

September 8, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO THE MARIST COLLEGE COMMUNITY

FROM: Dennis J. Murray

RE: Fall Update on College Activities

Welcome to the 2008 fall semester! We opened the school year at a time when there is great excitement about Marist and increasing recognition of the good work being done by our faculty, students, and staff. The College has been lauded in national publications, another student has won a Goldwater Fellowship, our faculty have had published several new books, we completed a new \$25 million student townhouse complex, we will break ground next spring on the Hancock Center, we received a \$400,000 National Science Foundation grant, and the Red Foxes again won the MAAC Commissioner's Cup. In short, Marist is a college on the move, and everyone should take great pride in what is happening here.

Admission update

Marist has achieved its highest ranking ever in *U.S. News & World Report's* annual college guide. The College was tied for 13th out of 171 colleges and universities in the northern United States that offer a full range of undergraduate and master's-level programs. The guide also named Marist one of 70 "schools to watch" nationwide because of our innovative work. This great news came shortly after the College was included in *The Princeton Review's Best 368 Colleges*, and *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine ranked us 41st among the 50 best buys in private universities. Given all of the good things happening at the College, it is gratifying to receive this external affirmation of our work.

Because of Marist's reputation for academic excellence, we have continued to enjoy extraordinary success in the area of traditional undergraduate admissions. We opened the fall semester with 1,038 new freshmen, 985 of whom are residents and 43 of whom are commuters. Additionally, there are 10 freshmen spending their first year at our branch campus in Florence. We were also pleased to welcome 191 transfer students to the college community this fall.

The College received a record 9,198 applications for this fall's freshman class, representing a 10.4 percent increase over last year (and a 26.0 percent increase in the past two years). The quality of the pool was very high, making the review process extremely challenging. Only 38 percent of applicants were offered admission, compared with 42

percent last year and 49 percent in 2006. This is the lowest acceptance rate in Marist history, placing us among the top five percent of colleges and universities in the country.

We are proud to say that the Class of 2012 is the strongest in our history. The average SAT score increased 12 points to 1,743, while the mean grade point average increased slightly to 89.98 (compared to 88.85 last year). Last year, 53 percent of the class was from New York, and this year that number is 49 percent. In terms of geographic diversity, we have seen an increase in students from New England, the Middle Atlantic, the Southeast, and the West. In fact, this year's freshman class has 17 students from California (versus 12 last year), six students from Hawaii (compared to one last year), and 12 students from Florida (versus last year's six students). The demographic shift we have been anticipating is now upon us, and the progress we are making in new geographic markets will help us offset the expected decline in high school graduating seniors in the Northeast. In addition to geographic diversity, we are pleased to report that more than 14 percent of the incoming class have self-identified themselves as African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian, or Multi-racial.

The Graduate and Adult Enrollment (GAE) area received 402 applications for graduate programs by the August deadline. Of those who applied for graduate programs, 217 students were accepted and 144 ultimately enrolled. At the adult undergraduate level, we received 273 applications for all undergraduate programs. We accepted 151 students, and 102 of those accepted students enrolled.

GAE and the Office of Career Services have launched a specialized career development seminar for adult undergraduates. Modeled after the career skills course required for all traditional undergraduates, this seminar is designed to address the specific career needs of adult students in terms of changing careers, returning to work, and advancing in the workplace. The program utilizes the Sakai online learning courseware and will be delivered to all adult students as a non-credit, self-paced module.

I would like to recognize and thank Vice President of Admission and Enrollment Planning Sean Kaylor, Dean of Undergraduate Admission Kent Rinehart, and their entire team for achieving these excellent results.

News from Academic Affairs

We will officially kick off our 63rd academic year with our Faculty Convocation on September 10 at noon in the Nelly Goletti Theatre. At that time, we will honor Sue Lawrence, Assistant Professor of Media Arts, who is this year's recipient of the Board of Trustees' Faculty Award for Distinguished Teaching. Sue was recommended for this honor for her distinguished record as a scholar and teacher. Our congratulations to Sue on this recognition!

During the spring semester, the Board of Trustees considered several tenure and promotion cases. Please join me in congratulating Don Anderson, who was promoted to Professor of English; Marcia Christ, who was promoted to Senior Professional Lecturer of Advertising; Ron Coleman, who was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Information Technology; Donise English, who was granted tenure at the rank of Assistant Professor of Art; Deborah Gatins, who was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Psychology; Art Himmelberger, who was promoted to Senior Lecturer of Music; Eitel Lauria, who was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Information Systems; Greg Machacek, who was promoted to Professor of English; Elizabeth Quinn, who was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Psychology; Ivette Romero, who was promoted to Professor of Modern Languages; Della Lee Sue, who was granted tenure at the rank of Assistant Professor of Economics/Finance; Georganna Ulary, who was granted tenure at the rank of Assistant Professor of Philosophy; and Elisa Woolridge, who was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Chemistry.

The end of the 2007-08 academic year saw a change of leadership in two of Marist's major faculty committees, the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) and the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC). Professor of Mathematics Joe Kirtland is succeeding Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice John (Doc) Doherty as Chair of FAC, and Associate Professor of History Nick Marshall is succeeding Professor of Management Studies Bob Grossman as Chair of AAC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Doc and Bob for their outstanding service to the College and wish Joe and Nick all the best as they take on these important roles.

With Joe Kirtland assuming the chairmanship of FAC, he is stepping down from his leadership role at the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). The mission of CTE is to promote faculty excellence in teaching, encourage pedagogical and professional development of all instructors at Marist, and support the integration of new technology to enhance teaching and learning. Joe has done a tremendous job building CTE and making it such a great resource for faculty. Succeeding Joe as Director of CTE will be Assistant Professor of Philosophy Georganna Ulary, who will serve a three-year, renewable term. Georganna received her Ph.D. from Duquesne University and joined Marist in 2002. I am sure that she will lead CTE to new heights.

I am pleased to announce that Marist has received a two-year, \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to build a community of experts to address the skills shortage in large-scale computing system environments. The project's goal is to reshape the undergraduate curriculum in information technology, information systems, and computer science in order to promote essential computing technology principles that are critical to our national economy and security. Current academic partners include Illinois State University, North Carolina Central University, the University of Arkansas, Widener University, Monroe College, San Jose State University, Stevens Institute of

Technology, and SUNY Binghamton. Corporate partners include Aetna, BMC Software, Citigroup, IBM Corporation, Morgan Stanley, Progressive Insurance, Travelers Insurance, and Verizon. Kudos to principal investigator (PI) Roger Norton, Dean of the School of Computer Science & Mathematics, and to Associate Professor of Information Systems Eitel Lauria, Professional Lecturer of Information Technology Systems Angelo Corridori, and Assistant Dean of the School of Computer Science & Mathematics Mary Ann Hoffmann, who were named key personnel. Thanks also to Academic Grants Coordinator Donna Berger for playing an integral role in the proposal development team.

This prestigious grant is a fitting recognition of Marist's expertise in the area of enterprise computing. This is a particularly timely topic because there is an acute shortage in the marketplace of information technology (IT) professionals with mainframe skills. In its February 18 issue, *ComputerWorld* magazine devoted an article to the subject of mainframes, quoting Strategic Project Manager Martha McConaghy. Martha talked about Marist's mainframe skills certificate program, which the College offers in conjunction with IBM. There is a high demand for those who graduate from the program, as many employers are searching for employees who know z/OS. Congratulations to Martha on helping to showcase Marist's outstanding work in technology.

