Charitable Gift Annuity

Rates of Return for One Life\*  
 Minimum age of donor: 60  
 Minimum contribution: \$10,000

Age	Return	Age	Return
60	4.4	75	5.8
65	4.7	80	6.8
70	5.1	85+	7.8

\*As of May 22, 2017. Returns and tax benefits are subject to change and are based on personal circumstances. Funding a charitable gift annuity with appreciated stock could provide the added benefit of avoiding some capital gains tax when the assets are transferred directly to Marist.

**DURING THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR**, as the Marist Brothers celebrate the 200th anniversary of their order's formation by Saint Marcellin Champagnat in 1817, we invite you to help build upon the College's visionary foundation by joining the Marist College Legacy Society.

Members of the Legacy Society include Marist in their long-range plans, contributing to the solid building blocks of learning that began with the Marist Brothers. For example, a number of Legacy Society members are establishing charitable gift annuities that provide them or their designees with guaranteed, partially tax-free incomes for life as well as immediate tax deductions.

We invite you to learn more about the Legacy Society whose members, like the Marist Brothers, are making well-planned and meaningful contributions to support the future of the College and Marist students for generations to come.

## **MARIST** LEGACY SOCIETY

For a complimentary and confidential illustration highlighting the benefits of charitable gift annuities and other gift planning opportunities, please contact Joan Gambeski '83, Director of Gift and Legacy Planning, at [joan.gambeski@marist.edu](mailto:joan.gambeski@marist.edu) or 845.575.3942.



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