SPRING 2018 UPDATE

from THE OFFICE of PRESIDENT YELLEN
I hope everyone is having a good semester. I would like to bring you up to date on some of the recent accomplishments and activities at Marist. It’s an exciting and dynamic time to be at the College, and I’m proud of the great work being done by our students, faculty, and staff. Thank you for everything you do to advance Marist’s mission.

MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2023
Marist’s Board of Trustees has officially approved and adopted Marist’s new Strategic Plan 2018-2023: Student Success, Innovation, and the Social Good. The plan focuses on three essential goals: Ensuring Student Success, Promoting Innovation, and Advancing the Social Good. These goals and supporting initiatives will assist us in setting operational priorities and will form the basis of the College’s annual planning and assessment process. The leaders of each academic school and department will develop plans and measure progress according to these priorities. Continuous monitoring of our performance measures, along with an ongoing review of the external environment, will allow the College the flexibility to remain responsive to changing external conditions that may not have been anticipated at the time of the plan’s drafting. In the coming weeks, a comprehensive implementation and monitoring process for the Plan will be finalized.

The development of this plan would not have been possible without the active involvement of the entire Marist community. I would like to thank Executive Vice President Geoff Brackett and Professor of English Moina Fitzgibbons for so ably co-chairing the Strategic Planning Committee, as well as all of the committee members who gave so generously of their time and insights. I invite you to view the final version of Marist’s Strategic Plan 2018-2023: Student Success, Innovation, and the Social Good at: https://strategicplan.marist.edu.

SPROUT CREEK FARM
I’m delighted to announce that Marist will now oversee the operations of Sprout Creek Farm, a beloved local institution located in LaGrange. The Farm’s Board of Directors offered to transfer control of Sprout Creek to Marist, and because we believe Sprout Creek will be an extraordinary addition to our campus facilities and educational offerings, the College agreed.
Many of you are already familiar with Sprout Creek, a 200-acre nonprofit educational farm. It is well known in the community for its award-winning cheeses, numerous educational programs, including a summer camp, and catering services, all of which will continue. Adding Sprout Creek Farm provides the College with a tremendous opportunity to establish programs for our students and faculty while continuing and enhancing the wonderful educational offerings the Farm has offered this community for more than 25 years.

With a strategic investment of resources, we intend to continue Sprout Creek’s central work – educating people to appreciate the rich agricultural heritage of the Hudson River Valley and the United States and fostering a sense of responsibility for the future of the environment. The Farm’s work aligns perfectly with Marist’s core mission of promoting innovation in higher education at the local, regional, and global levels, as well as advancing the social good by protecting the environment and encouraging students to serve their communities. In addition, a hallmark of Marist’s education structure is experiential learning, and Sprout Creek will play a key role in that endeavor by serving as a living classroom, providing hands-on learning opportunities for students in a variety of academic disciplines. As we develop our plans for Sprout Creek, we look forward to updating the college community.

**LAUNCH OF THE CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY**

Marist is firmly committed to fostering a campus climate that is welcoming to all, grounded in mutual respect, nurtured by dialogue, and characterized by civil interaction. Creating and maintaining an environment that respects individual needs, abilities, and potential is a critically important part of the College’s educational mission.

During the 2018-19 academic year, Marist will undertake a vital and relevant climate assessment. I consider this climate survey to be an investment in the College’s future, an opportunity to have a positive impact and help create a more inclusive campus. To ensure full transparency and to provide a more complete perspective, we have contracted with Rankin & Associates Consulting to help lead this effort. Rankin & Associates have conducted more than 170 campus climate assessments over the last 20 years, and their approach is based on solid academic research.

A team from Rankin & Associates will work with a committee of faculty, staff, and students led by Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement Freddy Garcia and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Addrain Conyers to develop and implement the assessment. The campus community’s participation in the survey is entirely voluntary, but I hope you will choose to participate. The results will help us to both identify areas in which inclusiveness can be improved and to replicate programs and policies that have proved successful in meeting the needs of the Marist community.