With guidance from their professors, Marist students had a number of unique, real-world educational opportunities during the spring semester. Students in Associate Professor of History Nick Marshall's Hudson River Valley studies class conducted oral history interviews for a project concerning the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge in collaboration with the Dyson Foundation and Walkway Over the Hudson. Associate Professor of English Pau-San Haruta's business writing class worked for three months helping the Hispanic advocacy group Somos la Llave del Futuro ("We are the Key to the Future") raise awareness and expand its volunteer and donor base. Students also helped secure a \$14,000 grant to train "cultural health promoters" to assist immigrant groups in gaining access to health care. Finally, students in Associate Professor of Communication Mark Van Dyke's Public Relations Case Study course created a strategic communication proposal for IBM Public Relations to support the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of African American History.

A group of students in the School of Science had the extraordinary opportunity of spending a week at Yale-New Haven Hospital in August. The students rotated through several of the hospital's specialty laboratories, receiving instruction in virology, molecular biology, flow cytometry, mycobacteriology, and toxicology. Our students represented the largest group hosted by Yale, and their stay at this major medical center afforded them experiences that are simply not available in the Mid-Hudson River Valley. Congratulations to Kendall Bunzey, James Dietz, Daniel DiSante, Dana Dombrowski, Caitlin Galbraith, Katelyn Lohne, Sean McIntyre, and Nick Staropoli, all members of the Class of 2009. Thanks also to Dean of the School of Science Mike Tannenbaum and

Associate Professor of Medical Technology Bob Sullivan for helping to make this experience possible.

Marist students are representing the College well at venues all over the country. During the spring semester, students on the Ethics Team earned the chance to compete at the national Ethics Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. Additionally, two student teams participated in the Johnson & Johnson Case Competition in New Brunswick, New Jersey, winning a prize of \$2,000. In May, the Marist College Chamber Singers had the opportunity to perform at world-renowned Carnegie Hall for the fourth consecutive year. Their performance included Mozart's Requiem.

Our students are also broadening their global perspectives through participation in international programs. Thirty-four percent of the Class of 2008 studied abroad as part of their Marist undergraduate careers. During the 2007-08 academic year, a total of 512 students (both matriculated and visiting) studied in nearly 30 countries with Marist International Programs. Their destinations included Albania, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Scotland, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam.

More than 200 students went on short-term study-abroad programs during the last academic year to destinations like the Galapagos Islands, South Africa, Japan, London and Paris, Greece, and many others. Each of these programs has a different academic focus and is led by faculty members here at the College. This past spring, for instance, Professor of Art Jim Luciana and Assistant Professor of Art Donise English took 27 students to Italy to study art and art history in a cultural context. Students were exposed to the wealth of Italian history and culture in Naples, Rome, Florence, and Venice. Highlights of the session included a tour of Pompeii, the Vatican, and the Accademias of both Florence and Venice. Another group of 25 students traveled to Italy with Chief Public Affairs Officer Tim Massie and our College Chaplain Father Richard LaMorte as part of a religious studies course. The students were given private tours of the Sistine Chapel, the newly restored Chapel of Nicholas V, the Vatican's marble restoration lab, the Vatican Gardens, and excavations of the Roman Forum and Coliseum. The students also attended an audience with Pope Benedict XVI, visited Assisi, and toured Sicily.

In another short-term program, Marist students traveled to South Africa in June on an academic service learning trip led by Eddie Summers, Presidential Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Public Administration and Political Science. With an emphasis on social responsibility and social justice, the students attended lectures by South African scholars, visited historic sites like Robben Island, and engaged in field research for their final research papers. They also participated in several community service projects in the townships, including at a group home that cares for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. In addition, students celebrated the College's heritage by observing Saint Marcellin

Champagnat Day at a school run by the Marist Brothers in Johannesburg. The group also visited Cape Town, Durban, Pretoria, Soweto, and Hluhluwe.

This exceptional record in study abroad has helped the College achieve a significant distinction. Marist was included in the Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange, published in December 2007 by the Institute of International Education (IIE). This publication provides statistics on international activity and enrollment in the United States and overseas. Marist is now ranked in the Top 40 of all undergraduate study abroad institutions in our Carnegie classification.

Marist has also been recognized by the T. Howard Foundation, which invited us to become an Academic Partner for 2008-09. The Foundation is dedicated to increasing diversity in the multimedia and entertainment industry, and it sponsors a competitive internship program that gives students industry knowledge and experience. The Foundation's invitation was only extended to a select number of colleges and universities across the nation, including Cornell, USC, Penn State, Ohio State, and the University of Maryland. Marist had four students placed in media internships over the summer, more than any other institution. Congratulations to Staci Makovich '09, who interned at Disney and ESPN; Victoria Banks '09, who worked at Dobbin Bogla Associates; and Stephanie Espina '09 and Alicia Mattiello '10, both of whom interned at Rainbow Media.

The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI), Marist's nationally-recognized regional studies center, had another very successful year. In June, it was recognized for its leadership in Hudson River Valley studies at a reception held at Locust Grove, the Samuel F. B. Morse Historic Site. This is a particularly exciting time for HRVI, since 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's and Samuel de Champlain's explorations of this region. Executive Director of HRVI Jim Johnson and his staff have been working with HRVI's Advisory Board to plan for the quadricentennial anniversaries and for a special quadricentennial conference to be held at Marist during the fall of 2009. Several of our students interned at HRVI during the past academic year, assisting with the publication of *The Hudson River Valley Review*, as well as a variety of HRVI publications and activities. *The Review* is published twice annually and continues to have more than 600 national and international subscribers.

The College's Steel Plant Gallery has become a center of art and culture on campus. On May 1, more than 540 guests attended the opening of the annual Student Art Exhibition in the Gallery, breaking all previous attendance records. The "Paper and Pixels" exhibit was organized by the students themselves and included drawings, paintings, sculptures, illustrations, photographs, graphic design, animation, and other digital media. From March 24-April 17, the Steel Plant partnered with the National Park Service to host the first exhibition in the United States on the Soviet Gulag. The exhibition traced the history of the Soviet Union's forced labor camp system and its impact on Russia and the world today. This unique exhibit was held in conjunction with

other public events, including a panel discussion. Students in Assistant Professor of History Michael O'Sullivan's class also served as docents/tour guides. I would like to thank Gallery Director Ed Smith and the art faculty for doing such a great job of utilizing the Steel Plant facility to enhance the cultural offerings available at Marist.

The Marist Institute for Public Opinion (MIPO) is looking forward to a very active semester. Using its new interviewing software, the Marist Poll will be regularly measuring voter opinion in key battleground states and conducting national surveys on the candidates and issues in the 2008 campaign. MIPO Directors Lee Miringoff and Barbara Carvalho were extensively involved in polling and media coverage during the presidential primaries and over the summer, but the fall polling season promises to attract even wider attention. Lee and Barbara continue to cover politics and elections at WNBC-TV in New York City, and they provide poll results and analysis for print and electronic media throughout the nation on TV, radio, and the Internet. They will also be launching a blog this fall. Finally, Lee and Barbara will be making several public presentations on the electoral campaign to the Business Council of Westchester County, the Dutchess County Bar Association, and the Gillespie Forum.

In other polling news, the Marist Poll 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, garnering substantial media attention and financial support for the program. MIPO will be hosting a series of seminars on campus throughout the fall with leaders from the polling, political, and journalistic communities. All of these activities provide extensive regional and national recognition for Marist, advance MIPO's standing as a leader in the public opinion community, and offer unique educational opportunities for the 200 students involved in the Marist Poll each semester.

Recently, John Ritschdorff, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Academic Programs, oversaw a reconfiguration of the Student Academic Affairs Office to better meet the academic support needs of Marist students. The Office will comprise five units, including the Office of the Registrar, the Center for Advising and Academic Services, the Academic Learning Center, a newly-formed Center for Multicultural Affairs, and the Center for Student-Athlete Enhancement. To fulfill the goals of the reorganization, Registrar Judy Ivankovic has been promoted to Associate Dean; Jane Fiore has been promoted to Director of the Academic Learning Center; Alyssa Gates has been named Director for the Center for Student-Athlete Enhancement; and Iris Ruiz-Grech has been named the Director of the newly-formed Center for Multicultural Affairs. Kristine Cullen will continue as the Director of the Center for Advising and Academic Services. Congratulations to all.

