

GREYSTONE

MARIST

THE MAGAZINE OF MARIST COLLEGE • SPRING 2016



1979–2016

**A Farewell to DJM:
Honoring the
Legacy of President
Dennis J. Murray**

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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.

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NEWS & NOTES FROM THE CAMPUS

David Yellen Named Marist's Fourth President

DAVID YELLEN, dean and professor of law at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law, has been named the fourth president of Marist College following a unanimous vote Feb. 6, 2016, of the College's Board of Trustees. He will succeed President Dennis J. Murray, who announced last year his plan to step down from the position on June 30 after 37 years leading Marist.

"David Yellen is one of the nation's top legal educators, an innovative leader highly respected among his peers, and a man of great integrity and commitment to public service," said Ellen Hancock, chair of the Board of Trustees. "His work as a law school dean, a faculty member, and an attorney gives him a unique appreciation of the distinctive blend of the liberal arts and preprofessional programs that defines the Marist experience and positions him well to lead the College to ever-greater heights."

Yellen writes and speaks frequently on legal education, and *National Jurist* recently named him to the number 7 position on its list of the "25 Most Influential People in Legal Education," calling him "an innovator for his leadership in the national dialogue addressing today's challenges facing legal education." Under his tenure, *National Jurist* also named Loyola University Chicago School of Law one of the nation's 10 best law schools for experiential learning, and Yellen and his school both earned reputations as innovators in the delivery of legal education. Yellen implemented new degree programs, including online, helping Loyola Chicago earn the distinction of enrolling more online students than any other law school in the country. He also created the Dean's Diversity Council, which helped increase by more than 50 percent the number of students of color enrolled at the school.

Outside of academe, Yellen was appointed special master by Cook County

David Yellen and his wife, Leslie Richards-Yellen, joined President Dennis J. Murray and his wife, Marilyn, on the Champagnat Green during a recent visit to the campus.

Criminal Division Presiding Judge Paul P. Biebel Jr., working to identify inmates who may be entitled to new trials, having suffered torture by a former Chicago police commander. He also serves on the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council and is a member of the board of directors of Cook County Justice for Children. He has written extensively on sentencing issues and served as an advisor on white-collar crime to President Bill Clinton's transition team. As an attorney, he has also argued a federal criminal case before the US Supreme Court.

Yellen earned his JD, cum laude, from Cornell Law School, and his BA, magna cum laude, from Princeton University.

Prior to his decade leading the Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Yellen served as a member of the faculty at Hofstra Law School, where he held the Max Schmertz Distinguished Professorship and served as dean from 2001 to 2004. He served as the Reuschlein Distinguished Visiting Professor at Villanova University School of Law and has also taught at Cornell Law School and New York Law School. Before launching his academic career, Yellen clerked for a federal judge, practiced law in Washington, DC, and served as counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the US House



David Yellen, dean and professor of law at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law, has been named the fourth president of Marist.

of Representatives.

Yellen will assume office on July 1. He and his wife, Leslie Richards-Yellen, who is chief diversity and inclusion officer and partner at the law firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, will relocate from Chicago to Poughkeepsie sometime in the spring. Yellen is originally from New Jersey, and Leslie grew up in Iowa. The couple, who met as law students at Cornell, have three adult

daughters, Jordan, Meredith, and Bailey.

"I am honored by this opportunity to lead an incredibly dynamic institution with a growing national and international reputation for educational excellence," said Yellen. "Under President Murray's leadership, Marist has achieved many great things. I look forward to working with the College's talented students, faculty, and staff as well as its dedicated alumni, parents, and friends to build upon those accomplishments. It was clear to me from the outset of this process that Marist is a special place, where the traditions of its founders find continued expression through the great work of everyone associated with the College, both in and out of the classroom. Leslie and I are excited to join this wonderful community."

Upon Yellen's taking office, Murray will assume the roles of president emeritus and professor of public policy.





Top: A crowd including many alumni veterans packed the lobby of Donnelly Hall for a Veterans Day ceremony. Right: Speakers at the Veterans Memorial dedication were (far left) Alumni Association President Paul X. Rinn '68, President Dennis J. Murray, and John Lynch '68 (far right), and the guest speaker at the luncheon was William Zabicki '66 (second from right).



Veterans Honored on Campus

MEMBERS OF THE ALUMNI EXECUTIVE BOARD, which represents the Marist College Alumni Association, were pleased to see their hard work come to fruition on Nov. 11, 2015, when a new Veterans Memorial was dedicated on campus. The bronze plaque atop a gray granite monument, which recognizes all members of the Marist College community who have served in the Armed Forces, is located in front of the Class of 1968 flagpole near Donnelly Hall.

The dedication began with a flag raising by ROTC cadets while student a cappella groups the Sirens and Time Check sang *The Star Spangled Banner*. Vietnam veteran John Lynch '68 read the poem "Bury Me with Soldiers," written by Fr. Charles R. Fink, a Roman Catholic priest and Vietnam veteran.

"Showing our gratitude for our veterans' sacrifices and their contributions to our way of life is not only the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do," President Dennis J. Murray told the crowd. "George Washington once said, 'The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.'"

US Navy veteran and Alumni Association President Paul X. Rinn '68, who played an integral role in establishing the memorial, also spoke. "Marist College faculty members, students, administrators, and alumni have served the nation in every war since World War II. Marist is by no means a military college that teaches strategy and tactics. However, it is an institution that teaches character, ethics, integrity, and leadership as well as service to our community and country. This monument is a tribute to those who have served and a


reminder to those present that the price of freedom and liberty is not free."

Following the dedication ceremony, guests moved into the Student Center where military memorabilia from many eras was displayed. The annual Veterans Day luncheon was hosted by Marist Student Veterans Organization President Britany Dising '16.

The guest speaker at the luncheon was Bill Zabicki '66, whose 25 years in the US Army included tours of duty in Vietnam, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, and Honduras as well as multiple assignments throughout the United States. He has served in combat as well as in combat service support leadership positions.

"Veterans, today is our day," Zabicki said. "The sacrifices made by us and our families to defend our great nation and its great people deserve to be recognized. The assemblage here today is here for you and all you have done to keep America the land of the free and the home of the brave." 🇺🇸

Partnering with IBM and Linux Foundation

ROSS A. MAURI '80, vice chair of the Marist Board of Trustees and general manager, z Systems, IBM Corp., announced the first Linux-only mainframe, LinuxONE, at LinuxCon in Seattle, WA, this past August. IBM has chosen Marist, along with Syracuse University's School of Information Studies, to host clouds that will provide developers access to a virtual IBM LinuxONE at  no cost.

Additionally, Marist joins the Linux Foundation on the Open Mainframe Project, which will bring together industry experts to drive innovation and the development of Linux on the mainframe. Marist, the University of Bedfordshire, and the Center for Information Assurance and Cybersecurity at University of Washington are the first academic institutions participating as members in the Open Mainframe Project.

"We are excited for the opportunity to join such influential and leading-edge technology projects," said Bill Thirsk, vice president of Information Technology/CIO at Marist. "Collaborating with IBM and the Linux Foundation provides Marist students the ability to learn how to manage and capitalize the most powerful available server technology and to be a part of the creation of new open source software systems that will change how the world connects, transacts, and competes." 🇺🇸

Marist Again a "Top Producer" of Fulbright Scholars



MARIST again has been named one of the top schools for producing Fulbright scholars. The US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs recently identified Marist as one of the US colleges and universities that produced the most 2015–2016 Fulbright US students. Four Marist alumni—Kerianne Baylor '14, Kelsey Boeshore '15, Cara Mooney '15, and Genesis Abreu '15—won Fulbright awards for 2015–2016, putting Marist on par with only 24 other master's institutions nationally.

Marist was also named a Top Producer for 2014–2015. The Fulbright competition is administered at Marist through Pat Taylor, graduate school and fellowship advisor in the Center for Career Services.

The Fulbright Program, the US government's flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State. 🇺🇸

Marist has received a \$680,730 **National Science Foundation (NSF) cybersecurity grant** to support the groundbreaking work of **Dr. Casimer DeCusatis**, assistant professor of information technology and systems.

DeCusatis's project, "Application-Aware, Software-Defined Networks for Secure Cloud Services (SecureCloud)," seeks to design an innovative cyberinfrastructure for cloud-computing networks and develop new software to enhance data security without degrading network performance. SecureCloud is a response to the growth of new, highly sophisticated cybersecurity threats that have accompanied the emergence of cloud computing. The SecureCloud project develops, tests, and deploys a fully automated security system implemented throughout the cloud infrastructure. The system is being prototyped in a software-defined networking (SDN) test bed at Marist and will first be deployed in regional and statewide networks across New York.

Dr. Paula Checchi, assistant professor of biology, has received a **National Institutes of Health (NIH) Academic Research Enhancement Award**. The program will provide \$261,319 to fund Checchi's project, "The Role of Higher-Order Chromatin Structure in Gamete Formation." The project's long-term goal is to identify the regulatory mechanisms that control meiotic chromosome dynamics and to prevent errors from being transmitted to offspring. Such errors can cause fertility problems and birth defects and even lead to cancer. The NIH funds will be used for equipment, conference travel, supplies, and to pay undergraduate research trainees who will conduct most of the experiments.



Dr. David Woolner, Marist associate professor of history and Senior Fellow at the Roosevelt Institute, is a co-editor, along with Dr. John M. Thompson, of the essay collection *Progressivism in America: Past, Present, and Future* (Oxford University Press, 2016), a comprehensive overview of progressive politics, combining historical analysis, a discussion of policy priorities today, and a survey of the challenges ahead.

Woolner, one of the foremost experts on FDR and the modern American presidency, also co-wrote, with historian and author Alan Brinkley, one of the book's essays, "Franklin Roosevelt and the Progressive Tradition." The book features essays by leading scholars, analysts, and commentators including E. J. Dionne, Jonathan Alter, Joseph Stiglitz, and Rosa Brooks. ▶

AWARDS

THE 2015 MARIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S AWARD recognized four individuals for outstanding community service in the Hudson River Valley. Pictured (left to right) are Mike and Sandy Arteaga; Ralphyne Vance and Frank Flowers, who jointly accepted the honor for the late John M. Flowers; and Rob Dyson, immediate past chair of Marist's Board of Trustees and board member since 1975.



MARIST TRUSTEES ELIZABETH M. WOLF (center) and MICHAEL C. DUFFY (right) congratulated Dr. Eitel J. M. Lauria, professor and graduate director, information technology and systems, on receiving the 2015 Board of Trustees' Faculty Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Marist and Partners Win Award for Learning Analytics Project

MARIST AND ITS GLOBAL PARTNERS in the Apereo Learning Analytics Initiative, which include the University of Amsterdam and Unicon, have been recognized by higher-education research and advisory firm Eduventures for their pioneering work in the field of open learning analytics.

The Apereo LAI received a 2015 Eduventures Innovation Award in the category of "Creative Use of Technology" for its open source learning analytics platform, designed to provide institutions with a cost-effective academic early alert and intervention system. The technology allows institutions to identify students early in the semester who are potentially at risk of not completing courses, making it possible for instructors or advisors to intervene to help the student succeed.

"Apereo LAI's open-source strategy is helping dramatically reduce the cost of deploying these systems while facilitating global collaboration across higher education in the learning analytics space," said Josh Baron, Marist's assistant vice president of information technology for digital education.

The work began in 2011 under the Open Academic Analytics Initiative (OAAI), a project supported through the EDUCAUSE Next Generation Learning Challenges program and primarily funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. Eitel Lauria, professor and graduate director in Marist's School of Computer Science and Mathematics, who served as lead data scientist for the project, designed the original analytics framework and predictive models that now comprise the early detection "engines" of the Apereo LAI platform.

"It is great to see the research work we did under OAAI moving into larger-scale production," Lauria said.

Following the successful conclusion of OAAI in 2013, Marist partnered with the other members of the Apereo LAI to bring together different open source projects then under development to form the basis of the learning analytics platform. Since then, the platform has continued to evolve and was chosen this past June by Jisc, a United Kingdom nonprofit organization that provides higher-education digital services, for deployment on a national scale. Through this project, the platform will be re-architected to allow Jisc to run it as a cloud-based service that will be available to all UK-based higher-education institutions starting in late 2016. 🇬🇧



ILLUSTRATION

Indian graduate students led the Marist College community in a week-long celebration of Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, which showcased Indian culture and concluded with a reception in the Cabaret featuring singing, dancing, food, and a fashion show.

Marist Celebrates Diwali

MARIST'S CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS, Office of Academic Technology, and School of Communication and the Arts hosted a week-long exhibition revolving around Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, this past November, showcasing various aspects of Indian culture.

"To me, Diwali is a festival where you forget your old enmities and start fresh, and we wanted to share this with the students in a fun and exciting way," explained Dixita Sharegar '16, one of the graduate students who helped put together the exhibition. "The exhibit let us show and teach people that there is more to our culture than just the spicy food and the Bollywood dance."

In addition to observing this important holiday, which celebrates good over evil, the event helped the Center for Multicultural Affairs carry out its biggest goal: to give Marist's Indian population a way to interact with and become immersed in the College community. In fall 2015, 190 Indian students were enrolled at Marist.

"Diwali is their biggest holiday; it's like their Christmas, so we wanted to do something big," said Iris Ruiz-Grech, director of the Center for Multicultural Affairs. "The population of Indian graduate students on campus has tripled in the past five years, so this was also a way to understand the culture and create more awareness that there is a large population of Indian students on this campus."

To bring the celebration to life, the Center for Multicultural Affairs teamed up with the schools of Communication and the Arts, Computer Science and Mathematics, and Liberal Arts as well as the Office of Academic Technology to create a multimedia cultural experience. Marist's Indian graduate students played an active role in planning the exhibition, as well as executing every facet of it.

"We wanted this event to be a platform where the graduates get to interact with the undergrads," said Saranya Radhakrishnan '16. "Sharing our culture and traditions was a means to communicate and be a part of the Marist community. We hope that this exhibit inspires other students to share their own culture and invite us to be a part of it."

The celebration commenced with an opening reception in the lobby of the Lowell Thomas Communications Center. An exhibition brought together interested students, faculty, and staff to view cultural artifacts, clothing, art, and videos.

Not only were these items important to the culture, but to the students as well; they selected what would be displayed and even contributed their own clothing and accessories.

"Back in India, this festival is celebrated with lots of lights, colors, and excitement, and I wanted to bring that celebration here," said Surya Valluri '16. "We wanted to celebrate the same way here to show people what Indian festivals are and touch all corners of the Indian culture."

To make the exhibition more interactive, the students volunteered to demonstrate traditional cultural Indian activities each day. They showed guests how to create rangoli, art made from colored sand, and offered henna tattoos, turbans, bindis, and tilaks.

A festive closing reception filled the Cabaret with singing, dancing, and food. The Indian students not only performed various musical numbers but also modeled their favorite garments in a fashion show.

"The exhibit and the final reception have made me feel like a part of the Marist community," said Sharegar. "I got the opportunity to work with great people and learn a lot, and everyone was welcoming and ready to help."

—Emily Belfiore '16

(IN BRIEF)



Gerard E. Dahowski '65

After 37 years of dedicated service, **Gerard E. Dahowski '65** has stepped down from Marist's Board of Trustees. He chaired the board's Finance Committee for more than 35 years. He has spent more than 30 years in financial services, most recently with Wells Fargo.

He began his career in banking and previously served as comptroller of Dutchess Bank and Trust and as a trust officer with Fishkill National and Premier National Bank.

Each holiday season, **Marist's student club Campus Ministry** works with social service agencies throughout Dutchess County to identify families' needs and children's wishes and then lists them on ornaments that decorate several Giving Trees around campus. Students, faculty, and staff pick an ornament—a wish to fulfill—and deliver these wrapped gifts to Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel for a special Giving Tree Mass. The gifts, ranging from household necessities to children's bikes and games, are then distributed through the partner agencies to the children and families in time for Christmas. This year, **966 gifts** were collected for **30 families**, including **122 children**.



A record 200 Marist students and staff members participated in community service projects throughout Dutchess, Ulster, and Putnam counties to observe **Marist's ninth annual Community Service Day** on Oct. 10, 2015. The initiative was coordinated by the Office of Housing and Residential Life and Campus Ministry in conjunction with eight local agencies. Above, Marist students helped maintain local hiking trails. 📍



Dr. Daniel A. Szpiro is dean of the School of Professional Programs.

Marist Welcomes New Dean of School of Professional Programs

MARIST'S SCHOOL focusing on nontraditional students and programs has a new dean. Daniel A. Szpiro, PhD, has been named dean of the School of Professional Programs/assistant vice president for academic affairs.

Szpiro joined Marist after 12 years at Cornell University and the Jack Welch Management Institute at Strayer University, where he served as associate dean of executive education in the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management and dean of executive education, respectively.

From 1999 to 2004, Szpiro was an associate professor with Queen's School of Business at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, and, for most of that period, the director of Queen's National Executive MBA program. Prior to joining Queen's, he was a faculty member with the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University. Before pursuing an academic career, he spent many years in the consumer electronics industry.

Szpiro received a BSc from the University of Waterloo, an MBA from Queen's University, an MS in international accounting and finance from the London School of Economics, and a PhD in business administration from the University of Western Ontario.

His accomplishments include leading the development of cutting-edge student support processes for online education and the implementation of new tools and platforms to enhance student engagement. He has led sessions and courses for executives in many development and graduate degree programs in North America and overseas and has delivered executive development courses for leading organizations such as Home Depot, Walmart, AstraZeneca, Generali, Erste Bank, Goodyear, FedEx, and Cevital. 📧



Ron Lipton, adjunct lecturer for the School of Science, received the 2015 Jose Torres Renaissance Man Award from the Veteran Ring 10 Boxer's Association.

Boxing Instructor Lipton Honored

RON LIPTON, adjunct lecturer for the School of Science, received the 2015 Jose Torres Renaissance Man Award from the Veteran Ring 10 Boxer's Association Sept. 13, 2015, at the Marina Del Rey in the Bronx, NY.

Former heavyweight boxing champions and boxing champions from all weight divisions were in attendance along with HBO and ESPN commentators, boxing historians, and movie stars.

Lipton, the boxing instructor for the Physical Education Department, is a three-time New Jersey Golden Gloves finalist who finished his boxing career with a record of 39 wins with 38 knockouts and only three losses. He was the paid sparring partner for many world champions and Top 10-rated fighters including Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier as they prepared for major title fights. As a professional boxing referee he has refereed more than 100 matches involving champions and Top 10 contenders including Evander Holyfield, Oscar De La Hoya, Pernell Whitaker, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison, and Roy Jones Jr. in venues all over the world. 📧



Dr. Cornel West, professor of philosophy and Christian practice at Union Theological Seminary and professor emeritus at Princeton University, addressed a crowd of nearly 1,400 students, faculty, staff, and members of the surrounding community in the McCann Center Arena on Sept. 30, 2015. West (center) met with students prior to his lecture, "Race, Class, and Justice in America: Where Are We Now?" His visit to Marist was featured in a segment on 60 Minutes on March 20, 2016, that was produced by CBS News Specials Producer Alvin Patrick '86.



Marist fashion students got firsthand experience at New York Fashion Week by working at “Marist & Son Jung Wan,” a reprise showing of the spring 2016 collection of designer Son Jung Wan (center, with President Dennis J. Murray).

Fashion Students Return to NYFW for Son Jung Wan Show

THE COLLEGE returned to New York Fashion Week for the third time in two years to host “Marist & Son Jung Wan,” a reprise showing of Korean designer Son Jung Wan’s spring 2016 collection at Skylight at Moynihan Station.

Dozens of Marist fashion students got firsthand NYFW experience supporting the production both backstage and in the front of the house, working with the designer’s public relations team, and covering the event as credentialed media.

Earlier in the evening, the 500 guests were treated to a showing of the debut collection from VLC, Inc., a new fashion house co-founded by two Marist alumni,

at a reception at the nearby Hammerstein Ballroom. The reception also featured the latest survey results on fashion trends and attitudes and a live, interactive “Fashion Wars” survey from the Marist Poll.

Following the reprise show, President Dennis J. Murray and Fashion Program Director Radley Cramer presented Son Jung Wan with the College’s first Silver Needle Innovation Award in recognition of her creativity and success in creating a global fashion brand. At other recent NYFW reprise shows, Marist presented Silver Needle Icon Awards separately to designers Betsey Johnson and Nanette Lepore.

At the Hammerstein Ballroom recep-

tion, guests were treated to the first public showing of the debut collection from VLC, Inc. Chloe Li ’15 and Lucas Song ’14, natives of Chongqing, China, brought both Chinese and western influences to their designs.

The reception also saw a presentation from the Marist Poll, which used its surveying expertise to poll the public on attitudes about fashion and its importance to personal identity. The audience got involved with the polling through live and interactive “Fashion Wars” in which competing designs and styles were presented on giant video screens so guests could vote for their favorites using their smartphones. 📱

8 Fashion Students Win YMA–FSF Scholarships

EIGHT STUDENTS in Marist’s Fashion Program have won YMA–Fashion Scholarship Fund Scholarships of \$5,000 each. The students are fashion design majors Bryn Gorberg ’17, Sarah Katz ’18, Cara Benevenia ’17, Annika Leitch Lodge ’18, Kristen Wong ’17, Emma Gage ’17, and fashion merchandising majors Kristi Licursi ’17 and Nicole Burgagni ’17.

The competition was highly competitive, with approximately 400 applicants from 48 YMA–FSF-member schools; 200 students received a \$5,000 scholarship. Awards are based on merit after consideration of the applicants’ GPAs, a case study project, a personal essay, and an interview.

