

# MARIST

September 16, 2021

## MEMORANDUM TO THE MARIST COLLEGE COMMUNITY

FROM: Dennis J. Murray

RE: Fall Update on College Activities

Welcome back! I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and that the fall semester is going well for you. I don't think any of us anticipated that COVID-19 would still be disrupting our normal routines, but I'm grateful for the way in which the Marist community continues to respond. While faculty and administrators are rightly focused on handling the ongoing challenges related to the pandemic, I believe it's still important to note and celebrate the many impressive accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. This has been my tradition at the beginning of each semester, and it is the intent of this communication.

### *Marist is recognized for financial strength and academic excellence*

We begin the 2021-22 academic year with some extremely gratifying news about the state of the College. At a time of considerable stress for private higher education, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Marist has remained financially stable and produced strong operating results. Our fiscal health was recently underscored by Fitch Ratings, which in July reaffirmed the College's A+ credit rating and revised our outlook to "positive" from "stable." In its analysis, Fitch cited Marist's "solid position" in a competitive market, "strong cash flow position," and the "positive impact of steps taken by management in response to the pandemic."

The good work of the entire Marist community contributed to this favorable financial assessment by one of the country's leading rating agencies. The past year and a half has been an extremely challenging time, but everyone has responded admirably by

showing great flexibility, assuming additional duties, and doing everything that was asked of you and more. Because of your efforts, Marist is now well positioned to safely and effectively provide our students with an excellent in-person educational experience. Just as importantly, the College is in a good position to survive and even thrive in the current landscape for private higher education.

We also received the excellent news that Marist is one of the Top 10 Regional Universities – North, according to *US News & World Report*. This ranking reflects such factors as academic quality, student-faculty ratio, and peer assessment. *US News* also placed the College at #2 on its list of Most Innovative Schools, a ranking of institutions making the most innovative improvements in terms of curriculum, faculty, students, campus life, technology, or facilities. While it's important not to put too much stock in college rating guides, we also know that they are extremely influential among prospective students and their families. The *US News* recognition is therefore a welcome confirmation of what we already know: that Marist gives students a top-notch education and collegiate experience, leading them to successful careers and lives. Congratulations go out to all of our faculty and staff, whose great work is reflected in these rankings.

In other news, *Forbes* magazine recently included Marist's world-class Fashion Program on its list of the "Best Colleges that are Shaping the Future of Fashion." Marist was one of 10 fashion programs around the world described as "the vanguard of digital-only and hybrid modes of fashion-forward education." Other schools on the list included the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City; Polimoda in Florence, Italy; the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia; Akademie Mode & Design in Berlin; and Ryerson University in Toronto. Congratulations to Fashion Program Director John Bartlett and our faculty and students on this outstanding accolade!

### ***News from Academic Affairs***

We began the academic year by welcoming eight new full-time faculty members to the Marist community. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to WeiTing Chen, Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology; Babette Fasolino, Visiting Lecturer of Communication; James Hollar, Visiting Teaching Associate of Education; Jesslyn Hollar, Professional Lecturer of Education; Molly Lee, Visiting Lecturer of Biology; Theresa Morris, Visiting Teaching Associate of Philosophy; Stephanie Purington, Professional Lecturer of Education; and Chengzhang Wu, Visiting Assistant Professor of Accounting.

These new colleagues join a group of distinguished men and women who are both respected scholars and excellent teachers.

### *Middle States accreditation*

One of the College's top priorities this year will be preparation for our decennial review and reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the highest accreditation authority for colleges and universities in the mid-Atlantic. Review by regional accrediting bodies helps ensure the quality of higher education in the US, and only accredited institutions can receive federal financial aid. Through a comprehensive self-study report and visit by a Middle States evaluation team, Marist will demonstrate the ways in which it meets quality standards while also identifying key priorities for future innovation.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Thomas Wermuth is leading our efforts, along with his Steering Committee co-chair Carol Rinke, Associate Professor of Education and Assistant Dean for the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The Committee also includes: Executive Vice President Geoff Brackett; Harrison Baker, Associate Director of Athletics/External Affairs; Ron Coleman, Professor of Computer Science; Christina Daniele, Vice President for Human Resources; Kate Donham, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; Maryellen Guardino, Director of Accommodations and Accessibility; Sean Kaylor, Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing, and Communication; Carolyn Matheus, Associate Professor of Information Systems and Honors Program Director; Marisa Moore, Interim Director of Counseling Services; Robyn Rosen, Professor of History and Director of First Year Programs; James Snyder, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Interim Dean for Academic Engagement, and Interim Dean of the School of Management; Marty Shaffer, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts; Student Government Association President Tenzin Tsundu '22; and Elisa Woolridge, Associate Professor of Chemistry. Our thanks to everyone for their service to the College.

The Reaccreditation Steering Committee is responsible for establishing the priorities of the self-study process, overseeing a network of working groups charged with assessing Marist's compliance with seven "Standards of Excellence," and ultimately developing the College's self-study document in preparation for a spring 2023 visit by the evaluation team. The College is committed to a comprehensive, transparent, and inclusive process. Working groups will represent a wide cross-section of the campus

community, and we will provide the Marist community with regular updates as the reaccreditation process moves forward.

### *School of Communication and the Arts welcomes a new dean*

This past July, we were delighted to welcome Jacqueline Reich as Dean of the School of Communication and the Arts. Jackie joins the Marist community from Fordham University, where she was professor of communication and media studies, having recently completed a seven-year term as department chair. She is also a member of the doctoral faculty at the University of Florence's History of Art and Performance's PhD program. As department chair, Jackie oversaw the creation of four undergraduate majors and five new minors, an interdisciplinary program in new media and digital design, and a new master's program in public media, while supervising more than 60 full- and part-time faculty. Prior to Fordham, she spent 18 years as an assistant and associate professor of cinema and cultural studies at Stony Brook University.

Jackie is the author of two books and co-author of another, including *The Maciste Films of Italian Silent Cinema* (Indiana University Press, 2015), which won Best Book on Film and Media from the American Association of Italian Studies and was a finalist for the Best Book on Film for the Theatre Library Association. Other honors and awards include a visiting professorship at the University of Florence and a Howard Fellowship from the George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation at Brown University. She received an MA and PhD from the University of California at Berkeley and a BA from Dartmouth College. Please join me in welcoming Jackie to the Marist community!

