January 24, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO THE MARIST COLLEGE COMMUNITY

FROM: Dennis J. Murray

RE: Winter Update on College Activities

Welcome back! I hope everyone is surviving our polar vortex here in the Hudson River Valley. As we begin the spring semester, I would like to highlight some of the outstanding work being conducted by faculty, students, and staff. Marist is increasingly rated among the best colleges and universities in the nation, and I hope the entire college community takes pride in these successes.

Spectacular new academic building, dining facilities, and Student Center come online

As many institutions of higher education retrench and shy away from major building projects, I'm pleased to announce the completion of our new 24,000-square-foot Multipurpose Academic Building and renovated Student Center and dining facilities. The new academic building is surely one of the best in the Northeast, and it improves the look of our whole campus. The renovation of the Student Center (covering some 98,000 square feet) has also exceeded our highest hopes. As a result of our work, these facilities now offer some of the best academic and student spaces in the nation, and they will enhance our students' college experience for many years to come.

With the new Multipurpose Academic Building, our Music Program now has a new home with first-class practice and performance spaces. However, faculty and students from all disciplines will use these world-class facilities. The 196-seat tiered Recital Hall is both a rehearsal space for our choral and voice ensemble groups, as well as a wonderful lecture hall for all types of special presentations. The Recital Hall is acoustically treated for musical performances, and it has audio/visual projection and
recording and surround-sound capabilities. The magnificent 3,500-square-foot Symphonic Hall gives our band and symphony groups plenty of room to rehearse, but it is also a stunning space in its own right to be used by the entire Marist community. Located on the top floor of the new building, the Symphonic Hall is one of the largest rooms on campus, featuring a 25-foot-high wood coffered ceiling, floor-to-ceiling windows, extensive acoustic treatment, and an audio/visual system with projection and surround-sound capabilities. The new building also includes classrooms, practice rooms, a computer lab, and a music library.

Our beautiful new dining facilities are being enjoyed by record numbers of students, faculty, and staff. The main Dining Hall’s high ceilings, abundant natural light, new food stations, and variety of seating options have all made it an inviting place to spend time. Adjacent to the Dining Hall, there is a quiet dining room for student use and an outdoor patio overlooking the Hudson River, which we can all look forward to enjoying in the warmer weather. In addition, the Cabaret and the café that serves it have also been improved. The new exterior entrance to the Cabaret features an attractive outdoor patio and also offers greatly improved handicapped accessibility to the Student Center.

The Student Center renovation has created new office space for the Student Government Association and Student Activities, pocket lounges throughout the building for student collaboration, and conference and meeting facilities overlooking the river. In addition, the renovated Nelly Goletti Theatre features new seating, lighting, and sound, and we have constructed a new theatre lounge adjacent to it for receptions. Finally, the Student Center’s new and improved lower level features a large exercise studio, meeting space, expanded lounge space for commuter students, and an outdoor patio.

Over the past several weeks, we have been putting the final touches on this complex project. The music faculty is busy settling into their new offices, and we appreciate the continued cooperation of the campus community as we begin to operate in these new spaces and schedule them for the fall semester.

Plans for additional campus enhancements

Designs for the second phase of the Lowell Thomas Communications Center renovation project are currently being completed, and our plan is to issue bid documents to the construction community in February. The renovation designs, which were
developed in consultation with the School of Communication & the Arts, feature new interior spaces on the second floor of Lowell Thomas that will match the already-renovated spaces on the first and ground levels. Our plan is to begin construction in late May and complete the work before the beginning of the fall semester.

Demand for student housing has never been stronger, and we are working with Robert A.M. Stern Architects (RAMSA) on the design of new residences on the north end of campus. We are considering a sophomore and upperclassman facility with offices, common spaces, and a café to be located on the Fontaine Annex/Gartland Commons site. This multi-phase project is intended to provide enough beds to replace the aging Gartland Commons, as well as address additional student housing needs. Over the next few months, our architects will produce floor plans and renderings of the proposed project that will be shared with the campus community. I should note that these plans for new student residences are not intended to grow the size of our student body, but to better meet the housing needs of those living in the Residence Inn and in the local community.

Another project closely related to the Multipurpose Academic Building is the re-cladding of the Student Center Rotunda with a stone veneer. This project will remedy the deterioration of the current stone facing, as well as reflect the aesthetic of the Library, Hancock Center, and new building. We have continued our preconstruction work with RAMSA and our construction manager Kirchhoff-Consigli. In December, an existing portion of red brick near the Cabaret entrance was re-clad in stone, and the remainder of the re-cladding will begin in late spring. We expect to complete this project by late summer.

Lastly, we are developing a list of capital projects for the summer. Key projects under consideration include general purpose sports courts near student housing complexes on the east and west sides of campus, an herb and vegetable garden, upgrades to the Admission Office, and renovations to the McCann Center’s classroom area. As always, the primary goals of our summer work are to enhance the campus in support of academic and student service programs, undertake deferred maintenance projects, and improve infrastructure.

Every great college must have a great campus to attract the best students, faculty, and staff; and for this reason, we continue to devote so much time and attention to making the Marist campus the best it can be. My thanks to Director of Physical Plant Justin Butwell for the extraordinary time and commitment he’s devoted to our latest
building project and to the members of our internal Buildings & Grounds Committee for the great work they’ve done.

**Marist’s financial performance rated among the best in the nation**

This past November, we completed our annual audit with our auditors at Grant Thornton, and the Board of Trustees approved and accepted the financial statements at their annual meeting. I am proud to note that we had a completely clean audit, with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies to report. To receive such outstanding results is very unusual, and they speak to the extremely capable leadership of John Pecchia, Vice President for Business Affairs/CFO, and the good work of his team in the Business Office.

The audit substantiated that the College continues to be in solid financial shape because of strong operating results, positive market performance from the investment portfolio, and significant contributions. During the 2012-13 fiscal year, Marist’s net assets increased by $46.9 million (a 14.1 percent return). Our investment portfolio grew 26 percent to $186.1 million for the year ended June 30, 2013, primarily due to market value appreciation, realized gains, and the addition of new gifts.

For the current 2013-14 fiscal year, revenues and expenditures are tracking favorably against budget. Total revenues for the first six months are approximately $88.5 million, up four percent versus the same period last year. I am pleased to note that expenses are tracking according to plan and that Marist’s endowment and other investable funds stand at approximately $211 million as of December 31, 2013, based on investment gains. Looking ahead to the second half of fiscal year 2013-14, we feel confident that we will meet all of our financial goals due to strong enrollment results from the fall semester, increased tuition revenue from the summer and winter sessions, careful management of discount rates, and our continued commitment to prudent spending.

The College’s financial success over the last decade was recently highlighted in the November 2013 edition of *Business Officer*, the magazine of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). In the article, Marist was ranked fourth in the nation among private colleges and universities registering the highest average annual percentage growth in net assets from 2000 to 2010. Marist had an impressive annual growth rate of 9.8 percent over the decade. Among the other schools
included in the top 25 were Quinnipiac University, Saint Joseph's University, Villanova University, Drexel University, American University, Skidmore College, Tufts University, University of Denver, University of San Diego, Providence College, New York University, and Santa Clara University.