The YMA–FSF is a nonprofit dedicated to advancing the fashion industry by encouraging talented people to pursue fashion careers. Begun in 1937 as the Young Men’s Apparel Association and then renamed the Young Menswear Association (YMA), its name was changed to YMA–Fashion Scholarship Fund in 2006. 📱



YMA–FSF scholarship winners are (left to right) Marist fashion students Bryn Gorberg ’17, Sarah Katz ’18, Kristi Licursi ’17, Nicole Burgagni ’17, Cara Benevenia ’17, Annika Leitch Lodge ’18, Kristen Wong ’17, and Emma Gage ’17.



One of the “Colleges That Create Futures”

MARIST IS ONE OF THE NATION'S BEST INSTITUTIONS at offering its undergrads outstanding academics and experiential learning opportunities, according to the Princeton Review. The education services company profiles Marist in its book *Colleges That Create Futures: 50 Schools That Launch Careers by Going Beyond the Classroom* and on its site at princetonreview.com/college-rankings/colleges-that-create-futures.

Out of several hundred colleges that the Princeton Review considered for the book, the 50 schools that made the cut comprise only about 2 percent of the nation's approximately 2,600 four-year colleges. Other institutions on the list include Princeton, MIT, and Stanford.

The selection process factored in data from the company's surveys of administrators at hundreds of universities between 2013 and 2015 and of 18,000 students attending the schools. The Princeton Review also conducted 200 interviews with faculty, administrators, and alumni of schools in making its choices of the final 50 colleges featured.

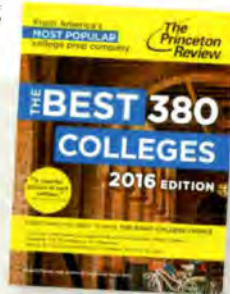
Specifically, the Princeton Review editors weighed information about the colleges' career center services; internship, externship, cooperative learning, and collaborative research opportunities; and student engagement in community service and study abroad programs.

"Simply put, Marist and the other colleges we chose for this book are stellar at putting the 'hire' in 'higher' education," said Robert Franek, senior vice president-publisher at the Princeton Review. "We commend these schools for the extraordinary opportunities they are giving their students for practical, hands-on learning that complements their academic experiences."

RANKINGS AND DISTINCTIONS

Marist is again one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to the Princeton Review. The College is featured in *The Best 380 Colleges 2016*, the 13th consecutive year it has been recognized in the respected annual college guide.

- *Money* magazine has named Marist one of the "50 Colleges That Add the Most Value." Marist ranks 34th on that list and 167th in the magazine's ranking of the 736 "Best Colleges" in the nation.
- For the 10th consecutive year, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* has included Marist on its list of the country's "Best Private College Values," where the College is ranked 57th.
- *Forbes* magazine ranks Marist 323rd out of 650 on its list of "America's Top Colleges."
- Marist's master of public administration (MPA) program has been accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA), the recognized global accreditor of master's degree programs in public service education.
- Marist is again among the nation's leading colleges and universities for international education, according to the 2015 *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange* from the Institute of International Education. For the 2013-14 academic year, Marist ranked nationally among Master's Colleges and Universities:
 - ▶ 21st for the number of study abroad students
 - ▶ 26th for the level of undergraduate participation in study-abroad programs
 - ▶ 7th for the number of students studying abroad mid-length
 - ▶ 10th for the number of students studying abroad long-term.
- Study.com named Marist a "Best School for a Degree in Digital Media."
- Marist has one of the top undergraduate accounting programs in the nation, according to the 2015 "Best Bachelor's in Accounting Programs" rankings from Accounting.com.
- Marist also appeared on *USA Today's* 2015 list of "10 Best Small Schools with Big Tailgating Traditions."



J. Donald Warren Jr., PhD, is professor of accounting and holds the Schlobach Distinguished Chair in Accounting.

Warren Named to Schlobach Distinguished Chair in Accounting

J. DONALD WARREN JR., PHD, has joined Marist's School of Management as professor of accounting and Schlobach Distinguished Chair in Accounting.

He is program director of the master of professional accountancy program and director of the Center for Enhanced Audit Techniques. Warren also assists the dean of the School of Management in developing a speakers' series to address topics in accounting, auditing, and ethical issues facing the accounting profession.

Previously Warren was a member of the accounting faculty in the Barney School of Business at the University of Hartford. He also taught in the Rutgers Business School and served as the director of the master of accountancy in financial accounting program.

Warren retired from Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP after a career of 31 years. His responsibilities with the firm included direction of the IT audit practice and serving as a national consulting partner on accounting and auditing matters. He also served as the firm's liaison to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Additional work experience includes the US Government Accountability Office and the Financial Accounting Standards Board. His research interests include continuous audit methodologies and processes and their related technologies.

The Schlobach Distinguished Chair was established with the generous support of the Jeannette F. Schlobach Charitable Trust and its trustee, Mark V. Dennis, a longtime member of the Marist College board and a prominent certified public accountant in the Hudson River Valley.

Marist Receives Major Gift from Bill O'Reilly '71

The \$1 million gift establishes an endowed scholarship honoring distinguished history professor Dr. Peter P. O'Keefe that will support exceptional students with financial need.

MARIST COLLEGE has announced the establishment of the Peter P. O'Keefe, PhD, Endowed Scholarship, made possible through a generous \$1 million gift from William J. O'Reilly '71, the noted Fox News anchor and best-selling author.

The scholarship will provide full financial support to one student annually, beginning with an incoming member of the Class of 2020. O'Keefe Scholars will be students who have demonstrated special promise in academic and leadership roles and who would not otherwise be financially able to attend Marist. Examples of potential recipients include class valedictorians, salutatorians, National Merit finalists, student-body presidents, school-newspaper editors, Eagle Scouts, Gold Award recipients, athletic-team captains, and other young leaders.

"Dr. O'Keefe was an exceptional teacher, scholar, and mentor," said O'Reilly, who studied under O'Keefe during the distinguished professor's 34-year career. "I am pleased to be able to establish a scholarship in his honor so that others can benefit as I did from a great Marist education."

In addition to the fund's financial support, O'Reilly will personally meet with the O'Keefe Scholars to provide advice and guidance as they navigate their college years and prepare for successful careers and lives.

"We are very grateful to Bill, a long-time supporter of the College, for this most generous gift," said Marist President Dennis J. Murray. "With all of his professional accomplishments, it's great for Bill to remember students who have Marist as their top college choice but are unable to attend without financial support."

"I am truly touched by this wonderful tribute from one of the most talented, entrepreneurial, and engaged students I had the privilege of teaching at Marist," said Professor Emeritus and Heritage Professor O'Keefe. "It is a wonderful example of giv-



Pictured left to right are author and Fox News anchor Bill O'Reilly '71, former Senior Development Officer Shaileen Kopec, Professor Emeritus and Heritage Professor Dr. Peter P. O'Keefe, and Vice President for College Advancement Christopher DelGiorno '88 on the set of *The O'Reilly Factor*.

ing back that Bill is setting with this new scholarship, which will allow more talented students to discover and nurture their interests and passions at Marist, as he did."

At Marist, O'Reilly majored in history, wrote a column for the student newspaper, the *Circle*, and played on the College's first championship football team. Of his time on the Marist football team, which he made as a freshman, O'Reilly has written that "the ordeal turned out to be a defining moment of my life because it taught me that the most challenging and worthwhile things can only be accomplished with great sacrifice and discipline."

O'Reilly developed a passion for history which drove his interest in journalism. Today, he is the anchor of *The O'Reilly Factor*, the most-watched cable news program for the past 15 years. He is the author of the best-selling "Killing" series of historical nonfiction books with subjects ranging from Lincoln to Jesus to, most recently, Ronald Reagan. O'Reilly has accomplished the rare feat of having two of his books in the No. 1 and 2 spots simultaneously on the

New York Times best-seller list for hard-cover nonfiction. The *Times* has called him "arguably the most popular history author in America." Many of his books have been made into equally successful TV movies.

After graduating from Marist, O'Reilly taught high school history before going into broadcasting. He went on to earn a master's in broadcast journalism from Boston University and an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. His career has included stints at CBS News, ABC News, and *Inside Edition*, which he hosted, before he moved to his current home at Fox News.

Throughout his career, O'Reilly has maintained strong ties to Marist. In 2001, the College awarded him an honorary degree, and he regularly returns to campus to attend football games and give locker room pep talks to the players. Previously, he established the Winifred & William O'Reilly Scholarship at Marist, which honors his parents and provides support to students with financial need and a demonstrated commitment to community service. 🇺🇸

A Gift Advances Scholarship in the School of Management

THE PRENTING FAMILY Research Assistantship Fund in Business has been established through a generous gift of \$100,000 from the Bernardine S. Prenting Living Trust.

The aim of the fund is to advance scholarship in the School of Management and promote competitive, faculty-mentored or co-sponsored faculty-student research. Awards will be made on the merit of faculty projects and the nature of the research to be conducted by student assistants, with faculty selecting assistants from among full-time undergraduate business majors or students enrolled in the MBA program. The fund continues the Prenting family's long association with Marist and the College's business programs in particular and has been established by the family as a memorial to Bernardine (Berni) Prenting and daughter Mary Nell Prenting '95 MBA.

Berni, the wife of Professor Emeritus of Business and Heritage Professor Ted Prenting, contributed much to the development of the early College community, as have many spouses of faculty members over the years. Mary Nell completed her MBA degree while pursuing a career in banking, finance, and marketing. Ted played key roles over 37 years at Marist, designing the undergraduate business program, establishing and administering the MBA program, and planning for the College's successful effort to achieve accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. 📖

Ed Smith (left), professor of art and art gallery director, and John Ansley, director of Archives and Special Collections (right), welcomed Anne Donaghy, daughter of Lowell Thomas Jr. and granddaughter of Lowell Thomas, to the Marist College Art Gallery for the exhibit "Hidden Treasures: Photographers and the Lowell Thomas Papers" in 2013.



Grant To Make Historic Lowell Thomas Films Accessible Worldwide

LOWELL THOMAS JR. and the Lowell Thomas Residuary Trust have issued a generous grant in the amount of \$654,000 to support the preservation and digitization of a significant collection of more than 3,000 cans of film that were previously donated to the College by Lowell Thomas Jr. and his family.

The grant will allow John Ansley, director of Archives and Special Collections in the James A. Cannavino Library, and his colleagues to make the historic collection accessible to researchers worldwide.

Marist is home to the definitive collection of Lowell Thomas's materials, the result of a bequest from the Thomas family. The Lowell Thomas Papers, as the collection is known, includes not only manuscript materials but also films, audiotapes, photos, and artifacts, preserved and made accessible through the support of several federal grants. The legendary broadcaster, after whom a building at Marist is named, lived for most of his life in Pawling, NY, just 25 miles southeast of Marist. He was the College's commencement speaker in 1981 and was awarded an honorary degree at the ceremony. 📖

A Longtime Champion of Marist Retires

AFTER A LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER at Marist, Senior Development Officer for Planned Giving and Endowment Support Shaileen Kopec retired on Sept. 30, 2015. Kopec worked at Marist in nine different positions over four decades, including 33 years of full-time employment.

Kopec was one of the College's longest-serving professional staff members and contributed greatly to its success, said President Dennis J. Murray. "She has provided extraordinary service to the College and has been a pioneer and role model for women. During her tenure, Shaileen developed a deep institutional knowledge and strong network of relationships, and she will be extremely difficult to replace."

Kopec began work at the College in 1972 as Marist's first full-time alumni director. She later served as Marist's first full-time public relations director, the Admission Office's first director of enrollment communications, and director of development. In 1991 she became the College's first female vice president, leading the Office of College Advancement for

13 years. Among other achievements, she successfully completed the capital campaign to build the James A. Cannavino Library and significantly increased the number of endowed scholarship funds at Marist. Beginning in 2004, Kopec led efforts to build a robust planned giving program. In addition, she was a key member of the Campaign for Marist's fundraising team and a longtime partner with the Hudson River Valley Institute in the development of its notable endowment.

"She truly embodies the Marist values of excellence in education, a sense of community, and commitment to service," the president said.

Kopec mentored numerous female administrators informally and through the Marist Professional Women's Mentor Program. In 2009 she was honored with the designation of Province Affiliation by the Marist Brothers of the United States, a form of honorary membership for her contributions to the Brothers and their ministries.

"Shaileen's impact at Marist over the



Shaileen Kopec retired from Marist after four decades in Advancement and Admission.

past 43 years has been truly immeasurable," said Chris DelGiorno '88, vice president for college advancement. "Her exceptional relationship-building skills, big-picture strategic thinking, and genuine passion for the College's mission have been enormous assets, contributing richly to the College's success. She will be greatly missed." 📖

Celebrating 37 Years of

As he prepares to step down, President Dennis J. Murray talks with longtime colleague Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, about the challenges and rewards of serving the Marist College community for nearly 40 years.

Dr. Dennis J. Murray announced in early 2015 that he would step down on June 30, 2016, following 37 years as president of Marist College. His tenure has been extraordinary not only for its length—more than five times the average tenure of seven years—but for its monumental achievements (see “Highlights 1979–2016”). He has been the College’s rock, and students and alumni have made him their rock star. Almost 90 percent of the College’s alumni have received diplomas signed by him.

Of the faculty who were on campus when Murray arrived in 1979, only a handful remain. One of these is Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, who joined Marist in 1975 and, through his meticulous directorship of the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion, has become the other person besides Murray whose name is most synonymous with Marist. Recently, at the request of Marist magazine, Miringoff sat down with Murray in Greystone, the former carriage house that serves as the president’s office, to ask for his reflections on the past four decades.



LM: Welcome to President Murray’s hayloft. I’m Lee Miringoff, political science faculty at Marist and director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion. I’ve been at Marist 41 years and with me is a relative newcomer of not quite four decades, Dennis J. Murray. Now, first question, Dennis, and I don’t think anybody on campus knows the answer to this. One-word answer: What is the “J”?

DJM: Joseph. Dennis Joseph Patrick Murray. My confirmation name was Patrick so that’s the full name. Let me note that we’re sitting in a carriage house that was built in the 1860s, and my office is on the top floor, which was indeed a hayloft. I think I can safely claim to be the only college or university president who occupies such a space.

LM: Duly noted. Let me start off by saying how much I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you at this very special time. For

me it’s a little bittersweet. You were in your early 30s; I was a little bit younger when we met. As the countdown continues to the time you become president emeritus, is this a bittersweet time for you as this change comes?

DJM: No, I don’t view it as bittersweet, but rather the next phase of my professional life. I’d given it a lot of thought and became convinced that the timing was right not only for me but for the College, and I obviously believed that Marist was at a high point in all its history. When I told the board I thought this would be a good time to start thinking about transitioning, many of them said, “No, we want you to stay on a little bit longer,” but I was pretty firm in my belief that this was the right time. Then they suggested the possibility of staying on as president emeritus; teaching a little bit; advising the board; going back to some research they know I always wanted to do; and it became a very attractive option for me. I take a lot of pride in everything our faculty, staff, alumni, students, and board have accomplished here, but I’m actually looking forward to the next phase in my life.

Dr. Dennis J. Murray is one of the longest-serving and most accomplished presidents in the history of American higher education. According to the American Council on Education, the typical college president’s tenure is seven years. Since 1979, Murray has led Marist College through a period of exceptional growth and transformation. From a small local college with limited resources, Marist has become a complex comprehensive institution with solid finances and a global reach. Although he is quick to give credit to others, his accomplishments are rivaled by very few college or university presidents.

HIGHLIGHTS 1979–2016

“For 37 years, Dennis Murray has led a transformation of Marist College that is unprecedented in American higher education,” Marist Board Chair Ellen Hancock said. “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I salute him for his tremendous accomplishment in making Marist one of the finest institutions in the country, and I look forward to his continued involvement with the College.”



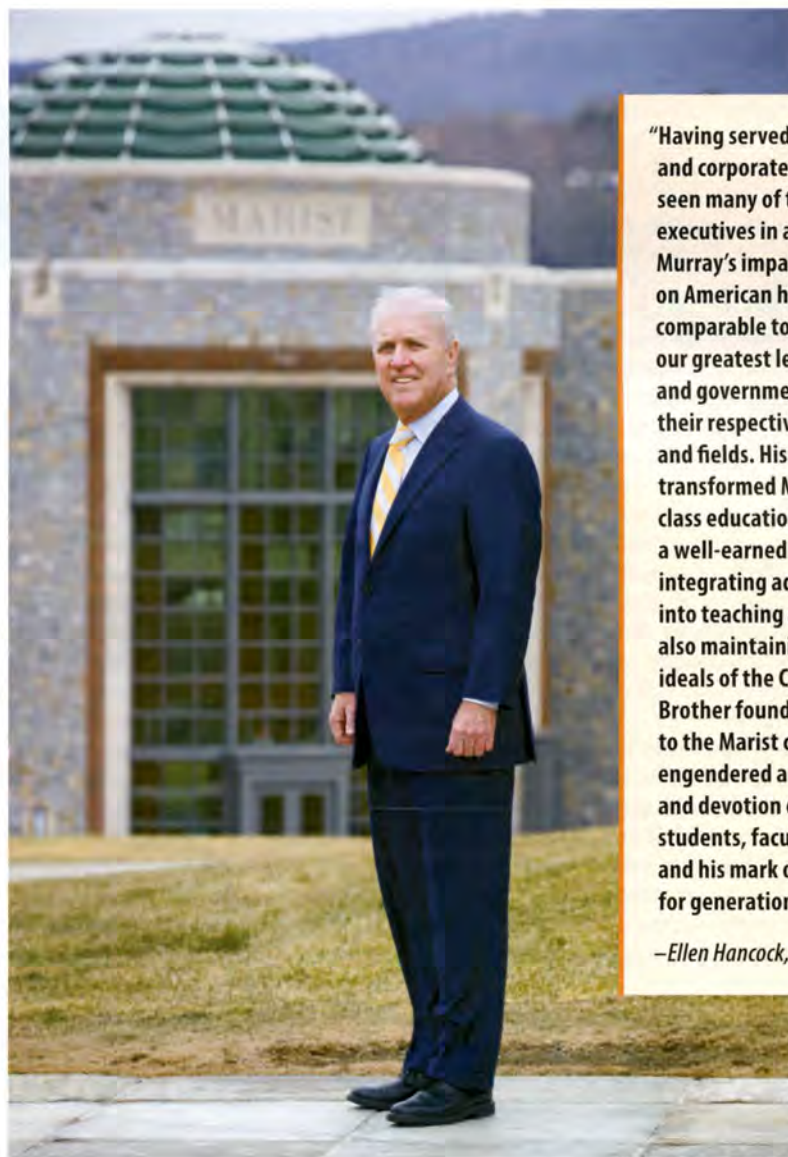
Visionary Leadership

LM: To describe it, it's more of a transition than an opening and closing of a door.

DJM: I do believe that if I were going to have a hard finish on June 30th, it really would probably be difficult for me to deal with, but I'm really looking at this as just another opportunity to do some new things; different things. I hope, in this new capacity, to do one or two major things for Marist that will further help develop our institution.

LM: Let's turn the clock back a little bit to the 1970s. You were on the West Coast, a Los Angeles boy. Why did you apply, and what were your first impressions of Marist as you got to know it initially?

DJM: I was not really aware of Marist College, and my recollection back in those years was that I wasn't really much aware of Poughkeepsie, NY. I was approached first of all by a headhunter; the College had hired an executive search firm. I had a pretty good reputation as one of the young higher education administrators in Southern California and they somehow became aware of me. They talked to me about Marist College, a place they described as having some current challenges, but a place they also believed had a lot of potential. At this time, Marilyn, my wife, was pregnant with our first child. Of course, I only knew Los Angeles. My family had been there a couple of generations. Marilyn's family had been there five or six generations, which is very unusual for anyone in Southern California, so there wasn't at that time a lot of appeal. So when I was first approached I wrote back and said, "Thank you, I'm honored, but I'm doing well here, and I'm pretty sure my career is going to advance." The search firm was persistent and wrote back and said, "We really think you ought to take a look at this college." And this is the honest-to-God's truth: I tell people this, but



it sounds like such a coincidence, it's almost impossible. I was in our den; it was a Saturday morning and I was reading, but I had the public television station on and they were

rerunning a Fox Movietone Newsreel, and they said—I'll never forget after reading this letter—they said, "Let's go to Poughkeepsie, NY, the international rowing regatta." They

"Having served on several college and corporate boards, I have seen many of the nation's top executives in action. President Murray's impact on Marist and on American higher education is comparable to that which some of our greatest leaders in business and government have had on their respective organizations and fields. His leadership has transformed Marist into a world-class educational institution with a well-earned reputation for integrating advanced technology into teaching and learning, while also maintaining the fundamental ideals of the College's Marist Brother founders. His dedication to the Marist community has engendered an unsurpassed pride and devotion on the part of its students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and his mark on Marist will be felt for generations."

—Ellen Hancock, Chair, Board of Trustees

Among the many highlights since Murray assumed leadership of the College in 1979, Marist has:

- Grown its annual economic impact on the Hudson River Valley to \$507 million
- Created a standard of academic excellence now recognized by the Princeton Review, *US News & World Report*, *Forbes*, and *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, among others; most recently the Princeton Review included Marist as one of only 50 schools in its new *Colleges That Create Futures*, along with top institutions like Princeton, Notre Dame, and Stanford
- Increased applications sevenfold and become dramatically more selective, from accepting nearly 78 percent of 1,624 applicants in 1980 to accepting only 38.5 percent of 9,751 applicants in 2014
- Grown enrollment from 1,842 to 6,365—a 245 percent increase
- Produced balanced budgets for 37 consecutive years

Coretta Scott King spoke to the Marist College community in 1998.



were showing the old newsreels from the international rowing regattas that took place along our stretch of the river in the early 1900s. So I thought, "This was on national television; let's take a trip to New York, see what it's like." So, she reluctantly went along and one thing led to another, and I was ultimately offered the job here. I told Marilyn we'd only be here three years because college presidents don't last long. She still to this day reminds me of that statement, and here we are 37 years later.

