

September 8, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO THE MARIST COLLEGE COMMUNITY

FROM: Dennis J. Murray

RE: Fall Update on College Activities

Welcome to the 2009 fall semester! As we look forward to another academic year, I would like to report on the many successes that Marist has enjoyed during the past year: the beginning of construction on the new Hancock Center, which will be a magnificent addition to our campus; prestigious national fellowships, including two Fulbrights and a Goldwater; a major National Science Foundation grant to fund computer science and information technology scholarships; record numbers of applications; and inclusion in the nation's most prominent college ratings guides. Please join me in celebrating the diverse and impressive achievements of the College's students, faculty, and staff.

Hancock Center

Marist has broken ground on what will be one of the premier academic buildings in America, the Hancock Center. At a time when other colleges and universities are postponing capital projects, we have the funding in place to move forward with this significant building. The Hancock Center will be a magnificent addition to the Marist campus. Designed by the world-class architect Robert A.M. Stern, it will sit on a spectacular site overlooking the Hudson River. In addition to the striking aesthetics, the Center will free up space all over campus and be a signature academic building. It will include faculty offices, classrooms, seminar rooms, computer labs, an executive presentation center, the Marist Institute for Public Opinion (MIPO), and space for academic administration. The Center will also have a café, student lounge, and an outdoor patio overlooking the Hudson.

The Hancock Center will also house many of the global technology initiatives that have earned Marist a national reputation, including the Open Source Development Lab, the Institute for Data Center Professionals, and the IBM/Marist Joint Study. Finally, this building will serve as a center for small business incubation. It will provide local

entrepreneurs, technology start-ups, and small business owners with an innovative business and development environment for turning their ideas, research, and business plans into reality.

Construction on the Hancock Center began in June with the closing of the Lowell Thomas parking lot and the installation of a fence around the construction site, which encompasses the parking lot and the former Benoit and Gregory site. To accommodate campus traffic throughout the academic year, we have built a temporary bypass road. Next summer, the construction fence and temporary road will be removed and a new academic quadrangle will be constructed in their place.

Parking is always a major concern on a college campus, and for this reason we have expanded the Fontaine Annex parking lot to make up for the loss of the Lowell Thomas lot. The expansion added 41 new parking spaces, which will be designated for students living in Foy and Gartland Commons Townhouses. Staff and faculty who previously parked in the Lowell Thomas lot will now park in the Foy Townhouses lot. In addition to the expanded Fontaine Annex lot, 14 spaces from the Lowell Thomas parking lot, including nine handicap-accessible spaces, have been left in place along the temporary campus road for the 2009-10 academic year.

In terms of building construction, the concrete foundation for the Hancock Center is nearly complete. During the excavation phase, construction crews removed approximately 20,000 cubic yards of rock, 9,000 of which we recycled back into the site by crushing it into usable material. The next step is the assembly of the structural steel, which will begin in mid-September and continue for approximately eight weeks. During this process, the building's size, shape, and proximity to other campus buildings will become apparent. Concrete block masonry will follow closely behind the structural steel, with a goal of enclosing the building prior to the winter months. Throughout the winter, work will focus on interior framing and rough-ins for mechanical and electrical connections. The exterior stone masonry, which is a prominent feature of the Center, will begin next spring.

The construction of the Hancock Center will inevitably cause some temporary inconvenience, which we are doing our best to ameliorate. In the meantime, we ask the college community to keep in mind that the end result will be a wonderful addition to our campus that will provide much-needed space to almost every academic area. The building is scheduled to be complete in December 2010.

Admission update

Because of the good work of our faculty and the College's growing reputation, Marist has continued to receive record numbers of applications while becoming increasingly selective in our admissions. We opened the fall 2009 semester with 1,048 new freshmen, including 989 residents and 47 commuters. Additionally, 12 freshmen are spending their first year at our branch campus in Florence. We were also joined by 186 transfer students this fall. Please join me in making these new members of the Marist community feel welcome.

Marist received a record 10,004 applications for this fall's freshman class, representing an 8.8 percent increase over last year. Only 36 percent of the applicants were offered admission compared with 38 percent last year (and 49 percent in 2006). This represents the lowest acceptance rate in Marist's history and places us among the top 5 percent of colleges and universities in the nation. The Class of 2013 is a diverse group both geographically and ethnically. Last year, 51 percent of the class was from outside New York State and this year that number has increased to 53 percent. In fact, this year we have 34 students from California (compared to 15 last year) and eight students from Hawaii (compared to six last year). Fourteen percent of the incoming class have self-identified as African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian, or multi-racial, making this the third consecutive year in which at least 14 percent of Marist's entering freshmen are students of color.

In terms of program distribution, we again focused on increasing enrollment in the School of Computer Science & Mathematics. For the third year in a row, after nearly a decade of declining enrollment, more students are enrolling in the School and its technology majors, i.e., computer science and information systems and technology. This year, new freshman enrollment in these programs increased 8 percent due in large part to new recruiting and outreach initiatives and additional financial aid. The enrollment in the Schools of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Science, and Liberal Arts also increased.

The area of Graduate and Adult Enrollment (GAE) has enjoyed some key successes. As of September 2, we had received 721 graduate applications for the fall semester. This compares to 413 last year, representing an increase of 74 percent. Of these applications, 344 students have been accepted and 233 have enrolled. At the adult undergraduate level, we received 361 applications for all adult undergraduate programs, a 27 percent increase over last year. To date, 224 students have been accepted and 136

have enrolled. This fall follows an exceptional spring season in which GAE exceeded the new enrollment goals for adult students by 63 percent.

GAE is looking forward to a fall schedule of graduate fairs, community college transfer fairs, alumni events, information sessions, and professional expositions. We have also scheduled open houses and information sessions for prospective graduate and adult students throughout the upcoming year. In an effort to better serve our diverse student population, GAE has been open until 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and will begin serving its students 24/7 this fall. Students needing information can make an appointment to meet with an admission representative by phone or on campus at their convenience. Furthermore, we will provide admission walk-in hours in the evening on our Poughkeepsie and Fishkill campuses.

In order to increase and diversify our graduate and adult student populations, GAE has established several key corporate and organizational partnerships, including with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), Women in Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE), Orange Regional Medical Center, and St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital. We are also beginning to reach out to the military and veteran communities. Our team attended the Service Academy Career Conference in Washington, D.C. last spring, and more outreach events are planned. Marist is participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and we have been named a Military-Friendly School by *GI Jobs* magazine.

News from Academic Affairs

We will officially kick off our 64th academic year with our Faculty Convocation on September 9 at noon in the Nelly Goletti Theatre. At that time, we will welcome 11 new tenure-track faculty members. We will also honor John Scileppi, Professor of Psychology, who is this year's recipient of the Board of Trustees' Faculty Award for Distinguished Teaching. John is not only a Marist alumnus, but he was valedictorian of his graduating class. He has been teaching psychology at Marist since 1973, and the College is pleased to honor one of its own as a master teacher. Our congratulations to John for this recognition!

During the spring semester, the Board of Trustees considered several tenure and promotion cases. Please join me in congratulating Scott Frank, who was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Mathematics; Jim Melitski, who was granted

tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Public Administration; Isabel Rose, who was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Social Work; Josh Kotzin, who was granted tenure at the rank of Assistant Professor of English; Laura Linder, who was granted tenure at the rank of Associate Professor of Media Arts; Rob Cannistra, who was promoted to Senior Professional Lecturer of Computer Science; and Alan Labouseur, who was promoted to Senior Professional Lecturer of Information Systems.