Faculty/staff accomplishments

There are several new books by Marist faculty to report on. Professor of Finance Kavous Ardalan wrote a book entitled *On the Role of Paradigms in Finance*. Published by Ashgate Publishing, it advances a new and comprehensive view of the research process in finance and is written from a liberal arts perspective. Professor of Psychology Linda Dunlap has written a book entitled *An Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education: Birth to Age Five*, published by Pearson Education, Inc. A book co-authored by Associate Professor of Media Arts Laura Linder, *Teacher TV: Sixty Years of Teachers on Television*, has just been published by Peter Lang Publishing. Professor of Art Richard Lewis' book, *The Power of Art*, co-written with Susan Lewis, was published in second edition by Thomson Wadsworth. Professor of Modern Languages Ivette Romero co-edited a book of essays entitled *Displacements and Transformations in Caribbean Cultures (Essays)*, published by the University Press of Florida. It includes a chapter written by Ivette, "Moving Metaphors: The Representation of AIDS in Caribbean Literature and Visual Arts." Professor of English Judith Saunders wrote the afterword for Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*, which was published by New American Library. Finally, a revised edition of Peter Greenaway's *Postmodern/Poststructuralist Cinema*, co-edited by Associate Professor of Media Arts Paula Willoquet-Maricondi, was published by Scarecrow Press, Inc.

In March, Professor of Strategic Management Helen Rothberg and Associate Professor of Information Systems Eitel Lauria received the 2007-08 Faculty Recognition Awards. Helen was recognized for her contributions to research and teaching, and Eitel was recognized for his publication and presentation resume. 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 six schools. In other awards news, Associate Professor of Management Joanne Gavin was named Teacher of the Year by the Student Government Association, and Associate Professor of Medical Technology Bob Sullivan received the Gregory Kilgariff Distinguished Service Award from his faculty colleagues.

Ron Coleman, Associate Professor of Information Technology, and Professional Lecturer of Information Technology Systems Angelo Corridori were the recipients of IBM's 2008 Faculty Award. This highly competitive award is worth \$25,000, and it is intended to foster collaboration between college and university researchers and those at IBM. This honor is a recognition of the quality of Marist's information technology programs and their strategic importance to the IT industry. IBM presented awards to 120 faculty recipients representing 69 colleges and universities worldwide.

Carol Pauli, Assistant Professor of Communication, earned a prestigious Westerfield Fellowship at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. The

fellowship is intended to further careers in law teaching by providing time and mentorship for scholarly writing and publication. Last fall, Carol earned her J.D. degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University. Henry Pratt, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, participated in a highly selective National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) seminar entitled “Narrative Theory: Rhetoric and Ethics in Fiction and Nonfiction.” He was the only philosopher chosen to attend the seminar, which was held at Ohio State University in June and July.

Assistant Professor of Public Administration Tony Carrizales is to be commended on his appointment as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Public Management & Social Policy*. This is an impressive achievement since this journal is one of the leading publications in the field of public administration. Tony, along with Assistant Professor of Public Administration Jim Melitski, also received a grant from the Shared Municipal Services program of the New York Department of State to develop a model for costing police services in small municipalities and rural areas.

John Ansley, Head of Archives and Special Collections, received an \$8,000 grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) to conserve the *Lowell Thomas Collection*'s most historically significant film. The film selected for restoration represents the raw footage shot by Lowell Thomas, Jr. on the historic trip he and his father made to Tibet in 1949. The film represents the first and last motion picture images taken of the Dalai Lama before Tibet was invaded by the Chinese People's Liberation Army in 1950. The Thomases captured many unique Tibetan activities, customs, religious ceremonies, and style of dress on film on the eve of their destruction. Once the conservation work is completed, DVD copies of the film will be available for viewing by all interested researchers.

John is also continuing the Marist Environmental History Project, which is dedicated to documenting the history of the landmark Storm King Case. To date, John has been awarded \$185,000 in grant funding for this project. This year, he received \$3,767 from the New York State Education Department's Documentary Heritage Program to preserve, catalog, and make accessible to researchers the *Scenic Hudson Decision Hearing Transcripts Collection*. He was also awarded \$30,000 from the New York State Education Department's Conservation Preservation Discretionary Grant Program to microfilm the *Hudson River Conservation Society Collection*. Finally, John has been developing an oral history archive which captures the experiences of members of the Marist community who played an active role in the development of the College. Richard Foy, President Emeritus, and Gus Nolan, Professor Emeritus of Communication, have been assisting John in conducting interviews with longtime Marist faculty and staff.

News from Student Affairs and Athletics

John Ritschdorff, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Academic Programs, has been named to a four-year term on the NCAA Division I Leadership Council, the primary advisory group on policy issues to the NCAA Board of Directors. In this role, he will assist the Board in identifying strategic issues that will impact intercollegiate athletics and identify issues that may require legislative solutions. The Leadership Council is comprised of 31 members, representing the 31 multi-sport conferences that compete at the Division I level. John will represent Marist and the other Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) member schools. He has served as Marist's Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA since 1989 and has been active at the national level in considerations of initial eligibility and athletics certification.

The Red Foxes continued their winning ways this year, capturing the MAAC Commissioner's Cup for the 4th consecutive year and the 8th year overall. Marist also finished 125th in the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Director's Cup, the highest placing ever by our program and the highest finish among MAAC schools. The Red Foxes tallied 146 points based on our postseason performances in the NCAA tournaments.

Our women's basketball team in particular had another spectacular season, finishing with a perfect 18-0 in MAAC competition and going on to win the conference tournament. In the opening round of the NCAA tournament, the Red Foxes defeated DePaul by a score of 76-57, but the team was beaten in the second round by Louisiana State University, which would advance to the Final Four. The women finished the season 32-3, setting a school record for victories in a season, and were ranked 23rd in the nation in the final ESPN/*USA Today* Women's College Basketball Poll. Several members of the team received postseason accolades, and Coach Brian Giorgis was named a co-winner of the Maggie Dixon Coach of the Year award by the Met Basketball Writers Association.

The men's basketball team finished its season with a record of 18-14, and they defeated defending champion Niagara in the quarterfinal round of the MAAC. However, the team lost to Rider in the semifinal round. On April 17, Chuck Martin was appointed as Marist's sixth Division I Head Men's Basketball Coach following Matt Brady's resignation three weeks earlier. Chuck spent the last two seasons as an assistant coach at the University of Memphis, which set a single-season Division I record for victories and advanced to the national championship game this year. He has also been an assistant at St. John's, Drexel, University of Massachusetts, and Manhattan. Chuck holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Monmouth University.

Both the men's and women's tennis teams won their respective MAAC championships and moved on to the NCAA Tournament. Unfortunately, both teams lost in the first round of play, with the men succumbing to fifth-seeded University of

Mississippi and the women falling to 10th-ranked University of Southern California. Water polo set a program record with 27 victories and won the MAAC championship. The team was competitive in losses to Stanford, Michigan, and Pomona-Pitzer in the NCAA Tournament. Women's lacrosse also won the MAAC championship for the first time in program history, but went on to lose a 19-18 heartbreaker to Colgate in a play-in-game for the NCAA Tournament. Men's lacrosse ended its season by winning three of its final four games. The men's crew team won the 2008 MAAC Rowing Championships for their eighth consecutive title, while the women's crew team earned its third-straight title. Both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams won their respective championships in February. The men won their 12th title in 13 tries, while the women won their fifth consecutive MAAC title. The women also went on to place third at the ECAC Championship meet, with the men finishing fifth. The softball team reached the finals of the MAAC Tournament, falling to Canisius. Finally, the baseball team had two First Team All-MAAC selections and finished its season at 19-28.