The NACUBO article was based on a study done by Dr. James Doti, president of Chapman University. It stated that "considering net asset growth over time is [an] important measure of an institution's health -- one that can indicate the condition of its overall financial footing." The article went on to say, "An institution's net assets can be a useful indicator of overall current financial well-being and the ability to support new programs and services in the future." Everyone involved in Marist has contributed to this outstanding performance, but I particularly want to thank those senior faculty and staff members who have worked over several decades to put the College in this position.

Admission update

We began the spring semester with the addition of 66 undergraduate students on our main campus and five new bachelor's degree students at our branch campus in Florence. Please join me in welcoming these newcomers to the Marist community!

In keeping with the College's increasingly global reach, members of the Admission staff spent the fall traveling throughout the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, where they visited more than 1,000 high schools and participated in more than 300 college fairs. Marist representatives conducted admission presentations for students, families, and members of the guidance community interested in both the New York and Florence campuses. In November, we had the opportunity to host 19 international school counselors from around the world at our Florence branch campus, introducing them to our unique program offerings. The counselors toured academic and housing facilities, met with students, and attended presentations highlighting our academic offerings and admission processes.

The Undergraduate Admission Office was open seven days a week during most of the fall semester, and 8,386 prospective students took advantage of these extra hours to visit the College. To date, the overall freshman applicant pool for fall 2014 stands at 8,617, a four percent decrease from last year. We anticipate receiving approximately 10,000 applications. Although it appears we will have a slightly smaller applicant pool, we remain confident of meeting all new student enrollment goals for next fall.
In the area of adult undergraduate education, early indicators for spring semester new student enrollment are encouraging. This past fall, we were pleased to see that attendance at open house programs was larger than in previous years. In addition, we continue to refine marketing messages and tactics to best utilize our allocated budget. While it is early still, we are confident of meeting, and hopefully exceeding, our goal for spring.

In terms of graduate programs, we continue to recruit and enroll for the spring, but to date we can report an 11.3 percent increase in applications. The two programs drawing the most interest are the master's in business administration (MBA) and the master's in Integrated Marketing Communication (IMC) programs. Applications to the MBA program have increased by 55.9 percent compared to spring 2013 (131 applications versus 84 last year). MBA spring enrollment is up as well, with 14 enrolled students compared to three a year ago. This will be the second spring start for the IMC program, and it remains in high demand. We have received 67 applications so far (a 42.6 percent increase year-over-year) and currently have nine new students enrolled for spring. Finally, although we are not yet actively recruiting students for the new Advanced Certificate in Business Analytics, it has also generated interest and has four new students enrolled.

Early reports for the fall 2014 semester are also encouraging. Graduate application activity is up 31.3 percent over last year, with the most significant increases coming in the IMC and MBA programs. To date, we have received 28 applications for IMC this year compared to 18 at the same time last year (representing a 55.6 percent increase). In addition, the MBA has grown from 30 applications for fall 2013 to 55 for fall 2014 (an 83.3 percent increase).

In an effort to leverage Marist’s strong brand awareness in Long Island and New York City, we have been executing a regional marketing campaign to promote our MBA and IMC programs to people living in those areas, and our efforts appear to be paying off. Comparing applications for spring 2014 to spring 2013, reports indicate a 58.8 percent increase in applications from Long Island and New York City (54 applications versus 34 a year ago). We will continue to implement this marketing strategy during the spring and summer and are hopeful for an equal, if not greater, return for fall 2014.
News from Academic Affairs

I am pleased to announce that Marist’s business program has again received external affirmation of its quality from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). After an extensive self-study process, the School of Management has maintained its AACSB accreditation, the premier designation for bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree business programs across the globe. Offering world-class experiences such as student-centered research, leading internship placements, and the high-tech Investment Center, our programs are recognized for developing leaders with the managerial expertise, global understanding, and ethical sensibility to face the challenges of a dynamic and diverse world. Our congratulations to Dean of the School of Management Larry Singleton and the School’s faculty on this major accomplishment.

In other accreditation news, the College’s Paralegal Program just completed its seven-year cycle for re-approval by the American Bar Association (ABA). ABA’s site team praised the program’s student-centered focus and submitted a report recommending re-approval, offering only collegial suggestions and no recommendations. The Approval Commission of the ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals found our program in compliance with its Guidelines for Approval of Paralegal Education Programs and recommended that its House of Delegates adopt this endorsement at its February meeting. Our congratulations to Annamaria Maciocia, Esq., Senior Professional Lecturer and Director of our Paralegal Program, and Marty Shaffer, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, on this distinction.

At its November meeting, Marist’s Board of Trustees voted to bestow emeritus status on the following retired faculty members: Professor of English Donald Anderson, Professor of Social Work Anne Botsford, Associate Professor of Philosophy Jurgis Brakas, Associate Professor of Communication Jim Fahey, Assistant Professor of Computer Science Helen Hayes, Associate Professor of Sociology Bruce Luske, and Assistant Professor of History Jerry White. These dedicated faculty members are among Marist’s most distinguished, and the Board was pleased to recognize their collective contributions to the academic life of the College. Congratulations to all!

Distinctive academic programs

The College’s Center for Sports Communication continues to grow in scope and stature. Building on its existing partnership with the Marist Institute for Public Opinion
(MIPO), the Center and the Marist Poll have been conducting sports-related public opinion research for HBO’s award-winning program *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel*. Their polls cover a variety of topics and are created in collaboration with the *Real Sports* team. *Real Sports* has exclusive first release on the polls, and the results are released to the general public the following day. The polls carry the brand “*HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll conducted in conjunction with the Marist College Center for Sports Communication.*” The first of these co-branded polls aired in October and examined how press coverage of concussions and the risk of long-term brain trauma in football players has affected the public’s willingness to allow their children to play football, as well as their general enjoyment of the sport. In addition to airing on *Real Sports*, the study was later reported on by dozens of media outlets, including the *Today Show*, CNN.com, and Deadspin.

The Center for Sports Communication has also launched a weekly radio show airing on ESPN 1220/97.3, an affiliate based in the Hudson River Valley. “The Classroom” airs every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and is the first partnership in the nation between an academic center and an ESPN affiliate. Produced live in the Marist radio studio, the show’s guests include top sports journalists and academics. Additionally, the Center has been named the official academic partner of the Sports PR Summit, an annual invite-only event that brings together senior public relations executives, media reporters, and athletes from the sports industry. Through the partnership, the Center will provide logistical and strategic support both during the event and throughout the year. This year’s Sports PR Summit will be held on May 21 at the MLB Fan Cave in New York City. The Center is also the official host for the 2014 academic conference of the International Association for Communication and Sport, scheduled for March 14-16 at the Cornell Club of New York City.