LM: That leads me into my next question. When I first heard of President Dennis Murray coming to Marist, my office was just across the way here. I heard this gunslinger from the West is going to take three to five years, get the college on firmer footing, and then move on. And then you turned that into one of the longest, most successful runs probably in higher education history or certainly close to that in terms of the tenure. Walk us through a little bit how Marist changed; how you changed, and how you stayed for this incredible run.

DJM: Well, that's the question I get asked most by presidential colleagues around the country. "How in the world could you have had such a long run in one place?" And I tell them, there are probably two parts to the answer. First of all, it was just a good fit because of its culture, student focus, the environment, and the beautiful location here on the Hudson.

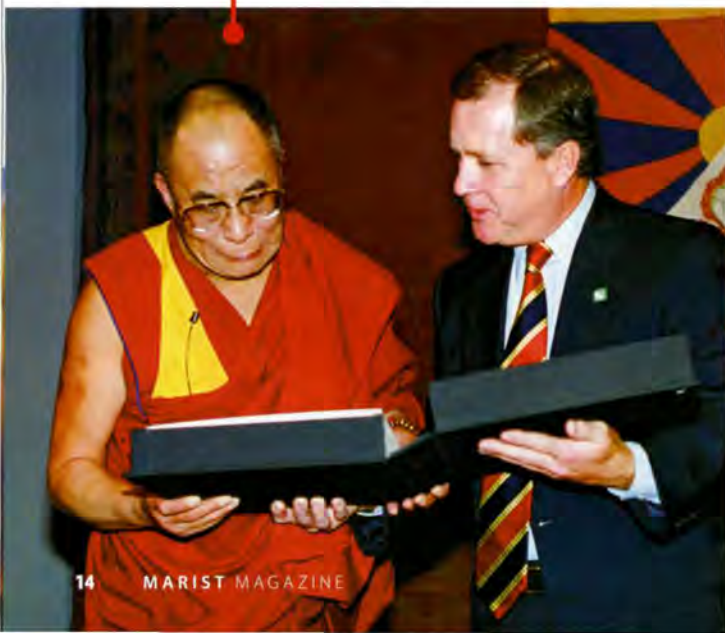
There were just a lot of things that fit well. But the other thing I tell them is that I had an advantage that few college presidents have. I was able to be president of three different institutions without moving. When I think of Marist, I think of it almost in three different, distinct phases. When I first came, it was a small, local college; there were some major issues it was dealing with in terms of finances, admissions, and physical plant needs. So there was some work that had to be done. Thank goodness we had the support of the Dyson Foundation and the McCann Charitable Trust, both of which were critical in moving Marist in a new direction. Rob Dyson and Jack Gartland, both longtime trustees, each played a transformational role. Jack's son, Mike, now also a trustee, has carried on that tradition. And of course, the Marist Brothers gave us a great heritage on which to build.

somewhat of a turnaround phase, and I think that lasted literally a decade through the '80s. In the late '80s, early '90s, I think we were becoming a very good regional college, and our base, our student draw, was increasingly becoming truly the Northeast and to some extent the Eastern Seaboard. At that point in the early '90s, I think we started to recognize as a college that the population demographics didn't look good for the Northeast in terms of students going from high school to college, and either we were going to suffer that demographic decline like everyone else or we were going to do things differently. So we made a strategic decision. We wanted to become more of a national and in later years even an international institution, and that certainly really paid off for the College.

The second phase was expanding to become a respected regional institution. One key milestone during that period was the construction of the Cannavino library, which opened in 2000. Located at the heart of the campus, it symbolized the central role of academics to the College experience, and it really changed the way people viewed Marist. Our trustee and alumnus Dick Cole led the fundraising campaign that made the library possible.

Building has always been a hallmark of the College, ever since the Marist Brothers constructed buildings with their own hands. Over the past several decades, we've transformed the campus by renovating the Student Center and adding Tenney Stadium,

Murray presented rare photos of Tibet from the Lowell Thomas Papers to the Dalai Lama at a Washington, DC, reception in 1995.



LM: A lot of the students were from New York and they were commuters.

DJM: Very much a local institution, and the physical plant just wasn't going to be competitive for what a modern-day college or university had to be. So that first phase was

HIGHLIGHTS 1979–2016

- Increased total assets from \$22 to \$687 million—a 3,023 percent increase
- Increased total net assets from \$14 to \$446 million—a 3,086 percent increase
- Increased endowment from \$0.5 to \$227 million—a 45,300 percent increase
- Increased unrestricted cash from \$0.1 to \$60 million—a 59,900 percent increase

the Hancock Center, the multipurpose academic building that's now home to our Music Program, and student townhouses. Our biggest project to date is the residential housing complex currently being constructed on the north end of the campus. We also, with great support from state and local government, worked in partnership to create Longview Park on the riverfront and the pedestrian walkway under Route 9.

Over the past 15, 18 years we've truly become more and more of a national, even an international institution, with a full branch campus in Florence, Italy. Who would have ever thought of that?

LM: There are a lot of things that have gone on over the years we never would've thought; we'll get to that in a few moments. I'd be professionally remiss if I didn't ask you to cite some numbers in terms of what the enrollment was like when you started, what it's like now, what the endowment was like; acreage on campus; just a sense of how things have grown here.

DJM: That is one of the most remarkable things about Marist. People today forget what an extremely young institution we are, and that's what makes the success that everyone here at Marist has had even more remarkable. The College started offering education in 1929, but that was really only with the Marist Brothers. We were actually doing that under the auspices of Fordham University during that period. It was not until 1946 that we got our charter from the state of New York to be an official college, and really we did not become a college as most people think of it until the late '60s, early '70s, when they admitted laymen and ultimately laywomen. So when you look at the youth of the College, it's really remarkable how far we've come. When I started, there were about 93 acres; today there are 224 acres. The budget was around \$12 million; today it's \$180 million. There was very little endowment; \$400,000 or \$500,000; at our peak we were up to \$236 million. The big challenge we had financially back then was simply cash and cash flow; there was not more than \$100,000 of free cash.

LM: And the selectivity, of course.

DJM: That was another major issue related to finances. We admitted something like 77 percent of all the applicants; I think there were only 1,100, 1,500 applicants back then. This year we'll have over 10,000 applicants and admit somewhere around 35 percent, which has made the College much more selective.

LM: You've always been able to keep a connection with our heritage and yet be transformational at the same time. From a leadership standpoint, obviously you were conscious of that. But the balancing and the holding on to our roots and yet breaking down barriers, it's quite an interesting part of your administration.

DJM: The Marist Brothers gave us many important things, particularly the three core values around which to build a college: excellence in education, a sense of community, and a commitment to service. These three ideals are completely compatible with a modern university. I also like to say, only somewhat facetiously, that the Brothers really knew how to pick out a great piece of property, which gave us the opportunity to build a great American campus. This location on the shores of the Hudson, which inspired the painters of the Hudson River School, has provided a truly unique setting for our campus.

LM: I think part of it is how people here buy into that mission, which is, I think, very unusual for organizations. People really buy into the notion of what Marist College is. It's not a place where you work, it's a part of your life. You referenced the faculty before in terms of its growth; in terms of diversity, there have been so many unique programs, centers of excellence, from the Hudson River Valley Institute and our leadership in technology to the student-run Investment Center and the Marist Poll. Did you build these around faculty who were here or was some of it bringing in people who would then fill the need, as in the case of the Fashion Program?

DJM: I think it happened in a variety of different ways, and you're being mod-

"In his 37 years as president of Marist, Dennis Murray has had a tremendous impact not only on the College, but also on the entire Hudson River Valley. From his decision to reorient the campus toward the river to his service with civic organizations of every type, his establishment of the Hudson River Valley Institute, and his work as co-chair of Gov. Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Council, Dennis has long had a special appreciation for the region's history, culture, and natural beauty. More important, he has shown us all how to leverage these attributes to make our valley a better place to live, learn, and work."

—Rob Dyson, Immediate Past Chair, Board of Trustees

est by not listing MIPO first because of all the programming we've done here at Marist College, there's no doubt that MIPO has done more than anything to help position and brand Marist College in the high-quality way I would've wanted it done. I do remember very distinctly that one of the first things I did—I tell people this story a lot—when I first became president was ask to see the résumés of all the faculty, and I was flipping through them thinking, this one and that one. I came across yours and I saw your credentials—Phi Beta Kappa undergraduate, PhD from MIT—and I saw you were doing some kind of exit poll, standing out in front of local polling places collecting data and then going on WKIP, the local radio station, to announce your predictions. I thought, "This is a great idea, I really like this, how can we take this to the next level?" Thirty-seven years later, you are the most respected college poll in the country and the world today and have no doubt done more than any other part of

Writer Elie Wiesel was one of many distinguished guests who spoke at Marist in lectures free and open to the public over the years.



- Increased employment from 350 full- and part-time positions to 1,324 (843 full-time/481 part-time)—a 278 percent increase
- Built or renovated every major building on campus (56 new buildings, 24 major renovations)
- Seen three of its buildings—Greystone, Kieran Gatehouse, and St. Peter's—added to the National Register of Historic Places
- Developed Longview Park on the Marist campus, a stunning riverfront space created through innovative partnerships with town, state, and federal governments

Dennis and Marilyn Murray and Bro. Paul Ambrose Fontaine, FMS, presented Pope John Paul II with a book about the Hudson River Valley in 1997.



“As one of the longest-serving college presidents in our country, Dr. Murray has worked relentlessly to transform our college and campus while staying true to the ideals the Marist Brothers handed down to us over a century ago. Marist is an institution that prides itself on community, service, and ethical leadership; Dr. Murray exemplifies these qualities in tremendous ways, and perhaps no one better epitomizes what it means to be a member of the Red Fox family. Thank you for making a difference, President Murray.”

—Andrew Paulsen '12, former SGA President

Marist to help brand the College. And at the same time, which is most important to me, it wasn't just PR, it was part of our educational experience. The way you and Barbara Carvalho made it part of a learning experience has benefited so many of the students. That was really a Hallmark moment in the life of the College. Again, you just ran with it and built MIPO to the extent you have today.

We tried to do that in other areas, too. It wouldn't be enough just to have within our School of Liberal Arts, our Political Science Department, the great polling institute that we have today. We had to do it in computer science. With IBM down the road, it didn't take a strategic genius to see that maybe there was an opportunity in this field. Our Joint Study research partnership with IBM has brought the College a world-class technology platform. Trustees like Jim Cannavino, Ellen Hancock, and Ross Mauri have been instrumental in making that happen. The Hudson River Valley Institute clearly has become one of the best regional history programs in the nation. Music, which was a big part of life on campus for the Marist Brothers in the early days, continues to offer students a rewarding

experience through our many choral and instrumental groups. Our Fashion Program, which was, interestingly enough, supposed to have only been at Marist a short time until we helped the students from Bennett College complete their degrees, has really turned into another very significant program.

LM: Huge, huge.

DJM: Those elements again created a unique educational experience, as we talk about in our values statement, that very few other colleges and universities have. Our partnership with the FDR Presidential Library for historians; the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies out in Millbrook for the scientists. It goes on and on and on. In all cases, there clearly were faculty who had to provide the leadership for these things, as you and Barbara did with MIPO, but also in all of them we tried to incorporate students. That's one of the things we insisted upon for all of these partnerships that we have today, that there had to be student involvement, that they had to benefit from that experience. This is truly one of the distinctive parts of Marist.

LM: Talking about students, there's a distinctive element I think you bring to the relationship of the president to the students. You seem to know every student on campus. They take selfies with you; you've danced in their videos. How do you pick up this awareness of so many of the students here? Here, the president is not some distant person.

DJM: I don't think people give students enough credit; they're pretty smart, and I think they know if a president or a faculty member, or anyone else, really cares about them. Fortunately, Marilyn and I have enjoyed our interactions with the students. I love sports so we love going to the sporting events. We enjoy music. Of course our band and choral programs are nationally recognized.

Certainly the new element is the selfies. Some people say, "That must drive you crazy." It really doesn't. I've always felt if someone wants a picture with you, it's an honor. And it's a great way to meet students. I do it everywhere, from on campus to running into students or alumni in the city. I was over at Mike Arteaga's Health & Fitness Center the other day and there were a group of students working out, so we had to do a selfie over there. I never minded that.

LM: They love it. They really love it.

DJM: And I love it, too.

LM: You've been a central figure in the Hudson River Valley. You've been involved with growth of the region; in many ways, you've made Marist a window to the Hudson literally and figuratively. Colleges are not islands, and you've been involved with the statewide economic development program. What is it about Marist and you that made you so much a part of this community?

HIGHLIGHTS 1979–2016

- Expanded its Hudson River Valley campus from 93 acres to 224 acres—a 141 percent increase
- Established a branch campus in Florence, Italy, that offers undergraduate and graduate academic programs
- Established 53 new academic programs and many centers of academic excellence, e.g., the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, the Hudson River Valley Institute, the Marist–IBM Joint Study, the Raymond A. Rich Institute for Leadership Development, the Institute for Data Center Professionals, the AACSB-accredited School of Management, the NASPAA-accredited MPA Program, the ARC-PA-accredited Physician Assistant program, the Schlobach student-run Investment Center, and partnership with the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library
- Completed its first comprehensive capital campaign, which raised more than \$159 million

DJM: Well that was an easy one for me simply because of the way I was raised. As a young high school boy in 1960, I heard John F. Kennedy give his acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention, and that was the New Frontier speech that he gave. Back then he said something to the effect of “the new frontier of which I speak is not a set of promises—it is a set of challenges,” and that ultimately apparently led to the great line in his inauguration when he said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” That was a transformational moment in my life, hearing that speech in 1960. Belief in service, giving back, doesn’t have to be your whole life, but it should certainly be a part of everyone’s life. Coming to Marist with the Marist Brothers and their commitment to service, which I think was an important part of the culture here, it was easy for me to recognize that colleges should not be isolated, that they should be parts of their communities, and everyone who’s part of a college or any organization or anyone who is lucky enough to be part of an organization like this should be giving back and being of service. So I’ve enjoyed that. I’ve been on lots of boards. Marilyn’s been on boards. We try to do our share. I’m particularly proud of the way our students are involved. They raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, for AIDS research, for the Wounded Warriors program. I just met with a group of students this week who are on their spring break. When a lot of people are going to a resort, they’re going to a small village in Mexico to help impoverished young people there. That’s part of Marist, and I really enjoy that part of my job: being of service.

I’ve also enjoyed the greater Hudson River Valley and in helping to play a role in defining it. Franny Reese, another great trustee, played an important role in the life of Marist College; was a founder of Scenic Hudson; and played a big role in the Storm King Mountain case, which really changed environmental law and policy in this country. She was one who helped educate me about the unique nature of this area. Once I got that, I really began more than ever to realize we weren’t branding our area well enough, so that’s when I started over 35 years ago coining this concept of the “Hudson River Valley” as

a brand. Eventually Maurice Hinchey, the congressman, was able to get the National Heritage Area identified in this area, and it was called the “Hudson River Valley” National Heritage Area. State Sen. Steve Saland initiated the Greenway Conservancy, and it became the “Hudson River Valley” Greenway Conservancy. And of course he went on to become one of New York’s most distinguished senators and a great supporter of Marist College.

We made a lot of inroads in that area, and now it’s very rewarding when you pick up a national travel magazine and you read, “Go to the Hudson River Valley in New York, it’s a great, unique place.” This is what Franny and I worked on. That has also helped brand Marist College. As much as we like Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County, and they’re great places to live, learn, and work, our footprint is bigger than that. Our footprint is really the Hudson River Valley. I think in many ways we have become the respected college in the Hudson River Valley. In fact, a lot of people ask me how I knew that Marist had arrived, and I love telling that story of the *New York Times* crossword puzzle where the question that you had to answer to fill in the boxes was a respected college in Poughkeepsie, New York. Everyone was trying to squeeze “Vassar” in the boxes but the answer was really “Marist.”

LM: And a few of those rankings have come out.

DJM: The most recent one is the Princeton Review’s *Colleges That Create Futures*. Out of the 3,000 colleges and universities in America, they chose only 50, and Marist was in that 50. When you look at the list, it truly is the elite and very old institutions in this country. In particular when you look at the schools grouped by enrollment and see Marist listed alongside places such as Stanford, Princeton, Notre Dame, and Duke in the category of colleges and universities with 5,000 to 10,000 students, it is really great to see, again, such a young college running with the best in America.

“Dennis Murray’s intellect, integrity, leadership, and vision will leave a legacy at Marist College that will extend far into the future and affect generations of Marist students to come.”

—Paul X. Rinn ’68,
Alumni Association President

Another testament to the quality of our academic programs is that increasingly our graduates receive prestigious fellowships such as the Fulbright, Goldwater, and Teach for America.

LM: You talk about an almost ripple-like effect from this center of energy where we are right now, in your hayloft, and then we have the pick of the community, the region, and the ripples are global now for Marist. It’s really a fascinating expansion for one college.

DJM: No doubt, but it does have to start at home. You have to start in your own neighborhood, in your own community, and you build out from there. I think that’s what Marist has done. Every year we’ve gotten a little better; our reach has extended a little bit. I don’t think that’s over with. I think there are still lots of opportunities. That goes back, to some extent again, to the Marist Brothers who, worldwide, are serving in 82 countries around the world. So we probably have a ways to go to catch up with them.

LM: Your years as president of Marist have also spanned major changes in the world, America, our culture. Recessions, wars, and 9/11 changed the way we relate to each other; more recently, in terms of race relations. How as president do you deal with those kinds of

As chairman emeritus of IBM, Thomas J. Watson Jr. received a Lowell Thomas Centennial Award from Marist in 1992.



● Moved its NCAA programs from Division II to Division I and added 10 new teams (2 men’s and 8 women’s)

● Won the overall Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Commissioner’s Cup 12 times, the men’s individual Cup 8 times, and the women’s individual Cup 10 times

Brian Parker '19 takes a selfie with the president on Move-In Day 2015.



“Dr. Murray’s tenure as the leader of Marist spanned almost four decades because he grew with the times, grew with the institution, and the institution grew with him. Dennis and Marilyn leave a legacy of the thousands upon thousands of young men and women who graduated from Marist ready to participate in life with a solid foundation.”

—James A. Cannavino, Past Chair, Board of Trustees

changes, as they in the broader society are also part of where we are living?

DJM: In many ways a good college or university is a microcosm of the broader society, so it’s not surprising that those issues are reflected on our campus. I think we’ve been through three recessions and a major economic downturn while I’ve been president, and those posed challenges to us. We saw our assets decrease significantly just like everyone else did in those periods. But fortunately we were strong enough by that time, and we were able to keep moving forward and could adjust. We are impacted by world events. I’ll never forget the Twin Towers coming down — where we were and how we were trying to help our students make good decisions at that particular time. The issue of race relations has created a new item of tension on many college campuses. Some of the world political events caused a lot of turmoil on campuses, but as much as we have experienced those, I’ve always felt that the students here, and the faculty and staff, have handled them appropriately; we’ve done it through discussions, dialogues, and mutual respect. I’ve always been a believer in the concept of continuous improvement, and I tell our students that we do want to improve and to help us figure out ways we can improve that are consistent with the values of a university and the culture we have here at Marist College. We have made good progress. I think we have to diversify our faculty and our administration more, so there is work to do. The students are right

about that. They have to work with us to help bring that about in the coming years.

LM: Let me switch gears for a second. You talked earlier about Marilyn. You can’t think of Dennis Murray’s 37 years without thinking of Marilyn, your children, now your grandchildren. How did you blend the Marist family with the Murray family, because there’s a huge overlap there?

DJM: We just made it happen. Being a college or university president takes a lot of hours out of your week, but we also found time for family. We’d try to bring our family to events and activities. They grew up with Marist. I think overall we had a good work life/family balance. It was because we didn’t separate Marist from our family. We kind of made each part of the other, and that worked very well.

LM: I think we all have a view of the Red Fox spirit. Talk a little bit about what the Red Fox spirit means to you.

DJM: I think it goes back to community. People generally care about each other and support each other in times of need. Students form lifetime bonds not only with fellow students but with the institution. Faculty show remarkable dedication to the College and their students. The Board of Trustees is committed to the success of the College, and alumni are always there to help.

LM: And that’s the synergy. On many occasions over the years we’ve been at events, and we’ll sort of go off into the corner and you’ll whisper to me or me to you, “I really can’t believe we’re hanging around people like this,” such as the White House Correspondents Dinner last year or the Bryant Gumbel Sports Communication Lifetime Achievement Award in New York City. As you look back over the years and think of the special people you have met along the way, who stands out?

DJM: I never imagined I would be meeting U.S. presidents, the pope, the Dalai Lama, the Lowell Thomas Award recipients, governors, senators, and corporate leaders including Tom Watson of IBM, Dr. Len Schleifer of Regeneron, Charles Dyson, and of course Ray Rich, who established the Raymond A. Rich Institute for Leadership Development.

LM: As you travel around the country and the world and you run into Marist alumni, numbers which I assume are growing all the time, you’ve shaken so many of their hands and now you see them out in the world and succeeding. Tell me a little bit about how that works.