I am pleased to announce that Marist recently received a \$550,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) S-STEM grant to help fund full scholarships to students entering the College in the areas of computer science and information technology and systems. The goal of the proposed CS/ITS Cohort Scholarship Program is to increase the number of students in the computer science and information technology undergraduate majors. Primary objectives are to recruit and graduate a cohort of 12 academically-talented and financially-disadvantaged students, to improve the program for future cohorts, and to recruit new cohorts each year. Congratulations to Dean of the School of Computer Science & Mathematics Roger Norton and to Associate Professor of Computer Science Ron Coleman, who will serve as principal investigator of the project. Our thanks and congratulations also go to the members of the proposal development team, Assistant Dean of the School of Computer Science & Mathematics Mary Ann Hoffmann and Academic Grants Coordinator Donna Berger.

In other grant news, Marist has just been approved to receive a \$50,000 Implementation Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to fund a collaborative project among our Department of Computer Science, Department of Communication, and the Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI). The NEH grant will fund the Digital Pathfinder for Historic Sites Project, which will provide self-guided tours of the great estates of Staatsburg, New York using RedFoxWalker, an application for handheld devices with GPS. Associate Professor of Computer Science Ron Coleman developed RedFoxWalker with seed funding provided by Marist's NYSTAR-funded Center for Collaborative and On-Demand Computing. The digital pathfinder project will exploit the latest open source digital technology to make this historic site accessible to a broader audience by providing a flexible, personalized tour.

Three members of Marist's computer science faculty have received IBM Faculty Awards to expand education for enterprise systems. Congratulations to Senior Professional Lecturer of Computer Science Rob Cannistra, Senior Professional Lecturer of Information Systems Alan Labouseur, and Professional Lecturer of Information

Technology Matthew Johnson, who have received a combined \$80,000 to add three additional certificates to Marist's Enterprise Certificate Program. Funding will be used to develop new courses in the areas of converged networking, dynamic infrastructure, power architecture, and AIX/Unix operating systems. These significant awards reflect the College's reputation and national leadership in the area of enterprise computing.

Marist has been extremely active in promoting this year's Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial celebration. HRVI's spring 2009 issue of the *Hudson River Valley Review* was a commemorative issue containing 15 scholarly essays and reviews on pivotal themes in our area's long history. The College's 2009 Commencement exercises also reflected the Quad celebration with the participation of Governor David Paterson as the inaugural recipient of the Henry Hudson Award medal and our featured speaker. Under the direction of Associate Professor of Communication Mark Van Dyke, our communication students earned Governor Paterson's attention by working directly with Quadricentennial Director Tara Sullivan and her staff. This work helped Marist become the first academic institution recognized as a Quad partner.

The School of Continuing Education is now known as the School of Global and Professional Programs. During the fall 2008 semester, Dean Lauren Mounty led an extensive discussion regarding strategic plans for the School and solicited feedback from various leadership committees, including the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee. It was agreed that the new name better promotes strategic goals for academic excellence, innovation, professional development, and global reach. On February 7, Marist's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to change the School's name. Many thanks to the various campus constituencies who participated in the discussion and to Lauren for helping articulate a dynamic vision for the School's future.

We are pleased to announce that the School of Management has added a third department, Organization & Environment, chaired by Associate Professor of Marketing Elizabeth Purinton-Johnson. The other two departments are the Department of Accounting & Economics/Finance, chaired by newly-elected Assistant Professor of Economics Della Lee Sue; and the Department of Management, chaired by Associate Professor of Management Joanne Gavin. On June 11, the School hosted the annual regional meeting of The Mid-Atlantic Association of Colleges of Business Administration's M.B.A. Director's Forum, with several M.B.A. directors from regional schools in attendance.

This year's Silver Needle Fashion Show was the best and most impressive display of student talent ever, and our panel of distinguished judges concurred. The judges commented that all student work was well-made, creative, and trend-accurate, and noted that Marist's 2009 show was as good as any in the country. Photos of the event have been submitted to *Women's Wear Daily*. Congratulations to Director of the Fashion Program Radley Cramer and his faculty for putting on such a great show!

The Marist Poll has been conducting regular public opinion surveys on this fall's New York City mayoral election, the 2010 New York State contests for governor and U.S. Senate, and President Obama's national ratings on health care and the economy. These surveys have attracted major media attention, which will only increase with the Marist Poll's new website, <http://maristpoll.marist.edu/>. This platform has already garnered extensive coverage for its information and analysis on topics including politics, the economy, health care, and technology. In addition to these polling projects, the staff at MIPO has been developing new methodological approaches to survey research, particularly in the area of cell phones and paneling. These techniques promise to improve survey accuracy and keep us at the forefront of innovation in this field.

MIPO is conducting surveys for the Children's Health Fund at the Mailman School for Public Health at Columbia University and for the Knights of Columbus. They will also be hosting a series of seminars on the Marist campus throughout the fall with leaders from polling, politics, and the press. In addition, MIPO Directors Lee Miringoff and Barbara Carvalho are involved in the planning for the Westchester County Executive debate in September. Lee will be moderating the give-and-take on behalf of the Business Council of Westchester. These activities provide extensive regional and national recognition for Marist, underscore MIPO's role as a leader in the public opinion community, and provide a unique educational opportunity for the 200 students involved each semester with Marist Poll activities.

Marist faculty and students continue to lead the way in online innovation. At the 10th International Sakai Conference in Boston in July, a group of 2009 Marist graduates (Jaclyn Weiner, Victoria Banks, and Jennifer Sussin) and Associate Professor of Communication Mark Van Dyke gave an extremely well-received presentation on the communication strategies they developed as part of the College's transition to iLearn. We should note that Mark received an Honorable Mention in the 2009 Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award program for the way he has integrated Sakai into his courses. In addition, students in Associate Professor of Communication Lyn Lepre's spring

journalism class created a new and innovative website, www.maristny575.com, which allows alumni and friends to follow the work done by Marist journalism students and keep up with other news and events here at the College.

Our students have also had the opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom to the real world. Students in Associate Professor of Media Arts Laura Linder's spring capping course produced professional videos, press kits, publications, and event plans for numerous community nonprofits organizations, including Bikes That Heal, Birthright, Children's Media Project, Clearwater, Community Foundation of Dutchess County, Dutchess Outreach, Gateway to Entrepreneurial Tomorrows, Inc. (GET), Hudson River Rowing Association, and the Wild Earth Wilderness School. Thanks to the good work of Internship Director Gerry McNulty, more than 300 School of Communication & the Arts students participated in meaningful internships. Students interned at some of the most prestigious national and international companies, including Yves Saint Laurent, Gucci, CBS Sports, *Cosmopolitan* magazine, IBM, RDF Media, Focus Features, the NBC Network, Madison Square Garden, CNN, and Ogilvy/BWR Advertising.

The College continues to distinguish itself as a globally engaged institution. Nearly 41 percent of graduating seniors in 2009 participated in a study abroad program through Marist International Programs during their undergraduate years, an impressive figure given the national undergraduate participation rate of 5 percent. The most recent published study (2008) by the Institute for International Education ranked Marist 21st in the country among master's-granting institutions for total number of students studying abroad per year.

Marist students are not only studying abroad in far greater numbers than at other well-respected colleges and universities, but they are also undertaking foreign study in a greater number of countries. This past academic year, students studied abroad in 19 countries on five continents, including traditionally less-traveled locations like Argentina, the Czech Republic, Greece, South Africa, and Thailand. Our short-term study abroad programming of the past academic year took students to a total of 14 countries (a 40 percent increase in abroad destinations over the past three years). Issues and topics explored on these faculty-led programs included cultural studies, the arts, politics, fashion, cross-cultural communication, and biology. In addition, Marist will be sponsoring a trip to Rome for adult undergraduate students in January. This one-week

trip will be the first time that we have expanded our international initiatives to the adult student population.