In other news, School of Communication & the Arts launched the Marist Media Leaders Program (MMLP), a branded signature program that promotes journalism and media studies at Marist. Focusing on interdisciplinary issues of interest to a broad audience of stakeholders, MMLP also provides academic enrichment and student engagement opportunities. One of the program deliverables included the October “Media Industry Leader Strategies Series,” which was hosted by Marist at the Harvard Club in New York City. The event brought together leading media industry professionals to discuss and share ideas around topical issues, such as advertising and profitability in the social media environment. In November, MMLP hosted a campus visit by Betsy Morgan, a longtime media executive and the current president of *The Blaze*. 
The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) continues to be one of the country’s best regional history centers, and the Autumn 2013 issue of its Hudson River Valley Review is another great example of their efforts to highlight the unique aspects of our region. The latest edition of the journal includes a special article exploring the legacy of Scenic Hudson, an organization working to protect and restore the Hudson River and its majestic landscape. The article spotlights the important role played by former Marist Board of Trustees Vice Chair Frances “Franny” Reese, who was at the forefront of the famous Storm King Mountain case and is considered one of the founders of the American environmental movement. I am pleased to note that Franny’s son, former Marist Trustee Alex Reese, recently assumed the chairmanship of the HRVI Advisory Board, on which his mother also proudly served. I am also pleased to note that HRVI Executive Director and Associate Professor of History Jim Johnson received the Hero of the Hudson Award from the National Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association. The award was presented during the inaugural Maurice Hinchey Regatta in September.

Fall lectures and events

This past fall, Marist introduced a new Core curriculum to freshmen, and it is already building common experiences among our students. One of the features of the new Core is a series of First Year Seminars (FYS) that include common learning activities such as this year’s common reading, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. In a major highlight of the fall semester, 1,200 first-year students, faculty, and staff attended a lecture delivered by members of the Lacks family on October 9. Henrietta’s grandson David Lacks, Jr. and great-granddaughter Veronica Spencer addressed the crowd and participated in a roundtable discussion facilitated by Kevin Gaugler, Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Director of the FYS program, and Moira Fitzgibbons, Associate Professor of English and Director of the Core-Liberal Studies program. Students enrolled in FYS courses prepared questions in advance to ask of the Lacks family.

The College’s Autumn Lecture Series featured a number of excellent speakers, creating many opportunities for intellectual enrichment. On September 18, the newly-renovated Nelly Goletti Theatre was standing-room-only for Jeffrey Toobin, the well-known CNN senior analyst and staff writer for The New Yorker. Mr. Toobin presented “Analyzing Politics, Media and the Law,” and shared stories from his book The Oath, which examines the ideological war between the Obama administration and the Roberts
Supreme Court. A robust question and answer session followed. Prior to the lecture, Marist journalism and political science students met privately with Mr. Toobin, discussing current political and legal issues, trends in journalism, and the transformation of the media industry.

The 2nd annual Handel-Krom Lecture in Hudson River Valley history and culture took place on October 10 and featured the preeminent scholar of the Dutch in the Americas. Dr. Jaap Jacobs of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland discussed 17th century Dutch settler perceptions of the Hudson River Valley in his talk, “Spacious and Broad, Clear and Deep: The Hudson River and Dutch Colonization.” On October 23, Major James Golby, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of American Politics, Policy & Strategy at the U.S. Military Academy, gave a talk entitled “Listening to the Generals: How Military Officers Shape Public Opinion.” On October 29, Yossi Klein Halevi, contributing editor of the New Republic and a senior fellow at Jerusalem’s Shalom Hartman Institute, delivered the 37th annual William and Sadie Effron Lecture in Jewish Studies. On November 13, Michael Greenberger, Professor of Law at the University of Maryland and former Director of the Division of Trading and Markets at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, spoke on derivatives, the Dodd-Frank law, and the future of financial regulation. The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies’ speaker series included presentations by Associate Professor of Philosophy Andrei Buckareff, Sheila Lintott of Bucknell University, Brad Weslake of the University of Rochester, and Jada Strabbing of Fordham University.

On October 24, a large crowd was in attendance to hear former Major League Baseball player and manager Bobby Valentine, who was a guest of the Center for Sports Communication. Valentine is perhaps best known for his six years managing the New York Mets, including leading the team against the New York Yankees in the 2000 World Series. He also managed the Texas Rangers and Boston Red Sox. Mr. Valentine currently works as an analyst for the MLB Network and as executive athletic director for Sacred Heart University. Other School of Communication & the Arts guests included FOX Business Network host Stuart Varney; Emmanuel Tchividjian, senior vice president and chief ethics officer at Ruder Finn, who spoke on storytelling as a tool for exploring ethics; Michael O’Looney, managing director and head of corporate communications for Barclays PLC in the Americas; Katherine Cain, public relations manager at Gap/Old Navy; Lindsey Marshall, research director at Ketchum PR; and Patrick Burek, managing associate at Finn Partners.
The arts were also well represented on campus in the fall. In October, the annual Marist faculty exhibition featured a rare 6th century bronze Greek Corinthian helmet on loan from a New York City-based collector. In addition, the Art and Art History Department inaugurated its “Leaders in Creativity” series by hosting renowned painter Pamela Talese. Known primarily for her work throughout New York City, Talese has recently focused her talent on the region’s maritime industries, namely warehouses on the waterfront and ships that come to the Brooklyn Navy Yard for painting and repair. Her 2009 exhibition Rust Never Sleeps: Corrosion and Renewal in Maritime/Industrial New York included paintings of waterfront industrial sites and working-class neighborhoods.

In November, an exhibition in the Steel Plant Gallery highlighted the creative work of Professor of Art Jim Luciana and Ed Smith, Art Gallery Director and Professor of Art. In addition, internationally acclaimed artist Alastair Strachan of Glasgow Kelvin College was in residence on the Marist campus for a week, meeting with students and delivering lectures. His visit marked the launch of the Art and Art History Department’s faculty exchange program. As part of this new program, a Marist art faculty member will be hosted by Glasgow Kelvin College for a week-long visit this spring. Finally, fall theatre productions of the Marist Theatre Program/Marist College Council on the Theatre Arts included a dinner production of Death on Broadway; a mainstage play, Agatha Christie’s And Then There Were None; and the musical Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

Marist Institute for Public Opinion (MIPO)

MIPO continues its work with multiple media partners on local, state, and national surveys. Most recently, they conducted a major poll of the public’s view of the George Washington Bridge controversy and its impact on New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. The poll received major coverage around the nation and was featured on NBC’s Today Show and Meet the Press and on MSNBC’s Morning Joe.

MIPO has continued its collaboration with NBC 4 New York and The Wall Street Journal to track public opinion in New York City. The partnership was established in 2013 to gauge voter opinion during New York City’s mayoral primaries and general election, and was spot on in predicting Bill de Blasio as the winner of both the Democratic primary and general election. MIPO Director Lee Miringoff and other members of the Marist Poll team provided election night analysis and commentary for NBC 4 New York and WCBS Newsradio 880. The NBC 4 New York/Wall Street Journal/Marist Poll is now looking ahead to the de Blasio administration, most recently
measuring voters’ expectations about the incoming administration, as well as their opinions about outgoing Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s job performance and legacy.

In New York State politics, Marist student pollsters spent the fall semester asking New Yorkers about their state’s economy, government, direction, and the job performances of U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand. During the spring semester, MIPO will continue to gauge the public’s perception of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s job performance and assess his prospects for re-election later this year.