DJM: I’d have to say the most rewarding and gratifying part of announcing that I was going to step down has been the warm letters I received from graduates, and in some cases not only graduates but from people saying,

HIGHLIGHTS 1979–2016

- Won a total of 118 conference championships, made 47 NCAA Tournament appearances, including women’s basketball at the Sweet Sixteen in 2007, and won 11 games in NCAA Tournament play
- In addition, Murray has been an active community leader who over the years has been involved in virtually every major community organization; *Hudson Valley* magazine named him one of “35 People Who Have Created a Lasting Legacy,” a list that also included Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, Laurance S. Rockefeller, and Frederick William Vanderbilt
- His service has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Franciscan Award from the Sisters of St. Francis, the Americanism Award from the Anti-Defamation League, and the Family of the Year Award from Family Services; in 1996, he received the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal at a ceremony also honoring Queen Noor of Jordan, Lea Rabin of Israel, and Frances Reese, a Marist trustee and founder of the environmental movement in America



"I told Marilyn we'd only be here three years because college presidents don't last long. She still to this day reminds me of that statement."

"Over his 37 years as president, there is so much to say about the changes and improvements at Marist. Sure, you can talk about the percent change in the endowment or in the enrollment, but what is really going to matter to everyone individually is the relationship that he was willing to spend time building with us while accomplishing these extraordinary feats. Someone else can be the president of Marist College, but no one can ever be Dr. Dennis J. Murray, and that is why we are so sad to see him step down, but so lucky to have had him, and to continue to have him, for a few more years. He has taught me so many important lessons about life, like he has to countless other students, and for that I cannot thank him enough."

—Timos Pietris '17, SGA President

"You've impacted not only my life, but you've impacted the life of my son or daughter who also attended Marist." To have that multigenerational impact, I don't think you get that in too many professions. That part has been extremely satisfying. I think most rewarding is when you see the pride the alumni take in their alma mater—their willingness to help in any way they can to give back. I can think of very, very few instances in my 37 years when I've gone to an alum and asked them to do something for their alma mater and they have been unable or unwilling to do it, which is a great sign. Again, we started with a modest student body, but they have over time come to love this place. That has been very fulfilling.

LM: No one pulls up the ladder after them, they leave it down for the next. Let's talk a

little bit about the future. When next year's entering class comes to campus, what would you like them to be told about President Dennis Murray?

DJM: Well, probably not a lot. Colleges and the young people who attend them are always looking toward the future, and that should be the focus of our institution.

LM: I thought that might be the case. Give me a little legacy.

To recognize and celebrate President Dennis J. Murray's extraordinary leadership and the immeasurable impact he and his wife, Marilyn, have had on Marist and the Hudson River Valley over the past 37 years, the Marist College Board of Trustees has initiated a fundraising effort to establish an endowed scholarship in their honor. Those wishing to contribute are invited to contact Chris DelGiorno '88, vice president for college advancement, at (845) 575-3412 or Chris.DelGiorno@marist.edu.

DJM: One thing I love about young people when they come to a campus is when they arrive for their freshman year, what is there is what they know about the college. We've seen these new buildings pop up every other year and the campus development, but for each freshman class, it was always there. So I think the most important thing is that we pass along that general culture about Marist, those values that we talked about; that we keep those very much alive.

LM: Anything about that Murray guy who worked hard, helped build this college, and made it what it is today?

DJM: I've done the best I possibly could for this college, and it's very gratifying for me to see everything that we have become. But I also know full well that without dedicated faculty, hardworking staff, a committed board, and alumni who care, the College simply wouldn't be anywhere near what it is today. I've also been blessed to have a great team around me who have been supportive and in many ways are more talented than I am. That's the Marist unity and that's why we've been so successful.

LM: To end this interview, Dennis, I'd just like to say how honored I am on behalf of all the lives you've touched during your nearly four decades. To say what you have said to so many people whom you've touched during your time here, "Thank you for all you've done for Marist College," which is the vintage Dennis line. I would like to amend that to say thank you for all that you will do and to wish Godspeed to you and your family during this transition. It's been an unbelievable run. Congratulations.

DJM: Thank you very much. It's been a pleasure working with you and an honor to be president at Marist College. 📧

● He was appointed to and serves as co-chair of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council

● Dennis and Marilyn Murray have been honored with the designation of Province Affiliation by the Marist Brothers of the United States, a form of honorary membership, for their contributions to the Brothers and their ministries

Gumbel Honored for Excellence

Media luminaries and network chiefs joined Marist alumni and friends at a New York City gala to benefit the College's Center for Sports Communication.



Legendary newsman and sports broadcaster Bryant Gumbel received the inaugural Marist College Lifetime Excellence in Sports Communication Award.

for its diverse activities and student scholarships. MSNBC President Phil Griffin served as the evening's master of ceremonies.

The award was established to recognize individuals who have exemplified excellence over time in the broadly defined field of sports communication, acknowledging the social value of sports and the importance of those who cover them.

"Tonight was special for so many reasons, but most notably because it allowed so many people to thank Bryant for his legacy of excellence in broadcast journalism and sports media," said Strudler. "The Marist College Center for Sports Communication is proud to be a part of this great night, and it inspires us to train students to follow in Bryant's footsteps."

GUMBEL HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED for his groundbreaking and industry-defining work. For the past 20 years, he has hosted HBO's *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel*, a show that has earned 28 Emmys, a 2006 DuPont-Columbia University award for broadcast journalism, and a 2012 Peabody Award. Through Gumbel's stewardship, the program has expertly examined the vast intersection of sport and the world around it, highlighting the joys, complexities, accomplishments, and injustices in and around the sports landscape. Gumbel has interviewed the most influential names in the sports world, from Muhammad Ali to Jack Nicklaus, and his work has both spurred change and encouraged humanity in the global industry of sports.

At the event, Gumbel's former *Today* show colleagues, including Couric, Pauley, CNN President Jeff Zucker, and former *Today* Executive Producer Steve Friedman, joined guests such as *Live with Kelly and Michael* Co-Host Kelly Ripa and *Real Sports* Correspondent Jon Frankel to offer testimo-

KATIE COURIC, JANE PAULEY, AND KELLY RIPA were just some of the high-wattage media personalities who turned out to help celebrate their friend Bryant Gumbel as President Dennis J. Murray presented the legendary newsman and sports broadcaster with the inaugural Lifetime Excellence in Sports Communication Award on behalf of the Marist College Center for Sports Communication at a special ceremony at the New York Athletic Club on Oct. 15, 2015.

"I can't think of a more deserving recipient of this inaugural award than Bryant," said Murray. "Throughout his career, he has brought a hard-news sensibility to sports journalism. Beyond the scores and standings,

Bryant recognizes that the truly important stories and, indeed, the most compelling ones, have more to do with sport as a powerful force for both good and ill in our society. His career exemplifies the kind of in-depth work and high ethical standards that mark the work of the Marist College Center for Sports Communication and to which our students aspire."

Dr. Keith Strudler, director of the Center for Sports Communication, welcomed the crowd of some 350 media personalities, network chiefs, and other executives and Marist trustees, alumni, and parents who helped honor Gumbel while raising funds to endow the center and provide support



Yahoo News Global Anchor and former *Today* Co-Anchor Katie Couric was one of several well-known broadcasters who spoke at the event.



CNN President Jeff Zucker honored former *Today* colleague Gumbel.



Live with Kelly and Michael Co-Host Kelly Ripa (left) joined President Dennis J. Murray and his wife, Marilyn, on the red carpet.



Jane Pauley paid tribute to her former *Today* Co-Anchor Gumbel.



Center for Sports Communication Director Keith Strudler (right) welcomed the 350 guests, including CBS News Specials Producer Alvin Patrick '86.



Guests included *Today* Co-Anchor Matt Lauer.

nials, with Frankel donning a Colonial-era coat and tri-corner hat for a rap tribute to Bryant inspired by the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton*.

The event's success was thanks in large part to those foundations, businesses, and organizations that supported the Center for Sports Communication directly or through

event sponsorship, including the Dyson Foundation, which provided a generous grant to the center's endowment; platinum sponsors HBO Sports, NBC News, CNN, Agua Enerviva, William Gottlieb Real Estate, Pike Construction, Coyne PR, and Daniel O'Connell's Sons; and corporate sponsors Michael and Genine McCormick

'88/'88, Bond, Schoeneck & King, the James J. McCann Charitable Trust, Ruttura & Sons Construction, Grant Thornton, J.W. Hulme Co., Anaconda Sports/LIDS Team Sports, JTR Transportation, Hickey-Finn & Co., Inc., Apple Montessori Schools, 1-800-Flowers.com, Supreme Security Systems, and Milrose Consultants, Inc. 🇺🇸



Marist's \$33 million science and allied health building opened in January 2016.



Mary VanDeMark, professional lecturer in the Medical Laboratory Science Department, instructs students.

Science and Allied Health

A New Era for the School of Science

The new science and allied health building serves students in biology, biomedical science, medical technology, and athletic training as well as those in two new graduate degree programs—a master of science in physician assistant studies and a doctorate in physical therapy.

MARIST'S NEW SCIENCE AND ALLIED HEALTH BUILDING opened its doors in January 2016. With four floors and a wide range of innovative technological advances, the building fosters learning and research for both Marist's students and faculty.

Equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms and professional research technology, the building comfortably houses 35 biology, biomedical science, medical technology, and athletic training lecture and laboratory classes. The chemistry, environmental science, and physics departments will remain in Donnelly Hall, where they have seen an increase in space allotted to them.

"It's really exciting to go to class in a brand new lab where everything is brand new," said Christopher Minck '16, a senior who is taking two lab classes in the new building, which has DNA analysis and animal studies capabilities. "I think Marist is acknowledging the work that the science students and faculty put in. I am truly appreciative of that and wish I could be taking

classes here for more than one semester."

The building will also be home to two new graduate programs, each dedicated to developing skilled medical professionals: a master of science in physician assistant (PA) studies and a doctorate in physical therapy (DPT). The programs are the first graduate and doctoral programs within the School of Science and represent a promising new direction for the department.

"[The expansion] was based on our strategic plan of developing graduate programs in the School of Science," said Dr. James DuMond, dean of the School of Science. "Both of those programs would need additional space. We made sure that we could leverage all of the facility for multiple programs. The students have a nicer, newer, and more well-fitted facility to be able to explore their research desires."

DuMond said the first cohort of PA students is comprised of 45 students scheduled

to begin their program in May 2016. In the following years the two-year program will expand to 60 students per year. The DPT program will launch in the fall of 2017 with 45 students.

"PAs are ranked as the number five top job in the United States right now and physical therapists are ranked as fourteenth, so they're great careers," DuMond explained. "When the students come out, they will really be serving our population because they will be primary care providers. It's a huge step for Marist to go into this particular field."

One of the goals of the new science building is to provide students and faculty with hands-on training and greater opportunities for experiential learning. To fulfill this, students will examine "live patients"—actors who will feign illnesses that students must diagnose and treat—and simulate live trauma experiences using mannequins in the Simulation Suite. They will also work with cadavers in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory. Students and faculty can also work with IBM's "Watson" technology platform in

BY EMILY BELFIORE '16



Dr. Andrew Ryder of the Biology Department leads a class.

the Cognitive Computing and Research Laboratory.

Not only does the building aid students and faculty, it will also help Marist meet the demands for health care in the Hudson Valley. Students will be given the opportunity to engage in community-based learning experiences through extensive clinical

rotations. The building will also provide training for area health care professionals in the facility.

“This building shows a huge commitment on behalf of Marist, the Board of Trustees, and the upper administration to support the sciences and expansion into the health care field,” exclaimed DuMond. “It wonderfully reflects Marist’s dedication to its departments, and most important, its students and faculty.”



Left: Lockers are for use by students taking courses in gross anatomy as part of the physician assistant (PA) and doctorate in physical therapy (DPT) programs. Below: Dr. James DuMond, dean of the School of Science, teaches Topics in Biology.



School of Science Signs Agreement with University of Nicosia Medical School

THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE hosted representatives from the University of Nicosia in December 2015 to discuss developing ties between the institutions and increasing opportunities for Marist students. As part of the visit, Dr. James DuMond, dean of the School of Science, and Dr. Andreas Charalambous, executive dean, University of Nicosia Medical School, signed an agreement guaranteeing interviews to all Marist students who meet basic requirements and are recommended by the Marist College Health Professions Committee.

The University of Nicosia, located in the capital city of Cyprus, is a major European research university offering a wide range of educational programs for approximately 5,000 students. The fully accredited four-year medical degree is a new program offered in collaboration with St. George’s Medical School, University of London. The degree is taught in English in new state-of-the-art facilities.

“As part of the School of Science’s ongoing commitment to providing the best opportunities for our students, I am very pleased that we have signed this agreement with the University of Nicosia Medical School which is known for their commitment to a high-quality educational experience, excellent student outcomes, and their beautiful international setting,” DuMond said.

“We are very impressed by the excellent faculty, the state-of-the-art facilities, the culture of student care and support, and, of course, the spectacular campus overlooking the Hudson River,” Charalambous said. “Through this agreement, we hope to welcome talented students from Marist College to our medical school. We also hope that this agreement is the first step for the development of a full institutional relationship with Marist, involving research and the exchange of staff and faculty.”

There are a number of naming opportunities in the science and allied health building as well as in the North Campus residential housing complex currently under construction. For further information, please contact the Office of College Advancement at (845) 575-3264.



Academic Projects That Benefit Nonprofits

Students (left to right) Joseph Theall '16, Monica Couvillion '16, and Javier Gomez '18 meet with Dr. Melissa Gaeke, director of the Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership.

THE MARIST COLLEGE VALUES STATEMENT says the College “fulfills its mission by pursuing three ideals: excellence in education, a sense of community, and a commitment to service.” Through the Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership (CCEL), Marist continues to accomplish these ideals while creating valuable learning opportunities for students and benefiting the neighboring community.

“The College has always had a strong commitment to the community,” said Dr. Martin Shaffer, dean of the School of Liberal Arts. “The aim of the CCEL is to help our students and faculty do work in the community that is linked directly to academic coursework and skill development. The CCEL’s programs provide a great opportunity for Marist students and faculty to make a difference in our community.”

“The CCEL comes from the idea to help the campus do work in the community that’s more tied to academics. It’s a great opportunity for Marist and the community to come together.”

Marist’s Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership creates opportunities for students and faculty to make a difference in the community through programs linked directly to academic coursework and skill development.

Founded in fall 2014, the CCEL aims to address social issues through collaboration among students, faculty, staff, and community members. Its goals are to cultivate and support a culture of community-based learning (CBL) and foster an interest in public service careers among students. A Civic Engagement Committee led by Shaffer and Dean Margaret Calista of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences designed the program to provide resources for faculty to implement CBL components in their classes while immersing students in work with area

nonprofits to develop skills in their career fields. During the 2015-16 academic year, 20 courses involved 425 students in 49 CBL projects.

“Traditionally, a student might go to a food pantry and help them bag food—which is a good thing, but it was not necessarily related to the student’s academic field,” explained Shaffer. “Now our students are helping nonprofit organizations and the people they serve but also improving their academic and professional skills, which eventually might be used in a job. Marist students in CCEL courses have developed public relations campaigns, created volunteer database software, conducted surveys, and engaged in strategic planning and program evaluation work.”

Under the leadership of Dr. Melissa Gaeke, CCEL director, who has 15 years of previous civic-engagement experience at the University of Southern California, the CCEL developed the Faculty Fellows Program and the Marie and Rupert Tarver Summer Internship Program. The Faculty Fellows

BY EMILY BELFIORE '16

Program provides assistance and resources to faculty who are integrating community partners in their lesson plans. In the first two years of the Faculty Fellows Program, 19 faculty from a wide range of academic disciplines have participated in the faculty development workshops and incorporated CBL components into their classes.

The Marie and Rupert Tarver Summer Internship Program was established in 2014 by two longtime faculty members who choose to remain anonymous. The program, named for two community leaders, supports

undergraduate students, guided by a Marist faculty member, in a paid internship at a local nonprofit for eight weeks during the summer. The first Tarver Intern, Dahley Turner '15, worked with Liberty Partnerships during the summer of 2014. The following summer, the Tarver Internships Program provided five students with full-time internships. Each student received three tuition credits and free on-campus housing for the duration of the internship.

In addition to working with a nonprofit, the interns collaborated with a faculty advisor to develop a project that targeted a key issue within their organization. For her project, Breanna Lechase '16, a double major in political science and economics, performed an analysis for Hudson River Housing's Employment Assistance Training Station (EATS), which helps residents achieve economic stability and self-sufficiency. Her work evaluated the labor demand in the local area and gave recommendations based on her findings on how to further develop EATS. Lechase administered a survey to identify local entry-level jobs, skills employees look for in applicants, and firms interested in partnering with Hudson River Housing.

Lechase's internship not only developed her skills but also helped her realize her true passion: teaching. "When I got to the education research part of my project, I got to make lesson plans for [Hudson River Housing] to do," Lechase said. "That was when I realized that I really love teaching, so that was the best part for me."

In her internship, Gabrielle Gerber '17 teamed up with United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region (UWDOR) to improve its social media presence. Gerber, who is major-



Tarver Interns who served in summer 2015 were (left to right) Kristen Semple '17, Nicholas Bayer '16, Breanna Lechase '16, Gabrielle Eberle '17, and Gabrielle Gerber '17.

ing in both advertising and economics and minoring in studio art, aimed to increase awareness about the organization through advertising, social media, and community outreach.

She created materials for its funded partners to use in advertising and promotions, developed ads and a new business card for UWDOR, helped with events, wrote articles for a blog, and documented events via social media and photography.

"Gabby was an incredible intern and a wonderful team member," said Melissa Clark, manager of community mobilization at UWDOR. "She took our social media strategy to new heights and truly has had a lasting impact on our organization."

"The most rewarding part was definitely realizing that this is what I want to do. I just loved working there," said Gerber. "I've gained such valuable experiences by being able to work in a real place and produce things that thousands of people will see."

Gerber, Lechase, and their fellow Tarver Interns shared their internship experiences at the first annual Tarver Summer Internship Luncheon on Sept. 23, 2015, in the Cabaret on campus.

"The students gave very impressive and detailed presentations," said Shaffer. "You could see the confidence they had in the projects they had completed. The Tarver Internship was a great transformative experience for those students."

Tarver Interns continue to help area organizations while honing their own skills. On Jan. 20, 2016, Gerber and another Tarver Intern, Kristen Semple '17, conducted a session, "#HowtoHashtag," at a UWDOR workshop called "Making Social Media Work for

Your Nonprofit." More than 80 professionals from area nonprofits attended.

Despite being a fairly new addition to the curriculum, the CBL projects are proving to be very beneficial to students. In surveys taken in the beginning and end of the fall 2015 semester of students in courses with a CBL component, nearly 87 percent said that the CBL activity helped them make connections between the course content and everyday life; they also said they improved their interpersonal skills and gained valuable insight on how to work cooperatively with diverse individuals and groups.

Students were also able to create valued projects during their courses. Professor Jennie Donohue's Public Relationship Campaign Management class produced a PR campaign for the Dutchess County Community Action Partnership, an organization that offers a wide range of programs and services to help low-income residents of Dutchess County. Another notable project came from Katie Johnson '16, a student working with the student-run public relations firm North Road Communications, who teamed up with the CCEL to create a new Web site for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Mid-Hudson.

Gaeke hopes to engage every Marist academic department in the center's activities. "It's very gratifying to hear students, or even faculty who are participating in the Fellows Program, share that their civic engagement experience meant something, that it helped them see something in a different way," said Gaeke. "It's also important when community members share that they were able to accomplish something because they were able to partner with us." 📷

Hogwarts on the Hudson

Marist Dining Services transforms the College's grand Dining Hall into the Great Hall at Hogwarts with Harry Potter-themed food, décor, and costumes.



Students and staff posed for photos with cutouts of book characters Harry, Hermione, and Ron. Walls were decked with banners and "flaming cauldrons."

BY ALYSSA HURLBUT '19

HIGH CEILINGS descend into walls, and walls into archways that hug the center of the room. Chandeliers dangle above, radiating a dim light. The light trickles toward the ground until it merges with the light of the lanterns strung along the wall. Oh, and tables. Long, long tables stretch across the wooden floor. Throw a few flaming cauldrons and wizards into the mix and Harry Potter would be able to call the place home.

Maybe the Marist College Dining Hall isn't an exact replica of the Great Hall at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the setting of J. K. Rowling's blockbuster Harry Potter fiction series. But on Feb. 3, 2015, it came pretty close.

Emily Baksa '14, marketing coordinator for Sodexo food services, crafted the idea to illuminate the similarities between the Marist Dining Hall and the Hogwarts Great Hall by transforming the dining facility into Hogwarts itself. Signs, Facebook reminders, and countdowns promoted the event. Baksa even engaged the help of Marist student organizations to bring the night to life, including ROTC and SGA. The groups embraced the

culture of Hogwarts by dressing in costume and staging pictures.

Tables were strung together and set with plates and silverware; registers were decorated with the Marauder's map; Harry, Hermione, and Ron cutouts stood waiting for photos; flaming cauldrons ran along walls; front pages of *The Daily Prophet* decorated the archway across from the deli station; Sodexo workers were decked out in wizard costumes; and Harry Potter himself put in an appearance in the form of student body president Timos Pietris '17.

The ambience was just the beginning. The menu featured golden snitch cake pops, mini Victorian cakes, Ollivanders wands (chocolate-covered pretzels), a Hagrid "Happee Birthdae Harry" cake, mandrake pots, vegetarian Gillyweed balls, and the



The transformation of Marist's Dining Hall into the Great Hall at Hogwarts drew more than 2,000 students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

**Served in
Hogwarts on
the Hudson**

**Glasses of
Butterbeer: 788**

**Ollivanders
Wands: 1,100**

**Golden Snitch
Cake Pops: 950**

ever famous Butterbeer. Raffles of Harry Potter books and gift cards to on-campus cafes provided incentive to dress the part, resulting in hundreds of Harrys swarming the Great Hall.