**Co-Chairs of the Climate Survey Working Group**

Freddimir Garcia ’09/04M, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Engagement

Addrain Conyers, PhD Associate Professor Department of Criminal Justice and Director of Academic Diversity & Inclusion
Marist has launched its new doctoral program in physical therapy (DPT). The first cohort of 14 DPT students began their classes on January 8 in our Allied Health Building. The DPT program received approval from the New York Board of Regents in October and has Candidate for Accreditation status from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). This 36-month, full-time program prepares students for successful careers as a physical therapists. Students learn about and experience healthcare in a variety of settings and across the lifespan, as well as ethical responsibilities, service to the community, and behavioral aspects of health. The program is designed to graduate highly-trained, ethical, and problem-solving physical therapy practitioners.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for physical therapists is at an all-time high. Employment in the profession is projected to grow 34 percent through 2024, a rate much faster than the average for all occupations. The need for physical therapy services can be attributed to the aging baby boomer population, who are staying active later in life, and the growing numbers of people with mobility issues stemming from chronic conditions such as diabetes or obesity. The DPT program’s resources include a physical therapy lab, a movement/gait research room, a simulation lab incorporating both standardized patients and high-tech manikins, and a gross anatomy lab with full dissection capabilities. The program’s eight faculty members have extensive experience in physical therapy, athletic training, kinesiology, rehabilitation sciences, and health services management. It has been in the planning stages since mid-2013 and follows the successful launch of our master’s-level physician assistant program in 2016.

OTHER ACADEMIC NEWS

On October 26, the School of Management hosted its fourth annual New York City Career Trek, a daylong event that brings undergraduates to Manhattan for site visits to various high-profile firms. This year’s list included Goldman Sachs, Ernst & Young, Ogilvy & Mather, Cisco Systems, and IBM, among many others. Students choose a particular track – such as finance, marketing, human resources, or accounting – that corresponds to an industry or area of business in which they are interested. Each group then visits two or three firms; most often, an employee who is also a Marist alumnus meets them at the door. The event gives students a valuable glimpse into the working world and paves the way for them to apply for internships and (eventually) jobs at the companies they visit. At the end of the day, all the participants attend a reception, which was held this year at the Club Quarters Hotel in Midtown Manhattan.

On November 11, Marist again played host to the Northeast Regional Ethics Bowl, a 12-hour event attracting more than 100 students from 20 colleges and universities across the Northeast. Professor of Management Joanne Gavin, who teaches business ethics and who has led Marist teams to six National Ethics Bowl appearances, led this event with help from across the Marist community. Thanks to the nearly 40 Marist faculty, staff, and alumni who served as judges and moderators during the competition. Special thanks go out to Trustee Steve Effron for providing the day’s opening remarks, in which he discussed his meeting with Nelson Mandela shortly after his release from prison. Competing teams received 15 cases in mid-September and had approximately two months to prepare for the Ethics Bowl. Two Marist teams of five students each participated alongside undergraduates from Yale University, the US Military Academy at West Point, Tufts University, Villanova University, James Madison University, and other schools. Congratulations to all!
In November, Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) Director Jim Johnson was honored by the Dutchess County Historical Society for his tireless efforts to preserve and promote Hudson River Valley history. Jim, who serves as the Dr. Frank T. Bumpus Chair in Hudson River Valley History, received the Helen Wilkinson Reynolds Award, which “recognizes the local historian who is an exemplar of the necessary and accurate search for historical truth that represents the spirit of Helen Wilkinson Reynolds.” Miss Reynolds was a writer, genealogist, preservationist, and charter member of the society. A leading historian of the American Revolution, Jim is the Military Historian of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and he has been involved in a number of major projects, including the Fort Montgomery State Historic Site and Visitor Center, the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor at New Windsor Cantonment, the Henry Knox Cannon Trail, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, and the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

In writing his book, David drew upon previously untapped sources, including a confidential memo from a physician who examined President Roosevelt in 1944, newly declassified records from the Office of Strategic Services, and a recently constructed day-to-day calendar of the president’s activities and contacts. Roosevelt is depicted as a much diminished man, often near the point of physical exhaustion, yet determined to press on and achieve the goals he set for himself, his nation, and the world. These final 100 days set in motion some of the most important and long-lasting consequences of his transformative presidency, which fundamentally changed the way American citizens view the role of government, as well as America’s role in the world.