Looking beyond New York’s borders, MIPO has also renewed its partnership with NBC News to poll key contests in the 2014 mid-term elections. During the past election season, MIPO worked with the network to survey the hotly contested governor’s race in Virginia, accurately identifying Terry McAuliffe as the state’s next governor. Nationally, the Marist Poll will continue to partner with the McClatchy News Service to gauge the mood of Americans on a variety of subjects. In surveys completed this past fall, the McClatchy-Marist Poll tracked the approval ratings of President Obama and Congress and gauged public opinion on the economy, federal budget, sequestration, and the 2016 presidential election.

In addition to political polling, the Marist Poll also presented the results of one of its most popular questions, namely, the most annoying word or phrase in conversation. The so-called “whatever poll” again made local and national news, with the story appearing on NBC’s Today Show, CBS radio, and the Fox News ticker on 6th Avenue in Manhattan. Other pop culture topics surveyed during 2013 include MIPO’s annual New Year’s resolutions poll.

MIPO’s next project is an update of its website with a special emphasis on social media and video production. Last semester, MIPO added to its archive a new video production commemorating the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination. A View from the Band: Coming of Age and the JFK Assassination profiled journalist and Marist Poll contributor John Sparks, who as a teenager played “Hail to the Chief” in Dallas on the morning Kennedy was assassinated. MIPO held several screenings of the film for members of the Marist community.

On November 16, MIPO celebrated its 35th anniversary in great style. The day began with tours of the its state-of-the-art polling center, broadcast facility, and office suite in the Hancock Center. Later, more than 230 guests (including many MIPO alumni)
attended a dinner in the newly-renovated Student Center where guests mingled, shared “war stories,” and enjoyed a 20-minute photo montage highlighting some of MIPO’s greatest moments. The evening ended with a live performance in the Nelly Goletti Theatre by the Capitol Steps, a renowned comedy troupe that pokes fun at politicians on both sides of the aisle. MIPO has always followed political trends independently, scientifically, and accurately, and they have played an important role not only for Marist, but also for our democracy as a whole. The anniversary festivities continue in New York City on March 13, when the Office of College Advancement will host a panel discussion moderated by Lee Miringoff and Director of the Marist Poll Barbara Carvalho. The event will take place at the Paley Center for Media and will focus on the state of politics and polling today. Congratulations to the entire MIPO team on 35 years of polling excellence!

**Technology supporting teaching and learning**

Our success with the Open Academic Analytics Initiative (OAAI) continues to draw positive attention. As you recall, OAAI created an open-source academic progress early alert system to help students at risk of failing a course. When the EDUCAUSE Next Generation Learning Challenges program released its final evaluation report to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, OAAI was one of only eight projects (out of 20 funded) to show significant positive average effects. In addition, OAAI was the only project in the “Learning Analytics” category to be highlighted by a case study in EDUCAUSE’s final report. Because of the project’s success, Josh Baron, Senior Academic Technology Officer and Principal Investigator for OAAI, was invited to present our work at the 2013 EDUCAUSE conference in Anaheim, California.

Building on our initial success with OAAI, we have been pursuing new research in learning analytics. Over the fall semester, OAAI researchers Eitel Lauria, Associate Professor and Graduate Director of Information Systems, and Sandeep Jayaprakash, Learning Analytics Specialist, partnered with MPA faculty Jim Melitski, Associate Professor of Public Administration, Jay Bainbridge, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, and Anne Zahradnik, Assistant Professor of Health Care Administration to customize OAAI’s predictive model for eight MPA courses. Because these courses are both online and at the graduate level, they represent a shift from previous OAAI research. Like the prior work, however, the predictive model can be used to quickly identify which students risk not completing a course. Data from these pilots is being analyzed now with the goal of publishing the research outcomes in the spring. Additional improvements to
the OAAI predictive model are also being made using new data from our Admission database, which may further enhance its predictive power.

As a result of our innovative OAAI work, Academic Technology & eLearning was recently invited by the White House and the United States Department of Education to attend DataJam, held earlier this month on the campus of Harvard University. Josh and Sandeep had the opportunity to network with peers from Stanford, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Yale, and Harvard to brainstorm about national learning analytics initiatives and engage in early prototyping work through a related “hack-a-thon.” Josh and Sandeep were also invited to attend the White House’s Education “Datapalooza,” which highlighted education innovators on January 15 in Washington, D.C.

Another great example of the College’s use of technology to enhance teaching and learning is the Open Academic Environment (OAE) project. OAE is the next generation cloud-ready platform for academic collaboration that leverages academic networking, predictive analytics, and powerful content-sharing capabilities. In September, Marist, Cambridge University (UK), and Georgia Institute of Technology launched the first-ever pilot of such a system, which allows students and faculty across all three institutions to collaborate and share resources. This pilot also includes the use of OAE to help Marist study-abroad students share global fashion trends, using “public” OAE group sites to post images of the latest street trends in Paris, London, Hong Kong, and New York City. This early pilot work will inform the launch of a Fashion Academic Community Cloud in the spring semester. The Fashion Cloud will also include a new student-created fashion Massive Open Online Course, commonly known as a MOOC.

Academic Technology and eLearning has continued to expand the use of Quality Matters (QM) to maintain the College’s national leadership position in the field of distance education. Reba-Anna Lee, Associate Director of Academic Technology and eLearning, recently completed coursework to become a Master Course Reviewer for QM external reviews. A spring QM institute is planned for March. Additionally, the School of Management has had four core courses successfully pass the external QM review and is submitting three more for the spring semester.

We also continue to strengthen Marist’s international reputation in the use of instructional technology. This past fall, Josh Baron presented at the IBM Higher Education Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa; the summit was attended by
representatives from the University of South Africa, the Ministry of Public Administration, and a range of corporate leaders. While in South Africa, Josh also traveled to the University of Cape Town to provide an overview of Marist’s work in the area of learning analytics.

**Faculty and staff accomplishments**

Marist professors continue to engage in significant scholarship, adding to the body of knowledge in their respective fields. Associate Professor of History Sally Dwyer-McNulty’s book *Common Threads: A Cultural History of Clothing in American Catholicism* will be published by the University of North Carolina Press this spring. In her book, Sally traces the symbolic and practical significance of clothing within American Catholic culture from the early 19th century to the present day. Incorporating both images and extensive archival research in its approach to school uniforms, clerical garb, and nuns’ habits, *Common Threads* argues that clothing has functioned as a crucial means of community identity and communication for Catholics in this country.

In September, Associate Professor of Political Science JoAnne Myers’s book *The Historical Dictionary of the Lesbian & Gay Liberation Movements* was published by Scarecrow Press/Rowman & Littlefield. With more than 1,000 entries, the dictionary includes ideas, events, legal actions, and important individuals in the history of a hard-fought struggle for equal rights. JoAnne has also been selected to join the editorial board of the journal *Politics and Gender* (published by Cambridge University Press) this coming March. In other book news, Professor of Psychology Linda Dunlap’s 2008 book *Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education: Birth to Age Five* has been translated into Korean by its publisher, Pearson.