In other international news, the College's collaboration with Scuola Lorenzo de' Medici (LdM) in Florence continues to flourish. Professors of Art Jim Luciana and Richard Lewis visited LdM to conduct faculty development seminars, observe classes, and update the staff on the B.S. in studio art degree. They also worked with the Marist faculty to develop our first graduate degree in Florence, an M.A. in museum studies, and a certificate in studio art. We are also pleased to announce the start of our Faculty Exchange Program with LdM. Our first visitor from the Florence campus, Elena Sibilio, arrived in Poughkeepsie on August 20. Elena will be teaching in the English department this fall, including courses on Modern Poetry and Classics of Western Literature. She holds a Ph.D. in English and American Literature from the University of Florence. Taking her place in Florence is our own Tom Goldpaugh, Associate Professor of English, who will be teaching literature and writing.

Faculty/staff accomplishments

Last year was highly productive for our faculty in terms of publications and creative work. Evidence of this impressive scholarship is contained in the 2008-09 *Selected Faculty and Student Publications and Scholarly Activities*, published by the Office of Academic Affairs. I hope you join me in a sense of collective pride when reviewing this booklet. I especially want to congratulate our faculty members who published books last year: Professor of English Judith Saunders, for her book *Reading Edith Wharton through a Darwinian Lens: Evolutionary Biological Issues in her Fiction*; Associate Professor of History Fred Opie, for *Black Labor Migration in Caribbean Guatemala, 1882-1923*; Assistant Professor of Philosophy Andrei Buckareff for his co-edited book *Philosophy of Action: 5 Questions*; Assistant Professor of Marketing Vernon Murray's book *The Davenport Prophecy: Knights Templar in Washington, D.C.*; and Associate Professor of History David Woolner for co-editing the book *FDR's World: War, Peace, and Legacies*.

In other notable achievements, Assistant Professor of Public Administration Tony Carrizales served as Editor-in-Chief for the spring 2009 edition of the *Journal of Public Management & Social Policy*, and Professor of Art Richard Lewis and his wife Susan received an Award of Excellence for the second edition of *The Power of Art*. I would also like to congratulate Associate Professor of Art Ed Smith and Assistant Professor of

Art Donise English for their inclusion in impressive exhibitions and publications during the past year. Finally, Professor of Computer Science Onkar Sharma has been invited to serve on the 2009-10 Information Technology Peer Review Committee for the Fulbright Specialists Program. As an expert in his discipline, Onkar will review applications for this competitive program.

In March, Associate Professor of History Robyn Rosen and Associate Professor of Special Education Jan Stivers received the 2008-09 Faculty Recognition Awards. Robyn was recognized for her research on American women's political activism and social movements, and Jan was recognized for her student-centered approach to research. This award, sponsored by the Library Development Committee and the James A. Cannavino Library staff, is given annually to faculty members who have published or presented scholarly and/or creative works that epitomize the professorial life. The recipients are chosen with the assistance of the Deans and faculty of the College's various schools.

Our professors have also been well represented at conferences and seminars. Assistant Professor of Philosophy Andrei Buckareff attended a highly competitive six-week NEH seminar this summer entitled "Metaphysics of the Mind," which was held at Washington University in St. Louis. Senior Professional Lecturer of Art Dan McCormack received the Ultimate Eye Foundation Award for Excellence in Figurative Photography. Associate Professor of Communication Keith Strudler hosted the Associated Press Sports Editors northeast annual meeting, which was attended by sports editors and writers from the region's largest papers, as well as more than 100 Marist students. Keith also continues his weekly sport and society commentary for WAMC, the Albany National Public Radio station.

Associate Professor of Psychology Sherry Dingman spoke at a symposium on Human Rights and Social Justice at the United Nations; Sherry gave a talk about the health problems in children and families in West Africa, which she has witnessed firsthand. The six psychologists on her committee were chosen from the more than 3,300 colleges and universities in the United States.

In August, Director of Academic Technology and eLearning Josh Baron was elected Chair of the Sakai Foundation Board. Initially elected to serve as a Sakai Board member in December 2007, Josh will complete the term of the outgoing chair and be eligible for election to a full two-year term in December 2009. As Board Chair, Josh will have the opportunity to help shape the future of Sakai and continue Marist's leadership

role in this vibrant open source community. Josh is also the co-author of a chapter entitled “Innovating Teaching and Learning with Sakai” in *Sakai Courseware Management: The Official Guide*. In May, he appeared on a national webcast sponsored by rSmart on how Marist uses Sakai.

The College’s technology expertise continues to be recognized widely. Vice President for Information Technology/CIO Bill Thirsk will be leading the steering committee of the SunGard Higher Education Community Source Initiative. Bill will be working to form by-laws and policies to deliver SunGard products into a community source environment. Congratulations as well to Harry Williams, Director of Technology and Systems, who was recently elected to the SHARE, Inc. Board of Directors. SHARE is an independent, volunteer-run association that has become synonymous with high-quality, user-driven education and resources for enterprise computing specialists. I would also like to note that Dede Hourican, Academic Technology Support Specialist, won the prestigious Help Desk Institute’s (HDI) Hudson Valley Analyst of the Year Award for 2009 for her excellent customer service and strong technical knowledge. This award is sponsored by HDI Global, which selects top first-level support analysts from a global pool of information technology professionals.

Congratulations to Presidential Fellow Eddie Summers, who was named a 2009 Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF) Fellow at Ithaca College in April. FLEFF is a competitive program that encourages outstanding graduate students of color to explore linkages between sustainable development, media platforms, globalization, race, ethnicity, gender, and music. The goal is to stimulate new research and thinking in the areas of sustainability, interdisciplinary research, and international issues. Eddie was also honored by the Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce in March as one of “Forty Under 40” young community leaders in the Hudson River Valley. He is currently completing his Ph.D. in urban and public policy at The New School in New York City.

Student achievements

I can once again report that several Marist students have been awarded extremely competitive national fellowships, demonstrating that they are succeeding at the highest levels. Two Marist students were selected for the prestigious Fulbright Program, the flagship educational exchange program administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State. Nichole Boisvert ’09, a biomedical sciences major, received a full research grant to study AIDS treatment in

Trinidad and Tobago for one year. Nicki begins her Fulbright fellowship this fall and will attend Georgetown Medical School when she completes it. Karl Minges '07, a social work major, was also selected for a full research grant to conduct diabetes research in Australia, an interest he developed while interning at the International Diabetes Institute in Melbourne. Currently a master's student at Columbia University's School of Public Health, Karl eventually intends to pursue either a medical or doctoral degree in clinical psychology.

Another exceptional distinction was achieved by Catherine DeBlase '11, who was awarded a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, the nation's highest undergraduate award in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering. Cathy is a chemistry major who has been conducting laboratory research under the mentorship of Assistant Professor of Chemistry Jocelyn Nadeau. She is Marist's third Goldwater recipient in the last four years, joining her brother Andrew DeBlase '09 and Katie Amodeo '08. I would like to take this opportunity to commend Jocelyn, former Dean of the School of Science Mike Tannenbaum, and Associate Professor of Chemistry Elisa Woolridge for their outstanding work mentoring all of these students.

Math for America (MfA) is another one of our nation's most prestigious fellowships, and this year Rachel Masciotti '09 and Steven Viola '09, both from New York State, have been named MfA fellows. The fellowship is given to students who intend to teach mathematics at the secondary school level in an urban environment. The award includes graduate tuition, placement in an urban school, and a stipend for a five-year benefit of approximately \$90,000-\$100,000. Additionally, biochemistry major Christine Schenck '09 was awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship to support her studies toward a doctoral degree in organic chemistry at Columbia University. The highly competitive award designates the recipient as an NSF Graduate Fellow, is three years in duration, and provides a \$10,500 cost of education allowance and \$30,000 annual stipend. Congratulations to Rachel, Steven, and Christine!