In other faculty scholarship news, Professor of Mathematics Joe Kirtland’s book *Complementation of Normal Subgroups* has been published by De Gruyter, one of the world’s top-tier academic publishing houses. The book is an exhaustive look into a specific area of group theory, one of the major foundational areas of mathematics. Roger Norton, Dean of the School of Computer Science & Mathematics at Marist, noted the significance of this achievement. Roger added, “De Gruyter is one of the oldest and most respected academic presses in the world, and it speaks to the level of Joe’s scholarship that his work has been published there. We’re all extremely proud.”
Fashion design students Gabrielle Amaturo ‘18 and Kate Norkeliunas ‘18 were selected to compete in a two-week design competition for ABC’s Good Morning America this past fall. Given two weeks and a $50 budget, the two were tasked with “upcycling” an old wedding dress into a new, fashionable, and usable item or items. Competing against student teams from Montclair State University and Philadelphia University, the students’ work was judged by fashion industry insiders Joe Zee and Leanne Marshall. The Marist team’s finished product, an ambitiously designed ensemble that can be worn together or as separate pieces, was revealed on a segment that aired on November 24.

While Gabrielle and Kate’s design was not chosen as the winner, the judges were impressed by the vibrant all-natural dyes and the use of almost 100 percent of the wedding dress material. The contest was an extraordinary experience for Gabrielle and Kate, showcasing both their talents and the College’s Fashion Program to a national audience.

Congratulations also go out to Madeline Dintino ’20, Emma Arabia ’18, Gianna Bazzano ’18, Samantha Jablonski ’18, Ashley Werner ’18, and Katie Ahern ’20, who each received $5,000 scholarships from the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund (FSF). Our students competed in FSF’s annual case study competition, which focused this year on weaving together the digital age with non-online shopping. FSF is the fashion industry’s leading educational non-profit, granting the single largest sum of money and total number of scholarships in the entire fashion community; supplementing its financial support with a rich curriculum of comprehensive, industry-leading programs for scholars; and offering hands-on experience with the world’s top fashion companies and most influential leaders. In other news, Marist’s Fashion Program was recently included by the London-based industry publication Business of Fashion in its annual Global Fashion School Ranking of top college fashion programs in the world.

The College was ranked #38 globally and #11 in the United States.

The campus chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society, has been granted Highest Honors Chapter status. Congratulations to our students and to Associate Professor of Business Elizabeth Purinton-Johnson, who serves as the chapter’s faculty adviser. In addition, “superior status” has been conferred upon the Marist chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the international honor society for accounting, finance, and information systems students. These recognitions acknowledge the consistent and ongoing academic efforts made by both our students and the faculty. Thanks to the chapter’s faculty advisers, Professor of Accounting Don Warren and Professional Lecturer of Finance and Economics John Finnigan, for their good work.

Four juniors from the School of Management placed second overall in the inaugural International Business Case Competition at San Diego State University in October. Each team was tasked with brainstorming the best solution to an international business-related case study within a limited amount of time. Competing against mostly seniors from colleges throughout the U.S., our students bested squads from several larger institutions with strong international business reputations, including Villanova University, George Washington University, and the University of Southern California. Congratulations to Madeleine Durand, Prateek Samal, Natasha Cacho, and Yihan Wang for representing Marist so well!
Kudos to HEOP student Lenni Joya Amaya ’19, who received an Outstanding Performance award for his internship at the American Bar Association in Washington, DC. Lenni spent the fall semester at American University through the School of Liberal Arts’ Washington Semester Program. During this time, he took two seminar courses in American politics and had the opportunity to meet dignitaries such as Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and former Vice President Joe Biden. The top student out of 21 in his class, Lenni won the internship award based on feedback given by his supervisor. Lenni is pursuing a double major in political science and Spanish, and with a triple minor in global studies, Italian, and Latin American/Caribbean studies.