In June, the Marist men's crew varsity four turned in a second-place finish at the Intercollegiate Rowing Association (IRA) National Championships, completing its race in a time of 6 minutes, 20.8 seconds. By placing second, the tandem of Shawn Marion '08 (stroke seat), captain Matthew Keys '08 (three seat), Jonathan Martin '10 (two seat), Kevin Fletcher '09 (bow seat) and Holly Adler '09 (coxswain) earned the highest finish for men's crew at IRAs in program history and the first medal in program history. The Red Foxes' previous highest finish in any event at the regatta was fifth.

Most importantly, our student-athletes have also distinguished themselves academically. In fact, Marist led the MAAC with 150 student-athletes selected to the Academic Honor Roll for the 2007-08 season. This was the seventh straight year that the Red Foxes led the MAAC in the number of students placed on the Honor Roll, and the total number of honorees was the highest in Marist history. Our women's volleyball team, led by Coach Tom Hanna, received the 2007-08 American Volleyball Coaches Association's Team Academic Award. Also, for the first time in the College's history, one of our student-athletes received an NCAA postgraduate scholarship. This honor went to Mike Rolek '08 of the men's cross country/indoor and outdoor track team. Proving that success in athletics and academics can go hand-in-hand, Mike was also named Male Sportsperson of the Year at our Senior Banquet in the spring.

The Red Foxes got a new look in June when we unveiled our new family of sports logos. The Athletics Department wanted to build a stronger, more recognizable brand and achieve more consistency in our athletics logos. We worked with Phoenix Design Works, a firm that has designed logos for the nation's top colleges and professional sports teams, to create a distinctive and visually appealing Red Fox. The Athletics Department will use the updated logos on apparel, printed materials, digital applications, and merchandise. You can view the new design at www.GoRedFoxes.com.

In community service news, Campus Minister Jamie Williams again traveled to Mexico during spring break with 10 Marist students. In what has become an annual tradition, Jamie and the students spent a week in Merida, Mexico interviewing community members and teaching children computer skills. In addition, a total of 55 student teams participated in the fifth-annual Relay for Life on the Campus Green in April. Students walked through the night in honor of those who have been afflicted with cancer. More than \$40,000 was raised through this event and donated to the American Cancer Society. Finally, the annual “Up Til Dawn” student fund-raiser for St. Jude’s Hospital raised another \$45,000.

As part of Marist’s ongoing commitment to serve the disadvantaged, three programs administered by Student Affairs received continuation grants for 2008-09. The Liberty Partnership Program, which provides at-risk students with services to improve their ability to complete high school and attend college, received \$280,599 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.

The addition of 264 beds at the new East Campus student townhouse complex has helped alleviate the student housing shortage, but unfortunately Marist continues to face a housing crunch. This is due to continued high demand for on-campus housing and another larger-than-expected freshman class. The College will once again offer as a housing option the Marriott Residence Inn on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie. Our students reported high satisfaction with the Residence Inn last year, and we are fortunate that it will continue to provide them with a comfortable living situation.

Student achievements

Marist students continue to win prestigious academic honors, showing that they can successfully compete at the highest levels. Chemistry major Andrew DeBlase ’09 was awarded a Goldwater Fellowship, the nation’s most prestigious undergraduate award in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. Andrew is the second Marist student in the past three years to have been selected for the Goldwater. He recently co-authored a scientific paper published in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry A* and spent the past summer conducting grant-funded research at the College under the direction of Jocelyn Nadeau, Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Marist’s other Goldwater recipient, Katie Amodeo ’08, was class valedictorian and is currently at Harvard continuing her research on Parkinson’s disease.

In addition, Nicole Brooks-Donolli '08 received the highly selective James Madison Fellowship, which is awarded to students who plan to teach American history and politics at the secondary school level. The Madison is extremely competitive, with only one fellowship awarded in each state. It was established by Congress in 1986 for the purpose of improving teaching about the U.S. Constitution in high schools. Nicole will receive \$24,000 toward graduate study leading to a master's degree. She is beginning her graduate studies in history at Boston College this fall.

Jesse Shea '10 was named a William G. McGowan Scholar and Marist's top business student for the 2008-09 academic year. He was selected by faculty members in the School of Management based on his academic record, leadership qualities, character, and commitment to others. Jesse, who is a business administration major, will receive an \$18,000 tuition scholarship made possible by the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund.

Jessica Friedlander '07 won the 2008 Barnabas McHenry Hudson River Valley Award in the Historic Preservation category. She accepted her award from former New York Governor George Pataki at the Open Space Institute luncheon held at the Metropolitan Club in New York City on April 9. Jess is the second Marist student to earn a McHenry award, which began in 2007 and is named after Barnabas McHenry, a great friend of the College. A former HRVI intern who studied English and fine arts, Jess is currently working with Walkway Over the Hudson to produce a series of visual and written works to illustrate the life of the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge.

Shannon Tavarez '11, a business major and Spanish minor, won a \$4,500 Lorien Ninie Kimlin Scholarship to study in Spain this year. This award is available to students who attended high school in the Mid-Hudson Valley and is intended to give them the opportunity to study abroad and learn about other cultures. Biomedical sciences major Nichole Boisvert '09 received a competitive internship at the National Institutes of Health to conduct summer research. Jonathan Fromhertz '08, a business administration major, received the 2008 Marist College Intern of the Year Award, which was presented at the Field Experience Recognition Luncheon in April. Stephen Furst '07 was accepted to Cornell Veterinary School, the first Marist student to achieve this distinction in more than a decade.

Jamie Wong and Courtney Chan were awarded \$5,000 Benjamin A. Gilman International scholarships. They, along with Carmen Chan and Linda Yu, also received Freeman-ASIA awards, which range from \$3,500 to \$5,000. Jamie and Carmen studied in Hong Kong during the spring semester, and Courtney and Linda spent the semester in Shanghai. All four students are business majors and members of the Class of 2009. The Gilman and Freeman-ASIA programs offer competitive scholarships for undergraduate study abroad and are administered by the Institute of International Education, the same organization that offers the Fulbright. Congratulations to Jamie, Courtney, Carmen, and Linda on these accomplishments!

These achievements are indicative of the record year our students enjoyed in terms of publications and research. Close to 100 students either published a paper or presented at a conference, and I am pleased to note that two-thirds of these students (66) applied for and received travel grants from the College to help cover their expenses, representing a 60 percent increase over last year. On April 23, students showcased their work to the entire Marist community at the largest and most diverse Celebration of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (CURSCA) event ever. Attendance included approximately 300 students, faculty, staff, and other visitors. Students delivered 16 oral presentations and displayed about 60 posters, many of which were co-authored by faculty mentors. Many thanks to Dean of the School of Science Mike Tannenbaum and his committee for doing such a great job planning and organizing CURSCA. I attend CURSCA every year, and I am continually impressed by the quality of our students' work and by the excellent guidance they receive from our faculty.

College Advancement

I am pleased to report that Marist's fund-raising efforts have met with great success. Total fund raising for fiscal year 2008 reached \$11.8 million, with \$9 million in private contributions and \$2.8 million in government support for academic research and sponsored programs.