In other scholarship news, the School of Management announced in May that Caileen Collins '10 is the 2009-10 William G. McGowan Scholar. Caileen, who is a double major in accounting and finance with a minor in business administration, will receive an \$18,000 tuition scholarship made possible by the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund. In addition, Lauren Duncan '11, a fashion design major, was awarded the \$5,000 Young Menswear Association (YMA) scholarship. Lauren's entry was described as "one of the best ever seen in this competition" by the YMA Governors

Board. Finally, Natalie Nick and Jacqueline Weiss, both members of the Class of 2013, received the prestigious Thomas H. Watson Memorial Scholarship from IBM. More than 2,000 students applied for this scholarship, which recognizes academic excellence.

Jennifer Lemke '10, a criminal justice/psychology double major with a math minor, was selected to receive a fall semester full-time internship with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Jennifer is one of only seven students selected nationwide for this all-expense-paid internship. Terrence Turner '10 spent the summer at the highly selective Albert Einstein College of Medicine Minority Summer Research Program, giving him the opportunity to conduct research with top faculty there. Advertising major Jourdan Valdes '09 was selected to the American Association of Advertising Agencies' 2009 Multicultural Advertising Intern Program. He interned for 10 weeks in account management at the Kaplan Thaler Group, Ltd. in New York City. Finally, Laura Sherland '11, a fashion merchandising major with a minor in business, was a finalist in a national contest to create a new, limited-edition snack for Dunkin' Donuts. Lauren dubbed her concoction the "S'mOREO."

School of Science students have been extremely active at conferences. They won five out of six research awards at the Mid-Hudson Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) 2009 Undergraduate Chemistry Research Symposium in April. Congratulations to Meghan Burke '09, Jacob Cawley '10, Cathy DeBlase '11, Jessica Kramer '09, and Britney NeJame '10, who all won cash prizes for their papers. In addition, Caitlin Runne '09 received the Mid-Hudson Section of the ACS College Recognition Award. Thanks to Associate Professors of Chemistry Elisa Woolridge and Neil Fitzgerald, Associate Professor of Environmental Science Zofia Gagnon, Assistant Professor of Chemistry Jocelyn Nadeau, and Associate Professor of Medical Technology Cathy Newkirk for mentoring these students. Jacob and David Reens '10 both won awards at the Eastern Colleges Science Conference, held at Wagner College in April. Britney, Jacob, David, and Mark Esolen '09 traveled to Washington, D.C. in May to present at the Posters on the Hill conference, sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Education. Their poster, "PGMs Turn Lethal," was one of only two research projects chosen from New York State. Thanks to Zofia Gagnon for supervising these students' research.

Students from the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences also distinguished themselves at the Third Annual Psychology Research Conference at Mount Saint Mary College in April. Congratulations to student presenters John Keenan '09, Jillian Pitura

'10, Laura Sciacca '09M, Anny Bonilla '12, Courtney Jackson '11, Brianna Kennedy '09, Thomas Kilroy '10, Kayna Pfeiffer '11, James Kreinbih '11, and Michela Staffiero '11. Thanks also to Assistant Professors of Psychology Gail Pereira Do Carmo, Ryan Kinlaw, and Erik Moody for serving as faculty advisors to our student researchers.

The Marist Debate Team had another great year, with varsity debaters Margeaux Lippman '09 and Chris Kozak '09 finishing as semifinalists in competition at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in February. They attained a record of 4-2 in pre-elimination competition, then bested Cornell in the quarterfinals before narrowly losing their semifinal debate to the University of Rochester. Margeaux was recognized as the tournament's 9th speaker and Chris received a 10th-place speaker award.

News from Student Affairs and Athletics

The Red Foxes continued their winning ways during the 2008-09 academic year. The Marist women's basketball team concluded another extraordinary season, winning the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) regular season title for the sixth straight year and the MAAC Championship title for the fourth straight year. The team also traveled to Los Angeles to play in the first round of the NCAA tournament. The 12th-seeded Red Foxes put up a terrific fight against fifth-seeded University of Virginia, losing by a score of 68-61 and finishing the season with a record of 29-4. We are also proud to note that our women's basketball team was one of 14 teams in the NCAA tournament to boast a perfect graduation rate; other schools with this distinction include Notre Dame, Stanford, Villanova, Vanderbilt, and Lehigh.

Rachele Fitz '10 was named MAAC Player of the Year for the second year and was named an Honorable Mention All-American by the Associated Press. This was the first time in which a Marist women's basketball player received this honor. In addition, Rachele became the leading scorer in our women's basketball history, surpassing the record of 1,587 points set by Ursula Winter from 1981-85. On April 15, Rachele was honored by the Met Basketball Writers Association as its Player of the Year, and Head Coach Brian Giorgis was named Maggie Dixon Coach of the Year. Rachele was also featured in a *New York Times* article highlighting her skills both as a fashion student and on the basketball court.

On November 13, the women's basketball team will host North Carolina A&T at the McCann Center in the 2009 Preseason Women's National Invitation Tournament

(WNIT). This is the first time Marist will host a Preseason WNIT game on its home floor, and second time the Red Foxes will appear in the tournament. Eleven of the 16 teams in the 2009 Preseason WNIT played in postseason last year.

The men's basketball team finished the season at 10-23, and they defeated Iona in the opening-round game of the MAAC Championships. Unfortunately, however, the team lost to Niagara in the quarterfinal round. The men's tennis team won its 10th consecutive MAAC championship and moved on to the NCAA Tournament, succumbing to 10th-seeded Florida in the first round of NCAA play. The women's tennis team finished the MAAC season at 4-3, but saw their 2008-09 season come to a close losing to Niagara in the MAAC semifinals. The women's water polo team won the MAAC championship for the second consecutive year with a record of 19-15. After losing their first two games to San Diego State and the University of California at San Diego, they went on to defeat Cal Lutheran to win the seventh-place game at the NCAA Women's Water Polo Championships. This gave Marist its first-ever win in women's NCAA Championship water polo.

The women's lacrosse team clinched a berth in the 2009 MAAC women's lacrosse tournament and went on to upset Canisius in the MAAC semifinals. However, they lost to Fairfield in the MAAC Championship finals. The men's lacrosse team finished their season with a 4-9 record and a 4-4 mark in the MAAC Lacrosse League. Speaking of lacrosse, Marist's own Associate Professor of History Fred Opie was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) Hall of Fame. Fred was a two-time NJCAA All-American at Herkimer County Community College before transferring to Syracuse University. He has also served on the Board of Directors of U.S. Lacrosse since 2006.

The men's crew team won its ninth consecutive MAAC championship and 12th overall, while the women's crew team placed second at the championships. Men's swimming and diving placed third at the MAAC Championships and seventh at the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Swimming and Diving Championships, while the women's team finished second at the MAAC and third at the ECAC. The women's softball team ended their season with a record of 9-7 MAAC and 16-33 overall. The men's baseball team defeated Canisius in the championship game of the MAAC Tournament to take the league title and advance to the NCAA Tournament for the sixth time in the last 13 years, but were defeated by Florida State and Ohio State in NCAA Regional play. They finished their season at 15-9 MAAC and 31-28 overall.

For the eighth consecutive year, Marist led the MAAC in the number of student-athletes selected to the conference's Academic Honor Roll. The Red Foxes had a school-record 173 student-athletes receive this distinction for the 2008-09 academic year. To be eligible for the MAAC Academic Honor Roll, a student-athlete must hold a GPA of at least 3.2. This year, Marist set a school record with 13 Academic All-District selections, and had two Academic All-Americans – Melissa Giordano '09 of softball and Ryan Schneider '09 of men's basketball. In addition, the Marist volleyball team program received the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award for the 2008-09 year. This is the third consecutive year the Red Foxes have earned this honor. Our student-athletes demonstrate their dedication to both their studies and their sport year after year, and we are extremely proud of their accomplishments.