Congratulations also go out to Scholar in Residence Brother Seán Sammon, who has published a revised version of *A Heart That Knew No Bounds: The Life and Mission of Saint Marcellin Champagnat*. Brother Seán continues to be a prolific writer on matters of faith and spirituality. His two latest articles are “Religious Life May Be Diminished, But It Is Surely Not Dying,” published in *Human Development*, and “Changing US Culture, the World of Young Catholics, and the Promotion of Vocations to Religious Life,” which will appear this spring in *Horizon* magazine. Brother Seán has made a significant impact on our students through his personal interactions and mentoring. He also continues to serve on Marist’s Board of Trustees, which recently designated him chair of the Board’s Academic Affairs Committee.
Congratulations to Allison Friedman, Counselor at the College’s Health and Wellness Center, Assistant Professor of English Lea Graham, and Professor of English Judith Saunders, whose work was featured in *A Slant of Light: Contemporary Women Writers of the Hudson Valley*, a compilation of short essays and poems. This collection celebrates the prose and poetry of more than 100 women in the Hudson River Valley region and is divided into five sections addressing different themes in women’s lives. The volume was recently honored with a 2013 USA Best Book Award in the category of Fiction: Anthologies.

Professor of Management Helen Rothberg will be writing a quarterly column, “Ask Helen,” for *Competitive Intelligence* magazine. The only subscription publication focused solely on this topic, *Competitive Intelligence* is published by The Strategic and Competitive Intelligence Professionals, a global non-profit membership organization for those involved in creating and managing business knowledge. Helen is an internationally-recognized scholar on strategic and competitive intelligence, and her most recent book, *From Knowledge to Intelligence*, which she co-wrote with G. Scott Erickson, was published by Routledge in 2011. Congratulations!

Professor of Psychology Bill Van Ornum is a regular contributor to *America: The National Catholic Weekly*. His latest column, in the magazine’s November 18 edition, features an interview with Sergei Krushchev, son of former Soviet premier Nikita Krushchev. The article is a fascinating read that gives another perspective on one of the most important figures of the Cold War.

Congratulations to Director of Archives and Special Collections John Ansley, who received a $39,494 grant from the New York State Education Department Grant Program for the Conservation and Preservation of Library Research Materials. This project will focus on preserving and digitizing the Hudson River Environmental Society (HRES) Collection. HRES was founded in 1970 and is one of New York State’s most active environmental organizations, founded to foster research on the Hudson River environment and coastal areas, provide a forum for communication and cooperation among researchers, make the results of environmental research available to the public, and showcase the region’s natural heritage. John’s total grant awards for preserving and improving access to Marist’s collections now total more than $630,000.
Associate Professor of History David Woolner was a featured speaker at the Columbia University Seminar on Full Employment, held at Columbia’s Faculty House in October. He also had editorial pieces published in The Huffington Post this fall and was the featured guest for a one-hour program on Wisconsin Public Radio on January 6, the 73rd anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt’s “Four Freedoms Speech.” The program examined the relevance of the Four Freedoms today. David also gave an interview in September to BBC News Persia that aired on the November 28 anniversary of the 1943 Teheran Conference between Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin.

In September, Assistant Professor of Media Arts Karen Schrier directed the launch of an innovative project called the Play Innovation Lab (www.playinnovationlab.com). PlayLab (as it’s known informally) is a consortium of Marist students and alumni who collaborate on projects for the Marist, local, and global communities. They design and research a variety of digital and non-digital media experiences, including card and board games, mobile apps and games, and websites. PlayLab’s mission is to use playful media to help support learning, civic engagement, community interaction, and ethics. Karen’s work in interactive media and game design was recently highlighted in Animation Career Review, an online source for aspiring animation, design, and gaming professionals seeking information on educational opportunities, software and technology, career profiles, and profiles of leading companies in the field.

Joe Weglarz, Executive Director of Student Financial Services, has been chosen to serve a one-year term as president of the Northeast Association of Student Employment Administrators (NEASEA). NEASEA is a not-for-profit organization working to enhance the field of student employment, assist members with program development, and create professional connections. Congratulations to Joe for being recognized as a leader in his field!

**Student achievements**

Marist students are participating in a variety of experiences to prepare them for their lives and careers after graduation. North Road Communications is a student-run public relations firm that now has four non-profit clients: Family Services, Sprout Creek Farm, the Beacon Arts Community Association, and the Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference. The firm’s mission is to provide quality work for clients and a hands-on learning experience for our public relations students. There are
currently 20 students in North Road Communications, led by sophomores Mary Kate Mulhauser and Maria Gironas. The firm works on press releases, flyers, social media plans, branded YouTube channels, public relations plans, on-site event assistance, and more.

Also in November, Elizabeth Grisafi ’15 and Elizabeth Hamberger ’14 presented their work with English as a Second Language (ESL) students at the conference of the New York State Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages in White Plains. The students’ co-presenter was Karen Tomkins-Tinch, Coordinator of International Student Programs in our Center for Multicultural Affairs. The paper, “Innovative Approaches to Curriculum-Wide Support for ESL Writing Students,” described Marist’s innovative use of specially-trained, in-class peer tutors to help international students in a college writing course. They shared feedback provided by the students while offering their own personal reflections about serving as peer tutors.

The Marist Ethics Team has again won a bid for the National Ethics Bowl, to be held in February in Jacksonville, Florida. The team earned this honor by successfully competing in the Northeast Regional Ethics Bowl in November. Among the 28 teams competing from the Northeast, Marist placed in the top four. Good luck to the Ethics Team and our thanks to their advisor, Associate Professor of Management Joanne Gavin, for her continued good work.

Marist students have also been working closely with faculty to conduct cutting-edge research in the area of software defined networking (SDN) and OpenFlow, which builds intelligence into data networks by adding the ability to have a central point of control via an open standard. In October, the Marist team traveled to Germany to present its work at the SDN & OpenFlow World Congress in Bad Homburg. Congratulations to students Junaid Kapadia ’13, Zachary Meath ’16, Mary Miller ’16, and Devin Young ’14; faculty members Senior Professional Lecturer of Computer Science and Information Technology Robert Cannistra, Assistant Professor of Computer Science Benjamin Carle, and Professional Lecturer of Computer Science and Information Technology & Systems Matthew Johnson; IBM Distinguished Engineer Casimer DeCusatis; and Marist-IBM Joint Study Project Managers Howard Baker and Greg Lacey. Over the winter break, the team received new funding from software company Plexxi, and they will begin a new joint study project during the spring. The School of Computer Science & Mathematics’ pioneering work in SDN and OpenFlow has previously been supported by IBM Faculty Awards and funding from ADVA Optical Networking.
In November, Marist computer science students bested students from MIT and the University of Pennsylvania in Morgan Stanley’s 48-hour “Multi-School Hack-a-thon.” A hack-a-thon is an event in which a large number of people meet to engage in collaborative computer programming. During the competition, teams of students were given the same programming problem to solve, and they had 48 hours to implement and compare the results obtained from their solutions. Besting many formidable opponents, Antony Liang ’16 and Stanley Yang ’16 won first place in the contest, followed by fellow sophomores Aaron Kippins, Mary Miller, and Zachary Meath, who won second place. Congratulations to all of our students for representing the College so well!