The Campaign for Marist is also progressing very well, with more than \$50 million recorded toward the campaign's \$75 million goal. The Campaign Committee, led by Trustee Tim Brier '69, includes 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 Connolly Pantello '76, Tim Tenney, and Tom Ward '69, as well as alumni Jim Duncan '69, Ken Gestal '70, and Genine McCormick '88. On behalf of the College, I would like to thank these dedicated committee members. In the coming months, the Committee and our College Advancement Office will be reaching out to more alumni and friends to seek commitments. We are also planning informational receptions in many areas to share *The Campaign for Marist* with as many members of the Marist family as possible. One such event will be a reception on October 21 at the Army and Navy Club in Washington, D.C., hosted by retired Navy Captain Paul X. Rinn '68 and Washington/Baltimore Alumni Chapter President Helene Slavin '90.

Among those providing support to the Capital Campaign are Suresh and Rajesh Kothapalli and Vinod Kottapalli, three brothers who are all graduates of Marist's M.S. in Computer Science program and the founders of iSpace, Inc. in El Segundo, California. Together, the brothers have pledged \$100,000 for the Hancock Center and offered to help raise additional funding for the project. Roger Norton, Dean of the School of Computer Science & Mathematics, was so inspired by the generosity of these successful alumni that he has pledged his own support in response to their challenge. Thank you to all!

Scholarship support is an important part of *The Campaign for Marist*. Endowed scholarships established this past year include *The Monsignor John Brinn Scholarship*, which will be awarded to upperclassmen active in Campus Ministry, a program which exemplifies the Marist ideals of promoting higher human values and serving others. Monsignor Brinn serves at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Poughkeepsie and is a very special member of our community. The College is very grateful to him for his generous gift and involvement. In addition, *The Robert L. Sweeney Memorial Scholarship* has been endowed at Marist in memory of Robert Sweeney, a member of the Class of 1982, by his wife Diane, family, and friends. Our thanks to the Sweeney family for this generous and meaningful tribute to Robert.

The Campaign for Marist is enjoying great success in the area of planned giving. To date, \$5,285,155 in planned gifts has been credited to the campaign from Trustees, alumni, friends, and active and retired faculty and staff. This represents 7 percent of our \$75 million goal thus far, and includes trust designations, bequests from estates, and charitable gift annuities. The majority of these gifts have been directed to our endowment, with many friends of the College underwriting named scholarships to honor a lifetime of meaningful work, memorialize a loved one, or commemorate a life together. Each planned gift reflects a belief in Marist's ideals and the power of education, and, as such, creates a personal legacy that is forever valued by the College.

Both current and retired faculty members have made generous gifts to Marist. Associate Professor of Public Administration Donald Calista and Dean of the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences Margaret Calista have made a generous multi-year Capital Campaign commitment to help build the College's endowment. Assistant Professor of Computer Science Helen Hayes and her husband Joseph Regh have established an endowed scholarship fund to provide assistance to computer science majors. Milton Teichman, Professor Emeritus of English, has made a planned gift to the College, as have Professor Emeritus of Business Ted Prenting and his wife Berni. It is truly inspiring when people who have dedicated so much of their lives to Marist make gifts to ensure the College's future success. Many thanks to all.

Special thanks to the James J. McCann Foundation Trustees Mike Gartland and Dick Corbally for continuing to provide assistance to local students attending Marist. The Foundation has again provided \$50,000 to support the longstanding McCann Scholars Program and \$10,000 to underwrite the McCann M.P.A. Scholarship program. Thank you for helping to make a Marist education possible for so many students.

The Richard and Gertrude Weininger Foundation continues to provide support to expand the library collection in Judaic Studies named for its founders, and to honor the military service of Paul X. Rinn '68. Most recently, the Foundation's funding has enhanced our extensive offerings on the Holocaust and provided current online resources

on Israel and the Middle East. Marist is proud to house one of the best Middle Eastern and Judaica collections in New York State, and we appreciate the Foundation's support.

The College also greatly appreciates the additional support provided by Dan Curtin and Gary Koch, directors of the Greenspan Trust for the *Louis Greenspan Scholarship*. Lou Greenspan was a great friend of the College who played a major role in helping to build the Marist campus in the 1980s. For this reason, this scholarship support in Lou's name is especially meaningful.

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 2008 Marist Fund secured \$1.3 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); local dentist Rich Whalen and Maureen Cairl, Community Relations Coordinator at the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union (Business Division); Peter and Barbara Ferrigno, parents of Kristen '10 (Parents Division); Dean of Undergraduate Admission Kent Rinehart '94/'99M (Campus Division); and Trustee Betty Wolf (Friends Division). We are grateful for the substantial time and energy these volunteers devoted to the annual fund this year, as well as for their ongoing dedication and commitment to the College.

We continue to host alumni events to strengthen ties to the College and raise awareness about the Capital Campaign. On February 28, more than 75 Marist alumni gathered on Long Island for a reception and campus update. It was a great opportunity for us to share a slide presentation of recent campus improvements and sketches of future developments while promoting *The Campaign for Marist*. In addition, a strong contingent of Marist alumni, families, friends, and staff gathered in New York City on March 17 for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Many thanks to Trustee Brendan Burke '68 and his wife, Betsy, for serving as our honorary grand marshals. During the summer, we hosted a series of "Welcome Receptions" for incoming freshmen in New York City, Long Island, and Los Angeles. A large number of new students and their parents attended the receptions, giving them the opportunity to mingle with alumni and hear about their Marist experiences.

Finally, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) selected Marist as a winner of their 2008 WealthEngine Awards for Educational Fundraising, citing our "exemplary advancement initiatives and activities." This award honors superior fund-raising programs across the country and is part of CASE's Circle of Excellence program. Marist was one of only 30 colleges and universities to be selected for the Overall Improvement Award, which is based on our past three years of fund

raising and a peer assessment. Congratulations to Vice President for College Advancement Bob West and his entire team on this national recognition!

Campus enhancements

We were extremely busy this past summer as we continued our efforts to make the Marist campus a better place for our students, faculty, and staff. We completed construction on a new East Campus student townhouse complex, undertook 18 smaller projects designed to enhance space campus-wide, and continued our planning efforts for the Hancock Center and a possible addition/renovation at the McCann Center.

I am pleased to report that construction of the seven-building East Campus townhouse complex was completed as scheduled during the summer, and the Town of Poughkeepsie granted us a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy on August 22. Since 1998, Marist has constructed four townhouse complexes on the East Campus, and this latest one is clearly the most impressive. The new complex houses 264 upperclassmen in individual bedrooms and features many upgrades.

We have been working on the design of the Hancock Center with Robert A.M. Stern Architects. Having completed the program development and schematic design, we are focusing on details such as the structural, electrical, and mechanical systems that will be incorporated into the project. The building will be approximately 54,600 square feet in size, and will be located on the current site of the Benoit and Gregory buildings. From a programmatic standpoint, the building will house the following components: nine general purpose classrooms; six seminar/conference rooms; three computer labs; an executive presentation center; faculty and Dean offices for the School of Computer Science & Mathematics; café/lounge space; the Economic Development Center (New York State Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation/Joint Study/Incubation); the Marist Institute for Public Opinion (MIPO); the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs; and the Office of International Programs. Another advantage to the Hancock Center is that it will free up space in other academic buildings for programmatic improvements and additional faculty office space.

Eighteen smaller capital projects, with an estimated total cost of \$2.7 million, were undertaken this summer. One major project we initiated was the renovation of the historic Cornell Boathouse, including the addition of air conditioning and heating systems, handicap access to the second floor, and the restoration of the building's grand staircase and fireplace. The new space will also support our rowing programs and provide a beautiful waterfront venue for special campus events.

We also renovated the bathrooms on the first level of the Student Center. These bathrooms are the facilities most frequently used by visitors to Marist, and they now have a more user-friendly design and attractive details such as stone flooring and countertops.