In community service news, Campus Minister Katie Sullivan led a group of Marist students to Mérida, Mexico during spring break. The group taught computer skills to the children of the community of Emiliano Zapata Sur and had the opportunity to visit with their counterparts at Universidad Marista. Closer to home, Jeff Francis '10 spearheaded a special campus fundraiser called Hearts for Haiti. The event, held on March 31, raised \$12,000 to support children at an orphanage in Haiti. Finally, on April 17, Marist students held the annual Relay for Life event. The volunteers walked laps around the Campus Green from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., raising \$35,000 to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Three programs administered by Student Affairs received continuation grants for 2009-10. The Liberty Partnership Program, which provides at-risk students with services to improve their ability to complete high school and attend college, received \$298,000 from the New York State Department of Education. This program serves students in the Kingston and Poughkeepsie school districts. In addition, the Upward Bound Program, which helps prepare academically at-risk students for college, received \$657,533 in federal funding this year. Finally Marist's Office of Special Services, which provides support services to Marist students with disabilities, was awarded \$230,756 by the United States Department of Education.

College Advancement

In spite of a very challenging economic climate, our fund-raising efforts for the 2009 fiscal year were successful. The College received \$6.8 million in donations,

including \$4.4 million in private giving and \$2.4 million in government support for academic research and sponsored programs.

The Campaign for Marist continues to make progress with more than \$56 million committed towards our \$75 million goal. We continue to be grateful for the leadership of the capital campaign by Trustee Tim Brier '69 and the following Trustees and alumni on the campaign committee: Trustees Jim Barnes '84, Rob Dyson, Dan Hickey '66, Mary Joyce '74, Bro. John Klein '70, Pat Lavelle '73, Ross Mauri '80, Chris McCann '83, John O'Shea, Pat Pantello '76, Tim Tenney and Tom Ward '69, as well as alumni Jim Duncan '69, Ken Gestal '70, and Genine McCormick '88. The committee and the Office of College Advancement will be continuing to reach out to alumni, friends, parents, and private foundations to secure commitments to Marist's ambitious fund-raising effort.

Planned gifts are another central component of *The Campaign for Marist*. This past year, several bequests and a charitable gift annuity added \$80,385 to the College's endowment. One of the bequests was from the estate of Catherine Weiss, sister of Raymond F. Weiss '49, the founder of the Modern Languages Department at Marist. For many years, Catherine and her sister Margaret supported a Marist scholarship named for their late brother. Her bequest has now been directed for that purpose. We are grateful for this thoughtful remembrance, which benefits our students and perpetuates the name of someone who did so much for the College. I would also like to acknowledge the generosity and thoughtfulness of Margaret Bunten, whose bequest to Marist has been directed to the St. Marcellin Champagnat Fund for Catholic Activities. Marge retired in 1981 and had supervised the College's printing and copy functions. She passed away this spring at 92, but remained in contact with the College throughout the years. In fact, four of Marge's eight children are Marist graduates.

Because the Marist Fund bridges the gap between tuition revenue and the actual cost of a first-rate educational experience, its continued growth during the Capital Campaign is critical to the College's overall well-being. Thanks to the leadership of Trustee Pat Pantello '76, the 2009 Marist Fund secured \$1.2 million in gifts and pledges this past year. Congratulations and special thanks to Pat and the entire Marist Fund team, especially our Division Chairs Maria Licari-Cohen '93 and Antonella Licari '94 (Alumni Division); Tom DePace '07 and Matt DePace '08 (Young Alumni Division); local dentist Rich Whalen and Michael Flynn '96 of MNC Stribbons, Inc. (Business Division); Peter and Barbara Ferrigno, parents of Kristen '10 and Bobby '12 (Parent Division); Dean of Undergraduate Admission Kent Rinehart '94/'99M (Campus Division); and Trustee

Betty Wolf (Friends Division). We are grateful for the time and energy these volunteers gave to the annual fund, as well as their dedication and commitment to Marist.

The College has also benefited from the generosity of charitable foundations. In May, Marist received one of the first-ever gifts from the new Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. The gift consists of \$50,000 in cash, as well as shares of stock in Cargill, Inc. and will be used to support our Department of Environmental Science & Policy. In July, we were awarded a \$23,250 challenge grant by the John Ben Snow Foundation to support upgrades to digital editing facilities in the School of Communication & the Arts. We have until the end of 2009 to raise an equal amount of money from alumni, foundations, and other friends of the College. Once the challenge is met, nearly \$50,000 will be available to upgrade and expand the School's digital editing capacity with state-of-the-art Avid digital editing software and supporting hardware.

Thanks also to the Richard and Gertrude Weininger Foundation for its longstanding, generous support of the Judaic Studies collection named in honor of its founders. Among the uses for this latest grant, which honors Paul X. Rinn '68, is the enhancement of Marist's notable Holocaust collection with the addition of new memoirs by survivors and e-books now available on the subject. I should note that Paul was one of seven inductees this year into the Surface Warfare Hall of Fame. He was recognized for his heroic command of the U.S.S. *Samuel B. Roberts* in mine-infested waters in the Persian Gulf. Congratulations on this honor!

I am pleased to report that the College has made significant progress on our NEH \$500,000 challenge grant to expand HRVI's endowment. Thus far, \$768,491 has been raised toward the 3-to-1 match goal of \$1.5 million. NEH's support is earmarked for enhancement of HRVI's digital library; sponsorship of lectures, conferences, and other public programming; publication of *The Hudson River Valley Review*; and development of resources for K-12 classrooms. Much work remains on the NEH challenge grant, but we are off to a tremendous start. I would like to extend the College's thanks to Frank T. Bumpus and Trustee Todd Brinckerhoff for launching this initiative with outstanding leadership gifts. The Shawangunk Valley Conservancy, under the leadership of Peter Bienstock, and the D.J. McManus Foundation, led by Deborah McManus, also provided important support during this first phase of fund raising, as have Frank and Mary Doherty, Barney McHenry, Marjorie Hart, and Bob and Donna Tompkins.

Marist alumni have continued to stay involved and connected with their alma mater. This past year, we welcomed three new regional alumni chapters in Chicago, Georgia, and Northern California. We also hosted a record number of events in locations across the country ranging from Los Angeles to Naples, Florida. The College was also well represented at this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City. The Marist contingent of alumni, families, friends, and staff was led by Trustee Pat Lavelle '73 and his wife Patty '74, who served as honorary grand marshals. Finally, we hosted a series of receptions for incoming freshmen this summer in Boston, Connecticut, Long Island, Northern California, and Washington, D.C. Many members of the Marist Class of 2013 attended with their parents and enjoyed the chance to meet their future classmates and Marist alumni.

Campus enhancements

In addition to the Hancock Center, this summer has seen some other exciting changes to the Marist campus, including major renovations to the Student Center and continued progress on the Route 9 pedestrian underpass.

We completed 16 capital projects totaling \$2.1 million during the summer months. Among the key projects undertaken this year was the expansion of the Health Services Center to accommodate Counseling Services and our Health Services staff, which has seen a significant increase in the number of students treated each year. The creation of the Health and Wellness Center allows us to provide enhanced service to our students in a new space that includes an attractive reception and waiting room, six exam rooms, a triage room, and five offices for counselors.

Another important summer project was the renovation of the Cabaret. This redesign has increased the integration between the Cabaret and the former commuter lounge, while at the same time greatly improving the space's aesthetics and functionality. The new design includes beautiful architectural woodwork, acoustical treatments, new carpeting and furniture, and a state-of-the-art projection system. We believe that students, and indeed the entire campus community, will be favorably impressed with the renovated Cabaret and the new Health and Wellness Center. We encourage you to drop by and see the improvements for yourself.