### *Marist partnership with New York Stage and Film*

This past summer marked the very successful beginning of what we hope is a long partnership with New York Stage and Film (NYSAF), one of the country's preeminent incubators for artists and their work. As part of this unique collaboration, Marist served as the location for NYSAF's 2021 Summer Season artistic community campus, at which artists participated in workshops and residencies. Members of the local community had the opportunity to attend performances of musical works-in-progress at Marist's scenic waterfront, including *White Girl in Danger* by Pulitzer Prize-winner Michael R. Jackson and *Interstate* by Melissa Li and Kit Yan. For the College, this was a wonderful chance to partner with NYSAF to bring high-quality cultural offerings to the Hudson River Valley and offer rewarding internships to Marist students. Our region has become a

major hub for the creative arts, and we look forward to continuing a robust collaborative partnership with NYSAF for years to come. Kudos to Executive Vice President Geoff Brackett and NYSAF Artistic Director Chris Burney on overseeing a terrific program. Our thanks also go out to Marist Trustee Denise Vanech and her husband Dean for helping to make this relationship possible.

### *Other academic highlights*

The spring 2021 semester finished up in high style, with the Silver Needle Runway Show taking place outdoors against the backdrop of the majestic Hudson River. The show's models were all Marist students, who walked a colorful runway along our campus riverfront. In keeping with tradition, this incredible show was completely conceived and produced by our students. In fact, it was a "runway revolution," as the students reinvented the meaning of a fashion show in the age of a pandemic. Congratulations to the team behind the Silver Needle Runway Show on a job well done: Erica Capobianco '21, communications director; Kerry Flynn '21, social media and website director; Ariana Pittelli '21, creative director; Steven Ciravolo '21, digital media director; Kennedi Hudnut '21 and Elizabeth Knight '21, production directors; and Victoria Marino '21, branding director.

This past June, Marist hosted the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Enterprise Computing Community (ECC) national conference on a virtual platform. The ECC conference offered both synchronous and asynchronous programming and attracted more than 340 participants from academia and industry. Originally funded by a two-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2008, the ECC has worked to address anticipated skills shortages in large systems computing, as well as to introduce these concepts earlier in a student's educational experience. Keynote speakers at the conference included Trustees Chris McCann '83, President and Chief Executive Officer of 1-800-FLOWERS.COM, Inc., and Donna Dillenberger, IBM fellow and Chief Technology Officer of Hybrid Cloud Systems Research.

For the first time in ECC history, awards were given to six outstanding presentations in three categories: 1) AI/deep learning/automation, 2) cloud computing, and 3) general topics. Winners included Daniel Jast '17, Torin Reilly '17, and Michael Cohoon '12 (2<sup>nd</sup> place AI/deep learning/automation); Professor of Data Science & Information Systems Eitel Lauría (1<sup>st</sup> place AI/deep learning/automation); Associate Professor of Information Technology & Systems Casimer DeCusatis and DeAnna Singer

'21 (2<sup>nd</sup> place cloud computing); Distinguished Professional Lecturer of Computer Science, Information Technology & Systems Robert Cannistra, Conor Proce '15, and Matthew Marakovits '16/'21M (1<sup>st</sup> place cloud computing); and Anthony Giorgio, adjunct instructor in the School of Computer Science and Mathematics (2<sup>nd</sup> place general topics). Congratulations to these award winners, and to Dean of the School of Computer Science and Mathematics Roger Norton for organizing an excellent conference!

The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) dedicated the spring 2021 issue of *The Hudson River Valley Review* to Dr. Frank T. Bumpus, an outstanding friend of the College who passed away in December 2020 at the age of 98. Dr. Bumpus' transformational support as the principal donor to HRVI's endowment and the Dr. Frank T. Bumpus Chair in Hudson River Valley History helped make HRVI's programs possible and solidified its place as a nationally-acclaimed regional studies center. We're grateful to Vice President for Academic Affairs Thom Wermuth and HRVI Executive Director and Bumpus Chair holder Jim Johnson for establishing the Institute and introducing the College to this extraordinary individual. Dr. Bumpus was a World War II hero, medical doctor, philanthropist, and polymath who led a fascinating life. A true Renaissance man in every sense of the word, he was sophisticated, cultured, well-read, and intellectually curious. He had a major positive impact on many institutions, including Marist, and we will always be in his debt.

On May 13, HRVI continued its virtual program series in partnership with the Office of Alumni Affairs, presenting the 2021 Cunneen-Hackett Lecture in Hudson River Valley History, "The Unrestful Valley: Literary Painting and Racial Violence in Antebellum New York" by Dr. Peter Betjeman, director of the School of Writing, Literature, and Film at Oregon State University. On September 29, HRVI will present the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Handel-Krom Lecture in Hudson River Valley History, "Discovering the Hudson Anew: Exploring History and the Environment from an Artist's Perspective." The featured speaker is James Lancel McElhinney, author of *Sketchbook Traveler: Hudson Valley*. Organized in conjunction with the Office of Alumni Relations, McElhinney's talk will explore how the arts can be used to interpret key elements of Hudson River Valley history to a diverse citizenry, advance public education, and promote community engagement. I'd like to acknowledge the continued support of Bern and Shirley Handel in making this lecture series possible.

In the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, our teacher education programs continue to grow, despite national trends to the contrary. I'm pleased to note that the MA

in School Psychology and the MA Clinical Mental Health Counseling programs both have total fall enrollments that are higher than any time in the past decade, with 48 and 35 students, respectively. In addition, the five-year MA in Teaching program (in adolescence education) has enrolled 29 first-year students in its second cohort, an increase over its first cohort of 25. The School just received approval to prepare teachers to teach earth science at the secondary level, giving our students another option in their professional careers.

Under the leadership of Senior Professional Lecturer of Political Science Melissa Gaeke, Marist's Center for Civic Engagement and Leadership continues to provide students with community-based learning while also benefiting our local region. I'm pleased to note that the Center was recently awarded a fully-funded position from Campus Compact of New York & Pennsylvania's AmeriCorps VISTA program. Jessica Hawkins '22, an Honors Program student double majoring in philosophy and fine arts with a cognitive science minor, served as the AmeriCorps fellow over the summer to help the College and local nonprofits to address food insecurity in the Hudson River Valley. Jessica worked closely with Assistant Professor of Philosophy Joe Campisi to build the capacity of the Marist campus garden, giving students and other campus stakeholders access to fresh produce and building linkages with Dutchess Outreach to provide local fresh produce for their feeding programs. Jessica's work resulted in 50 percent of community garden produce being donated to the local community.