Finally, I’m pleased to note that Marist alumna Erin Berthold ’05 was named Connecticut’s 2018 Teacher of the Year. A first-grade teacher at Cook Hill Elementary School in Wallingford, Connecticut, Erin accepted this prestigious award on November 15 in Hartford. Erin credits her Marist education with setting her on the path to success. A digital media major, she delved into both graphic design and art history, areas of expertise that would later make her a highly effective and engaging teacher.

Inspired by her mother’s career as an educator, she went on to complete a master’s in teaching at St. Thomas Aquinas College and began working in special education and later, early childhood education. As Teacher of the Year, Erin is enjoying a whirlwind year of travel, presentations, and professional development. Her activities will even include a trip to the White House. Congratulations on this prestigious honor!

Lenni Joya Amaya ’19

Erin ’05 and Matt Berthold ’05

Through its partnership with The PBS NewsHour, The Marist Poll had the opportunity to provide in-depth data about a highly sensitive and pressing problem in the United States – opioid addiction. Indeed, The PBS NewsHour utilized the data we gathered to inform multiple stories produced for its special series, America Addicted.

Survey questions probed how serious Americans consider the problem to be and whether or not they have lost a loved one addiction. To provide additional analysis, MIPO Director Lee Miringoff participated in a Twitter chat hosted by The PBS NewsHour in October.
During the fall semester, the HBO Real Sports/Marist Poll tracked Americans’ opinions about the national anthem protests in the National Football League and the use of protective netting in Major League Baseball. To add a new dimension to its end-of-year coverage, Real Sports called upon The Marist Poll to measure opinions about the most intriguing sports stories the broadcast covered during 2017. The result was the prominent feature of The Marist Poll throughout Real Sports’ year-in-review show.

Throughout the fall semester, we continued production of The Marist Poll’s weekly podcast, Poll Hub, hosted by Lee Miringoff, Barbara Carvalho, and Director of Innovation Jay DeDapper; Mary Griffith serves as executive producer. Available for download on iTunes, Poll Hub pulls back the curtain on the most pressing issues facing public opinion research and explains the inner workings of polls. This semester, Poll Hub incorporated expert interviews, including Amy Walter, National Editor for The Cook Political Report; Amy Chozick, New York Times reporter and author; Ron Brownstein, CNN senior political analyst and Atlantic Media’s editorial director for strategic partnerships; David Lightman, veteran congressional reporter and editor for McClatchy; and Ray Robinson, the late journalist and author.

This semester, Lee is teaching a special topics course entitled “1968: The Year That Rocked American Politics.” The course will discuss the turmoil in American society in 1968 and the political implications both then and now. Distinguished guest lecturers with knowledge and insights about the era are scheduled to speak with the class. They include noted journalist and author Jeff Greenfield, who served as Robert F. Kennedy’s speechwriter; documentarian Lynn Novick, who collaborated with Ken Burns on the PBS series The Vietnam War; journalist Bob Herbert, who wrote and directed the documentary Against All Odds: The Fight For a Black Middle Class; and Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne, who is also a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution.
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

We were pleased to open the spring semester with more than 100 transfer students from nine different states (Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont) and four countries (Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, and Rwanda). These new members of the Marist community are joining us from 65 different two- and four-year institutions, and 26.1 percent of these transfer students come from ethnically diverse backgrounds. In terms of adult undergraduates, registration is ongoing and enrollment will not be finalized until March. However, early indicators are consistent with last year, and we expect to meet our budgeted goals.

In December, we mailed out more than 6,000 early decision and early action decision letters, and students from around the world are posting on social media about being admitted to Marist.