Other notable projects included the addition of stone masonry at the Donnelly Hall entrance, HVAC upgrades at the Student Center, new landscaping at the Upper West

Cedar Townhouses, and technology upgrades in 28 general purpose classrooms. As is normally the case, our summer work was designed to enhance space campus-wide in support of academic and student service programs, undertake deferred maintenance projects, and improve campus infrastructure.

Marist and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) have continued to work collaboratively to develop a detailed design for the Route 9 pedestrian underpass. NYSDOT has surveyed the property, performed a complete underground utility study, and produced a preliminary structural design for the project. Robert A.M. Stern Architects, the designers of the Hancock Center, provided architectural details for the appearance of the underpass, access ways, and landscape work that will be completed on our property. Stern's work on the project ensures that the underpass adheres to the goals and aesthetic guidelines set out in Marist's campus Master Plan. NYSDOT is serving as the lead agency, and they will be responsible for securing all of the necessary state and local approvals. A detailed model of the proposed underpass will be on display in the Lowell Thomas lobby in mid-September, and we invite you to view it.

As part of the Route 9 crossing project, we will also make major modifications to our south and main entrances. Once the underpass is operational, NYSDOT has asked that the College's main entrance be closed to pedestrian and vehicular traffic (with the exception of emergency vehicles and very large delivery trucks). When the main entrance closes, vehicular traffic at both Marist's south and north entrances is expected to increase, particularly at the south entry. We are currently developing plans for the revised entrances with NYSDOT and the Stern team, and we will present these plans to the campus community during the coming months in a campus Master Plan update briefing.

Finally, I would like to note that the Town of Poughkeepsie Board has unanimously approved the transfer of the south end of Beck Place to the College. Beck Place is located on our east campus adjacent to the Steel Plant Studios. With this transfer, Marist acquires control over that portion of the street, which gives us the ability to make aesthetic improvements and otherwise shape the area as best suits the College. I would like to thank Executive Vice President Roy Merolli and Director of Physical Plant Justin Butwell for their excellent work in making this happen. Thanks also to our local councilman Mike Cifone and the Poughkeepsie Town Board for their continued support.

Marist in the News

For the sixteenth year in a row, Marist was ranked in the top tier of colleges and universities in the northern United States in the latest edition of the annual *U.S. News & World Report* college guide. For the second consecutive year, *U.S. News* called Marist one of 77 “schools to watch” nationwide, placing us among those who have “made the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus, or facilities.” The College was ranked 15th out of 172 colleges and universities in the northern United States offering a full range of undergraduate and master’s degree programs. The College was also included in The Princeton Review’s *Best 371 Colleges*, and *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance* magazine ranked us among the 50 best buys in private universities. The credit for our success must go to our faculty and staff who work every day for the benefit of our students. Their dedication makes Marist’s increased prominence possible.

Marist faculty and staff have also been prominently featured in the press. Bill Thirsk, Vice President for Information Technology/CIO, was quoted in the March 2009 edition of *eCampus News* in an article regarding cloud computing. Bill did a terrific job explaining the innovative way in which Marist runs cloud computing on a mainframe and the benefits to both the College and the outside community. Roger Norton, Dean of the School of Computer Science & Mathematics, and Susan Scanlon, Director of Corporate Outreach for the Institute for Data Center Professionals, were featured in the July/August edition of *Data Center Management* in an article on bridging the data center skills gap. Marist has been extremely active in training the next generation of data center workers. In another press article, Affiliate Assistant Professor of History Jim Johnson was interviewed in the March-May edition of *The Valley Table* about his expertise on the American Revolution and Hudson River Valley history. Finally, Associate Professor of History David Woolner published an article in *The Huffington Post* on the Pecora Commission, the Depression-era Congressional hearings on the collapse of the banking system.

College Operations

Marist’s *Strategic Plan 2004-2009: Building on Success* has served us extremely well since it was launched. Enrollment of traditional students has grown, new programs have been initiated, and the College’s fiscal position has remained strong and stable despite the global financial crisis we have experienced. Given the current uncertain

economic climate, planning for the future presents a challenge. During the fall semester, we will be reviewing various models and processes for developing a new strategic plan. As part of the process, we will summarize the progress that has been made over the past five years on the goals and objectives in our current plan. At the conclusion of our review, we will present a recommendation for moving forward with the development of a new strategic plan for the College.

As fall and winter approach, the upcoming flu season is at the forefront of the College's planning efforts. Marist has been preparing extensively for a potential H1N1 outbreak for some time, both in our administrative and academic areas, to ensure the safety and well-being of the entire Marist community. For the past several months, we have worked closely with the medical professionals at the Dutchess County and New York State Health Departments to monitor the current H1N1 situation. Most importantly, we have adopted the guidelines and best practices set out by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for colleges and universities in the event of an outbreak. Information about H1N1, as well as about seasonal flu, is available on the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools.

Marist also has a number of on-campus resources to help us handle a potential flu outbreak. We have just opened our new Health and Wellness Center to provide the highest level of care to our students. The Center is under the full-time direction of Dr. Mary Dunne, M.D. and has a highly professional staff of nurse practitioners and registered nurses, all of whom are well prepared to provide students with excellent health care and medical guidance. We also plan to hold flu clinics starting in October so that faculty and staff can be vaccinated against H1N1 and seasonal flu. Finally, the College has a close working relationship with St. Francis Hospital, located just across the street. We are confident that we have put into place best practices and procedures that will allow us to successfully manage a potential outbreak on campus.

Information Technology update

I am pleased to announce that we have completed our transition from the Educator online course management system to iLearn, Marist's version of the Sakai open source course management system. (iLearn stands for Innovative Learning Environment and Resource Network.) The project was finished on time and on budget, and, most importantly, our students have reported a high level of satisfaction with the new system. This major milestone represents the culmination of many months of planning and hard

work, and I would like to salute the Information Technology (IT) professionals who oversaw the process, particularly Vice President for Information Technology/CIO Bill Thirsk and Director of Academic Technology and eLearning Josh Baron.

The Office of Academic Technology and eLearning and Technical Services have completed a major upgrade to iLearn, moving from version 2.5.4 to version 2.6.1. The Marist/IBM/rSmart activities related to porting Sakai to WebSphere and DB2 reached a major milestone this summer when it was announced that version 2.6 of Sakai would be released with WebSphere and DB2 support enabled. The WebSphere/DB2 announcement was prominently featured in the release notes that were distributed to the Sakai community. This is a major achievement for the Marist/IBM/rSmart team and is the result of nearly two years of hard work. Special thanks to Vice President for Information Technology/CIO Bill Thirsk, Director of Academic Technology and eLearning Josh Baron, Dean of the School of Computer Science & Mathematics Roger Norton, IBM Certified Executive Project Manager Howard Baker, Open Source Programmer Adam Hocek, and Mike Lavacca '11 for their many efforts on this project.

The iLearn upgrade provides faculty with several new capabilities, including a “global student view” option, which many faculty members identified as a top need during the prior academic year. In addition to this system upgrade, a significant overhaul of faculty and student support materials was carried out, including the launch of a newly-formatted FAQ and Faculty Best Practice Guide website. As the new academic year unfolds, faculty and students can look forward to the introduction of additional support services and new iLearn capabilities.

The Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of Academic Technology and eLearning have continued to offer a range of iLearn-related workshops through the Academic Technology Institute. To ensure that instructors were prepared for the fall semester, workshops such as “Introduction to iLearn” were offered throughout the summer, as well as new sessions on topics like wikis and pedagogical practices associated with teaching online. To accommodate faculty needs, sessions were conducted in a range of formats, including evenings, weekends, and fully online.