This past summer also saw significant landscape, paving, and sidewalk improvements in selected areas throughout campus. Other key projects included the installation of fire sprinklers in the Foy Townhouses and cosmetic improvements to the main dining hall. Having achieved 100 percent electronic projection and multimedia capability in our general purpose classrooms in 2007, this summer's focus shifted to specialized classrooms, where we completed the final four teaching areas. Other special teaching areas, such as open research lab areas, seminar rooms, and galleries, will be evaluated as the need arises.

College Operations

This year marks a milestone in a number of ways. First, we are entering the last year of our Strategic Plan, which covers the period 2004-05 through 2008-09 and which has provided us with a strong framework for success. During the fall and spring semesters, we will be working closely with the Board of Trustees and the campus community to draft a process and timeframe for developing Marist's next Strategic Plan.

The 2008-09 academic year marks the last year of our current three-year compensation agreement with our faculty, as well as the end of our three-year contract agreement with secretarial and support staff. We will begin negotiations for new multi-year agreements for these two groups in the spring semester. The College successfully negotiated a new three-year labor contract with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) for the period covering July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011. This collective bargaining unit is comprised of 94 employees working in the grounds, building trades, and food service areas.

On July 30, we held a news conference at Longview Park to kick off the lead-up to the 2009 Empire State Games, which will be held here in the Hudson River Valley. I am proud to say that Marist will again play a central role in this annual athletic competition, serving as the site of opening ceremonies, the Games' operations and media center, and the host site for several competitions. The opening ceremonies will take place on July 22 on the Campus Green, which overlooks the magnificent Hudson River. It is fitting that our region was chosen to celebrate the quadricentennial of Henry Hudson's historic voyage up the river that bears his name. As the time draws closer, I will provide more information on the Games and ask for volunteers to assist organizers in creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere, as we did when the Games were held here in 2005.

Information Technology update

Marist continues to make tremendous progress in the transition to iLearn, our Sakai-based online learning and collaborative platform. The Office of Academic Technology and eLearning has been leading the conversion by hosting workshops, special events, boot camps, and other immersive faculty and instructional technology

professional development activities. In June, the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) and Academic Technology hosted a series of iLearn Summer Institutes for more than 30 faculty members; approximately 70 fully online courses were migrated using a newly developed course migration process. The “Introduction to iLearn” workshop attracted an additional 70 faculty members in August.

The College has also been leading the way on Sakai at the national level and abroad. During the spring semester, Josh Baron, Director of Academic Technology and eLearning and a Sakai board member, organized a teaching and learning group within the larger Sakai community. The group’s goal was to share best practices and connect faculty across institutions. Their first initiative was to launch a Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award, sponsored by IBM. The award was presented at Sakai’s annual meeting in Paris this past summer. In addition, the College trained Sakai programmers and system administrators from the United States and around the world on the inner workings and technical support of the Sakai system. Attendees came to campus over the summer and learned to manage supplemental systems that enhance the Sakai environment. By popular demand, this boot camp will be offered again next summer with expanded capacity.

The Office of Academic Technology and eLearning has continued to support innovative applications of technology in our academic programs. One of the most recent initiatives is called “iNverse Distance Learning,” and it is being implemented in collaboration with faculty in the School of Liberal Arts. As part of this initiative, Associate Professor of Political Science Shawn Shieh, who is currently in Beijing, has been using distance learning infrastructure to enrich the experience of students in Assistant Professor of History Kristin Bayer’s campus-based courses. This project and several other faculty-led technology initiatives were highlighted at the first-annual Innovations conference held at the College in May. The conference was attended by instructional technologists and faculty from regional institutions and K-12 schools.

As a result of our reputation for leadership in educational technology, Marist is working with the Executive Leadership Council, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing senior-level managers and executives from the college level up. The Foundation has asked us to host its version of Sakai so that its members (15 historically black colleges and universities) can provide collaborative learning spaces, courses, and other open learning opportunities. Marist is providing technical, instructional, and help desk support. We piloted several courses in the spring and went into full production in June. While the College has successfully hosted other organizations’ websites and online activities, this relationship is a milestone which reflects our expertise in providing systems and resources to the open source education market. The Foundation is supported by many Fortune 500 companies.

We have spent considerable time and effort improving technology infrastructure around campus. Telecommunications and networking staff members were busy this summer completing the telephones, network, and wireless connectivity in the new student townhouse complex. Student access to the network was further enhanced with the installation of additional wireless connectivity in the Student Center, McCann Center, and St. Ann's Hermitage; 99 percent of the buildings on campus now have wireless connectivity. A new Network Access Control (NAC) system was successfully deployed campus-wide, providing a streamlined login process that also enhances security for the College's network resources. Users have been experiencing faster login times and better virus protection. In addition to enjoying a more robust network, students are now able to register their gaming systems (such as Xbox and PlayStation) on the campus network by simply accessing the networking website and adding their device to the authorized systems database.

Labs throughout the campus have undergone a technology upgrade. The Lowell Thomas 132 computer lab now has new Lenovo server-class computers to meet the increased demand for high-end graphic software for the School of Computer Science & Mathematics. The Donnelly lab has been refreshed with a new image and more software titles including Adobe Acrobat Professional, Air, and InDesign Standard. The InDesign software is particularly useful for our fashion design and fashion merchandising students, providing a toolkit for professional design and print production, and offering essential tools for page layout, image editing, illustration, and Adobe PDF workflows. The Donnelly lab has also been equipped with four Hewlett Packard Scanjet G4010 color flatbed photo scanners, which can scan photos, slides, negatives, and documents to an almost-professional standard.

All classroom podium computers have been upgraded with new 19" wide-screen LCD (flat-screen) monitors. The Library's loaner laptops have been replaced with new Lenovo T61-15" wide-screen laptop computers for student borrowing. The computers in the eScriptorium and all public areas of the Library have also been upgraded to the latest PC technology. Faculty technology support has continued with more than 150 faculty computers being upgraded with the latest PC technology, many of them to Lenovo T61-15" wide-screen laptops. Desktops for approximately 250 staff members have also been upgraded, and thin client computing has been implemented in various offices across campus for access to internal web applications and the Internet.

Ongoing efforts to strengthen Marist's disaster recovery capability have continued with the completion of an alternate network path for the McCann Center and stand-alone PhoneMail capability for the East Campus. Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) units have been upgraded in a number of telecommunications and networking rooms to increase the amount of time the telephone and network systems can stay on during a power outage. If for some reason the main Internet connection fails, the backup Internet connection is programmed to automatically take over.

With campus emergency notification at the forefront of national attention, Executive Vice President Roy Merolli coordinated a discussion session on the status of emergency planning and communication at Marist with more than 50 faculty members in April. The session was developed in response to faculty requests for more information. Vice President for Student Affairs Deb DiCaprio, Vice President of Information Technology and CIO Bill Thirsk, and Director of Safety and Security John Gildard presented at the session, which resulted in some excellent feedback and suggestions from participating faculty.

To further enhance emergency communications and notification, we have installed a Cable TV Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS listens for and automatically broadcasts emergency alert information such as tornados, floods, and other types of local and national messages. It also allows staff to broadcast locally-originated content, including live video from the on-campus command center.

Marist's redesigned website continues to win raves for its usability and attractive design. The home page now features "Marist Voices," short video vignettes highlighting programmatic offerings, community involvement, and technology. Prospective students can now take a virtual tour of the campus, view an enhanced slideshow and interactive map, and watch the "Meet Marist" video. To keep it fresh and up-to-date, our website also features a state-of-the-art content management system called OmniPage, which allows content contributors to quickly update and post information. OmniPage has allowed us to increase the site's accuracy and timeliness while also strengthening the College's brand. Our website has moved from a legacy server cluster to our IBM z/9 mainframe computer, providing a more reliable web server environment in an environmentally-friendly manner. This transition has substantially reduced the number of independent physical servers utilized to serve the site. The Hudson River Valley Institute's website also moved to the z/9.