The COVID-19 pandemic curtailed most academic travel this past year, but Marist was able to present some selected domestic travel and international study opportunities. During the spring, we offered the "American South" attachment program, which was organized by Professor of History Robyn Rosen and Associate Professor of History Steve Garabedian; this program examined issues of race, history, and civil rights, providing the student participants with an extremely meaningful experience. In addition, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Zion Klos once again ran an environmental studies program in Alaska. Finally, our bachelor's degree programs at Marist's branch campus in Florence remained open with appropriate health and safety protocols, enabling 39 of our Italy-based students to continue progress toward their degrees.

This fall, we have reopened our full range of international programs at the Florence branch campus, including the MA in Museum Studies, the Freshman Florence Experience (FFE), and the Marist Abroad Program (MAP) semester abroad. In addition to Florence, we are also offering students three other international sites: Dublin for the

Freshman Dublin Experience and MAP semester abroad; the MAP program in Madrid; and the MAP program in Paris, including the relaunched Marist Paris Fashion program.

### *Student achievements*

I'm delighted to report that three Marist students have received prestigious Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) awards, the latest in a long line of students to earn this national recognition. Olivia Mangan '21, who majored in English and adolescence education, will be teaching English in Taiwan, while Anna McClear '19, who graduated with a degree in history/adolescence education and a minor in theatre, will head to South Korea for her ETA assignment. Olivia is from Fairfield, Connecticut, and Anna hails from West Hartford, Connecticut; Anna spent her freshman year in Florence through Marist's FFE program. In addition, Lenni Joya Amaya '19 will begin his ETA placement in Italy this fall (he was awarded the Fulbright in the previous grant cycle, but it had been delayed due to the pandemic). Lenni, from Huntington Station, New York, graduated with dual majors in political science and Spanish, completing minors in Italian, global studies, and Latin American and Caribbean studies. He was also recently awarded the highly competitive USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship – a first for Marist – but chose to decline it in favor of the Fulbright.

Computer science major Kaylin Moss '22 has been recognized in multiple ways for her academic success and leadership in the community. In May, she was awarded a \$10,000 Generation Google Scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year. This scholarship was established to help computer science students excel and become leaders in the field of technology. It is awarded based on the student's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; demonstrated leadership; and academic performance. Kaylin was also chosen (along with Terrence Echols '22) to enroll in the inaugural Gumbo Coalition University Mentorship Program, sponsored by Resorts World Casino. Selected students participate in an intensive six-week virtual mentorship program and interact with prominent authors and speakers from all over the nation. Upon completion of the program, each student receives a \$500 scholarship. The lecture series is based on Marc Morial's book *The Gumbo Coalition: 10 Leadership Lessons That Help You Inspire, Unite, and Achieve*. In addition, Kaylin received the Zillion Women in STEM Scholarship for her strong commitment to learning, perseverance, and advocacy for women in science.



Last fall, Kaylin led the establishment of the Marist chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) student club, which seeks to increase the reach of the national organization, build an inclusive STEM community, and grow the number of students of color in STEM at Marist. As president of the NSBE club, Kaylin has hosted two virtual events for Newburgh high school students participating in the Smart Scholars Early College High School program. This program, funded by the New York State Education Department, allows the students take a sequence of computing and mathematics courses offered through Marist, eventually earning 26 college credits toward a degree in computer science. In addition to the academic component of the program, the College hosts a number of enrichment activities for these students, including in-person visits to the Marist campus; classes held on campus; college information sessions with Admissions; campus tours; mentoring and tutoring by Marist students; and guest speaker presentations.

Environmental science major Emma Butzler '22 received a prestigious Polgar Fellowship Award from the Hudson River Foundation that provided her \$5,000 to perform her summer research on the impacts of septic systems on stream health in our local Fall Kill watershed. Emma also received funding from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies to introduce Poughkeepsie high school students to the theory and process of environmental research. This summer research and mentoring work was overseen by her research advisor, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science Zion Klos.

I'm proud to report that *The Circle*, Marist's student newspaper, received a Crown Award in the category of "Digital News" from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for its coverage from July 2019 to July 2020. This coverage included efforts to keep the Marist community informed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hats off to *Circle* editors Tara Guaimano '20, Kenneth Guillaume '20, Sarah Lynch '21, and Grace Maeda '20 for this recognition of their outstanding journalism. Our thanks to Professional Lecturer of Journalism Kathleen McNulty, advisor to *The Circle*.

A group of Marist advertising students, working alongside Senior Professional Lecturers of Advertising Joanna D'Avanzo and Kathleen Boyle-LaBarbera, won first place for District 2 in the National Student Advertising Competition for this year's marketing challenge. Sponsored by the American Advertising Foundation, this is the premier college advertising competition, providing more than 2,000 college students with the real-world experience of creating a strategic advertising/marketing/media campaign

for a corporate client. Our students' project consisted of an advertising campaign directed at 18-19-year-olds for the dating service Tinder. Students on the winning team included seniors Piper Bailey, Emily Bernstein, Talia Cutrone, Alyssa Dancel, Marleah Dentes, Terrence Echols, Kristin Flanigan, Maggie Mansfield, Maggie Meglaughlin, Carli Mathias, Matt McDonald, Janine Pultorak, and Samantha Russo; juniors Inez Armendi, Claire Burns, Harper Finch, Kathryn Nie, Emily Marino, John McElroy, and Barbara Marciano; sophomores Isabella Haines, Jennamichelle Merolla, and Grayce Shuker; and freshman Alexandra Rossi. Congratulations to all!

Fashion merchandising students Catherine Gambeski '22 and Rebecca Kuzmicz '22 were selected as semi-finalists by the National Retail Federation (NRF), receiving a \$1,000 travel stipend award to attend the NRF's 2022 student program in New York City, where they will have the opportunity to participate in a business competition. The School of Management's Ethics Team came in second place in the International Business Ethics Case Competition, held online this past April. The team was recognized for their work in the 10-minute ethics presentation competition. Congratulations to Jana Brzovski '22, Megan Konfino '22, Skylar Harrison '23, and Emma Lore '24 on a fine performance.

Several students in the School of Computer Science and Mathematics participated in high-level research projects over the summer. Applied mathematics majors Mason Nakamura '23, Hope Neveux '22, and Michael Wise '23 were all awarded highly competitive Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) by the NSF. Mason spent his summer at Moravian University in Pennsylvania focusing on theoretical graph theory. Hope completed the Polymath REU Program at the University of Nebraska, where her group studied game theory. Michael worked at the Central Convergence REU at Central Washington University, where he focused on utility theory, an applied field that centers on the mathematical quantification of value and risk. Meanwhile, Sidney Papas '23 completed the Early Immersion Program at The Hartford, a major financial services company, finishing her experience with a group case study presentation.