Admission staff members spent the fall semester busily engaged in efforts to recruit the Class of 2022, traveling throughout the United States, Europe, the Middle East, India, Latin America, and Asia to visit nearly 900 high schools and attend approximately 400 college fairs. Between June 1 and December 31, 2017, we welcomed more than 8,300 prospective students to campus—a record number representing an increase of about seven percent over last year. The Admission Office remained open seven days a week throughout the fall and offered several major-specific visit programs. To date, the overall freshman applicant pool stands at 10,067, a 1.2 percent decrease from last year. We anticipate receiving more than 11,000 total applications.

Our Undergraduate Admission staff members worked tirelessly to accomplish this goal before the holidays and deserve a great deal of credit for their efforts. We believe that notifying students of their admission to Marist early will better position us for the last phase of the admission cycle when students make their final decision on where to attend.

GRADUATE ADMISSION

This spring, we welcomed 141 new graduate students. Independent of the new DPT program, we exceeded overall budgeted goals by 25.7%. Consistent with the national trend, the School of Computer Science & Mathematics has experienced a significant decline in international applicants from the Middle East, China, and India. The goal for new international graduate students was four, and we enrolled six this spring. Domestic student enrollment in the Master of Science in Information Systems, Master of Science in Computer Science, and Business Analytics certificate was strong this spring, with 29 students enrolled versus a goal of 16. Both of the School of Management’s graduate programs exceeded our goal for new enrollment. The Master’s in Business Administration enrolled 29 students against a goal of 25, while the Master’s in Public Administration enrolled 42 new students against a goal of 30. This included an on-the-ground cohort of 15 students taking classes in Albany. The School of Communication & the Arts met its goal of 20 new Integrated Marketing and Communication students this spring.

In the School of Science, New York State’s approval to launch the DPT program was received on October 17, giving us only 80 days until orientation to recruit the cohort. Nonetheless, we started the semester with 14 students in the first DPT cohort. Application review for the MS in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program is well underway, and we expect to welcome 55 new PA students to campus in May to begin their studies.
NORTH CAMPUS HOUSING

On January 29, we unveiled Building D of the North Campus Housing Complex, which includes student housing, a fitness center, multipurpose space, and a dining center.

We are particularly pleased to announce that the new North Campus Dining Center houses an on-campus location for Poughkeepsie’s own Rosticceria Rossi and Sons Deli.

Rossi’s will provide some of the deli’s most popular dishes, including vodka chicken and signature sandwiches. Consistently hailed as a favorite among Marist students, Rossi’s has also been featured in BuzzFeed as a top college town restaurant and in Spoon University as “the most raved about deli in Poughkeepsie.”

As part of the largest capital project in the College’s history, the North Campus Housing Complex provides enhanced community space for students, faculty, and staff. In addition to housing residential students during the academic term, the new facilities are designed to support academic initiatives such as Marist’s summer Pre-College programs for high school students. When final landscaping is completed this summer, the lawns and open space will provide spectacular views of the Hudson River. The new complex will also make it easier for Marist to host conferences and other large-scale events, allowing the College to continue to play a key role in the region’s economic engine.

STEEL PLANT RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

Construction has continued on the Steel Plant Studios addition/renovation project. The overarching goal of this project is to provide additional space for the Fashion program and improved space for the Art & Digital Media program. The structural steel frame for the new building was

| Grand opening of the new North Campus Dining Center

| A view of the North Campus Housing Complex
completed in late January, and crews will be working through the winter to complete the concrete floors and exterior wall framing. Brick veneer and window work will start this spring. The project includes an innovative interior design scheme that will provide an outstanding working environment for the Fashion and Art & Digital Media programs. Wherever possible, our architects at Robert A.M. Stern (RAMSA) developed spaces that can be shared between Fashion and Art based on their program needs. The tentative schedule calls for the building to be complete in late August. Our current plan is to use the fall 2018 semester to move the academic programs into the building, which will allow them sufficient time to establish the classrooms and studios prior to the spaces being used for classes.