Marist’s commitment to serving the community

Marist students, faculty and staff reaffirmed their commitment to serving others during November Hunger Month activities and through the annual Giving Tree project in December. The College’s yearly Hunger Walk took place on October 30 and was attended by 814 people. In addition, faculty and staff donated more than 100 boxes of food for the needy. In total, nearly $10,000 was collected to support the good work of Dutchess Outreach in our community. The 2013 Giving Tree was also a great success, providing 28 local families with Christmas presents and making their holiday season much brighter. The members of Theta Delta Chi also pitched in at Christmastime, providing key logistical support to Mental Health America of Dutchess County with their annual wreath sale. The sale raises much-needed funds for the organization’s programs and services.

Marist continues to be deeply involved in the local community, partnering with other organizations to fulfill our mission to be of service. In a unique public/private partnership, Marist, IBM, and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library teamed up to make the Library’s archives more accessible to researchers from around the world. The result was FRANKLIN, an open-source virtual research room and digital repository that provides free access to the vast digitized collections of the Roosevelt Library. The new system even allows for document-level text search using IBM Content Manager, making it extremely user-friendly. FRANKLIN was created on a technology platform built by Marist’s Information Technology (IT) Department and is the latest example of Marist’s longtime partnership with the FDR Library. As many of you know, the College has long hosted their digital archives, but they can now be much more easily searched and accessed. The FRANKLIN launch was reported by The Poughkeepsie Journal,
WAMC radio, YNN cable news, and Cablevision’s *Neighborhood News*, and was enthusiastically received by the academic community in numerous blog posts and on social media.

In October, the College joined with Walkway Over the Hudson to launch a new Mobile Web Tour, which was created by the College’s IT Department. The tour includes 36 stops, where visitors scan a QR code into their smartphones to hear a narrated audio clip. This audio-visual tour greatly enhances their visit to Poughkeepsie’s newest landmark. Vice President for Information Technology/CIO Bill Thirsk spoke at the press event, and student workers involved in the project had the chance to speak with the media and demonstrate the tour for the press and public. Coverage of the tool and Marist’s vital role in its development appeared in *The Poughkeepsie Journal, Hudson Valley* magazine, and on WAMC public radio and YNN cable news.

In December, Marist played host to *The Poughkeepsie Journal*’s community forum on drinking water quality. Fittingly, the event was held at the College’s Historic Cornell Boathouse, located between Poughkeepsie’s Water Treatment Facility and the Hudson River that is the source of much of our area’s drinking water. There was an informative discussion by expert panelists from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Dutchess County government, and environmental consultants from Chazen Companies. *Poughkeepsie Journal* reporters moderated the panel discussion, which included extensive public comment and questions. Marist was pleased to have provided a public forum to discuss this important topic.

**Athletics**

In fall sports, Marist’s football team had a terrific season, finishing in a tie with Butler University for first place in the Pioneer Football League (PFL). Both Butler and Marist went 7-1 in PFL play, with Marist finishing 8-3 overall. Kudos to defensive end Terrence Fede ’14, who was named PFL defensive Player of the Year; Terrence was also named an All-American in the Football Conference Subdivision by the Associated Press. In addition, Head Coach Jim Parady was designated PFL Coach of the Year. Our congratulations to all the members of the football team for an outstanding year!

Women’s volleyball went 14-4 in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) and 20-8 overall, finishing the season with a share of the MAAC regular season title. Unfortunately, the team lost to Fairfield in the finals of the MAAC championship.
Men's cross country finished sixth at the MAAC Championships, while the women placed third.

In winter sports, the men's basketball squad is currently at 6-12 overall and 3-5 in the MAAC. On December 15, they had their first win under Head Coach Jeff Bower, beating the College of Charleston by a score of 69-62. The men's basketball team won five straight games from December 15 through January 6, their longest winning streak in six years.

The women's basketball team has started strong at 14-5 overall and 8-1 in MAAC play. On December 20, they defeated nationally-ranked Oklahoma 76-69 at the McCann Center. It was our women's first home win against a nationally-ranked team and one of the best victories in the history of Marist athletics. In other news, men's swimming and diving is 7-2 overall and 4-1 in MAAC competition, while the women's swimming and diving team is 8-1 overall and 5-0 in the MAAC. Both teams defeated the Atlantic Coast Conference's Boston College on January 18.

**Information technology**

We continue to develop our own business unit to offer external organizations the same open-source educational software we use for teaching and learning at Marist. Delivered through the cloud, organizations can take advantage of advanced collaboration and learning tools, portal-based communication capabilities, content storage and provisioning, subscription management, instructional and training design, web management, and help desk support. To date, this business unit has six customers and one contract pending. This enterprise will reduce costs for customers by eliminating their need to juggle a vast array of solution providers and manage multiple platforms.

Marist faculty and students worked with our longtime partner IBM on an important new tool for quickly and easily routing IT resources away from potentially disabling storms (such as Superstorm Sandy). This invention is one of the first major products to come out of our New York State Center for Cloud Computing and Analytics, and it was developed by Robert Cannistra, Senior Professional Lecturer of Computer Science and Information Technology, and IBM Distinguished Engineer Casimer DeCusatis. The team's new tool would allow a data center operator to quickly and easily move data and applications to another data center outside the danger zone from a remote location using a tablet or smartphone. Computer science students Mary Miller '16 and
Zachary Meath '16 worked on the project, and their photos were featured in many of the media stories, which included The Wall Street Journal and its sister website All Things D, The Poughkeepsie Journal, and major industry publications such as Crucial CIO, Converge Network Digest, DataCenter Dynamics, and Cloud Pro.

Technology infrastructure upgrades

Related to our $3 million New York State cloud computing grant, IT has installed two IBM PureFlex Systems on campus, one located in the Donnelly Hall Data Center and the other in the Hancock Data Center. IBM PureFlex is a new family of expert integrated systems that make implementing and applying the power of IT simpler, faster, and more effective. We also installed two IBM PureData for Analytics, a data appliance that simplifies and optimizes performance of data services for analytic applications, enabling very complex algorithms to run in a fraction of the time required without the appliance.

During the fall semester, IT undertook several initiatives to strengthen Marist’s computing infrastructure and better prepare us for emergency situations. Most notably, we acquired a large capacity portable generator to provide the Donnelly Data Center with an electricity source in the event of a power outage. As part of this work, IT also added additional batteries to the Donnelly Data Center Uninterruptable Power Supply, which will give the Data Center enough backup power to keep services up and running until the portable generator can be moved into position and activated.

We have also strengthened Marist’s Sakai infrastructure to better support an anticipated half-dozen MOOCs planned in 2014. Specifically, we added an additional application server to the infrastructure used to run these courses. The load will now be split across the two servers, balancing the significant computing resources required. With the addition of the second application, updates can now be applied to one server while the other addresses customer requests, thus reducing the number of service outages needed.

IT has also begun implementing the infrastructure for 3D printing, a process by which a three-dimensional object is “printed” using heated materials. This technology is known as assistive manufacturing, and it is extremely cutting-edge. In the spring semester, the Fashion Program is running a course utilizing a Cube X 3D printer and Autodesk’s Maya 3D modeling software.
We have continued to enhance wireless coverage around campus. New outdoor access points were mounted around Tenney Stadium, improving wireless coverage there and providing higher-speed access to attendees of sporting events. Additionally, we launched a guest wireless network called GoRedFoxes for use in the McCann Center, providing complimentary and easy-to-use service. We also enhanced wireless coverage for the Cornell and Marist Boathouses, creating more reliable and higher-speed connections. Finally, we installed a high-density wireless coverage plan in the renovated Student Center to accommodate our new Dining Hall and all of the other student areas.