Students also had the opportunity to do research through the Marist-IBM Joint Study. Giovanni Amico '23 focused on porting machine learning models to IBM Z for cybersecurity threat detection. Mckinstry Comeau '22 and Emily Saviano '23 used IBM's Verified Credentials to streamline and secure the checkout process for the Office of College Activities' ticket system. Luke Jacobs '23 continued a cybersecurity analysis of Precision Time Protocol (IEEE 1588v2), a network time synchronization service. Colin MacDonald '22 and James Erlanger '22M maintained the technology equipment in

the Hancock Enterprise Computer Research Lab, while Meghan O'Loughlin '23 did quantum computing work. Our thanks to the faculty members mentoring the students in their research: Associate Professor of Computer Science Casimer DeCusatis, Professional Lecturer of Computer Science Chris Algozzine, and Professional Lecturer of Computer Science Brian Gormanly. Our thanks also go out to Greg Lacey, Director of Marist-IBM Joint Study.

Other summer research projects were made possible by generous donations by Trustee Suresh Kothapalli and his brothers, Rajesh Kothapalli and Vinod Kottapalli; Dean of the School of Computer Science and Mathematics Roger Norton and his wife Cheryl; and the School of Computer Science and Mathematics Advisory Board. Augusto Gonzalez Bonorino '22 worked on a major revision and architectural overhaul of "Kevin," an artificial intelligence (AI)/natural language processing (NLP)-powered assistant. Graduate student Saurabh Pratap Singh '21 studied techniques for optimizing database storage to facilitate AI implementations of NLP chatbot models. Charlie Schmitz '22 researched the future trajectory of enterprise resource planning applications and enterprise information systems as applied to the challenges of small businesses, while John Gustafson '21 conducted research on defining an ontology for human-computer interaction and computer-to-computer interaction. Thanks to Chris Algozzine, Brian Gormanly, and Eitel Lauría for leading this research.

Finally, four Marist students from different academic majors teamed up to provide pro bono services to local Hudson River Valley businesses. The team consisted of Jessica Cerbone '21 (mathematics, economics, data science), Tyler Rimaldi '21 (computer science, mathematics, philosophy, information technology), Jake Ruthazer '21 (business, cognitive science), and Tenzin Tsundu '22 (business, philosophy). The idea for the project was initiated by Jake, who built the team in collaboration with Professor of Strategy Helen Rothberg. The group worked with Mid-Hudson Works, which provides employment training for veterans and those with disabilities, and offered them a thorough financial analysis, including a proposed pricing strategy for customers based on revenue tiers. Thanks to all of these students for helping Marist fulfill its mission of being of service to the community!

### *Faculty accomplishments*

Members of the Marist faculty have continued to publish books and make other significant contributions to their academic disciplines. Assistant Professor of Media Arts

Philip Scepaniski has published a book, *Tragedy Plus Time: National Trauma and Television Comedy* (University of Texas Press, 2021), in which he examines how comedy impacts the way we understand and relate to traumatic historical events in American history. Karen Schrier, Associate Professor and Director of the Games & Emerging Media Program, has published a book entitled *We the Gamers: How Games Teach Ethics & Civics*. In this publication, she explores how all types of games, both digital and physical, can encourage equity, inclusion, fairness, and justice. Professor of History Janine Peterson's book, *Suspect Saints and Holy Heretics: Disputed Sanctity and Communal Identity in Late Medieval Italy* (Cornell University Press, 2019), was awarded an Honorable Mention for the prestigious Hagiography Society Book Prize for 2020.

Professor of History David Woolner was recently named a Fulbright Specialist by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. As a Fulbright Specialist, David is eligible to be paired up with projects in host institutions relevant to his field in more than 150 countries around the world. The award is designed to support visiting scholars for a period of two to six weeks, and the award tenure runs for a period of four years until August 2025. David was also recently invited to become a member of the Scholarly Advisory Board of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. In addition, he was commissioned by the White House Historical Association to write a chapter on the national and international public reaction to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's death for a forthcoming book entitled *Mourning the Presidents*. David looks forward to delivering a guest lecture on President Roosevelt's legacy at Skidmore College this fall.

Work by Assistant Professor of Art & Digital Media Joyce Yu-Jean Lee was featured in a solo exhibition, *State of the DysUnion II*, at Walford Art Gallery at Wheaton College in Illinois. The exhibition featured a three-channel video projection-in-the-round. Joyce will also exhibit *State of the DysUnion III* at Southern Connecticut State University later this fall, and her work is currently on view until September 23 in the "ConTEXTual" exhibit at Arts Mid-Hudson in Poughkeepsie. "ConTEXTual" examines the influence of text, history, and media on form and culture. In other recognition, Assistant Professor of Special Education Susan Chambre was awarded a grant from the American Educational Research Association to support the work she is doing to explore the impact of COVID-19 on vocabulary development for preschool children.

Marist faculty members also play prominent roles in professional associations at both the state and national levels. Associate Professor of School Psychology Stacy

Williams was recently named president-elect of Trainers of School Psychologists (TSP), a national organization that fosters high-quality training in graduate school psychology programs. Meanwhile, Associate Professor of School Psychology Patrick O'Donnell is president of TSPNY, the New York chapter of the group. Associate Professor of Social Work Daria Hanssen has been appointed as one of the commissioners for accreditation to the Council for Social Work Education. This national organization oversees and certifies all programs across the country at both the bachelor's and master's levels.

Finally, Jeff Midgley has been promoted to Program Director of the Physician Assistant (PA) program; he had served as interim director of the PA program following Theresa Horvath's retirement in September 2020. Jeff joined Marist in 2017 as Clinical Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies. He brings more than 12 years of clinical experience in emergency medicine at several different locations, including Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Northern Dutchess Hospital, and Putnam Hospital Center.

### *Commencement*

Despite the challenges of operating during a pandemic, we ended the 2020-21 academic year on a high note by hosting in-person commencement ceremonies on the Campus Green for the Class of 2021 and their guests. This year's graduates included 1,310 students receiving a bachelor's degree and 364 students receiving a master's degree. Marist also graduated its first doctoral class, with 14 students completing the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. History major Ryan Stevens of Midland Park, New Jersey was valedictorian for the Class of 2021, and I'm particularly pleased to note that both of Ryan's parents are Marist alumni. Daleska Cassiani of the DPT program earned the Excellence in Graduate Studies Award, while Jason Collishaw, an adult undergraduate student, received the Award for Academic Distinction. I'd like to thank the members of the Commencement Committee and all the faculty and staff who braved two days of rain and cold so that the Class of 2021 could experience a traditional graduation. We heard from many families who were extremely grateful to Marist for providing their children with this opportunity when so many other schools did not.