In all, 2,161 guests attended—the event was open to students, staff, faculty, and alumni—while the average Wednesday dinner draws about 1,692. "We were so happy with the turnout," said Baksa. "The atmosphere in the room was phenomenal, between all the décor, music, and enthusiasm from students, faculty, and staff."

Diners enjoyed Potter-themed fare.



Marist Poll Returns to NH



Students Julianna Boniello '17 (left) and Stephanie Chouljian '17 (right) greeted former President Bill Clinton after a rally for Hillary Clinton in Nashua, NH.

THE MARIST COLLEGE POLL embarked on its quadrennial journey with Marist students to New Hampshire in February for the presidential primary. Described as “Disneyland for political geeks,” the state gave students an up-close-and-personal look at the political process surrounding the first-in-the-nation primary they had been polling. They interacted with highly respected political journalists including NBC’s Chuck Todd, CNN’s Ron Brownstein, and McClatchy’s Washington journalists Steve Thomma and David Lightman. They attended many of the top-tier presidential candidates’ events, including those of Hillary Clinton (where they snapped a photo with former President Bill Clinton), Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and John Kasich. The Marist students also got a wave from businessman Donald Trump just before his *Meet the Press* interview. 📷



Student Brooke DiPalma '18 posed with Sen. Ted Cruz after a campaign rally in Manchester, NH.



Marist students spoke with Chuck Todd on the set of *Meet the Press* at the NBC News broadcast center in Manchester, NH.



Marcia Kramer of WCBS-TV interviewed Dr. Lee M. Miringoff in Milford, NH, as Marist students recorded the interview.

MARIST POLL

Lydia Denis '17

“I’m starting to realize how influential New Hampshire is. Just the other day we were down at the Radisson, and we had the former Secretary of State, governors, media moguls walk right by us. It just really shows the power of our democratic system because New Hampshire is such a small state, but it has such a big voice in this whole spectrum.”

Brooke DiPalma '18

“We were able to meet Hillary Clinton, and it really was an honor just to see her and how she interacted with the crowd. It was something really cool, and something I will never forget.”

Julianna Boniello '17

“I think something great about these experiences is you can learn things that you didn’t learn in the classroom, go back to school, and think, oh, I see how this connects. So I think it’s a really good immersive experience.”

Nick Bayer '16

“The amount of celebrities that we’ve seen in the past 24 hours is just absolutely mind-boggling. What’s really cool, for me at least, is that it gets you to really feel like these big politicians are real, maybe not so ordinary, but real people. You hear about them, and everyone’s talking about them, but there is something that’s totally unique and totally different about standing 10 feet away from one of these people who might wind up being the next president of the United States, which is absolutely phenomenal.”

Casey Clarke '17

“I have loved this trip so far! From meeting Chuck Todd, going behind the scenes of *Meet the Press*—which is my lifetime goal, to work behind the scenes as a political analyst for a media organization—I was just starstruck, especially seeing these candidates whom I wouldn’t have the opportunity otherwise to see.”

Red Fox Roundup

BY MIKE FERRARO '01

Mike Ferraro '01 is Marist's sports information director.

Marist Adds to NFL Footprint

IN 2015, the Marist College football program's impact on the National Football League continued to grow.

Jason Myers '13 won the place-kicking job with the Jacksonville Jaguars in late August of 2015 and became the second former Marist football player to appear in an NFL game this past season. The first was Terrence Fede '13, who was selected in the 2014 NFL Draft by the Miami Dolphins.

In the second week of the 2015 season, Fede and the Dolphins traveled to Jacksonville to face Myers and the Jaguars, marking the first time two Marist graduates shared an NFL field. Myers connected on three field goals, including a 28-yard attempt with 40 seconds remaining which proved to be the game-winner in the Jaguars' 23-20 triumph.

On the season, Myers connected on 26 of his 30 field goal attempts and scored 110 points. His 53-yard field goal with no time remaining lifted Jacksonville to a 22-20 win at Baltimore on Nov. 15.

Fede finished his second NFL season with 16 tackles, including 10 solo stops. He had a career-high six stops in a 13-10 victory at Washington on Sept. 13.

Both Myers and Fede have maintained their loyalty to the Marist football program through contact with current players and coaches, in addition to well wishes through social media. Marist held a Terrence Fede Bobblehead Day giveaway for its Nov. 7, 2015, game against Stetson. A Jason Myers Bobblehead Day giveaway is scheduled for the Oct. 29, 2016, game against San Diego.

Radin Chosen in MLL Draft, Named to Prestigious Watch Lists

MEN'S LACROSSE SENIOR JOSEPH RADIN became the first player in program history to be selected in the Major League Lacrosse draft when he was chosen by the Charlotte Hounds in the sixth round with the 45th overall selection on Jan. 22.

On Feb. 23, Radin was named to the Watch List for the prestigious Tewaaron Award, which is presented to the top lacrosse player in the United States. One week earlier, Radin was selected as one of 20 candidates for the men's lacrosse Senior CLASS Award. The award goes to a senior with notable achievements in community, classroom, character, and competition.

Radin is coming off a historic 2015 season. His 55 goals set a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference single-season record as he helped lead the Red Foxes to their second NCAA Tournament appearance in program history.



Terrence Fede '13 (left) greets Jason Myers '13 after the Miami Dolphins faced the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sept. 20, 2015. It marked the first time two Marist graduates shared the field in an NFL game.

He also broke the school's single-season goals record, which had stood for 29 years. Radin was named MAAC Offensive Player of the Year last season.

He is off to a fast start in the 2016 season, with 10 goals in the Red Foxes' first two games. He was named MAAC Offensive Player of the Week after each of the first two weeks of the season.

Radin was named Preseason Player of the Year this season, and the Red Foxes were picked first in the coaches' preseason poll.



Radin's 55 goals set a Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference single-season record as he helped lead the Red Foxes to their second NCAA Tournament appearance in program history.

Men's lacrosse senior Joseph Radin became the first player in program history to be selected in the Major League Lacrosse draft when he was chosen by the Charlotte Hounds in the sixth round with the 45th overall selection.



Wilkinson Named Finalist for National Coach of the Year

MEN'S LACROSSE HEAD COACH Keegan Wilkinson was one of six finalists for the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Division I Coach of the Year.

In 2015, Wilkinson led Marist to its first NCAA Tournament victory in program history, its first MAAC championship in 10 years, a season-ending national ranking in two polls, and a 14-4 overall record.

The 2016 season marks Wilkinson's ninth working at Marist. He served as assistant coach from 2008 to 2011 and has been the program's head coach since the 2012 season. In his first four years at the helm, he posted a record of 36-25 overall with a 17-7 mark in conference play and two MAAC Coach of the Year awards.



Men's lacrosse head coach Keegan Wilkinson was one of six finalists for the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Division I Coach of the Year.



Junior Manuel Garcia of the Marist men's swimming and diving program will be invited to compete for a spot on Mexico's Olympic swim team.

Women's Swimming and Diving Captures MAAC Title

THE WOMEN'S swimming and diving team won its seventh consecutive MAAC championship on Feb. 13, and 17th in school history.

This championship was perhaps Marist's most dominant. The Red Foxes racked up a total of 976 points and broke their own record for largest margin of victory by finishing 446 points ahead of second-place Rider. Of the 20 events at the meet, Marist captured 15 gold medals.

The Red Foxes took home several major awards from the meet. Junior Meredith Wurtz was named MAAC Women's Swimmer of the Year, and sophomore Megan Berardelli was named the conference's Most Outstanding Diver. Larry VanWagner was named Women's Coach of the Year for the seventh time, and Melanie Bolstad was honored as Diving Coach of the Year for the fourth time.

The women's swimming and diving team won its seventh consecutive MAAC championship.



Garcia Qualifies for Olympic Trials

JUNIOR MANUEL GARCIA of the Marist men's swimming and diving program will be invited to compete for a spot on Mexico's Olympic swim team. On Feb. 25 at the ECAC championships, Garcia recorded a time of 56.13 seconds in the 100-meter butterfly.

Those who make the cut at the Olympic trials for Mexico will represent Mexico in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Garcia is the second Marist swimmer in program history to be invited to the Olympic trials. He is a native of Mexico City.

Basketball Records Fall, Milestones Reached

ON SEPT. 18, senior Tori Jarosz learned that she was granted a sixth season of eligibility by the NCAA, enabling her to continue a career that included flashes of brilliance but also a transfer and injuries.

She certainly has made the most of her opportunity.

Jarosz scored her 1,000th career point on Jan. 25 against Saint Peter's and then broke the program's all-time blocks record three days later against Siena. She also set the program's single-season record for rebounds and blocks this year. With averages of 18.8 points, 12.1 rebounds, and 3.0 blocks per game in the regular season, Jarosz turned in one of the most productive years in program history and was named MAAC Player of the Year.

On Feb. 14 at Canisius, senior Sydney Coffey set the women's basketball single-game program record by scoring 38 points. The previous record of 37 by Charlene Fields '93 had stood for 23 years. Coffey had scored her 1,000th career point in Marist's season opener at South Dakota State on Nov. 13.

On the men's side, junior Khallid Hart scored his 1,000th career point on Jan. 2 against Canisius. Hart became the 30th player in program history to reach this milestone.

Women's Cross Country Wins ECAC Championship

THE WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM won its second ECAC championship in program history on Nov. 21. Sophomore Mara Schiffhauer led the Red Foxes with a seventh-place finish overall. Schiffhauer—along with senior Nicki Nesi, freshman Emily Burns, and junior Elizabeth Wasserman—earned ECAC All-East honors. 🏆

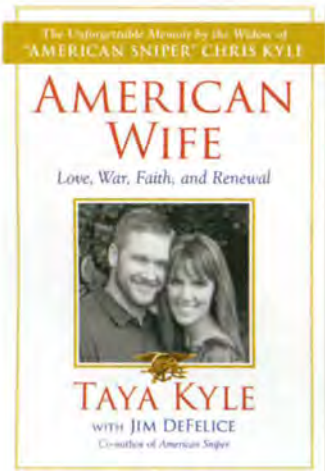
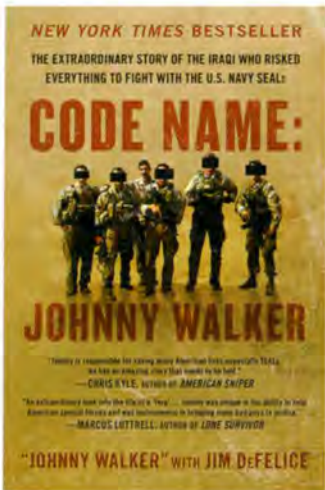
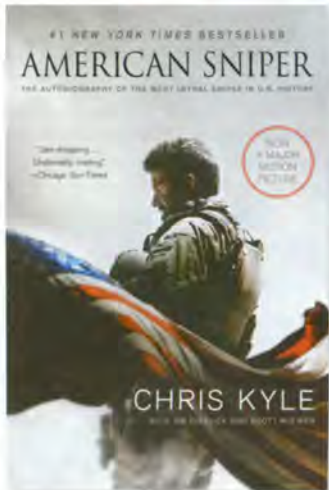
The second annual **WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON MARATHON** is scheduled for June 12, 2016. In last year's inaugural marathon, competitors included several Marist College student-athletes such as Richard Willi '16 of the cross country/track and field teams.



Jim DeFelice '77

American Storyteller

Jim DeFelice '77 reflects on his string of best sellers and the writing process.



Jim DeFelice '77

JIM DEFELICE '77 always said he was going to write a book. In 1987 he quit his full-time job to give it a shot. Now, 15 *New York Times* best sellers and more than 50 books later, he's still at it.

Although a successful author for nearly three decades, he is most likely best known for three recent *New York Times* best sellers, all published by William Morrow. *American Sniper* is the autobiography of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, who recorded the most career sniper kills in U.S. military history. Written with DeFelice, it was a No. 1 *New York Times* best seller both at the time of its initial publication in 2012 and again upon the release of the film based on the book. Directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Bradley Cooper, the movie was nominated for six Academy Awards (it won for best sound editing) and broke box office records when it went into wide release in January 2015.

Code Name: Johnny Walker, published in 2014, tells the story of an Iraqi who worked as a translator for SEALs and other American military forces throughout Iraq from 2003 to 2009, completing more than a thousand missions.

American Wife, published in 2015, is the heartbreaking account by Taya Kyle with DeFelice of life following the murder of her husband, Chris, in 2012. Kyle and a friend, Chad Littlefield, were shot and killed at a Texas shooting range by Eddie Ray Routh, a veteran they were trying to help. In 2015, Routh was convicted of capital murder in the shootings and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

DeFelice was already an established writer of military nonfiction prior to *American Sniper*. His earlier books include *Omar Bradley: General at War*, a biography published in 2011 by Regnery. DeFelice's wife, Debra Scacciafero, was key to the project, spending more than a year in the archives at West Point conducting research. DeFelice

also wrote *Rangers at Dieppe: The First Combat Action of U.S. Army Rangers in World War II*, published by Berkley/Penguin in 2008, which *Publishers Weekly* called "carefully researched and vividly told." DeFelice also created and writes the action-adventure mass-market series *Dreamland* with Dale Brown and worked with Richard Marcinko, the former Navy captain who founded SEAL Team 6, on the *Rogue Warrior* series.

"I didn't think that I would write this many books," DeFelice reflects over lunch in a pub in Warwick, NY, where he and his family live. An English major in college, he wrote plays for his theatre class with Jerry Cox '55 as well as articles for New York newspapers. Enrolled in the Science of Man, an innovative honors accelerated-degree program, he graduated magna cum laude in only three years. He went on to earn a master's in

BY DONNA WATTS '15
AND LESLIE BATES

"The reason I write is to find something out that I don't know before I start."

English at SUNY Albany in 1982. He continued working as a reporter and editor at several newspapers, rising to executive editor and general manager at Taconic Newspapers, a publishing group based in Millbrook, NY.

"One day I said to myself, 'This is really great, but I'm not writing a book. And if I'm not writing a book now—if I don't write now—I'm never going to do it.'"

After leaving the editor position in 1987, he indeed wrote a book. "It wasn't published, so I'm the only one who thought it was good," he says.

However, his second book, *Coyote Bird*, was published in 1992 by St. Martin's Press. He's been writing books, both fiction and nonfiction, ever since.

He also develops video games, coming up with concepts for them or writing scripts. He is one of the founders of Redacted Studios, located in California, and recently worked on *Afro Samurai II*, which debuted in fall 2015.

"It's something different. It's a new way to think about story telling," he says.

Whether working on a book or a video game, his motivation is the same. "The reason I write is to find something out that I don't know before I start."

Over the years, he has maintained ties with Marist. He has shared his experiences with students by speaking to writing classes and serving on alumni career panels.

American Sniper came about after Peter Hubbard, an editor at William Morrow, asked DeFelice to write Chris Kyle's story. A major factor in DeFelice's decision was Chris himself. "I always ask somebody before I work with them what they want. 'What do you want from this book?' And whatever they say is cool, I just want to understand. If somebody wants to make \$1 million, well, that might not happen, but at least I know where you're coming from. What Chris wanted to do was honor the people he had served with."

But DeFelice told Kyle if he were going to do it, Kyle would have to be honest about everything, from combat to life at home. DeFelice also wanted to show what life was like not only for Chris, but also his family.

Within a week or two of their phone call, Taya Kyle relates in her book, the two men got to work. DeFelice spoke to Chris every day for at least an hour over a period of six months. He went to Texas to talk with the Kyles in their home several times, and they stayed at his home in Warwick as well.

"Special thanks and appreciation go to Jim DeFelice for his patience, wit, understanding, and writing ability," Chris Kyle wrote in the Acknowledgments section of



American Sniper. "Without his help, this book would not be what it is today. I also want to express my sincere appreciation to Jim's wife and son for opening their home to Taya and me as this book developed."

Code Name: Johnny Walker was Chris Kyle's idea. Hubbard asked DeFelice to write it, and he agreed. DeFelice interviewed the Iraqi known as Johnny Walker in California, where Navy SEALs with whom Johnny had worked so closely had helped arrange for him and his family to relocate.

Following the success of *American Sniper*, Chris Kyle went to work with the same publisher on *American Gun: A History of the U.S. in Ten Firearms*. At the time of his death, the book was unfinished. DeFelice was called upon to pull it together. When it was published in 2013, it too became a *New York Times* best seller.

Taya Kyle also acknowledged Jim in her book. "To Jim DeFelice: What a tremendous blessing to have had your skill, your humility, your compassion, and grit with *American Sniper*, *American Gun*, and now *American Wife*. With Chris and me both, you have been friend, writer, counselor who has laughed with us through the tears. You have taken on more work for less money and recognition

than anyone probably should... I am honored to know you and to work with you. I look forward to our next literary adventures!"

Things haven't slowed down for DeFelice. Due out in 2016 is *Fighting Blind*, a memoir he has written with Capt. Ivan Castro, a blind Green Beret who has run marathons and ultramarathons, biked across the U.S., and trekked with an expedition of veterans to the South Pole, all since losing his sight in Iraq in 2006. DeFelice has been writing both the book and a screenplay based on the story.

In addition, a new series with Dale Brown called *Puppetmasters* will debut in fall 2016. DeFelice is also working on a nonfiction history of the Pony Express, to be published by William Morrow in 2017.

Despite all the collaboration, the work is ultimately solitary. "The thing is, writers spend an enormous amount of time by themselves, being very boring," DeFelice says. "In order to get anything done, that's what you've got to do. I've been lucky to be involved with interesting people, and to be able to go pretty much all over the world."

But, he adds, "that's not really what the job is. The job really is sitting in a room talking to yourself for hours and hours and hours." 🍷

Paper Fig: Small Can Be Big

Marist Trustee Laurie DeJong '87 runs a global events management company and a foundation dedicated to the health and empowerment of communities in Africa.



Laurie DeJong '87

Laurie DeJong '87 (center) greets patients at the health center opening in Kasese.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A BIG COMPANY TO make a large impact.

That's the example Laurie DeJong '87 sets for those who want to make the world a better place. Since she began working in East Africa in 2009, the Paper Fig Foundation she established has constructed a health center to bring medical care to a population of 50,000 that had no other access. The foundation also runs programs that support education for children, vastly improve infrastructure, and empower women by training them in skills that generate income.

Paper Fig puts to work the resources of DeJong's business, LDJ Productions, a global events management company whose clients include New York Fashion Week, L'Oreal, Nickelodeon, Yahoo!, and the *New York Times*. Most of the foundation's focus is on the region of East Africa.

DeJong's work in Africa began after she

BY LESLIE BATES

was named to *Enterprising Women* magazine's list of Enterprising Women of the Year in 2009. During the award ceremony, she was introduced to the PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS initiative of the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women and its mentoring program. She mentored a fashion designer from Rwanda, which ultimately led LDJ Productions to collaborate on launching a Fashion Week, modeled after New York's, in Kigali. The success of Kigali Fashion Week led to working with designers from Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, and Congo. The idea was to boost economic activity—DeJong notes that New York Fashion Week generates as much as \$80 million per season just in the neighborhood where it takes place—as well as opportunities for women. Because of her work to advance women's entrepreneurship,

DeJong recently was recognized as one of two winners of the 2016 *Enterprising Women* Advocacy Award.

It was following an event in Uganda that the LDJ team expanded its role in Africa. DeJong had taken her group to a lodge in a rural area of southwestern Uganda for a safari.

"When we got to the lodge, I said, 'I'm here with three carpenters, two electricians—is there a school that needs help? Is there somebody who can set us up to do a volunteer activity?' It's very hard to go to Africa and not do something."

She was introduced to the unofficial mayor of the local village, Kasese, where terrible flooding had killed many residents and destroyed the health center. "When you get to the rural areas, there's just so much need," she says. "It's just overwhelming. It's life or death there."

LDJ Productions decided to concentrate on helping Kasese. “We really focused our efforts on this one community in a very holistic way, so that we’re looking at education, economic development, and empowerment.” The community leader became a key member of the Paper Fig team, planning projects and assessing their impact.

Paper Fig, with funding from Newman’s Own Foundation, has now built a health center, stocked with medications and staffed by doctors two days a week. The foundation is also bringing designers from nearby cities to teach skills such as basket weaving, sewing, and beading to local women whose only source of income is illegally gathering firewood in a state park and selling it. The women are often arrested and raped by guards or in some cases eaten by wildlife, DeJong says. The empowerment pilot program involves 150 women who, if they complete the training, will have the opportunity to present business plans, receive microloans to start businesses, and sell their products at a nearby lodge that draws many tourists from Europe and Australia.

The foundation is also upgrading the farmer’s market to make conditions more sanitary and providing funds for men and women to make school uniforms for children. This spring, DeJong and a team member from her husband’s company, Factory8—her husband is Marist alumnus JR Morrissey ’88—were scheduled to go to Kigali to teach a patternmaking class. The training will focus on 10 people with the idea that those 10 will each teach as many as three others.

The goal is sustainability, DeJong says. “The idea is not to go do it for them; it’s to



Patients wait for the opening of the health center in Kasese, Uganda.

go over there and train them to do it for themselves, so eventually they won’t need us.”