The Hancock TelePresence room is being used by offices across the College to enhance collaboration, save time and money, and help the planet. The room was used for Florence student orientation, as well as by the Office of Admission for a “virtual” board committee meeting. In addition, the Marist/IBM Joint Study team met virtually with representatives of the University of Baghdad. The TelePresence room has also been a valuable resource for the local community. Most recently, executives from St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital, the Greater Newburgh Partnership, Orange County Community College, Mount Saint Mary College, and the Newburgh Enlarged School District gathered in the TelePresence room to learn about Cisco’s Smart + Connected Communities program, focusing on physical security throughout the city of Cornwall. Environmentally speaking, the 14 TelePresence sessions held in 2013 eliminated approximately 37,500 pounds of air travel carbon dioxide emissions and provided an estimated travel savings of $50,000.

**College Advancement**

I am pleased to report that our fundraising efforts continue to enjoy success, and we are grateful to the individuals and foundations that so generously support Marist. This fiscal year to date, the College has secured more than $7.1 million in new gifts and pledges from all sources. This figure includes more than $5.3 million in private support and nearly $1.8 million for academic research and sponsored programs.

Two longtime Marist faculty members who wish to remain anonymous have generously pledged $100,000 to establish a summer internship program for students involved in the College’s new Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership. The gift was made in honor of Marie Tarver, a respected community leader, and her late husband Rupert, a renowned civil rights pioneer in the Hudson River Valley. The program will support up to three undergraduate interns each summer beginning in 2014 and continuing
through the summer of 2018 (with the potential for renewal). Marie and Rupert Tarver interns will work under the guidance of a Marist faculty member in eight-week, three-credit independent study arrangements. As an integral component of their internship experience, students will affiliate with an approved nonprofit organization in the Hudson River Valley during the summer term. We are extremely grateful to these longtime faculty members for their distinguished service to the College and for their generous support of this new initiative honoring Marist’s historic commitment to community engagement.

I would like to thank Trustee Pat Lavelle ’73 for the generous in-kind support he provided to enhance Marist’s new Multipurpose Academic Building and renovated Student Center. Pat, who serves as President and CEO of Voxx International Corporation, facilitated a significant gift of state-of-the-art speakers and other audio equipment from Klipsch, a premier Voxx brand. This high-quality equipment will serve our students and faculty well for many years to come. We are grateful to Pat and his wife Patty ’74 for their extraordinary support of Marist over the years.

I would also like to acknowledge the trustees of The Jane W. Nuhn Charitable Trust for their generous support of the College. The Trust recently awarded Marist a $60,000 grant to purchase new equipment for our rowing program, including a new shell for the men’s team and a trailer to transport shells and other rowing equipment for both men’s and women’s crew. The gift was made in memory of longtime friend of the College Noel “Buzz” DeCordova, Jr. Buzz was a great supporter of the College during his lifetime and an enthusiastic fan of Marist crew. He rowed crew for Cornell University and had a deep passion for the sport.

The trustees of the Dr. Edwin A. Ulrich Charitable Trust have our thanks for their continued support of scholarships at Marist. The Trust’s recent gift of $30,000 provides critical scholarship assistance to business and fine art majors from the Hudson River Valley, as well as to outstanding music students. With their latest grant, the Trust’s cumulative giving to the College has reached $550,000. Dr. Ulrich was a great friend to Marist during his lifetime, and the Ulrich Trustees had the opportunity to meet this year’s scholarship recipients during their annual board meeting in the Dyson Center’s Dr. Edwin A. Ulrich Room.

I’m pleased to report that the Lavelle Fund for the Blind has renamed its College Scholarship Program in memory of Trustee Brother Jim Kearney, who passed away last
year. Brother Jim served on the Lavelle Fund Board since its inception in 1999 and chaired its Scholarship Committee. Since 2010, the Lavelle Fund for the Blind has provided more than $50,000 in scholarship support for blind or visually impaired students at Marist. Brother Jim was a beloved member of the Marist family since his graduation from the College in 1953, serving as a respected teacher and administrator for many years and as a member of our Board from 1971 to 2013. In the finest traditions of the Marist Brothers, he dedicated his life to teaching and service, and he will always be remembered by those fortunate enough to have known him.

Dan Curtin and Gary Koch, trustees of the Louis Greenspan Charitable Trust, have my sincere thanks for the Trust’s recent commitment of $100,000 to support the renovation of Marist’s Student Center. In recognition of this generous gift, the College will name the Dining Hall Entry Lounge, an important gathering space for students and the gateway to our stunning new Dining Hall, in memory of Louis Greenspan. Lou was a longtime friend of the College who was the original contractor for the McCann Center. Regrettably, last month we also lost Hy Greenspan, Lou’s brother. Hy and Elaine Greenspan have been longtime supporters of Marist, and he will be missed.

Friends of the College Raymond and Charmayne Ealy recently made a generous commitment to endow The Lily R. Ealy Southern California Endowment Fund. The fund is named in memory of Ray’s mother and was created to provide support for economically-disadvantaged students from Los Angeles and the immediate suburbs. The College greatly appreciates the Ealys’ thoughtful gift, which will provide crucial support for the growing number of deserving Marist students from Southern California.

Planned gifts in all forms – bequests, trusts, gift annuities, and beneficiary designations – continue to be an important part of our effort to strengthen the College’s financial resources for the future. On October 26, I was pleased to recognize vital partners in this effort by hosting a breakfast for the founding members of the Marist Legacy Society. It is a great testament to Marist to see all segments of our community represented in the Society, including trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, college retirees, parents, and friends. We extend our sincere thanks to the founding members for their leadership and generous support of the College. Marilyn and I are honored to be part of the Legacy Society and hope others will consider joining us in remembering Marist in their estate plans.

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News from the Marist Fund

The Marist Fund supports much-needed scholarships, upgrades to technology and library resources, and student life initiatives that benefit the entire student body. I’d like to thank Trustee Genine McCormick ’88 and her husband Michael ’88 for the commitment they’ve always shown to this unrestricted operating fund. The McCormicks have contributed to the fund every year since they graduated and, most recently, they made a $25,000 gift towards the 2014 Marist Fund. Genine served as last year’s National Marist Fund Chair, and she and Michael were Co-chairs of the Alumni Division.

Our thanks to Trustee Chris McCann ’83, who has taken over as National Marist Fund Chair for 2014. Under Chris’ leadership, the campaign is progressing well and currently stands at 59 percent of its overall goal of $1.4 million. The Alumni Division, led by Alumni Co-chairs Chris and Kathy McCann ’83/’83, has secured 67 percent of its divisional goal. The 2014 Parent Campaign is again being led by Margaret Luberda P’15; this past fall, more than 1,400 families supported the Parent Campaign with gifts and pledges of nearly $170,000. This year’s Campus Campaign will be led by School of Communication & the Arts Internship Director Gerry McNulty. He and the committee will kick off their campaign in February. In addition, our dedicated Marist phonathon students have secured more than 2,750 Marist Fund pledges so far this fiscal year. Through their efforts, 20 percent of the donors they solicited have increased their Marist Fund giving.