One of the most frustrating aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic was being unable to hold an in-person Commencement during the 2019-20 academic year, but we have always been firmly committed to giving the Class of 2020 the graduation ceremony they so richly deserve. I'm pleased to report that, in consultation with the Class of 2020, we plan to hold an in-person Commencement for them over Memorial Day Weekend next

year, just one week after Commencement exercises for the Class of 2022. We are delighted to be able to plan these graduation activities for the Class of 2020 and to give them the celebration they had to forgo at the height of the pandemic.

### *Digital Education*

Members of our Digital Education team continue to be active leaders in the global remote learning community. From June 7-9, the team participated in the Open Apereo virtual conference, with Senior Instructional Technologist Stephanie Laurent co-chairing the conference planning committee. Dede Hourican, Manager of Instructional Technology, served as a panelist in the session entitled, “Apereo Incubation – Where We’ve Been and Where We Have to Go.”

The Digital Education team does a great job supporting virtual and hybrid learning across the Marist campus. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, they have provided training and resources to faculty teaching in a blended environment. Over the summer, we upgraded the iLearn system to the latest version, which has a more modern and mobile responsive design. It has many new features, including a dark mode view, gradebook enhancements, and additional tools to support faculty and students. In addition, we added a number of design templates to make it easier for faculty to design quality online and hybrid digital content.

Digital Education continues to provide critical support for teaching and learning. This past spring, the team worked with the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Media Center to deliver asynchronous courses to faculty via iLearn. These courses focused on blended synchronous instruction and strategies for beginning the semester online. More than 100 faculty members participated in the workshops. Digital Education also developed synchronous workshops to help faculty transition from beginning the semester online to a blended or fully in-person model. Workshops and open labs were offered in-person and through Zoom during the day, in the evening, and on the weekends. More than 200 faculty members took advantage of this training.

### *Marist Institute for Public Opinion (MIPO)*

The Marist Poll’s relationship with its national polling partners National Public Radio (NPR) and the *PBS NewsHour* is going strong and has a full schedule of polls ahead for the fall. We can expect the NPR/*PBS NewsHour*/Marist Poll to continue to

gauge public opinion on pressing topics facing the nation, including attitudes about COVID-19 and vaccines, the state of American democracy, the economy, Afghanistan, and domestic initiatives put forth by the Biden administration. This past spring, the team also released polls on timely issues including race relations, transgender rights, voting rights, the COVID-19 relief bill, and infrastructure.

In addition, the Poll embarked on its first collaboration with WNBC New York, Telemundo 47, and *Politico*, measuring public opinion about a ranked-choice election (the Democratic primary for New York City mayor). It was a unique opportunity for the Marist Poll to expand its survey offerings, and the WNBC/Telemundo 47/*Politico*/Marist Poll was successful in providing extremely accurate results for a highly uncertain contest.

New York State politics has also kept the Marist Poll busy of late. In February, the Marist Poll tracked Governor Andrew Cuomo's controversies, focusing specifically on his handling of nursing homes during the coronavirus pandemic. As part of its media outreach, the MIPO team used Zoom to conduct a virtual press conference with New York State journalists, enhancing the Poll's coverage. Over the summer, the Marist Poll quickly reacted to the release of the New York State Attorney General Letitia James' independent report on allegations of misconduct against Governor Cuomo. Within 24 hours of the announcement, the Marist Poll released survey results that were picked up by major news organizations locally and nationally. The Marist Poll also released timely data in the wake of Governor Cuomo's resignation in August.

On the academic side, the team was delighted to participate in Marist's Summer Pre-College program for high school students. The Poll offered a course entitled "Data Science for Polling and Political Communication," in which rising high school juniors and seniors received hands-on experience conducting their own research on an actual Marist Poll. The students were involved in every aspect of the survey process from questionnaire design and development to effectively communicating results to the public. The pre-college course was built on the model established by the Marist Poll's College 2 Career internship, a hybrid that has allowed Marist students to experience quality internships despite the challenges of COVID-19. During the spring semester, a dozen students took part in either the Marist Poll's data and analysis track or its reporting and marketing endeavors. A new cohort of College 2 Career interns begins this fall.

Poll Hub, the Marist Poll's podcast, marked a milestone this summer with its 200<sup>th</sup> episode. Since its inception, the podcast has welcomed numerous high-profile and

distinguished guests, most recently Irwin Redlener, director of the Pandemic Resource and Response Initiative at Columbia University's Earth Institute; Mark Murray, NBC News senior political editor; Harry Enten, senior writer and analyst at CNN; Kwelina Thompson, doctoral candidate in Cornell University's Department of History; Caroline Hoxby, professor of economics at Stanford University; and Lulu Garcia Navarro, host of NPR's *Weekend Edition Sunday* and one of the hosts of NPR's morning news podcast *Up First*.

### ***Athletics***

Running a Division I athletics program in the age of COVID-19 has been a considerable challenge. Last winter, Marist's men's and women's basketball teams both completed their seasons, but experienced significant interruptions related to COVID-19 infections involving other schools' teams, officials, and coaches. Fortunately, our teams managed to get through the season without any players testing positive for the coronavirus. In fact, the women's basketball team won the regular-season Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) championship and went on to prevail in the MAAC tournament, defeating St. Peter's in the championship game in Atlantic City by a score of 69-30 and earning a trip to the NCAA tournament in San Antonio. As a 15<sup>th</sup> seed, Marist drew second-seed Louisville in the first round and saw their season end with a 74-43 defeat at the hands of the Cardinals. On the positive side, Women's Basketball Head Coach Brian Giorgis was one of two recipients of "The Rock" Coach of the Year distinction. Congratulations!

Most spring sports were delayed or canceled, but by mid-April, improvements in health conditions were such that men's and women's tennis, softball, baseball, men's and women's lacrosse, and water polo were all able to begin competition, and all completed shortened seasons. Our women's water polo team, which is ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation, won their fifth MAAC championship in program history, going on to defeat #23 Salem University in the first round of the NCAA tournament in Los Angeles. They lost to best-in-the-nation University of Southern California in the quarterfinals. Congratulations to Head Coach Chris Vidale (who was named MAAC Coach of the Year), Assistant Coach Jocelyn Castro '19, and the entire water polo team for an outstanding season under very difficult circumstances.