DeJong, who serves on Marist’s Board of Trustees, and her husband aren’t the only members of their family—or the only Marist graduates—involved. Their daughter, Joie, a Marist freshman, was 15 when she first went to Africa and now loves working with the foundation. Their son, Jack, a sophomore at the University of the Arts in London, will join them there this year. And DeJong’s assistant, Dale Mauri ’15, has also joined the company on a recent trip to Uganda.

Although DeJong never pressures employees to go on the trips, she says getting people to step out of their comfort zone has been an unexpected joy. “We haven’t had one person go there who hasn’t said this has been life-changing.”

The foundation’s name alludes to enlightenment. A paper fig is a seashell—DeJong collects shells—but also refers to the sacred fig tree under which Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, is said to have been sitting when he became enlightened.

DeJong speaks at conferences on the topic of small companies making a large impact and believes LDJ is a good example of that. “We’re a company of 16 people. We’ve had some really nice support from family, friends, and the fashion community, and some other foundations. It doesn’t take that much of an effort, I think, resource-wise, to do what we’re doing.” The company contributes a percentage of its net profits to the foundation (www.paperfigfoundation.org).

DeJong says she learned all of her business skills, including budgeting, along the way. After graduating from Marist with a degree in social work, she did in-house events for Calvin Klein before joining her husband’s company as president in 1992. When their children were born, she became a full-time mom. She then started LDJ Productions, which began to grow rapidly in 2002. Originally from Northport, Long Island, she has lived in New York City since 1987.

She will begin a three-year executive education program at Harvard Business School in September. “I think it will teach me the skills I need to learn because now I’m running the business and the foundation. The foundation is just a different world. It’s been humbling because we have so much to learn.”

Also in 2016, DeJong will travel to Africa three times. The foundation has set its sights on four ambitious projects slated for the next few years: building a 5-kilometer road, already underway, up a mountain to the health center; installing a solar panel on the health center; building a well; and constructing a bridge over a fast-moving river that divides the community. They also plan to purchase a building in Kasese in which to house the women’s empowerment program.

Every project has had its challenges, whether bureaucratic or physical. But DeJong perseveres. “If I’m going to make a commitment, I’m going to find a way to make it happen,” she says. “I’m pretty relentless. You have to be.” 🇺🇸

Dale Mauri ’15 (far left) attends a women’s empowerment meeting in Kidado Village, Uganda.



**Jason Schuler '04
is founder and
president of
Drink More Good.**



Jason Schuler '04

Doing More Good

Jason Schuler's company handcrafts soda syrups and partners with generosity.org to help make clean water more accessible worldwide.

WHEN JASON SCHULER '04 was an undergraduate business major working away on spreadsheets and research for classroom projects, he had no idea how useful those homework sessions would be in the future.

Twelve years after graduation, he's the president and founder of Drink More Good, a four-year-old company with a philanthropic mission that's had fast albeit hard-earned success by using locally sourced and organic ingredients to create handcrafted soda syrups, bitters, and tea and tisane concentrates.

"I never really had aspirations to own my own business, almost just kind of fell into it," says Schuler, who had a long background of working in restaurants and bars. He came up with the entrepreneurial idea after a customer in a Peekskill, NY, restaurant asked him to bottle one of his handcrafted syrups for a Christmas present.

"I went home that night and researched how to bottle syrups without killing my family and friends," Schuler laughs. "Then I thought, 'This might be an idea worth pursuing.'"

With some start-up money from a friend, he began making his products in the kitchen at the restaurant. That's where the lessons from Marist business classes kicked in—analyzing markets, doing spreadsheets, and figuring out how to pitch to investors. "I pulled out some old files and it all came into play," Schuler says. "I really have a lot of gratitude for what I learned at Marist."

Making soda syrups wasn't what he envisioned as his future while at Marist. After graduation, he went to law school but found out that it wasn't for him. He moved to Los Angeles, where he got more experience in the bar industry and learned a lot about making bitters and syrups from scratch before moving back East.

His business, now up to five employees, has grown quickly. It's even gotten a nod and promotional boost from Martha Stewart. Drink More Good was a 2014 finalist in the Martha Stewart "American Made" competition. According to Stewart's Web site, the program spotlights "entrepreneurs, artisans, and small-business owners who are creating

beautiful, inspiring, useful products; pioneering new industries; improving local communities; and changing the way we eat, shop, work, and live."

The coming year brings two new developments for the company. Schuler has launched a business incubator, offering consulting services to take food start-ups from concept to market. And Drink More Good now provides co-packing services: other packaged-food companies have contracted with Drink More Good to produce syrups and bitters.

"From the start I knew I never wanted to outsource my production, so I just positioned my company to eventually take on the production for other companies in addition to increasing our own," he says.

Making the product is only part of Schuler's story. He wanted to have a successful business but make the world a better place, too.

The company has partnered with generosity.org, an organization making clean water accessible worldwide. Since Schuler started the company in 2012, Drink More Good has raised more than \$26,000 for the organization and funded five wells.

In January 2014, Drink More Good set up shop at 383 Main St. in Beacon, NY, a 2,000-square-foot space where company products are sold and café space welcomes customers in the front, and products are

handcrafted in the kitchen in the back. Other entrepreneurs including self-employed bakers and caterers rent the kitchen as well.

Besides the store and the company Web site, Drink More Good's wares can be found at Whole Foods stores in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, farmer's markets in Queens, Brooklyn, and Westchester County, and on Amazon.com.

Among frequent customers for Schuler's ginger ale, root beer, or other flavored syrups are Soda Stream users because they can make healthier soda drinks without artificial ingredients, especially high fructose corn syrup.

The "giving" part of his business plan fueled his passion and kept him going during the "zombie" period, as he calls it, when he tended bar until the wee hours, worked all day on his new company, and parented his young son, Luca Jae Schuler.

The dedication and work have paid off and he offers students and recent graduates some advice: try things until you hit on something you're passionate about; work hard; and have a mission beyond yourself.

Before Drink More Good had even turned a profit, he signed a contract to donate a portion of profits to generosity.org. "My business advisers thought I was crazy, but I wasn't willing to compromise," he says.

"I wasn't going to start a company unless it would make a difference." 🍷

Schuler blends ingredients in the Drink More Good shop and kitchen in Beacon, NY.



BY KATHLEEN NORTON MCNULTY '79/'14 MA

Rocking the Runway

Tricia Perrotti '92 and Kellyn Leveton '03 design and market clothing lines for the Adam Levine Collection



Tricia Rizzuto Perrotti '92 (left) and Kellyn Leveton '03 presented Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine's new clothing lines for Shop Your Way Brands/Kmart at New York Fashion Week in fall 2015.

NEW YORK FASHION WEEK got a little taste of Marist during the Adam Levine Collection runway show in fall 2015. Tricia (Rizzuto) Perrotti '92 and Kellyn Leveton '03 presented the Maroon 5 frontman's new clothing lines for Shop Your Way Brands/Kmart on Sept. 16 in New York City.

"It was amazing," said Perrotti, marketing director for Shop Your Way Brands/Kmart. "This is the first time Kmart ever presented a collection during NYFW, so that was exciting for everyone in our office."

The show debuted both the men's and women's collections and featured a total of 48 looks. More than 350 guests attended, and the collections generated a lot of press.

"We had a lot of buzz on social media — from red-carpet celebrities, to our models, to our parent brand, Kmart," said Perrotti. "It was great seeing all of the positive feedback and support for the collection."

As marketing director, her responsibilities include overseeing brand development and positioning, promotions and special offers, and public relations for both the Adam Levine and Nicki Minaj collections. For the runway show, she handled everything from guest and press lists, invitations, and model selections to working with the design team on selecting looks, securing partners to provide accessories, managing the video production team, promoting via social media, and supplying photos and other content to the press.

Though Levine was on tour with his band in Asia and not present at the show, "he was very happy with how everything turned out," Perrotti said.

Perrotti joined Shop Your Way Brands/Kmart in early 2015 after holding marketing positions at Gannett,

BY EMILY BELFIORE '16

Send Your News

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

Email

maristalumni@marist.edu

Online

maristconnect.marist.edu/update

Mail

Office of Alumni Relations
Marist College, 3399 North Rd.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-1387

Phone

(845) 575-3283

1957

The success of **G. Patrick Gallagher's** new book, *Successful Police Risk Management*, has kept him on the road. Pat is also working on reports in conjunction with agreements with the ACLU and various police departments. He resides in Bucks County, PA. ■ **Joe Strang** lives in Pacific Grove, CA, and operates Joe's Pruning, which specializes in the care of fruit trees. Joe also teaches workshops at nurseries and garden clubs in his community.

1963

Francis Callahan relocated from Connecticut to Cape Cod and plans to reestablish his personal-training business, SilverFox Fitness, LLC. ■ **Bro. John Nash** turned 75 in 2015 and retired from his psychotherapy practice in Poughkeepsie. Now a full-time archivist in Esopus, NY, for the Marist Brothers, he supervises the scanning of the Brothers' photographs and documents and organizes recent acquisitions. Brother John also is working with Marist to set up a Web page for the Marist Brothers' archives.



1966

Theodore Flynn is the chair of the New England Center for Homeless Veterans. He also is the chair of the Board of Selectmen for the town of Duxbury, MA, and serves as vice chair of Old Colony Hospice in Randolph, MA. ■ **Michael Ward** has retired after 45 years of physical therapy practice and is selling his business. Michael is now enjoying more time with his nine grandchildren and traveling. He is looking forward to returning to Marist in October for his 50th class reunion.



Tricia (Rizzuto) Perrotti '92 (center), marketing director for Shop Your Way Brands/Kmart, talks with members of her team before the Adam Levine Collection runway show.



Kellyn Leveton '03, design director of Shop Your Way Brands, works closely with Kevin Christiana, Shop Your Way creative director.

Meredith Corp., Primedia, America Media, and Time Inc., among others. She majored in communications at Marist with a concentration in public relations/advertising.

She says Marist provided many resources that have helped her throughout her career, such as job placement services, networking events, and internships. "I've also been on the other side, where students have come to me for job help, informational interviews, contacts, and networking. There is a mutual respect among our alumni, and most are very willing to help a fellow Red Fox — you just have to ask!"

Perrotti says she also took advantage of available opportunities on campus including an internship with Marist public relations, working for the Marist Institute for Public Opinion, working on the College newspaper, and volunteering for the Marist Fund and as an assistant director of a TV show about Red Fox basketball.

"I think experiencing all different types of roles from writing to production helped me become a seasoned and well-rounded media professional."

For Leveton, her job as design director of the Adam Levine women's collection is a dream come true.

"I knew that I wanted to work as a designer in the apparel industry," said Leveton. "I knew I always wanted to make fun, wearable clothes for everyone to enjoy." She came to the Adam Levine line in 2013 after working her way up from a position as an assistant designer in menswear to jobs at companies such as Perry Ellis, Hart-Schaffner Marx, and Bill Blass.

Leveton was a Marist fashion design major who won the Outstanding Garment award at the 2003 Silver Needle Fashion Show. She credits the Marist Fashion Program with giving her "a base for understanding garment construction, fabrications, presentation skills, and the design process." She noted that while at Marist she also fulfilled the requirements for a studio art major, which gave her a strong foundation in Photoshop and Illustrator, tools she still uses every day. In addition to her professional work, she also has a side project, Sweet Potato Pepper, that sells apparel and accessories to benefit rescue animals.

Perrotti recalled that the two Marist grads only recently discovered that they shared an alma mater. "One day I said something out loud about Marist — Kellyn and I sit next to each other — and she said, 'Wait, are you talking about me?' I said, 'No, I was talking about me, I went to Marist.' And that's how we realized we both were alumni, and why we work so well together!"

Perrotti added that Levine is a big part of the design process. "Adam really wears these clothes and is actively involved in their design and development. So you can afford and wear the same thing he does, and it's not a 'knock-off.' He's wearing the same item that you would buy from your local Kmart.

"To quote Adam, he said, 'Attention Kmart shoppers—you now have style.' And that's exactly how we want our customers to feel." 🇺🇸

1967

Thomas Crimmins retired after 48 years in education, the last 32 years as a guidance counselor and coach at Elmont Memorial High School on Long Island. He and his wife of 40 years, Cathy, are busy with their five children and three grandchildren. They also enjoy volunteer work at their church and in the community. "I always wanted to become a teacher," he writes, "and the Marist Brothers and great faculty at Marist College prepared me well. Thank you to all of you."

1970

Kenneth Reid has been enjoying retirement from his social work position over the past 10 years. He has run his travel agency since 1997 and, thanks to cell phones and tablets, continues to do so while traveling all over the world. He is spending 67 days in South America and plans another world cruise for 2017. "Life is great," he says, "and Marist gave me the best education ever."

1973

Bro. Patrick McNamara was elected provincial of the Marist Brothers of the United States.

1974

Jim Keegan retired after 39 years in education. He taught for 11 years at Marist high schools in Eugene, OR, and Chicago, IL. For 28 years, he worked in the public schools in Oregon and was a principal for 22 of those years, primarily in high-poverty schools. Jim and his wife recently moved to Portland where their youngest daughter teaches

in the public schools. Their oldest daughter is a health care consultant for the Mercer Corp. and lives in Chicago. Jim works part time as a leadership coach for Education Northwest and is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Oregon. ■ **Thomas Mauro** retired from the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department after 40 years. He served as chief of police starting in 2008. He is an adjunct instructor for the department of history, government, and economics at Dutchess Community College.

1977

William Ahearn's daughter, Sarah, was accepted to Marist's Class of 2020.

1980

Michael Freer was appointed undersheriff of the Ulster County (NY) Sheriff's Office. ■ **David Metz** has joined Old School Creative as principal and executive producer. Old School is a marketing communications firm founded in 2006 that specializes in creating blogs, sales/collateral material, news releases, ads, Web sites, and—now with David joining the firm—video content creation.

1982

Catharine Maggs ('02 MBA) recently left the restaurant business. She has returned to banking and is enjoying it.

1985

Janet Lawler experienced a great screenwriting year. Her screenplay, "The Tenant," placed in the semifinals of the 2015 Austin Film Festival and the quarterfinals of the 2015 Nicholl Fellowship Competition. The Nicholl Fellowship is run by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organization behind the Academy Awards. ■ **Maureen O'Rourke, Esq.**, dean of Boston University's School of Law, has been named one of the top 25 most influential people in legal education by the *National Jurist*. The honor marked the first time a BU Law dean was on the list. The announcement noted that O'Rourke has spearheaded legal education reforms at BU.



Jerome Pickett '98, senior vice president and chief security officer of the NBA, shown with President Dennis J. Murray, gave the keynote address at the Catharine Street Community Center's 25th annual Martin Luther King Breakfast at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie.

NBA Executive Jerome Pickett '98 Speaks to Students, Community

JEROME PICKETT '98, senior vice president and chief security officer of the National Basketball Association, shared his story of struggle and success as the keynote speaker at the Catharine Street Community Center's 25th annual Martin Luther King Breakfast on Jan. 22, 2016, at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie.

Pickett, a native of nearby Newburgh, NY, recalled a childhood spent dealing with racial profiling, such as being watched as he shopped in local stores, as well as with criticism from schoolmates for wearing suits to class and sounding "too white." Rather than buckling under other people's negative expectations, Pickett told the audience of approximately 500, these experiences fueled his determination to succeed on his own terms.

At Marist, he majored in criminal justice and cold-called the Secret Service to secure a summer internship, which led ultimately to him becoming, at age 22, one of the youngest agents in the history of the agency.

"All of this because of my will to fight, my reluctance to quit, my ability to not let peer pressure sway me, and in no small part, due to the heroes in my life," Pickett said. "Dr. King's dream realized."

Later, Pickett returned to campus, where he met with groups of students interested in his personal experiences and his professional career. Pickett spent 16 years with the Secret Service, during which he received numerous awards including the US Secret Service Medal of Valor for his heroic actions during 9/11, before joining the NBA in 2014.

Discussing the keys to his success, Pickett said that even as an intern, when his days were consumed with photocopying and other mundane tasks, his approach was always about being the best at whatever he was doing. Instead of wishing he were doing more interesting work, Pickett said, "I decided I was going to be the best photocopier there is."

Now, as a high-level executive leading a large, global team of professionals, Pickett said that, more than skills, he interviews job candidates with an eye toward their ability to fit into the culture of his organization. The former is easier to develop than the latter, he said. Pickett stressed to students that they are being judged by potential employers on everything they do, so a clear commitment and work ethic are vitally important. "Show them that you are determined to work until the job is done."

In addition to his bachelor's degree from Marist, Pickett holds a master's degree in homeland security from American Military University. He serves as a member of Marist's Alumni Executive Board. 📍



1986

Martin McParland was promoted to chief of police for the Rockaway Township, NJ, Police Department.

1987

Col. Robert Hughes retired from the US Army after 28 years of active service.

1988

Sean Noble and his wife, Marleni, have had a busy two years. They welcomed a baby girl, Gabriella, born in 2013. He also formed his own company, Supreme Furniture Services, based in New York City. ■ **Robert O'Connor** completed the Scheinman Arbitrator Development program at Cornell University. He also completed arbitrator training at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in Washington, DC, with the objective of becoming a labor arbitrator.



1991

Denise (DeCicco) Kasper was named director of community relations for the Arbor Ridge at Stanleyville retirement community in North Carolina.

1992

Julie (Dumont) Rabinowitz was promoted to director of policy, operations, and communication for the Maine Department of Labor, responsible for overseeing policy development, legislation, financial and IT initiatives, and public awareness and regulatory compliance communication.

1993

Melissa Anzalone got married Feb. 15, 2015. ■ **Eileen Casey** recently joined the board of directors at Crittenton Women's Union, a Boston nonprofit that works to financially empower women and disrupt the poverty cycle. ■ **Brett Preston** was recently appointed as city court judge for the City of Johnstown, NY.

1994

Dr. Jeff Schanz ('99 MPA) served on a panel discussing "The Future of Alumni Relations—Opportunities and Threats" at the Gradway



Dr. Jeff Schanz '94 ('99 MPA)

Global Leaders Summit at the University of Oxford in the UK in November 2015. Jeff is assistant vice president for alumni relations at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

1995

Kevin O'Neill ('00 MS) is the IT services manager at Crown Castle in Canonsburg, PA. He oversees a SharePoint Intranet as well as IT training media.



1996

Laura Stoll recently fulfilled a lifelong dream of moving to California's San Fernando Valley. She consults for Ernst & Young by day and advises for Today Improv by night. Laura and her husband, two children, and pink-and-white pit bull will play valley tour guide to anyone who comes to visit and says the password "Red Fox."

1997

Aimee (Roux) McCanney and her husband welcomed a daughter, Sophia Winsome, born Oct. 30, 2014. ■ **Chris Rawls** and his wife, **Robyn (Peet)** '98 ('05 MBA), continue to live in East Fishkill, NY, with their three children, Maya, Schuyler, and Evangeline. Chris has taught for 18 years in Spackenkill schools in Poughkeepsie. ■ **Nicole (Schlott) Sullivan** and her husband, Tommy, welcomed a daughter, Erin Christine, born Aug. 9, 2014. Erin joins big brother Thomas at home, and Thomas just loves her.



Jaimee Nardiello '98

1998

Jeffrey Keene was promoted to assurance partner at accounting and consulting firm BDO USA. ■ **Jaimee Nardiello** was named a partner at Zetlin & De Chiara LLP. ■ **Robyn (Peet) Rawls** ('05 MBA) and her husband, **Chris** '97, continue to live in East Fishkill, NY, with their three children, Maya, Schuyler, and Evangeline.



Michelle Almeida '99

1999

Michelle Almeida, an associate with Iseman, Cunningham, Riester & Hyde LLP, has once again been named a rising star in health care law by Super Lawyers, a rating service of lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. ■ **Russell Boedeker** (MBA) joined Portland State University as an adjunct faculty member, teaching in the School of Business Administration. ■ **Richard Cocchiara** (MS) retired from IBM after 32 years as a

Traveling the World Playing Basketball: An Unforgettable Experience



Patrick Ramsey '13 ('14 MA), No. 23, was a member of the Washington Generals, the longtime opponents of the Harlem Globetrotters.

WHEN HE GRADUATED from Marist in 2014, Pat Ramsey, a member of the men's basketball team, wasn't ready to stop playing.

"I had my mind set on playing professional basketball after graduation. I didn't know how I was going to do it, but I knew I wanted to make it happen."

He would joke with teammates and friends that he was going to declare for the Washington Generals, the longtime opponents of the world-renowned exhibition basketball team the Harlem Globetrotters. The Globetrotters, currently on a 90th-anniversary tour, have delighted audiences worldwide with both their prowess and their antics on the court.

Ramsey, who graduated cum laude with a BA in communication in 2013 and earned a master's in integrated marketing communication in 2014, began giving the idea of the Generals serious thought. In spring 2014 he got in touch with the team's general manager, providing him with game and workout film. Although the Generals had no openings, Ramsey stayed in touch. Eventually he was offered a position with the team on its West Coast tour. He joined the Generals on Dec. 25, 2014, and his first game was the next day.

Although the Generals were portrayed as "the bad guys," Ramsey says, they played a significant role in the Harlem Globetrotter game experience. "You're there to provide everyone with a fun and enjoyable show. I've had games where I had to get jumped over or even have my jersey 'torn off.' No matter what arena, we were the ones getting screamed at and booed by the little kids. It sounds bad having little 5-year-olds scream and boo you, but it provided entertainment for me every night."

The job also gave him the opportunity to travel. He visited 25 states as well as Canada, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile.

"From playing in the Staples Center in front of celebrities, to visiting Las Vegas, Alaska, and Disneyland for the first time, every new city has created new memories. I've played in over 10 NBA arenas and even had a 'game' inside the bowl at the Venice Beach Skate Park."