**MCCANN CENTER ADDITION**

We have continued our planning and design work on a proposed addition to the McCann Center. In addition to our architects at RAMSA, we are using the architectural firm of Hastings and Chivetta as a sub-consultant because of their extensive experience in athletic and recreational facilities in higher education. The proposed building includes a 50,000-square-foot addition to the existing McCann Center, which will replace the 25,000-square-foot fitness center built in 1997. The 1997 addition to the McCann Center will be demolished, and we will put temporary facilities in place during construction of the new building. The new fitness center in Building D and an expanded fitness center on the east side of campus will both provide students with alternative exercise space. The proposed style of the building is contemporary architecture, utilizing the master plan palette of building materials. Floor plans and program elements have now been finalized, and the project will move into the public approval stage throughout the spring semester.

This project is being supported by a $2 million grant from the James J. McCann Charitable Trust. This generous grant will allow us to improve and significantly expand the auxiliary gym and fitness center for our entire student body. The auxiliary gym is used by our Division I athletes, club sports, and for general student recreation activities throughout the year. It is an integral part of campus life, and this gift will enhance the student experience at Marist for years to come. Work on the facility is slated to begin in June. Our sincere thanks to McCann trustees Mike Gartland and Dick Corbally.

View of the Steel Plant renovations from Route 9

| View of the Steel Plant renovations from Route 9 |

Artist’s rendering of the new auxiliary gym and fitness center in McCann
COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT

The College has secured more than $6 million in new gifts and pledges from all sources this fiscal year to date, including $1.9 million for academic research and sponsored programs and $4.1 million in private support.

Trustee Jerome Pickett ’98 recently established a new endowed scholarship in memory of his mother, Doreen, who passed away last spring. The Doreen Pickett Memorial Scholarship, presently valued at nearly $55,000, includes a generous lead gift from Jerome, along with the support of many of his friends and family members. The scholarship will support deserving students pursuing a career in health care. Jerome’s mother was a registered nurse for more than 40 years, and we’re grateful to him for providing this meaningful tribute that will perpetuate her legacy of dedicated care for others.

The Marist Legacy Society, whose members have included Marist in their estate plans or established life-income gifts to benefit the College, recently welcomed new members Toni Emery ’79 and her husband Joseph Lucas, as well as Patrick Gallagher ’57 and Mary Kealoha. Plans are underway for the Legacy Society’s annual celebration and induction of new members on May 11 at the Payne Mansion. To learn more about membership in the Marist Legacy Society, please contact Joan Gambeski, Director of Gift and Legacy Planning.

Recent gifts have made possible the digitization of two unique collections. In November, we announced that friends of the College Robert Hoe and his sister Polly Diane Hoe P’13 had agreed to fund the digitization of their late father’s collection of marching-band music and memorabilia. In December, Bob, Diane, and the Robert Hoe Foundation fully funded this project through gifts totaling $100,000. We appreciate the Hoes’ generous support and the meaningful partnership they have helped to facilitate between Marist’s Archives and Special Collections and the Library of Congress, which will serve as the permanent repository for the physical collection.

Another friend of the College, Fred Bekker, donated his late brother Peter’s collection of recordings from his syndicated radio show “On Record.” The Peter Bekker Collection is a wonderful addition to our Archives and Special Collections. Fred also made a generous gift in the amount of $59,000 to underwrite the cost of digitizing all of the materials in the collection. The College is grateful to Fred for providing the resources to preserve these recordings and documents, which include interviews with notable musicians such as John Lennon, Debbie Harry, and Barry Manilow.

The trustees of the Dr. Edwin A. Ulrich Charitable Trust have continued their generous support for scholarships at Marist with a recent grant in the amount of $34,000. The trust’s latest grant will provide invaluable assistance to business and fine art majors from the Hudson River Valley, as well as to exceptional music students. With its latest contribution, the Trust’s total support for Marist approaches $685,000. The College values the opportunity to honor Dr. Ulrich’s legacy as a mentor and philanthropist. The Ulrich trustees had the opportunity to meet this year’s scholarship recipients during their annual board meeting in November on campus.