Our women's rowing team also earned a trip to the NCAA championships, receiving an automatic bid after winning the MAAC championship on May 16 in New



Jersey. This was the team's 12<sup>th</sup> MAAC title in program history and its third NCAA appearance. They participated in the NCAA championships May 28-30 in Sarasota, Florida. Marist was the #22 seed and competed against top schools such as Michigan, Texas, Navy, Washington, Duke, Ohio State, Stanford, Brown, Princeton, Rutgers, and Northeastern. Among their many accomplishments, the Marist women's rowing team had five student-athletes selected for the All-MAAC First Team, and one selected for the All-MAAC Second Team. In addition, 23 team members were named to the MAAC All-Academic Team, proving that they're equally talented in the classroom and on the water. Although the NCAA doesn't sponsor a championship for men's crew, the Marist men's rowing team was invited to participate in the 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Intercollegiate Rowing Association National Championships from May 28-29 on Mercer Lake in New Jersey. Twenty-seven of our student-athletes competed in the Varsity Eight, 2<sup>nd</sup> Varsity Eight, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Varsity Eight races.

The Marist Esports team had an outstanding showing in the MAAC Esports Championship, which took place online in April. Heading into the tournament, the team had already had a great year, earning the MAAC Esports Program of the Year distinction, an honor based on greatest overall performance during the spring regular season. Marist's *League of Legends* team earned the #1 seed going in and won two out of three matches. Ryan Millet '22 was named Most Valuable Player (MVP). The *Rocket League* team also secured the #1 seed and won the championship, defeating Canisius; Anthony Gandini '23 was MVP. The Super Smash Bros. team was defeated in the finals by #3 Siena, but the *Overwatch* team, which was #1 going in, beat Saint Peter's in the championship match; Jonah Caro '23 was named MVP.

### ***Information Technology update***

The Information Technology (IT) team has supported the Marist campus throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling the College to operate both safely and effectively. Some examples of innovations include a virtual housing selection process, website enhancements, upgrades to iLearn, automated Salesforce communications, the tracking of surveillance testing results, and functionality to allow quarantined students to request food and supplies. The Administrative Computing team developed a helpful dashboard to provide the administration with comprehensive data on COVID-19 cases and test results. In addition, Client Technologies has also provided remote tech support, holding several hundred sessions with students, faculty, and staff throughout the spring and summer. The team also provided technology and support for contact tracing, surge

testing, and vaccination clinics during the spring semester. In support of the College's pandemic response, wireless access was expanded for a number of outdoor events, including surveillance testing in the Allied Health building and the New York State pop-up vaccine clinic at 51 Fulton Street. We also set up dedicated COVID-19 telephone numbers and information voicemail boxes for students and their families.

We want to ensure that members of the Marist community are equipped with the most advanced technology. To this end, all faculty and staff have been upgraded from McAfee VirusScan to McAfee's cloud-based MVISION Endpoint Protection and Adaptive Threat Protection suite. These upgraded security tools provide much more robust protection against threats like ransomware. In addition, all faculty and staff machines were upgraded to Adobe Creative Cloud, providing the full suite of Adobe products to everyone. More than 250 lab and classroom computers have been replaced with new hardware, and all 1,100 lab and classroom computers have been re-imaged with the latest software offerings – Microsoft Windows 10 Education v20H2, Office 2019, Adobe Creative Cloud 2021, and macOS 11 Big Sur. In addition, all labs and classrooms have Teams, Zoom, and WebEx available to facilitate hybrid or remote instruction if necessary.

IT continues to improve Marist's technology infrastructure. Upcoming projects include replacing the uninterruptible power supply (UPS) in the Donnelly Data Center; implementing servers and software for a new password reset process; improvements to the Marist email delivery infrastructure; expanding the use of EyeLock iris scan devices for access to secure areas; replacing the server and desktop backup infrastructure with new servers and the latest version of IBM Spectrum Protect; and developing a proof-of-concept implementation of Marist servers running in an IBM hybrid cloud environment.

Over the spring semester, IT enhanced the performance and security of the campus network, successfully completing the replacement of the Top of Rack Data Center switches for the Server Farm and DMZ. The Data Center included Donnelly, Allied Health, Lowell Thomas, and Hancock. The previous aging switches were replaced with Cisco Nexus 9300 series switches, allowing 10/25/40 and 100 GB connections, improved high-availability utilizing the latest Cisco technology, and additional security features that can be implemented in the future. A 10 GB failover link for WebEx and Zoom traffic was also installed, providing direct access to content distribution networks, such as Google, Facebook, YouTube, Netflix, gaming services, and social media. This link

allows for quicker response time and faster loading of sites and services hosted on this circuit.

### *Cybersecurity*

Cybersecurity is one of the most critical issues facing organizations today, and strengthening the College's security profile is a top institutional priority. Leading Marist's effort to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of our electronic assets is Director of Cybersecurity Emily Harris, who came to Marist in January from Vassar College. Emily and her team have been actively engaged in a number of initiatives, including managing and remediating operational risks. During the spring semester, the team launched a blog-style webpage called "Gone Phishing." This page is intended to educate the Marist community using real examples of malicious emails, along with information on how to spot phishing, fraud, spam, and virus-infected emails. "Gone Phishing" is promoted heavily on social media and in campus emails, providing faculty, staff, and students with general information, security announcements, and advice about how to keep our campus network safe. Recently, the team purchased a new security incident and event monitoring (SIEM) system to improve centralized log analysis. Over time, this platform will be used to give the Cybersecurity team early notification of an information security incident, improving detection and reducing the team's reaction time.

The Cybersecurity team recently chose a vendor for an information security risk assessment. This process will provide Marist with a clear roadmap and priority list for future projects, thus significantly decreasing the College's security risk profile. The team began work in early September. As with other higher education institutions, Marist receives an extremely high volume of malicious emails arriving in user inboxes. In July, we enabled Microsoft's spam filtering as an additional layer of protection on top of other third-party mail filters. Since that time, more than 1,000 malicious emails have been fully quarantined at Microsoft, never reaching the Marist user community. The team continues to improve the intelligence of the spam filtering, making additional adjustments to ensure that critical communications are properly filtered into user inboxes.

Finally, Marist is proud to be a top contributor to IBM's World Community Grid project. For the most recent project, Open Pandemics – COVID-19, Marist has donated over 4,400 years of computing and has returned more than 19.9 million results to the research team. Overall, Marist is currently #2 in all ranked statistics and has contributed

more than 46,240 years of total computing time and has returned over 211 million results to the research teams.

### *College Advancement*

Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, Marist continues to benefit from the exceptional generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations. I'm pleased to report that the College secured nearly \$10.4 million in new gifts and pledges from all sources over the past fiscal year, including more than \$8.5 million in private support and nearly \$1.9 million for academic research and sponsored programs.