This past fall, the Hudson Valley Scholars Program kicked off its campaign with its annual “Meet & Greet” reception. This event gives business donors the opportunity to meet their student scholarship recipients and allows students to thank their benefactors for the important financial support they provide. A dedicated committee of local volunteers is led by Co-chairs Robert Ranieri, Jr. ’92 of Rose and Kiernan, Inc. and Jen Dunn of the Jen Dunn Agency, State Farm Insurance. Together, the Business Division has raised more than $60,000 in scholarship support for local Marist students and is currently at 44 percent of its division goal. We appreciate all of the volunteers’ great work on behalf of the College!

Special events

On September 21, more than 100 scholarship benefactors, student recipients, and guests gathered for the first-ever “Celebration of Scholarships” luncheon. The purpose of
the event was to bring together donors who support permanently endowed scholarship funds with the Marist students who benefit from their generosity. The program emphasized the importance of providing scholarships and financial aid to deserving students and the College’s great appreciation for our donors’ generosity. Philippa Hatch ’14, a double major in fashion design and fashion merchandising, delivered a keynote address and shared how receiving the Patrick J. Donaghy Scholarship award allowed her to return to campus for her senior year to complete her degree.

During the fall semester, alumni and friends from the Class of 1971 came together to dedicate the string ensemble room in the new Multipurpose Academic Building in recognition of their 40th reunion legacy gift. Thanks to a special capping gift made anonymously by a class member, the fundraising total for the “Gift of Music” reached its stretch goal, which was aptly set at $71,000. My thanks to the entire committee, which was ably led by Class of 1971 alumni Terry Mooney, John Murphy, and Steve Wysowski. We are grateful for their outstanding leadership and support of this special initiative.

In October, Marist celebrated Homecoming and Reunion weekend by welcoming more than 1,500 visitors to campus. Visitors to the Alumni Family Picnic enjoyed a horse-drawn hayride, face painting, inflatable rides for children, and a reunion tent with designated meeting areas for each reunion class. Alumni were also treated to the Marist football team’s shutout victory over Valparaiso. In the evening, more than 600 alumni celebrating milestone reunions participated in evening celebrations throughout the Hudson River Valley.

The fifth annual Theatre Hall of Fame induction ceremony honored Paul Tesoro ’73, Suzanne (Deak) Wittig ’76, Edwin Budd ’93, and Christopher Yapchanyk ’01. At the second annual alumni awards presentation, Ryan Bingham ’05 received the Marist College Young Alumnus Award; Maria Gordon Shydlo ’87 was honored with the Marist College Distinguished Service Award; and Brother Sean Sammon, FMS ’70 accepted the Dr. Linus Richard Foy ’50 Outstanding Alumnus Award on behalf of Brother Richard Rancourt, FMS ’53. Members of the Alumni Association Executive Board personally presented Brother Richard with his award at the Champagnat Residence in the Bronx on December 11. On Sunday, the men’s crew program held a ceremony at the Historic Cornell Boathouse to dedicate and christen a new racing shell, the Harry A. Manley. Crew alumni from the 1970s received the right to name the shell for winning the first-
ever Decades Cup Challenge. Please save the date for Homecoming and Reunion Weekend 2014, which will take place October 10-12.

In other news, Marist alumni from around the country were invited to participate in a complimentary two-part financial literacy webinar series featuring Brian Haughey, Assistant Professor of Finance and Director of the Investment Center, and Philip LaRocco, Professional Lecturer of Accounting. Recordings of the webinars, as well as links to resources, are currently available to all alumni on the Marist website. On November 14, alumni gathered at General Electric in Stamford, Connecticut, for an interactive workshop on networking led by communication skills expert Gilda Bonanno ’93. A similar event is being planned for New Jersey in the spring. Finally, more than 50 alumni of Marist’s Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) gathered on November 21 in New York City to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the HEOP Alumni Fund. This first-of-its-kind gathering included a 50/50 raffle to raise additional resources for the fund.

Comings and goings

In September, we were pleased to welcome Larry Singleton as Dean of the School of Management. Larry comes to Marist after 29 years at the School of Business at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he served as associate dean of undergraduate programs and a member of the accounting faculty. While there, he received numerous teaching awards, as well as the George Washington Award (the university’s highest) in recognition of his exceptional contributions. Larry greatly strengthened the School of Business’ First Year Development Program, academic advising, and co-curricular programs, and dramatically increased alumni participation. He also held numerous leadership roles in George Washington University’s global, accelerated, professional, and executive programs.

Larry received his BS, MS, and Ph.D. degrees in accounting from Louisiana State University. A certified public accountant, Larry has served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Accounting Association, secretary/treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI), and as a member of HRCI’s executive and H.R. committees. He worked in the audit and national SEC practice groups of Ernst & Young LLP’s Washington office, and was a visiting professor at Grenoble École de Management in France and Peking University in China. He has also served as a consultant to many of the world’s leading organizations,
including Cisco Systems, NASDAQ, National Geographic Society, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and The World Bank. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Accounting Association, and Beta Gamma Sigma. Please join me in welcoming Larry and his wife Stephanie to the Marist community!

**Upcoming events on campus**

We have a number of terrific events planned for the spring semester. On February 20, we are excited to welcome Georgetown University professor and MSNBC commentator Michael Eric Dyson, who will speak about “Race, Racism & Race Relations in America” in the Nelly Goletti Theatre. Dr. Dyson is the author of 17 books, including the *New York Times* bestseller *April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King’s Death and How It Changed America*. This lecture is part of our year-long series entitled “Understanding Race,” which is sponsored by the School of Liberal Arts’ African Diaspora Studies Program. Also coming up this semester is the College’s 24th annual Holocaust Remembrance Program in the Nelly Goletti Theatre on April 24.

The Fourth Mid-Hudson Valley Undergraduate Philosophy Conference will again be held at Marist in April, and the keynote speaker is Dr. Catherine Wilson, the Anniversary Professor of Philosophy at the University of York. The Spring 2014 Philosophy/Religious Studies Lecture Series will include talks on February 7 by Dr. Graham Parsons, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the U.S. Military Academy, who will speak on “The Dualism of Modern Just War Theory;” Dr. Daniel Speak, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Loyola Marymount University on March 6; and Dr. Saam Trivedi, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Brooklyn College, who will speak about “Music and the Emotions” on April 24. The Department of Mathematics is also hosting a one-day undergraduate mathematics conference on campus on April 26.

In the performing arts, the Marist Theatre Program is pleased to present Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town* from March 6-9 in the Nelly Goletti Theatre. The production will be directed by Associate Professor of English Matt Andrews. Please check our online calendar for information on these and many other spring events.
In closing, I would like to thank everyone for the many accomplishments contained in this memo and wish you all an enjoyable and productive semester.

Dennis

P.S. – If you would like to receive this memo electronically in the future, please let me know. Simply send an e-mail to dennis.murray@marist.edu. Thank you.