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ATHLETICS

In fall sports, Marist’s football team finished the season 4-7 overall and 3-5 in the Pioneer Football League. The women’s volleyball team went 15-16 overall and 11-7 in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play; the team finished fourth in the regular season and reached the semifinals of the MAAC volleyball championship. Women’s soccer went 8-8-3 overall and 5-3-2 in conference play, finishing fourth in the regular season and advancing to the quarterfinals of the MAAC women’s soccer championship. Men’s soccer was 7-10-1 overall and 3-6-1 in the MAAC, finishing the regular season in ninth place. Finally, men’s cross country placed fifth at the MAAC championships, while women’s cross country finished second.

The Red Foxes’ winter season is in full swing. The men’s swimming and diving team has a record of 10-1 overall and 5-1 in the MAAC. Women’s swimming and diving is at 5-6 overall and 4-1 in the MAAC. Men’s basketball currently has a 5-21 overall record and is 3-11 in conference play, while women’s basketball is 16-10 overall and 12-2 in the MAAC.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Marist community continues to place great emphasis on helping the less fortunate through various fundraisers and community service events.

As it does every year, the Student Government Association sponsored the “Up til Dawn” campaign, raising $22,000 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. November is Hunger Month at Marist, and the community raised $4,800 to help alleviate food insecurity. In addition, 133 boxes of food were

| Students participating in the annual Hunger Walk | Marist Women’s Basketball Forward Alana Gilmer ’20 |
collected and donated to area food banks. In December, the annual Giving Tree provided Christmas presents for 31 needy local families.

Twelve students in the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences’ “Principles of Instruction for Elementary Students with Disabilities” class devoted six Saturday mornings to volunteering with young people from the Newburgh Armory Unity Center. This worthy service project was organized by Professor of Special Education Jan Stivers, and this was the third year in which Marist students have participated. In addition to supportive tutoring in literacy and math, our students assisted in classes teaching chess, coding, engineering fundamentals, arts and crafts, and dance. Marist students also stepped in to lead the iPad class and basketball practice.

Led by Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Frank Merenda, the Criminal Justice Department hosted what it hopes to be the first annual Homelessness Awareness event. With support from Marist’s Department of Social Work, the November 3 event began at 10 p.m. on the Campus Green and included speakers from River Haven Shelter and Housing First. Our students heard the compelling story of a formerly homeless man, saw a documentary about homelessness projected on a mobile outdoor screen, and slept outside overnight. The event received media coverage from WAMC, Spectrum News, and the Kingston Daily Freeman, raising not only awareness about homelessness but also $1,300 for local shelters.

On November 28 (also known as #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving), the School of Communication & the Arts dedicated itself to assembling chemotherapy comfort kits for cancer patients. Throughout the month of November, people from across the Marist community donated both purchased and handmade items to support this very worthy initiative. Kits were assembled by campus volunteers and donated to four local organizations, including Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Sparrow’s Nest, Albany Medical Center, and Northern Westchester Hospital. The College exceeded its goal of 100 kits, donating more than 175 kits and 90 blankets. Each kit contained at least one hat and a scarf or shawl, graciously hand-made by members of the Marist community.

Finally, Marist continues to be the second largest global contributor to IBM’s World Community Grid (WCG) project, which donates spare computing power to researchers seeking to cure disease and find solutions to other major global challenges. For the most recent effort, the Microbiome Immunity Project, the College has already contributed more than 1,000 years of computing time, representing more than one-seventh of the total global contribution to date. Overall, Marist has contributed 29,536 years of total computing time and has returned 121.5 million results to the research teams supported by WCG.
In Closing,

I would like to thank everyone for the many accomplishments contained in this memo and wish you all an enjoyable and productive spring semester.

David Yellen,
Marist College President