The transition to our new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system continues to progress well. On July 1, we began utilizing the new Banner system to process all financial transactions. This portion of the ERP implementation was not only accomplished on time and on budget, but it was the first implementation to run on the z/9 mainframe with the Oracle database. Additionally, the first module of our Luminis web portal went live in tandem with the Banner finance module. Luminis is the web front-end, which provides a single point of entry to all Banner applications, including self-service products such as budget lookup, transcript lookup, bill paying, and course registration. All required Banner Finance reports have been created using our new digital reporting suite, Argos.

IT staff has implemented a new System Account Management System in order to enhance information security. This new system provides random passwords for new accounts and requires account owners to change their password every six months. The

random password replaces the previous default password, which was composed of a portion of the owner's Social Security Number (SSN). As per governmental requirements, Marist is no longer using people's SSN, or any portion of it, as an identifier. Requiring a password change every six months provides an additional measure of protection for accounts and the information they can access. Added security is also being installed on mobile devices, and all new laptops are now encrypted. This will prevent the data on the hard disk from being extracted in the event the laptop is lost or stolen.

Finally, we have continued to use IBM's Content Manager, branded as iDocs, to digitally archive documents, which saves storage space, protects documents from damage, and allows for easy retrieval of documents. The Registrar's Office has led the way, loading 7,000 transcripts, 13,000 withdrawal forms, and 200,000 grade sheets to date. Building on this success, the Office of Student Financial Services has now stored 9,000 student bills and 300 Perkins Loan forms on the system. The Admission Office has also used iDocs to store 500 transfer student applications and has plans to store an additional 10,000 new student applications this fall.

Financial update

The College's financial position continues to be healthy due to strong traditional undergraduate enrollment, bond variable interest rates lower than budget, prudent budgeting for planned transfers to reserves, and sound controls governing expenditures. The past year was the 29th consecutive year in which Marist has achieved a balanced budget, and our financial position continues to improve.

The Board of Trustees approved a 2008-09 operating budget of \$127.4 million this past spring. The new budget provides funding for six new faculty positions, competitive salary increases for faculty and staff, increased financial aid, increased operating revenues and costs associated with the opening of the new Fulton Street townhouses, increases in library acquisition funds, and additional funds for academic departments. The comprehensive fee (tuition, room and board, and mandatory fees) for this year's freshman class increased 5.9 percent, bringing the total cost to \$36,326.

Like most portfolios and indices throughout the country, Marist's investment portfolio experienced a decline in value during the past fiscal year. For the 12 months ended June 30, 2008, investment performance was down approximately 13 percent, bringing the market value of our portfolio to slightly below \$120 million. It should be noted, however, that the College's investment return outperformed benchmarks such as the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrials Average for the same time period. An ongoing review of our investment structure, including asset allocation and investment managers, is now complete, and we will make changes to further strengthen the

diversification and ultimately the performance of the portfolio. We have also enhanced our insurance program covering all aspects of risk management.

Transitions

This spring, we were saddened by the loss of two extraordinary members of our Board of Trustees, Jack Newman and Jonah Sherman. Jack served the College with distinction from 1984 through 2001, including as Chair of the Board. In 2001, he was named a Life Trustee. A son of immigrants, Coast Guard veteran, and successful businessman, Jack was known as an active community leader and philanthropist. His support of Marist spanned more than 40 years. Jonah was also a beloved community leader and businessman who volunteered tirelessly both in Poughkeepsie and around the world. A Trustee since 1982, Jonah's legacy at Marist includes the Center for Lifetime Study and the Sherman Collection of documents and artifacts on the business and civic life of Poughkeepsie. Please keep the Newman and Sherman families in your thoughts and prayers.

Marist also lost a great friend with the passing of Tim Russert in June. Tim was one of this country's most highly regarded journalists, but he was also a special member of our community. He served as our commencement speaker in 1994, at which time he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Everyone who knew Tim was struck by his intelligence, professionalism, graciousness, and devotion to family. He left a legacy that will influence journalists for decades to come, and he will be greatly missed.

We recently welcomed several new Deans who are filling critical leadership positions at the College. I am pleased to announce that Steve Ralston began his appointment as Dean of the School of Communication & the Arts on July 1. Prior to joining Marist, Steve was Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at Northern Illinois University, where he oversaw the university's largest undergraduate major and a sizeable M.A. program. Steve has a Ph.D. in Communication Theory from Indiana University, an M.A. in Speech Communication from the University of Tennessee, and a B.A. in Speech and Theatre from Old Dominion University. His research interests include the study of organizational and business communication, and in particular, employment interviewing.

On July 28, Marist welcomed Lauren MOUNTY as Dean of the School of Continuing Education. Lauren came to Marist from the Fordham University Graduate School of Business Administration, where she was Associate Dean for Academic Programs. In this role, she was responsible for the oversight of academic programs and program management activities for the graduate school of business at all campus locations, including Manhattan, Westchester County, and Beijing. Lauren was also instrumental in developing global partnerships in Italy, Belgium, Istanbul, and Barcelona. She holds a Ph.D. from Fordham University in Social Service, a M.Ed. in Higher Education

Administration from the University of South Carolina, and a B.A. in Journalism, also from USC.

On September 1, Martin Shaffer was named Dean of the School of Liberal Arts after providing strong leadership for the School as Interim Dean during the past academic year. Marty joined the Marist faculty in 1994 as an Assistant Professor of Political Science, and he served as Chair of the Political Science Department from 2001-2007, overseeing a period of significant growth in that major. He quickly became known for his excellent teaching and service to students. Marty earned his B.A. in Political Science from LeMoyne College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at SUNY Albany. His research interests include presidential leadership, the environmental movement, and New York State politics. He has published articles in numerous scholarly journals, and his book project, *Empire State Politics*, is under contract with McGraw Hill.

I hope you will also join me in welcoming Carmen Cirincione, the new Associate Dean for the School of Management and Director of the M.B.A. program. Carmen joined us on July 14 from TIAA-CREF, where he was Director of Quantitative Analysis, helping to develop analytic platforms to support both customer relationship management and portfolio management. He has a Ph.D. from SUNY Albany in Public Administration and Policy and was on the public administration faculties of both the University of Connecticut and Clemson University.

While the College was without these Deans, several individuals stepped in to provide leadership, oversee effective operations, and maintain stability in the Schools. In particular, I would like to extend my thanks to Subir Sengupta and John Ritschdorff, who each served as Interim Dean for the School of Communication & the Arts. My thanks also go to Mike Tannenbaum for serving as Interim Dean of the School of Continuing Education.

Vice President for Business Affairs/CFO Paul Mutone will be leaving Marist at the end of September to accept a position at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Paul has been appointed Trinity's Vice President for Finance and Chief Operating Officer, overseeing all of their financial and administrative operations. Trinity is one of this nation's oldest and most distinguished liberal arts colleges, and this appointment is a fitting recognition of Paul's many talents and accomplishments as a financial officer. While the entire Marist community is sorry to see him go, we wish him all the best in this exciting new opportunity and thank him for his dedicated service to the College during the past three and one-half years. During the fall semester, Executive Vice President Roy Merolli will be leading the search committee charged with identifying Paul's successor. We hope to have a new CFO in place by the end of the fall semester.

Summer programs and events

More than 40 educators from around the region came to Marist this summer to participate in the “Teaching American History” program. Associate Professors of History Robyn Rosen and Nick Marshall led a week-long seminar entitled “Presidential Leadership During Wartime: FDR, Lincoln, and Lyndon Johnson,” while Associate Professor of History Fred Opie and Assistant Professor of History Kristin Bayer taught a seminar entitled “Coming to America: 400 Years of the Immigrant Experience.” This program, now in its sixth year, is a collaboration between Marist and more than 40 school districts in the region. The educational materials developed by the seminars are featured on the Hudson River Valley Institute website. The program is funded by a \$1 million U.S. Department of Education grant awarded for 2006-09.