### *Scholarship support*

Support for scholarships that help make a Marist education more affordable for talented, deserving students continues to be among the College's highest fundraising priorities, and I'm pleased to announce that more than \$1.2 million was raised over the past fiscal year for new endowed and term scholarships. In addition, more than \$490,000 was secured to fortify existing scholarship funds.

Trustee Don Duet '88 and his wife Madoka recently expanded their exceptional support of scholarships for top technology students through the *Duet Family Technology Scholarship* program. The Duets' recent pledge includes the creation of renewable term scholarships for an incoming freshman in 2022, 2023, and 2024, as well as the establishment of an endowed technology scholarship that will exist in perpetuity. Their support has significantly enhanced the College's ability to attract, enroll, and retain some of the nation's most sought-after future leaders in computer science and information systems and technology. We are grateful for their generosity and leadership and appreciate everything Don and Madoka have done for students in the College's School of Computer Science and Mathematics.

I am also pleased to share that Trustee Rob Shanahan '83 and his wife Heather recently made a generous gift to establish the *Shanahan Family Endowed Scholarship*. Beginning in the fall of 2022, this scholarship will be awarded to an incoming freshman enrolled in the School of Management with strong leadership potential and demonstrated financial need. A business major during his years at Marist, Rob played on the hockey team and went on to a successful career as a technology executive and entrepreneur, serving most recently as president and CEO of Lightower Fiber Networks. We greatly

appreciate Rob's exceptional leadership on the Board and all that he and Heather are doing to advance the College's mission.

Our thanks also go out to Christopher Bricker '91 and his wife Jennifer, who recently made a generous pledge to establish a new endowed scholarship in memory of Jennifer's father, Michael C. Holland. Created to honor Mr. Holland's extraordinary commitment to serving the public, the scholarship will be awarded to a first-year student who has shown a strong devotion to community service. Chris, who is head of Alliance Bernstein Arya Partners and a member of its Operating Committee, cites his Marist experience as a key factor in his career success. At AB Arya Partners, he is responsible for the leadership, strategic direction, and overall results of the group. We appreciate their generous and thoughtful support.

Elizabeth Marshdoyle '75 and James A. Doyle '75 are generously supporting the establishment of a new endowed scholarship in loving memory of their infant daughter. The *Emily Marie Doyle Scholarship* will be awarded to a first-year student majoring in science with demonstrated financial need. Preference will be given to environmental science, though consideration may also be given to students majoring in biology or chemistry. Beth, an account manager at Apple, Inc., majored in environmental science at Marist and went on to earn a master's degree from Ohio State University and an EdD from Northeastern University. As one of 13 children, she greatly valued the scholarships that enabled her to attend Marist. Jay, a political science major who also earned a master's degree from Ohio State, is a vice president at AECOM. A cross-country and track student-athlete at Marist, he also cites the important role that the Marist community has played in his life. We are most grateful for their support.

The Lavelle Fund for the Blind has again made a meaningful gift to support scholarships for blind or visually impaired Marist students in memory of Trustee Brother Jim Kearney, FMS '53. Brother Jim served on the Lavelle Fund Board since its inception in 1999 and chaired its Scholarship Committee. We are indebted to the Lavelle Fund for its continued generosity and honored to offer these scholarships in memory of Brother Jim, who dedicated his life to teaching and service.

I am also pleased to recognize the continued generosity of the James J. McCann Charitable Trust, which recently extended its invaluable support of scholarships for deserving traditional-age Marist students who live in Dutchess County and graduate from county high schools. This is the 53<sup>rd</sup> year in which the trust has supported this special

program that has impacted the lives of innumerable local students who have gone on to complete their degrees at Marist. In addition, the McCann Trust's lead grant played an important role in the construction of the auxiliary gym and fitness center in the James J. McCann Recreation Center, the cornerstone of Marist's Division I athletics and recreational programs. The entire Marist community extends its thanks to McCann Trustees Patrick Gartland and the late Richard (Dick) Corbally for their transformational support of scholarships and state-of-the-art facilities at Marist. We were deeply saddened by Dick's recent passing and will be forever grateful for everything he has done for Marist and the broader community.

The School of Management Advisory Board, led by Chair Tim Keneally '69, continues to raise funds to provide scholarships for graduating seniors demonstrating both academic excellence and financial need. For the third consecutive year, the Board will award six one-time scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each to deserving School of Management students to help reduce the burden of their student loans. The Board's fundraising efforts also include securing support for an endowed scholarship that will provide financial assistance to School of Management students for generations to come. The Board's annual golf outing supports this scholarship initiative. This year's tournament is scheduled for September 27 at the Saint Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, and it will honor Trustee and co-founder of Priceline.com Tim Brier '69. The event is nearly fully subscribed, and we anticipate that it will significantly exceed its original fundraising goals. Special thanks to Golf Committee members Michael Babic '04, Tim Keneally '69, Greg Garville '74, Kevin Hogan '02, Tom Murray '02, Maureen Solero, and Kim Viggiano '02 for their outstanding work leading this successful and impactful effort.

### *News from the Marist Fund*

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the more than 3,700 alumni, parents, and friends who supported the Marist Fund over the past year, as well as the many volunteers who dedicated their time and talents to help ensure the Fund's success. With their help, the 2021 Marist Fund secured nearly \$1.29 million in new gifts and pledges over the 2020-21 fiscal year. The Marist Fund continues to provide invaluable support that enhances the opportunities and experiences available to all Marist students, and its impact is truly felt across the institution. I would like to recognize Trustee Pat Lavelle '73 for his exceptional leadership and extraordinary generosity as Chair of the Board's Advancement Committee. Let me also express my gratitude to our

Parents Council Co-Chairs Joseph and Bernadette Gaffney P'14, P'21; co-chairs of the Hudson Valley Scholars Fund Derrik Wynkoop '87/'92M, P'16, P'18 and Jen Dunn; and Campus Campaign Chair Christopher Algozzine '89. This year's Marist Fund campaign kicked off on July 1, 2021, and will continue through June 30, 2022.

### *Parent outreach*

Marist parents continue to play an invaluable role in the life of the College as volunteer leaders and generous supporters. The Parents Council, a dedicated team of highly engaged and committed volunteers, is now 30 families strong, with four new families joining the Council over the past year alone. Members continue to provide helpful feedback to institutional leaders and offer insightful advice to offices such as Career Services and Admissions. Our *Gatehouse* e-newsletter for Marist families provides helpful campus news and updates from offices including Athletics, Career Services, the Health and Wellness Center, College Activities, and Student Affairs. The newsletter has become a trusted resource for Marist families around the country and the world.