Playing in such arenas in front of huge crowds was "a surreal experience," he says.

One of his most memorable encounters took place in Santiago, Chile. "I was wearing one of my Marist Basketball shirts after the game and the tour manager who accompanied us from Chile approached me about it. He told me that he went to a Marist Brothers school. It's crazy how the Marist name is recognized worldwide."

Life on the road could be challenging at times. "You have a new home every day. Moving from hotel to hotel, city to city, can be tough, but rewarding at the same time. The closest thing you have to home is the bus. Airports became second nature, too."

Last year the Harlem Globetrotters were in the news when two well-known former players, Marques Haynes and Meadowlark Lemon, passed away, Haynes at 83 and Lemon at 89. There was also media coverage when the Globetrotter organization did not renew its contract with the Generals.

Although Ramsey is no longer employed by the Generals, he says his time with the team has given him friends, experiences, and memories that will last forever.

"I never imagined I would be traveling and playing with the Harlem Globetrotters. Over the years they have become a sports and popular culture icon. I've had parents come up to me describing how they remember the Generals and going to games while they were young." It was awesome, he says, to have had a chance to "provide memories for the younger generation that will last a lifetime." 🇺🇸



Globetrotter fan: Pat at age 5, in February 1997.



Chris Melberger '13 introduced Michelle Obama at the White House.

Chris Melberger '13 Helps Launch First Lady's "Better Make Room" Initiative

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA recently announced a new campaign with the help of a Red Fox. Chris Melberger '13 was given the honor of introducing—and hugging—the First Lady at the campaign launch for the “Better Make Room” initiative on Oct. 19, 2015, at the White House.

The public awareness campaign is part of the First Lady's Reach Higher program to inspire every student in America to complete his or her education past high school. Better Make Room targets Generation Z, 14- to 19-year-olds.

“It was surreal,” said Melberger. “When I met her she was funny, calm, and inviting. She made me feel very welcome.”

Meeting the First Lady is not the only accomplishment Melberger has under his belt. Since graduating from Marist with a major in digital media and graphic design, he has co-founded his own online clothing brand, Neat Dudes LLC, which originally began as his senior thesis. Melberger is also an associate creator/development strategist for Vine, an app that allows users to create and share 6-second videos. Vine is one of 22 social media, business, and nonprofit partners that helped launch Better Make Room. Melberger was among a group of Viners selected to attend the White House event and raise awareness for the campaign.

“The campaign seems like a great opportunity to showcase events that might not get the recognition they deserve,” said Melberger. “Athletes, comedians, actors, and more get the celebrity spotlight, why not a child who is a first-generation college graduate? Or someone who graduated from high school going against all the odds? It's a nice way to showcase hard work and dedication.”

—Emily Belfiore '16

Distinguished Engineer. Richard took a position as CIO/CTO for a new cloud-based IBM business partner called Smarter Risk. The company provides integrated risk detection and mitigation services using advanced data analytics.

2000

Patricia Groeber (MPA) was appointed first deputy superintendent of the New York State Police. She is second in command of the 4,800-member division. She is also

Rebecca Valk '00



Marist Crew Alumni News

Marist crew alumni competed in the Quaker City Regatta in Philadelphia Aug. 1-2, 2015. Pictured are Bob Creedon '74, Jerry Shaeffer '73, Bob Sneedon '75, Jim Cockroft '73, Jim Foley '82, Matt Rogers '74, Joe Schrotz, Jack Boyle '78, and Danielle Connolly.



Crew alumni were also among the major sponsors of an event that paid tribute to Bill Austin, Marist's third crew coach, and his wife, Jane, in spring 2015. The Austins were honorees at the annual Family of the Year dinner held by Poughkeepsie-based nonprofit Family Services.

the first woman appointed to the position in the 98-year history of the State Police. ■ **Guildry Santana** and his wife welcomed a baby girl, Analisa, born May 29, 2015. ■ **Rebecca Valk** joined Iseman, Cunningham, Riester & Hyde LLP as an associate.



Christopher Blasie ('07 MA) and his wife, Kimberly, welcomed a daughter, Madison Carmela, born Nov. 27, 2015.

2002

Shannon Gibbs was promoted to director of communications at Telluride Ski Resort in Telluride, CO. ■ **Mariel (Sosa) Juarez** and her husband, Carlos, welcomed a son, Xavier, born July 20, 2015. Mariel was selected to be a member of the New York City Veterans Advisory Board. ■ **Nicole Palmieri** is vice president at SomethingNew, LLC, a national recruiting company specializing in sales and marketing.

2003

Christina Hope married Brian Eidel on Oct. 11, 2015, in Somers, NY. ■ **Anthony LoCurto** and his wife, **Nicole (Davis) '04**, welcomed a daughter, Valentina, born Sept. 6, 2015. ■ **Jim McGrath** earned a doctorate in English from Northeastern University. He is a postdoctoral fellow in public digital humani-

ties at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage at Brown University. ■ **Brian Sutch** and his wife, **Catherine (Coco)** ('08 MBA), welcomed twins on Aug. 26, 2015. Patrick Ryan and Rowan Coco joined big brother Kevin at home. ■ **Michelle (Slesinski) Wolff** and her husband, **Aaron**, welcomed their second child, Lucy Theresa, born Dec. 17, 2014. Lucy joins big brother Wesley at home. Michelle was recently promoted to operations manager for the Dutchess County Animal Hospital and has been with the company for more than seven years. Aaron is an IT specialist at the Anderson Center for Autism in Staatsburg, NY; he's been with the center for more than four years.

2004

Michael Abitabilo was promoted to principal at Jackson Lewis P.C., in the law firm's White Plains office. ■ **Laura Brinkman** married David Wade on Aug. 9, 2014. They welcomed their first child, Andrea Jane, born Aug. 5, 2015. ■ **Laura (Castagna) Copeland** and her husband, **Will**, welcomed a baby girl, Charlotte May, born May 3, 2015. ■ **Nicole (Davis) LoCurto** and her husband, **Anthony '03**, welcomed a daughter, Valentina, born Sept. 6, 2015. ■ **Kevin Quinn** and his wife, **Kristin**, welcomed a baby boy, Brendan George, born June 29, 2015. Kevin recently joined the New York Racing Association as

director of sales. ■ **Jessica Revoir** is engaged to Anthony Tortorice. The couple attended high school together in Howell, NJ, where they first met. Jessica is the assistant vice president of marketing at First Financial Federal Credit Union in Wall, NJ, and Anthony works in law enforcement. They are planning a 2016 wedding.

2005

Caitlin Donahue married Heath Goldstein on Nov. 1, 2014. The couple met in law school, opened a law practice together in Queens, and purchased their first home on Long Island. ■ **Laura Fogerty** graduated from Northeastern University in 2014 with an MS in speech-language pathology. She is a speech-language pathologist at Gambaru, a pediatric private practice in Saugus, MA. ■ **Maria (Negron) Frantzen** and her husband, Dan, welcomed a son, Carter William, born June 27, 2015. ■ **Cinzia Iacono** married **Robert Pelletier** on Oct. 3, 2014, in Scotia, NY. ■ **Marybeth Kunsch** got married in May 2014. ■ **AJ Nseir** lives in LA and recently co-founded Gear Peer (gearpeer.com), a community where people can share their gear—such as mountain bikes, surfboards, or tools—with friends, neighbors, and travelers. ■ **Denise (Panagopoulos) Proffer** ('06 MA) finished her educational administration sixth-year degree and was named Mansfield, CT, Teacher of the Year for 2015–2016. Denise and her husband, Brandon, welcomed their first child, a daughter, Mackenzie Grace, born in September 2015.

REUNION 2006

Jodi Iarossi was promoted to supervisor of the transfusion medicine service at UNC Health Care. Jodi is also pursuing an MBA with a certificate in health care management at East Carolina University. ■ **Andrew Joyce** was elected to the Albany County Legislature, representing Albany County's 9th Legislative District. Andrew plans to donate 100 percent of his legislative salary to charity. He is a critical infrastructure analyst with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. He and his wife, Jennifer, welcomed their first child, a boy,



At Marist's 2013 commencement, Professor Emeritus of History Jerry White (center), shown with President Dennis J. Murray and Board of Trustees Chair Ellen Hancock, received the President's Award and served as honorary grand marshal.

Remembering John Gerard "Jerry" White

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY JOHN GERARD "JERRY" WHITE, a longtime faculty member and cherished member of the Marist College community, passed away Jan. 6, 2016.

White retired in 2013 from his full-time position as assistant professor of history after a remarkable 50-year career. He taught and inspired generations of Marist students, sharing with them his passion for the arts, especially his beloved opera. After retirement, he continued to teach part time and serve as a mentor and friend to his students.

"Jerry was one of the true giants of the Marist faculty who helped build the College's reputation for talented, dedicated teachers and intellectual rigor," said President Dennis J. Murray. "He was a true renaissance man with a deep appreciation for the breadth and richness of history. He was incredibly well-read, possessed a masterful knowledge of the arts, and was a gourmet cook."

"Jerry had a well-earned reputation among students and his peers for his special ability to make connections across time periods, putting today's cultural, political, and economic circumstances into context. His classes were always quick to fill up."

Beyond teaching history, White shared his love for and expertise in opera, a subject on which he lectured extensively. Just about every week during spring semesters, he would bring a group of students to New York City to take in performances at the Metropolitan Opera. His long-running class on opera offered through Marist's Center for Lifetime Study was its most popular course.

White was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1932. He attended St. Joseph's Boarding School in Sullivan County, NY, and then La Salle Academy in Manhattan. After earning a BA from Belmont Abbey College in 1953, he entered the U.S. Navy, where he attended Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, and became a pilot. After leaving the Navy in 1958, he earned an MA at Fordham University and joined the Marist College faculty in 1963.

Upon his retirement, Marist's Board of Trustees honored him with the title of professor emeritus. He was honorary grand marshal at Marist's 2013 commencement, where he received the President's Award.

On March 5, 2016, his many students, friends, and colleagues gathered in Marist's Student Center Cabaret to celebrate his life and teachings. Those in attendance had an opportunity to share stories about their beloved friend and mentor.

For more about White's life, please see maristconnect.marist.edu/jerrywhite.

Plans are underway to create a scholarship in his memory. For information or to make a gift, please visit maristconnect.marist.edu/give and direct your gift to the Jerry White Memorial Fund. 📧

In Memoriam

Alumni

Bro. Thomas J. Lee, FMS '54
 James P. Morrissey '54
 William J. Egan '57
 Daniel J. Hanley '61
 Edward D. Douglas '66
 Rev. Kenneth A. France-Kelly, OP '66
 I. Fred Capuani '69
 Bro. Richard J. Sharpe, FMS '70
 Steven L. Feldman '71
 Dr. Mark J. Rowinski '71
 Paul D. DeCabia '72
 Gerard A. Egan '73
 John W. Hawkes '74
 John G. Knapp '74
 Alexander Kostenko Jr. '74
 Frederick G. Miller Sr. '74
 Bryan G. Tarsa '74
 Rosemarie Emery Zengen '74
 William L. Jones Jr. '75
 Nancy O'Brien Donohue '76/'01 MA
 Brian J. Bennett '77
 James A. Burke '78
 James M. Dasher '78
 Charles G. Hoagland '78
 Vincent J. Gordon '79
 Maurice H. Friedman '80 MBA
 Christine A. Hoffman '82 MA
 Patty Ann Jackson '83
 James M. McDonald '84
 Patricia Okraski '84
 Klara B. Sauer '84 MPA
 Shelley A. Breslin '85
 Margaret Finlay Celentano '85
 Deborah A. Simone-Spain '85
 Ann Lewandowski Macrillo '86
 Elizabeth F. Kopsper-Perreault '88 MBA
 Jennifer A. Bixby '03
 Patricia M. Trocino '03
 Helen Miller '04
 Louis D. Wood '04
 Christina M. Porpora '11 MA
 Katherine A. Bilsky '12
 James Tracy Hermann '13 MPA

Friends

Doris J. Boshart
 Ruth Dickler
 John M. Flowers
 Abel Garraghan
 Catherine Hooper
 Susan Lusito
 Alarico "Eric" Mascarenhas
 Henry C. Meagher
 Dieter Rennhack
 Joseph B. Taphorn
 Monroe M. Weinstein

Employees

Dr. Richard A. Atkins
Former Professor of History and Chair, Division of Humanities
 Connie McCaffrey
Housekeeping Supervisor
 Dr. Richard B. Phillips
Senior Public Services Librarian
 John Gerard "Jerry" White
Professor Emeritus of History

Please visit maristconnect.marist.edu/inmemoriam for online remembrances of members of the Marist College community.



Five Marist College graduates attended the 50th reunion of St. Mary's High School, a Marist Brothers school in Manhasset, NY: (left to right) Neil Droogan '71, Tim Keneally '69, Bill Rowley '69, John Nunziata '70, and Bro. John Klein '70.

Colton Michael, born June 2013, and are awaiting the arrival of Colton Michael's sister, due in May 2016. ■ **Kevin Kerley** and his wife, **Mallory (Kule) '08**, welcomed identical twin boys, Grayson and Xander, born Jan. 7, 2015. Kevin and Mallory recently celebrated 10 years together since meeting at Marist in 2005. They married in 2011. ■ **Christine Olver** accepted a position at Macy's Inc. in the media relations department. Christine handles national media relations for the Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Fourth of July fireworks, and other iconic events. ■ **Shawn Casadiego** married **Jessica Castro '08** in April 2015. The couple welcomed a baby girl, Aria, born in December 2014. They reside in Franklin Square on Long Island.

2008

Jessica Castro married **Shawn Casadiego '07** in April 2015. The couple welcomed a baby girl, Aria, born in December 2014. They reside in Franklin Square on Long Island. ■ **Mallory (Kule) Kerley** and her husband, **Kevin '06**, welcomed identical twin boys, Grayson and Xander, born Jan. 7, 2015. Kevin and Mallory recently celebrated 10 years together since meeting at Marist in 2005. They married in 2011. ■ **Catherine (Coco) Sutch (MBA)** and her husband, **Brian '03**, welcomed twins on Aug. 26, 2015. Patrick Ryan and Rowan Coco joined big brother Kevin at home.

2009

Amanda Esposito married **Marc Sausa** on Sept. 5, 2014, at Glen Island Harbour Club in New

Rochelle, NY. Members of their bridal party included **Alison Jalbert**, **Lauren Plante**, **Pamela Keenan**, and **Ryan Smith**. ■ **Kelsey (Schaefer) Schmiesing** and her husband, Mark, welcomed a baby boy, McCoy Mark, born Aug. 3, 2015. McCoy joins big sister Alivia at home.



Amy Wysoczynski '11

REUNION 2011

Alexandra Hodovanu was promoted from assistant merchandise planner in upholstery and recliners to assistant merchandise planner in luggage at Macy's. ■ **John Rodino** received a master's degree in Spanish linguistics from St. Louis University, Madrid. John teaches Spanish at Seton Hall Preparatory School in New Jersey and translates for a Spanish publishing company in New York. ■ **Elizabeth Trizano** married Michael Gillespie on Nov. 14, 2015. Elizabeth recently



Robert Peterpaul '13 (center) and family

became the social media director of Kobrand Wine & Spirits. ■ **Amy Wysoczynski** participated in Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course in Baja. She studied at the Bahia de los Angeles UNESCO World Heritage site and in the Sea of Cortez. Amy, a science teacher at Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School in Edison, NJ, took the graduate course in pursuit of her master's degree from Miami University's Global Field Program.

2012

Kelly Mangerino feels very fortunate to have graduated from the game studies program at Marist and to have become a part of some very successful franchises like FarmVille and the Mafia 3 team. Kelly also has written two books, *The Spirit: Awakening* and *The Spirit: Reckoning*, published by Big Sky Press. "I'm thankful for everything Marist has helped me accomplish," she writes. ■ **John Petersen** passed away in a swimming accident while serving as a Community Economic volunteer with the Peace Corps in Namibia, Africa. For more about John, please see maristconnect.marist.edu/johnpetersen.

2013

Cynthia Elliott began working as a French teacher in Rome, NY, immediately following graduation. On the interview committee for her position was the parent of a Marist student, and across the hall from Cindy's classroom is another Marist graduate. She loves teaching and attributes much of

her success to the connections she has made in her career, the people she met at Marist, and her Marist experiences. ■ **Robert Peterpaul** recently had the opportunity to speak in Washington, DC, before Congress. On behalf of his family's organization, the Thomas Peterpaul Foundation (www.thomaspeterpaul.com), he spoke about pediatric cancer. He asked that the U.S. support and pave the way for new advancements in the way patients are treated. ■ **Daniel Torres** was



Daniel Torres '13

appointed deputy supervisor of the Town of New Paltz. Daniel is the youngest deputy supervisor in New Paltz history. He was elected to the New Paltz Town Council in 2013.

2014

Bobby Califano married Bethany Hauenstein of Sussex County, NJ. Bobby is a network technician for the Hyde Park, NY, Central School District. ■ **Tyler Hub** is a business development manager for Meredith



When Pedro L. Figueroa '93 visited his daughter, Geanna H. Figueroa '19, at Marist this past fall, he realized that her room in Sheahan Hall is only three doors down from the room he had as a freshman in 1989. They took the photo above, which they titled "Floor Mates, 26 Years Apart." Pedro's wife, Jeanny, is also a Red Fox, a member of the Class of 1993.

Corp. in New York City and is actively giving back to his community as a volunteer firefighter. ■ **Robert King** is media relations coordinator for the Philadelphia 76ers. ■ **Armani Martin** and **Taylor Kuzma '15** are engaged. Armani is training professional and future professional athletes including Marist football alumni **Mike Kagafas**, **Louis Cotrone**, and **Matt Tralli**.

2015

Matthew Amato is pursuing a master's in environmental science, concentrating in environmental engineering, at Rutgers University. ■ **Danielle Carpinello** is working toward a teaching certificate. ■ **Mary Casey** is enrolled in Marist's integrated marketing communications graduate program and expects to graduate in 2017. ■ **Gregory Cremins** is pursuing a master's degree at Marist. ■ **Samantha DeVito** worked on the *USNS Comfort*, a seagoing medical treatment facility, and in Ethiopia conducting medical programs with her employer, Operation Smile. ■ **Amanda Fiore** is working in New

York City, pursuing a career in communications. ■ **Sarah Fliss** is taking the time to travel, read books, and try the things she wants to. ■ **Mackenzie Flood** is pursuing a master's degree in social work at the Columbia School of Social Work. ■ **Lauren Garner** started working in an account coordinator position at teamDigital Promotions in Connecticut following her graduation in December 2014. Lauren works on digital promotions for MasterCard. ■ **Stacy Giannetto** works at UPS and is exploring MBA studies at Marist. ■ **Maria Gironas** spoke on a panel on music publicists and music journalism at the SXSW conference and festival. ■ **Elizabeth Hehir** is studying social work at Stony Brook University and hopes to become a licensed social worker assisting veterans. ■ **Justin Hermann** ('15 MS) joined IBM as a technical sales trainee in the New York City area and is active with MART, the Marist Alumni Recruiting Team. ■ **Taylor Kuzma** and **Armani Martin '14** are engaged. ■ **Chantal Lizzi** loves her job as a pharmaceutical sales rep but is "very much missing Marist." ■ **Kristal Seidita** says the Marist Abroad Program gave her the travel bug, and she did some traveling before settling into her career. ■ **Kelsey Taylor** moved to New York City following graduation and is pursuing an MS in physician assistant studies at Pace University. ■ **Jaelyn Vasaturo** will earn a master's in social work in 2016 from New York University Silver School of Social Work after completing the one-year advanced standing program. She is interning with Henry Street Settlement, a school-based mental health program. ■ **Kenneth Wasley** (MPA) is working on a drug enforcement task force with members of the New York State Police and New York City Police Department. 🇺🇸



Nearly 40 alumni took part in a golf outing at Clearview Park Golf Course in Bayside, NY, to raise money for Marist's Alumni Legacy Scholarship.

Football Achievements Celebrated

Former players returned to campus for Marist's annual Football Alumni Recognition Day on Nov. 7, 2015, at Tenney Stadium at Leonidoff Field.

They gathered with families and friends in a tent at the south end of the field as Marist faced Stetson on the gridiron. At halftime, alumni from the 1970 team, then called the Vikings, and the 1990 team were honored as they celebrated special anniversaries: the 45th anniversary of the Vikings' undefeated season and the 25th anniversary of the Red Foxes' ACFC Championship.



Former Marist football coaches (left to right) **Michael Malet**, **Ron Levine**, and **Rick Pardy** are pictured.



Alumni from the 1970 team, known as the Vikings, celebrated the 45th anniversary of their undefeated season.



Alumni from the 1990 team marked the 25th anniversary of the Red Foxes' ACFC Championship.



Members of the Class of 1965 returned to Marist for their 50-year reunion celebration.

Alumni Honored, Remembered at Homecoming and Reunion 2015

HOMECOMING AND REUNION WEEKEND 2015 began with a moving ceremony on Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, dedicating Marist's Communication Internship Placement Office in memory of Professor Emeritus of Communication Robert C. Norman. Former students, colleagues, family members, and friends gathered to celebrate Norman's legacy and the impact he had on Marist's communication program.

Norman joined the Marist College faculty in 1961 and became a driving force in establishing the Communications Department and later the Communication Internship Program. He also took a special interest in Marist Athletics and outside the classroom was affectionately known as "The Voice of the Red Foxes" by student-athletes and fans.