IBM’s Content Manager System (branded as iDocs at Marist) continues to attract new users, allowing the digitization of documents that had previously filled filing cabinets. The School of Communication & the Arts began using iDocs in May to archive documents for faculty who have left Marist, and the James A. Cannavino Library is using

it to scan and store large portions of the Lowell Thomas Collection. This phase of the Lowell Thomas project consists of scanning thousands of photographic negatives, hand-painted glass photographic images, and printed photographs. A web interface to the collection will also be built, providing researchers around the world with access to the collection, which includes many artifacts never before available to the public.

The College's Knowledge Center System, which is part of IBM's Academic Initiative, remains extremely popular. As part of this program, Marist provides students and faculty with virtual access to our mainframes and other systems to take courses, conduct labs, run test environments, and perform other research. Six new participating institutions have joined the Academic Initiative, adding nearly 300 students to the system. Technical Services has made improvements to the process used to create z/OS Test Drive systems, providing individual z/OS images for Marist faculty and student use. In addition to improving the creation process, the network capabilities of the systems were also enhanced to meet the needs of our faculty. The images can now communicate with each other, allowing them to be used in a z/OS networking course. To date, more than 130 z/OS Test Drive images have been built for our faculty and students.

We continue to successfully implement the Banner enterprise resource planning (ERP) system and develop the Luminis portal. With the launch of the Banner Human Resources module in May, we added an employee tab to my.marist.edu. This new feature gives Marist employees the ability to do time reporting on the web, view their pay stubs, and leave detailed information on record in a secure, central area on our website. Our student employees will begin using this new web application this month. The completed roll out of the Banner Finance, Advancement, and Human Resources modules marks the halfway mark for the implementation of the College's new ERP system, and I am pleased to say that it has been carried out on time and on budget. The Banner Financial Aid and Student Teams modules are fully engaged to go into production in February and October 2010, respectively.

IT is committed to continuous improvement in how it supports and serves its customers. In this spirit, they have extended the hours of the Help Desk for the upcoming academic year. The new hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. The extended evening hours will provide better support for both students studying abroad and adult students who require services after normal business hours. The role of the student aides in the Donnelly Computer Lab

has changed as well. These students can now provide Help Desk services such as resetting passwords and creating service tickets.

Desktop Administration and ResNet have been hard at work. Our Internet bandwidth was increased to 200 Mb from 160 Mb to meet the ever-increasing demand for network services. The Desktop team also spent the summer working with outside vendors to upgrade the MIPO call center with the latest hardware and Vista software. Upgrades were also applied to IT's centralized monitoring system to allow additional network-related devices to be monitored in real time; this new system runs under Linux on Marist's IBM z9 mainframe and thus does not increase power consumption. In addition, we plan to update some of the PC labs on campus to the Adobe Creative Suite Standard and Master Collections. This suite of products is intended for professional print, web, interactive, and mobile designers. Finally, I am pleased to report that our IT staff has continued to earn outside recognition for their efforts, specifically the 2008 Lenovo Stellar Award. This prestigious award is exclusive and is earned by fewer than 5 percent of warranty service providers. Congratulations on this distinction!

As part of our ongoing efforts in the areas of business continuity and disaster recovery preparedness, we installed additional fiber optic cables (72-strand) between the Data Center in Donnelly and the Lower West Cedar V LAN room, which has been identified as one of the potential on-campus disaster recovery sites. This additional cabling will connect our Storage Area Network (SAN) solution and provide additional backup data storage. Our disaster recovery site in Syracuse now offers a full mirror of the main Marist website. If the main campus is experiencing a major problem, our website will be re-routed to the Syracuse site with updated information. The Syracuse website also provides much of the same functionality that our main website does.

Financial update

I am pleased to report that the College's financial position continues to be strong in spite of the challenging economic environment. Marist's ability to weather the current storm is the direct result of a history of responsible fiscal management and prudent budgeting. Last year marked the 30th consecutive year in which Marist achieved a balanced budget.

In May, the Board of Trustees approved a balanced operating budget for 2009-10 in the amount of \$133.4 million. The new budget includes a moderate tuition increase for

undergraduate students, no tuition increase for graduate students, and creates a new contingency for student financial aid. The comprehensive fee (tuition, room and board, and mandatory fees) for this year's freshman class increased 4.1 percent, bringing the total to \$37,830. Fortunately, the College was able to budget a modest salary increase for faculty and staff, and we continue to contribute generously to fund employee benefits. We expect to maintain existing staff levels for the foreseeable future. A separate capital budget for 2009-10 earmarks funds from operations in support of significant capital projects, most notably the new Hancock Center.

In April, we were pleased to learn that after a careful review of Marist's financial position, Moody's affirmed our rating of A2 with an outlook of stable. This is a particularly significant achievement, since Moody's downgraded 12 of the colleges and not-for-profits it rates during the first quarter of 2009 and upgraded none. Further affirmation of our sound financial practices came in July when Standard & Poor's extended their rating of AA-/A-1 on several of our outstanding bond issues.

Like our peers and the financial markets in general, Marist's investment portfolio has suffered declines. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009, endowment assets and other investible funds experienced a loss of 13 percent; while disappointing, this compares favorably with the related benchmark, which showed a loss of 19 percent. The market value of our portfolio was slightly more than \$102 million at June 30, 2009.

Finally, I am pleased to report that Jay Pantaleo, formerly our Assistant Controller, has been promoted to Director of Finance and will be working closely with Vice President for Business Affairs/CFO Jeanne Plecenik on various financial analyses in support of our strategic plans.

Transitions

On April 20, Michael Silvestro joined the College as Assistant Vice President for Human Resources. Mike came to Marist with more than 20 years of experience in human resources management in higher education, most recently as Vice President for Human Resources and Institutional Effectiveness at Passaic County Community College (PCCC) in Paterson, New Jersey. At PCCC, his responsibilities included overseeing the Human Resources office, serving as Affirmative Action Officer, and working closely with all campus administrative offices on institutional effectiveness and assessment.

Marist has also welcomed several new deans in the last few months. John Peters joined us in May as Dean of International Programs. John has many years of experience developing, directing, and supervising study abroad and other international education programs, most recently as Associate Academic Dean at the School for International Training in South Africa. We also welcomed Jerry Willis as Associate Dean for the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences. Jerry came to Marist from Manhattanville College, where he was Professor of Educational Leadership and helped develop the doctoral program in leadership. He was a Fulbright scholar in Ukraine and Turkey and is the author or editor of many books. In May, Sean-Michael Green began his duties as the Dean of Graduate and Adult Enrollment. Sean-Michael joined us from Westfield State College, where he served as Associate Dean of Graduate and Continuing Education. A Marine Corps veteran, Sean-Michael recently co-authored a chapter in *Creating a Veteran-Friendly Campus: Strategies for Transition and Success*. Finally, Dana Wilkie has joined our School of Global and Professional Programs as Assistant Dean for Domestic Programs. Dana was previously Assistant Dean and Director of Graduate Programs in the business school at Fairfield University.

In June, Marist lost a great dean and colleague when Dean of the School of Science Mike Tannenbaum left to become Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. Mike was at Marist for 11 years and oversaw many achievements, including the renovation of the chemistry labs and the near doubling of students majoring in science. He was a tireless advocate of undergraduate research, and his leadership in mentoring students resulted in Marist's first Goldwater Scholarships. We thank Mike for all his contributions to the College and wish him all the best at Hartwick. A nationwide search for Mike's replacement will begin this fall, but in the meantime, Dean of the School of Management Elmore Alexander has agreed to serve as Acting Dean of the School of Science; Associate Professor of Chemistry Neil Fitzgerald will serve as Acting Assistant Dean.