### *Gift and legacy planning*

The Marist Legacy Society, a deeply committed group of supporters who have made a special provision for the College through their estate plans, continues to expand. The Society presently has 137 members and an additional 13 estates represented. The newest Legacy Society member is Jacqueline McEnroe Hollister, an accomplished development executive who served as senior vice president of development at the National Geographic Society. Jacquie is a longtime friend of the College whose late parents were Marist Trustee Jack McEnroe and his wife Marianne. I'd like to note that Jack was one of the Trustees who played an important role in stabilizing Marist's finances and moving us forward in the early 1980s. I've always been grateful for the support Jack gave both me and the College during that time. Jacquie has named Marist as a beneficiary of an IRA to support the *McEnroe Family Scholarship*, which was originally established by her parents in 1987. We are honored that she has included Marist in her estate plans and greatly appreciate her support of Marist.

The 2021 Year-End Gift Planning Newsletter will be released this fall and will feature six timely options for readers to meet their personal, financial, and charitable objectives. Donor stories will include Larry '68 and Sandra Carr, who created a

charitable gift annuity with Marist, and longtime Red Fox fan Lillian Pulver-Giordano who, with her late husband Bill Pulver, created a trust to benefit Marist. You are invited to access the College's Gift and Legacy Planning website at <https://marist.giftplans.org/> for additional information and stories about donors and the extraordinary impact they're having on the lives of our students.

### *Alumni Relations update*

The Alumni Relations team has continued to offer a wide array of programming to keep Marist alumni around the globe closely connected to their alma mater. Over the past year, the team planned and/or participated in more than 60 virtual events with more than 2,700 attendees from dozens of states and several foreign countries. Programs ranged from academic lectures and alumni career panel discussions to fitness classes and trivia nights. Recently, Alumni Relations hosted a live web presentation with the Marist Poll team to discuss the state of the nation under a new presidency. We also hosted two virtual tasting events – a coffee/tea tasting and a wine tasting.

Marist's Alumni Book Club continues to be popular among alumni of all decades. The club is currently reading *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni. Membership in the club has exceeded 450. For more information, please visit <http://maristconnect.marist.edu/alumnibookclub>. The fourth season of the Marist Connections podcast finished in mid-June with a podcast highlighting alumni and faculty members who have published nonfiction books. To catch up on all four seasons, please visit <http://maristconnect.marist.edu/podcast>. Additionally, the Marist Alumni Business Directory currently has 166 listings of alumni-owned businesses. If you would like to list your business or support an alumni-owned business, please visit <http://maristconnect.marist.edu/businessdirectory>.

### *Admissions*

#### *Undergraduate admission and Summer Pre-College*

Marist continues to be a school in high demand. We received 11,509 applications for the freshman class, representing the second largest applicant pool in the history of the College. We were delighted to welcome 1,265 members of the Class of 2025 to campus, representing 1,175 resident students, 60 commuters, and 30 students participating in our Freshman Florence Experience or Freshman Dublin Experience. The new Marist



students are a geographically and ethnically diverse group. Overall, about 57 percent of the Class of 2025 are from outside New York, with 33 different states represented: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, North Carolina, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. In addition, we have students from 17 foreign countries, including Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Thailand, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. We are particularly pleased to note that 24 percent of the freshman class self-identify as students of color (Black/African American, Asian, Latino/Hispanic, American Indian, or Multiracial). The College also received 100 new transfer students this fall. Please join me in giving all of these new students a warm welcome to the Marist community!

I can also report that the 2022 recruitment campaign is in full swing, and over the next four months we will be focused on engaging with as many high school seniors as possible. The Admission Office will continue to be open seven days a week until Thanksgiving to allow families to visit the Marist campus. We also have a robust marketing and communication campaign planned to attract a diverse and high-quality group of applicants to Marist.

For the second consecutive year, the College successfully offered our Summer Pre-College program in a fully virtual format. A total of 208 high school students enrolled in a consolidated set of 13 academic offerings, up from 191 participants last year. During the three-week program, students earned three college credits while interacting with peers from 20 different states and four countries. At the program's conclusion, we safely hosted a group of 72 students and their parents for an on-campus event that included an overnight stay, outdoor barbecue, an evening movie on the Campus Green, and plenty of opportunities to meet Marist faculty and fellow students.

### *Graduate admission*

Marist continues to accept and enroll new graduate students, and we are cautiously optimistic that new graduate student goals will be met when we close enrollment in mid-October. The graduate programs within the School of Computer Science and Mathematics have experienced a decline in domestic enrollment compared to previous years, and we are actively working to develop strategies to improve enrollment trends. On the plus side, we are encouraged by an increase in international student interest. We

anticipate that more than 30 new international students will ultimately enroll this fall, representing the largest entering cohort of foreign students in more than five years.

In the School of Communication and the Arts, there are nine new students in the MA in Museum Studies program in Florence, which is welcome news since we were unable to send a new cohort to Italy last fall due to the pandemic. In the School of Management, the MS in Professional Accountancy continues to serve our current Marist accounting undergraduate student population well. We enrolled a total of 24 students over the summer (17 through our dual degree program and seven entering the standalone MS in Professional Accountancy). All programs within the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences have performed well this summer and fall, with both the MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and the MA in School Psychology exceeding their new student enrollment goals. Finally, a highly qualified cohort of 52 new students started the Physician Assistant Program this past June.

### *College Marketing and Communication*

The Office of College Marketing and Communications plays a key role in supporting both the College's COVID-19 communications and our new student enrollment efforts. The team has worked diligently to maintain the reopening portion of the Marist website, assisted with the development and distribution of over 110 community-wide emails, executed a number of targeted social media campaigns related to COVID-19, and designed signage for use around campus. The team also supported New Student Orientation, which has included six weeks of virtual asynchronous content coupled with half-day, in-person campus programs. Incoming students could also participate in live webinars to assist with onboarding, while parents participated in a four-week virtual program. In total, the College Marketing and Communication team produced 80 videos, 49 emails, and 15 live virtual events for students and families in June and July.

College Marketing and Communication has also worked closely with academic deans and program chairs to redesign the website's undergraduate program pages to better highlight Marist's distinctive opportunities, student success, and overall value proposition. The webpages for each academic program have been enhanced with updated content and new visual assets to better tell the Marist story. Finally, the team spent the summer developing new strategic plans to increase engagement and improve conversion within each market/program. The ultimate goal is to attract the best and brightest

students to Marist, increase our applicant pools, and meet or exceed all of our new student enrollment goals.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for the many accomplishments contained in this memo. Enjoy the remainder of the fall semester.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "Q" and a small dot above the "i".