Guest speakers included Ernie Arico '76, Dave Shaw '80, Internship Program Director Gerry McNulty '79, Carolyn Lepre, interim dean of the School of Communication and the Arts, and President Dennis J. Murray. Arico, now a teacher at the Florida Prep Academy, remembered Bob fondly:

"Bob was like a second father to me. He was more than a teacher and internship director. He was an inspiration, a role model, and a mentor who taught me many of the important ethical values needed to be a good writer, editor, broadcaster, and teacher."

Former students, colleagues, family members, and friends initiated the Robert C. Norman Scholarship, awarded annually to a student pursu-

ing a major within the School of Communication and the Arts.

To read more about the dedication and to see photos, please visit maristconnect.marist.edu/bobnorman.

On Saturday morning, three dedicated Marist graduates were honored with Alumni Awards. Stephen M. Townsend '10 received the Marist College Young Alumnus Award, Augustine "Gus" J. Nolan '52 received the Marist College Distinguished Service Award, and Bro. John W. Klein, FMS '70 received the Dr. Linus Richard Foy '50 Outstanding Alumnus Award. To learn more about the honorees, please visit maristconnect.marist.edu/alumni_awards.

Close to 2,000 alumni, family members, and friends gathered on the Campus Green for the Alumni Family Picnic, while a similar-size crowd cheered on the football team at nearby Tenney Stadium. A record number of more than 875 people attended reunion celebrations on Saturday evening, including 25 graduates of the Class of 1965 who were presented with Marist watches in honor of their 50th reunion. To see photos from many of the weekend's events, please visit maristconnect.marist.edu/homecoming.

Following the picnic, the seventh annual Theatre Hall of Fame induction took place in the Nelly Goletti Theatre, recognizing those who have made outstanding contributions to theatre at Marist. Inducted for 2015 were John Sheehan '69, Joyce Touchette '79, Tom Greene '85, Jimmy Johansmeyer '95, and Edward Grosskreuz '06.

The Communication Internship Placement Office was dedicated in memory of Robert C. Norman, professor emeritus of communication and founding director of Marist's Communication Internship Program. Pictured (left to right) are President Dennis J. Murray, Communication and Media Studies Internship Program Director Gerry McNulty '79, Bob Norman's son Jim '86, Jim's wife, Sue, and their son Sean '18.



Save the date: Homecoming and Reunion Weekend is Oct. 21-23, 2016



The recipient of the 2015 Alumni Legacy Scholarship was Gabriella Landicino '19, shown with Paul X. Rinn '68, president of the Alumni Association, and President Dennis J. Murray. Gabriella is the daughter of Lucia (Scala) '89 and Carl Landicino.



Left to right: Augustine "Gus" J. Nolan '52 received the Marist College Distinguished Service Award, Stephen M. Townsend '10 received the Marist College Young Alumnus Award, and Bro. John W. Klein, FMS '70 received the Dr. Linus Richard Foy '50 Outstanding Alumnus Award.



Inducted in the Theatre Hall of Fame for 2015 were (left to right) Edward Grosskreuz '06, Joyce Touchette '79, Tom Greene '85, Jimmy Johansmeyer '95, all inducted on campus, and (inset) John Sheehan '69, who received his award at his home.

Tom Duffy '75 Honored

TOM DUFFY '75, founder of the law firm Duffy + Partners, was given the Champion of Justice award by Community Legal Services (CLS) at its 26th annual "Breakfast of Champions" in Philadelphia.

The award recognizes an individual who is pivotal in supporting CLS's mission of ensuring that low-income Philadelphia residents have equal access to justice by providing them with advice and representation in civil legal matters. In 2013, Duffy named CLS the recipient of a new "Duffy Fellowship," which underwrites the cost of a staff attorney's salary. Three Duffy Fellows currently work in Philadelphia legal-service organizations. The Duffy Fellow at CLS helps residents navigate public benefits such as cash assistance, SSI disability, food stamps, and health insurance. 📍



Congratulating Tom Duffy (third from right) on his CLS Champion of Justice award are (from left) CLS Leadership Council Chair Joseph Tate; CLS Deputy Director Debby Freedman; CLS Leadership Council Member Alan Feldman; CLS Executive Director Cathy Carr; and CLS Board Chair Michael LiPuma.



Marist alumni who participated in a Light the Night Leukemia Walk to honor Jaclyn Abatecola '03 included, left to right, front row: Claire (Genna) Navarra '03, Marigrace (Joannou) Cirringione '03, Jillian (Duffy) Black '03; middle row: Kristen Kavanaugh '03, Jennifer Gebert '03, Kristin (Davide) Castaldi '04, Danielle (Santulli) Maher '03, Michele (Knapp) Bresnahan '03, Kristen (Porter) Schick '03, Lisa (Russo) Todaro '03; back row: Jason Castaldi '03, Joshua Kisselbrack, Kevin Schick '04, and Steven Black '03.

Red Foxes Fight for Jackie

MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE, including 20 Marist alumni, participated in a Light the Night Leukemia Walk on Oct. 10, 2015, to honor their good friend Jaclyn "Jackie" Abatecola '03. The 20 alumni should have been celebrating with Abatecola at her wedding that evening, but instead, she was in the hospital undergoing treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). The group of walkers, who called themselves "The Jack Pack," raised more than \$39,000 to honor their friend's fight and support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Abatecola was in remission for a month before finding out on Christmas Eve that the leukemia had spread to her spinal fluid. After another hard battle, she is once again clear of all AML. Despite the "all clear," she still has a long road ahead. She was to undergo another round of chemotherapy to ensure she remains in remission and then was to be transferred to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for a bone marrow transplant. To follow her progress and to send positive messages, please visit www.facebook.com/fightforjackie. 📍

—Bobbi Sue Tellitocci '04/'14 MA

Bettencourt Retires

AFTER 50 YEARS OF TEACHING BIOLOGY at Marist, Dr. Joseph S. Bettencourt announced he would retire from full-time teaching in 2015. He will continue to teach for several more semesters but ultimately plans to spend more time with his family at his home in Maine.

Bettencourt began teaching in 1965 as an instructor of biology, becoming an assistant professor in 1968 and chair of the Biology Department. He earned a bachelor's in biology from Suffolk University and an MS and PhD in zoology from the University of New Hampshire.

He has taught a wide variety of courses including General Biology, Immunology, Parasitology, Comparative Anatomy, Histology, and Developmental Biology, as well as Introduction to the Health Professions. He received the Marist Board of Trustees Distinguished Teaching Award in 2003.

Bettencourt also received and directed a number of grants including National Science Foundation equipment grants. He was a lead teacher in the NSF Science on the Move Program and took part in the Dutchess County BOCES Summer High School of Excellence program.

"Dr. B" is perhaps best known to students and alumni as the advisor for those entering the health professions, a position he held for 47 years. Many alumni remember him fondly and credit much of their career success to his teaching and guidance.

"I cannot think of one person who stands out more in my career as a mentor, educational pillar, and friend than Dr. Bettencourt," said Dr. Jennifer Stewart Ellison '02, optometrist and owner of Norwalk Eye Care in Norwalk, CT. "While at Marist, he patiently guided me through my (numerous!) career choices, while always keeping his candy bowl full of my favorites. He went above and beyond as a professor for all students, tirelessly spending evening and weekend hours with us preparing for exams and lab practicals. I happily return every year to speak to the Intro to Health Professions class (I have not missed a year in eight years) and especially look forward to catching up over dinner with Dr. B before I speak."

"Dr. Bettencourt's tenure at Marist College has helped shape both the Science Department, and the College as a whole, into an incredible place for students, and his knowledge, humor, and true compassion will be missed."

Plans are underway to create a scholarship honoring Bettencourt's dedication to teaching and mentoring. To make a gift, please visit maristconnect.marist.edu/give and direct your support to the Dr. Joseph Bettencourt Scholarship Fund. 📍



Dr. Joseph Bettencourt (left) received the 2003 Board of Trustees Distinguished Teaching Award from President Dennis J. Murray.



Alumni Authors



Bill Bozzone '76's first collection of short stories has been published by Whitepoint Press. *Off Somewhere* is written under his pen name, Z.Z. Boone.



Karen Anderson '84's newest book, *The Peaceful Daughter's Guide to Separating from a Difficult Mother*, was published by the Difference Press.

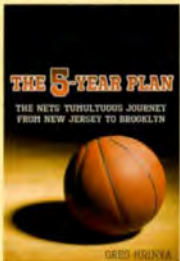
Sara (Taney) Humphreys '92's 11th novel, *The Good, the Bad, and the Vampire*, is available at online book retailers. Her 10th novel, *Brave the Heat*, a contemporary romance, was published in 2015 (Sourcebooks Casablanca). She has signed a three-book deal with Sourcebooks for a paranormal romance series, *Dragon Heat*, a spin-off of her Amoveo Legend series (sarahumphreys.com).



Mikael Carlson '96 released his fifth novel, *The Eyes of Others*, published in June 2015.

Benjamin Brenkert '02's first book, *A Catechism of the Heart: Memoir of a Gay Jesuit*, will be released by Bloomsbury Press in 2016.

The History Press has published *Historic Amusement Parks of Long Island: 118 Miles of Memories* by **Marisa L. Berman '04**.



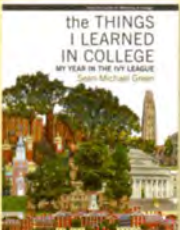
Courtney Giardina '06, a contemporary romance author, released her first novel, *Tear-Stained Beaches*, in February 2013 and followed it with *Holding On to Georgia* in October 2014. Both novels are based in her home state of North Carolina.

Greg Hrinia '09 has written a book about the Brooklyn Nets, *The 5-Year Plan: The Nets' Tumultuous Journey from New Jersey to Brooklyn* (Wheatmark). Hrinia spent the past six years working as a credentialed media member with the Nets.



Kelly Mangerino '12 has written two fantasy novels, *The Spirit: Awakening* and *The Spirit: Reckoning*, about a princess who inherits a kingdom on her 18th birthday (authorKMriley.com).

Sean-Michael Green '14 MBA has written *The Things I Learned in College: My Year in the Ivy League*. "The book," Green writes, "is a narrative nonfiction account of an academic year that I spent exploring each of the eight Ivy League institutions. I lived with students, attended classes, and participated in campus life."



Alumni are invited to share news of their books in Alumni News & Notes. Please send your news to maristalumni@marist.edu, submit it at maristconnect.marist.edu/update, or mail it to Alumni Relations, Marist College, 3399 North Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-1387.



Dr. Kadeine Campbell-Peterson '09 celebrated attaining her doctorate in genetics and genomics from Cornell University with her husband, **Joshua Peterson '09**, and their son, **Jack Maverick**. She began her career as a science research and advanced biology teacher at Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, NY, in fall 2015.



Laurie Cerveny '90, a partner at Morgan Lewis, and her daughter, husband (third, fourth, and fifth from right, back row), and son (front row) were among those present when her husband's company recently launched its IPO on the NASDAQ.



Four alumnae say they used their network of fellow Red Foxes to land positions at VH1. Left to right are **Briana Flynn '15**, a production assistant; **Katie Meena '12**, an associate producer; **Ali Read '14**, a junior shooter/editor; and **Caity Driscoll-Siciliano '06**, a producer.

Megan Shannon '10, daughter of John Shannon '80 and sister of Brian Shannon '13, married Michael Jonas on July 18, 2015, at Bellport Country Club on Long Island. Pictured (left to right) are Dana Grimaldi '10, Beth Anne Tantillo '10, Benjamin Condon '10, Caroline Brandel '10, Paul Carroll '09, Madeline Arciello '14, Ashley Huffman '10, Kelly Nicholson '10, Jenny Wiegand '10, Brian Shannon '13, the groom, Katie O'Boyle '10, the bride, Stephen Townsend '10, John Shannon '80, Joseph Walsh '10, Erin McNichols '10, William McGarr '70, and Brian Kalina '10.



Eric Kimmel '05 married Kasey Mehuren on June 28, 2015, in Simsbury, CT.



Alumni at the wedding of Mike Pepe '11 and Laura Maffey '11 (back row, second and third from right) included (left to right, back row) Brian Gilbert '11, Dan Trepal '11, Steve Garipey '11, Lauren Feely Manzo '98; (front row) Jackie Retzer '11, Kelly Durban '11, Graham Edwards '11, Deanna Wacaster '11, Laura Sherland '11, Amanda Weinhold '10, Kim Warren '11, Ally O'Donnell '11, and Kelsey Larkin '11.



Liz Hammond '02 married James Williams in a small ceremony on April 4, 2015, and celebrated at the Dranesville Tavern in Leesburg, VA, on April 18, 2015, with (left to right) Julio Torres '00, Christina Williams '02, Renee Boncella '02, Matt Pelletier '02, Melissa (Discount) Pelletier '02, Abby and Jake Pelletier, Pam Krantz Gilmore '02, and Emily Gilmore.



Katie Spies '07 (center, front), the niece of Steve and Maureen Maher '94/'94, married Justin Whitcomb on July 19, 2014, in Ipswich, MA. Left to right are Coral Bonner '14, Stephen Cubbellotti '07, Meghan (Kearns) Collier '08, Joanna (Stein) Storey '08, Eddie Storey '08, Maggie (Petersen) Spadora '06, Dan Spadora '07, Margaret Hoar '07, Maureen Maher '94, Steph (Weidman) Melikian '94, and Steve Maher '94.

Fond Remembrances

A graduate recalls his arrival on campus as a freshman and his return for a class reunion four decades later.

BY ANTHONY G. DIRENZO '73

IT WAS SEPTEMBER 1969 and, like so many of my classmates, I was leaving home for the first time. My parents and I were about to embark on a road trip from our modest home in Cambria Heights, Queens, to upstate New York, to a place called Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County. I had been accepted to Marist College.

Our means of transportation was a 1951 Buick Deluxe equipped without GPS, seatbelts, air conditioning, air bags, electric windows, or FM radio. Being the son of a policeman, I was not one to be indulged in luxury.

Shopping malls were nonexistent, as were Costcos, Starbucks, Taco Bells, Cheese-cake Factories, Subways, Pizza Huts, bottled water, or diet soda. Land was still up for grabs and reasonable in price. The air was sweet; at least, that's the way I remember it.

When we finally reached our destination, the parking lot was empty. The sound of Crosby, Stills, and Nash was echoing from a speaker in Champagnat Hall. The campus was a montage of rustic simplicity, founded by the Marist Brothers. The rooms were decorated in early Ikea, not large but comfortable, devoid of flat-screen televisions, Blackberrys, iPods, iPhones, iPads, laptops, personal computers, fax machines, and microwaves.

As we were saying our goodbyes in the courtyard, I will never forget my father's words. "You've been given the opportunity of a lifetime. I would give anything to trade places with you."

I did not understand the depth of his words. For the first time in my life, I saw tears in my mother's eyes.

During orientation, freshmen were encouraged to get involved, meet with the upperclassmen, and explore the remarkable, natural settings that Marist had to offer: Greystone, the Cornell Boathouse, the outdoor pool (yes, there was an outdoor pool), Donnelly Hall, Our



Campus scenes in 1969: Champagnat (top), freshman hazing (left).

Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel, the Ratskeller, the Grotto, Leonidoff Field, and the Student Center, all against the backdrop of a panoramic view of the Hudson River.

That was more than 40 years ago. If I embellish those times with nostalgia, that is the game memory plays when it yearns for innocence. When we go searching for our past, we look for landmarks that still remain. When those things are no longer there, the best we can do is to reclaim what made them ours in the first place.

Until I attended our 40th-year reunion, I never realized how much I missed those days. Being on campus for the reunion had the aroma of something I had known long ago. For the next few hours, I felt young again. The mystery and the magic had returned. Those familiar faces I saw that day carried an uncanny emotional resonance. My mind was flooded with memories of road trips, athletic

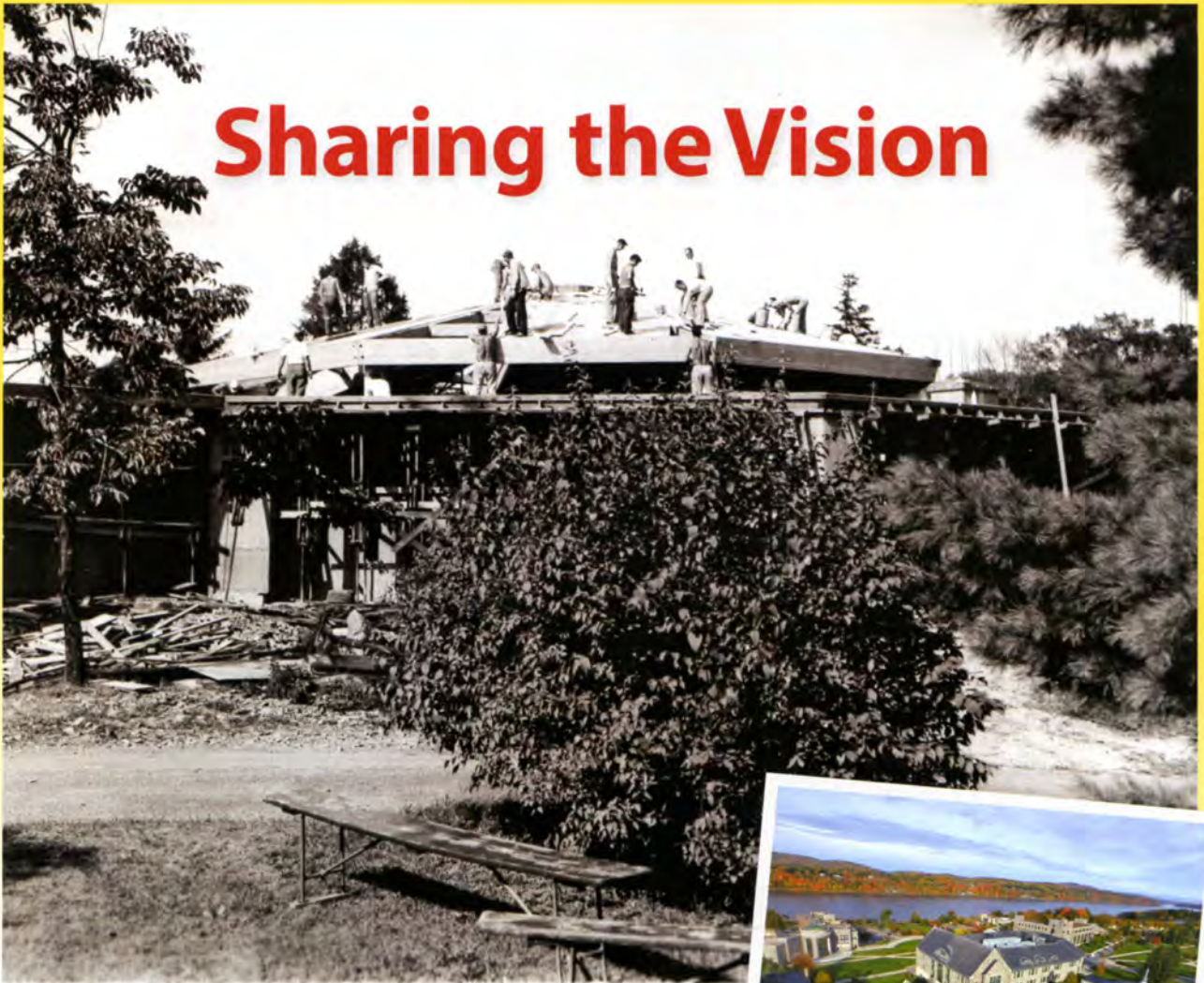
events, freshman hazing (did someone forget to remind the administration it was illegal?), coursework, student protests, dorm rooms, professors, term papers, mid-terms, disappointment, heartbreak, and friendships. I left that day with a stronger sense of belonging, affection, and wonder.

As is true for many, the life that I envisioned was not the life I've led. After graduating with a degree in English, I relocated to Tyrone, PA. I was fortunate to be selected for a teaching position through the Marist College Lay Volunteer Program. The experience helped me to secure a teaching position in a Catholic high school on Long Island. In 1979, I applied and was accepted to the New York City Police Department, starting my career in the East New York section of Brooklyn. For the majority of my career, I've been assigned to Manhattan South. I found my calling teaching both recruits and veteran members of the service at the New York City Police Academy.

From what I witnessed at my reunion that afternoon, the Class of 1973 had been blessed with strong foundations, rewarding careers, longevity, and loving families. On the following day, I saw my father and told him how fortunate I had been and how grateful I was for the sacrifices both he and my mother had to make to give me the opportunity, an opportunity they were never afforded due to circumstances beyond their control.

In the closing scene of the classic movie *Casablanca*, the iconic actor Humphrey Bogart whispers to Ingrid Bergman, "We will always have Paris." We will always have Marist. It was our pearl. 🍷

Sharing the Vision



Marist Brothers at work on Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel



VISION. Marist's founders had it, conceiving of a college that 70 years later has educated more than 39,000 men and women and prepared them for a lifetime of accomplishments. You, too, can create a plan that will shape the lives of tomorrow's students.

By remembering Marist in your estate through a bequest or by developing a trust during your lifetime, you can found a scholarship, establish an endowed professorship or faculty chair, maintain Marist's beautiful campus, or support academic facilities. Through your gift, you can honor a loved one, a family member, or your own achievements. Your financial advisor can explain the advantages of donating assets such as cash, stocks, or real estate to Marist College.

Most important, your generosity will have a lasting impact on many lives. What you plan today will help provide the best education possible for future generations of Marist students. And providing for tomorrow is what vision is all about.

For information about planned giving opportunities at Marist College, please contact the Office of College Advancement, (845) 575-3264.

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*and we're about
to set new records!*

In the month of May, students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and friends will come together and show their Red Fox pride by participating in the first-ever May Is For Marist initiative.

To be part of the success, visit www.mayisformarist.com