Summer programs and events

Summer is increasingly a very busy time on the Marist campus. Enrollment in our summer pre-college programs increased more than 82 percent, with 153 high school students spending two weeks living here and earning three college credits in one of the following programs: Fashion, Environmental Science, Computer Gaming, Business, Sports Communications, Criminal Justice, and Creative Writing. These popular programs introduce talented high school students to the Marist experience, strengthen

enrollment in targeted majors, and highlight signature programs at the College. We were also visited by approximately 3,940 prospective students, compared to 3,750 at the same time last year (representing an increase of 5 percent). The Offices of Undergraduate Admission and Student Financial Services were open until 7 p.m. throughout the summer to better serve these high school students and their families.

The School of Computer Science & Mathematics hosted this year's Jay P. Rolison, Jr. Summer Scholars Program under the sponsorship of Dutchess BOCES. As part of this program, academically advanced 10th and 11th grade students were chosen from Dutchess County high schools to live on the Marist campus for two weeks. Professional Lecturer of Information Technology Matthew Johnson led 19 students through intensive lab sessions as they explored the fundamentals of computer graphic development. Students also had the opportunity to experiment with computer graphics tools and ultimately created their own 3D applications. In another Dutchess BOCES collaboration, Affiliate Assistant Professor of History Jim Johnson and Teaching Associate of English Stephen Mercier led a series of field trips in the Hudson River Valley for local social studies teachers as part of the Teaching American History grant program.

In July, Marist hosted nearly 30 writers at our 4th annual Summer Writing Institute. This week-long event gives writers, regardless of background or ability, the opportunity to hone their craft as a part of a true community of creative minds. The program featured workshops in fiction, nonfiction, or poetry, as well as informative panel discussions. There was also a keynote address by Michael Martone, author of *Racing in Place*. Our thanks to Assistant Professor of English Tommy Zurhellen, who organized the institute with assistance from Assistant Professor of English Lea Graham.

Faculty in the Art and Art History Department collaborated with Scuola Lorenzo de' Medici (LdM) to conduct a unique four-week summer program for students in Venice. The intensive studio and art history program focused on the Venice Biennale festival, as well as the historically important artwork in the city's museums and churches. Students had the opportunity to work intensely and see their work grow and mature as they prepared to display their creations in a final showing. The chance to put their own work in the context of both past and present Venetian art was a truly unique experience for our students. Our thanks to Associate Professor of Art Ed Smith, Professors of Art Richard Lewis and Jim Luciana, and Assistant Professor of Art Donise English for their excellent work on this program.

Special initiatives

The Marist Professional Women's Mentor Program (MPWMP) conducted a very successful pilot program this spring. The purpose of MPWMP is to connect experienced women professionals with aspiring female talent for professional growth and development in a supportive, one-on-one environment. The program aims to leverage the collective talents of Marist's women professionals. The pilot phase included nine mentor/mentee pairs selected from a voluntary application pool and matched using an online database. Both parties attended an orientation session, and then the pairs met for at least one hour per month throughout the spring semester. Pilot participants' feedback was solicited through online surveys and focus groups.

Both mentors and mentees reported extremely positive experiences in the program, and they provided valuable advice about expanding and developing it. With this in mind, there will be an informational session on November 18 for those women administrators who are interested in joining MPWMP, either as a mentor or a mentee. More information can be found at <http://www.marist.edu/humanresources/mpwmp>. I encourage all members of the Marist community to support this important initiative.

The Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee (CSAC) continued its fine work last year, and we can report a number of changes that will help make Marist a greener campus. Our new Health and Wellness Center features Solatube light fixtures that operate entirely on natural light so that florescent fixtures can remain off during the day; each room is also equipped with motion detectors so that lights turn on only when someone walks into a room. Over the summer, we added about 30 deciduous and evergreen trees, as well as a number of perennial beds, to the courtyard of the Upper West Cedar Townhouses. Approximately 40 trees were also planted at the north end of campus around the expanded Fontaine Annex parking lot. In addition, the College has completed the final phase of a three-year plan to purchase outdoor receptacles for recycling.

The main dining hall kitchen purchased a number of more energy-efficient appliances, and Dining Services continues to employ zero-waste catering, meaning that all food waste, compostable plates, and utensils are collected for composting at the end of catered functions. In addition, Dining Services will sponsor an Organic Café every Tuesday for lunch, featuring local and organic foods. On freshman move-in day, faculty, staff, and student volunteers collected 3,340 pounds of cardboard, representing a 122

percent increase over last year. During the upcoming year, 12 students in Gartland Commons will work closely with CSAC to develop sustainable practices within their residence and across campus. I would like to thank CSAC and its co-chairs, Associate Dean for Student Affairs Steve Sansola and Associate Professor of Communication Paula Willoquet-Maricondi, for the terrific work they do.

Upcoming events

Marist's 30th annual Founders' Day Luncheon will be held on September 23 in the Cabaret. At this special event, we honor those employees celebrating 20 years of full-time, consecutive service to the College. This year's honorees are: Eileen Comerford, Administrative Coordinator, Global and Professional Programs; Nancy Decker, Library Assistant; Craig Fisher, Professor of Information Systems; Ruth Francese, Office Assistant, College Advancement; Jan Harrington, Associate Professor of Information Systems; Ray Lane, Manager of Postal Services; Deidre Sepp, Director of Career Development; Karen Tomkins-Tinch, Coordinator of International Student Programs; and Joe Weglarz, Executive Director of Student Financial Services.

HRVI is busy preparing for the upcoming Quadricentennial Conference to be held on September 25-26 at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor Center in Hyde Park and in Marist's Student Center. The Quad conference will include a keynote address, plenary session, panel presentations, reception, book signing, and play, and will feature the leading scholars on the Hudson River Valley, including several Marist faculty members. More details on this event are available at www.hudsonrivervalley.org.

The first weekend in October will be a particularly memorable one at Marist. As usual, we are hosting Family Weekend, which always features a full schedule of entertainment, sports, and other events. This year, however, there are two extremely unique events that we encourage you to attend. On October 3, the College will host the Quadricentennial Poughkeepsie Regatta, a re-enactment of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association (IRA) regatta that was held on the Hudson River from 1895-1949. The race will follow the original three-mile course, and a number of the original crew teams will be participating, including Columbia, Cornell, Navy, University of Pennsylvania, and Syracuse. The race will begin at 9 a.m. at the Marist waterfront. Later that morning, the Walkway Over the Hudson will celebrate its grand opening. This former railroad bridge, which is 212 feet high, runs 6,760 feet across the Hudson River and has been reinvented as an urban park. It promises to be a truly unforgettable weekend!

This fall, the College will once again host events associated with the Big Read, a public literacy campaign headed up by the Poughkeepsie Public Library. This year, the focus is on *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, and there are several enriching events planned. On October 6, Professors of English Judith Saunders and Rose De Angelis and Assistant Professor of English Josh Kotzin will discuss the book in its literary and social contexts. There will be a Harlem Renaissance Poetry Slam on October 7, and on October 8, Associate Professors of History Sally Dwyer-McNulty, Fred Opie, and Robyn Rosen and Assistant Professor of History Steve Garabedian will explore the significance of race, gender, class, and culture in early 20th century African-American life, as well as the politics of Hurston's novel in American history. Many thanks to Assistant Professor of English Angela Laflen for organizing the 2009 Big Read.

Alumni are invited back to campus to reconnect with their classmates, friends, and faculty for Homecoming & Reunion Weekend on October 9-11. Reunion celebrations are being planned for the Heritage Classes ('47-'66) and the Classes of '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, and '04 on Saturday evening, including a special 50th reunion presentation for the Class of '59. Also scheduled for the weekend are the Alumni Family Picnic on the Campus Green, the Red Foxes versus Jacksonville University in Tenney Stadium at Leonidoff Field, a golf outing, faculty receptions, and more. We look forward to a terrific weekend!

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for the many accomplishments contained in this memo. I look forward to another exciting year at Marist, and wish you an enjoyable and productive semester.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

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