The 2008 Marist Summer Writing Institute (SWI) took place in August and was a great success. Nearly 20 participants had the opportunity to spend four days working closely with writers and poets in small workshops. The keynote address was delivered by Ron Carlson, an acclaimed author of eight books, including the novel *Five Skies*. Carlson was joined by Marist faculty, as well as faculty from other academic institutions, in leading a variety of workshops. Many thanks to Assistant Professor of English and SWI Director Tommy Zurhellen and to Assistant Professor of English and SWI Assistant Director Leigh Graham for planning and running this year’s program.

During the summer, Marist plays host to several successful summer institutes aimed at high school seniors. This year, the College hosted summer institutes in Business, Sports Communication, Fashion, and Environmental Science. Students from across the country were able to participate in unique and diverse activities such as investigating aquatic habitats and sailing on America’s environmental flagship, the *Clearwater*; forecasting fashion trends and visiting designer showrooms; writing stories and producing a highlight show for sports media; and developing a business plan for an amusement park.

The School of Computer Science & Mathematics was pleased to once again host the Jay P. Rolison, Jr. Summer Scholars Program. This program brings academically advanced 10th and 11th grade students from Dutchess County high schools to live on a college campus and broaden their perspective on scholarly life. This year’s theme was robotics, and a total of 20 students developed sophisticated robot apparatuses using Mindstorms kits made by Lego.

Special initiatives

The Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee (CSAC) completed its first year of work with many significant accomplishments to report. During the spring semester, CSAC sponsored a day-long campus seminar as part of the Focus the Nation program,

presented a campus ecological footprint workshop, and co-sponsored a webinar on carbon reduction. This fall, CSAC is planning a workshop for faculty through the Center for Teaching Excellence that will focus on ways to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum.

Working in conjunction with CSAC, the College has implemented a number of environmentally-friendly initiatives. Marist has joined the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE); installed new indoor and outdoor recycling containers around campus; removed classroom trash containers in academic buildings, thus encouraging all waste to be deposited in recycling containers; eliminated engine idling in the College's work vehicles; collected and recycled cardboard from more than 950 first-year residents on move-in day, filling two large dumpsters; composted all food waste from the main dining hall; installed energy-efficient ceiling lighting in the main dining hall; instituted zero-waste catering service for all Marist functions, featuring corn-based plates and utensils and composting of all food waste; and continued the bi-annual "Dumpster Dive," which helps us determine the level of recycling in residence halls on campus.

To support our green initiative, IT has begun using 30 percent recycled paper in all computer labs, and has achieved more than a 50 percent reduction in paper usage since installing the duplex option on all lab printers in 2007. This upgrade has saved approximately 800,000 pages per year, or more than 150 cases of paper. Further, our staff has worked to consolidate the number of servers in use, thus helping to reduce Marist's carbon footprint. In addition to server consolidations, power monitoring has been enabled on our IBM z/9 mainframe, and a power audit of all systems is underway.

This academic year, I encourage faculty and staff to sign up for the new Marist Ride Share program on our website. By coordinating their daily commutes, not only can employees save money on gasoline, but they can also reduce demand for on-campus parking and increase their interaction with colleagues from different academic disciplines and business units at the College.

On June 4, we held a luncheon meeting for women administrators as part of our initiative to advance women at Marist. At the lunch, we had the opportunity to hear perspectives from many different professional areas, and the discussion produced many valuable insights that will help us as we consider ways to further support female administrators at Marist. Based on the suggestions that came out of the luncheon, we are working on a number of initiatives, including providing financial support for conferences, bringing speakers to campus, and making available books and resources for professional development. In addition, we are currently developing two projects that we believe will facilitate collaboration and information-sharing: a mentoring program and a website dedicated to issues of interest to women.

Upcoming events

To honor Jonah and Joan Sherman, their good friends Peter and Joan Andrews have made a generous contribution to Marist's rowing program for the purchase of a Vespoli racing shell to be named the "Jonah and Joan Sherman." The shell will be dedicated and launched on September 13 at Longview Park, with a program beginning at 10:15 a.m. and attended by members of our men's and women's rowing teams. We are honored to have the Sherman name associated with Marist in such a special way, and we extend our thanks to Peter and Joan for making this possible.

Marist's 29th annual Founders' Day Luncheon will be held on September 24. At this special event, we honor those celebrating 20 years of full-time service to the College. This year's honorees are: Cathy Carl, Assistant Library Director; George Downing, Housekeeper; Cheryl DuBois, Assistant Registrar; Valerie Hall, Director of Special Events; Vincent Hansjosten, Construction Mechanic; Claire Horton, Public Affairs Assistant; Karen Kara, Administrative Assistant, Athletics; Connie Kustas, Records Assistant, Business Office; Pat Laffin, Office Assistant, Academic Learning Center; Brian Letendre, Driver/Housekeeper; Nadine Lewis, Assistant Director, Center for Multicultural Affairs/HEOP; Vicki Mullen, Director of Institutional Research & Planning; John Pacut, Dispatcher, Mechanical Services; Charyl Pollard, Head of Reference Services; Deborah Reeves-Duncan, Counselor, Special Services; Ben Riopelle, Electrician; William Rush, Carpenter/Mechanic; Winston Strachan, Housekeeper; Randy Strickland, Operations Assistant; Bill VanOrnum, Professor of Psychology; Anna Volino, Media Center Clerk; and Cheryl Whitley, Assistant Professor of Social Work.

Family Weekend will be held from September 26-28, and it will be a special opportunity for parents and other family members to spend time on campus and meet the people who are helping to shape their children's lives. Weekend events include musical entertainment, football and soccer matches, the President's Breakfast, and a family barbecue on the Campus Green. It promises to be an enjoyable weekend during the most beautiful time of year in the Hudson River Valley. I especially encourage faculty to attend the Saturday breakfast, as parents really enjoy meeting and interacting with them.

Marist alumni are invited back to campus to reconnect with their classmates, friends, and faculty during Homecoming & Reunion Weekend from October 3-5. Reunion celebrations are being planned for the Heritage Classes ('47-'66) and for the Classes of '68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, and '03 on Saturday evening, including a special 50th reunion presentation for the Class of '58. Also scheduled for the weekend are the annual Alumni Family Picnic on the Campus Green, a Marist-Bucknell football game at Tenney Stadium at Leonidoff Field, a golf outing, faculty receptions, and more. It should be a fun weekend, and we look forward to seeing many alumni there.

On October 17, four outstanding members of our local community will be honored at the College's 41st annual President's Community Breakfast. Charles E. and Mabel E. Conklin, Thomas E. LeGrand, and Rev. Richard L. Witt will receive the Marist College President's Award for Community Service. The Conklins have been generous benefactors of Marist, Dutchess Community College, Saint Francis Hospital, and many other organizations, epitomizing the spirit of our founders, the Marist Brothers, who "do good quietly." Tom LeGrand has been a driving force in Dutchess County's successful economic development initiatives over the past two decades, and he has tirelessly supported Marist's efforts to enhance our educational mission and promote community and economic development. Father Witt, an Episcopalian priest, is the Executive Director of Rural and Migrant Ministry, which works to enhance migrant workers' access to housing, educational opportunities, fair wages, and other basic rights. Each of these worthy recipients reflects the Marist ideals of excellence in education, fostering a sense of community, and dedication to the principle of service.

This fall, Marist will participate in the Poughkeepsie Public Library's 2008 Big Read, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The program's goal is to restore reading to a central place in American culture, and the NEA has compiled a list of several dozen books that communities can choose to focus on. Poughkeepsie has chosen *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. As part of the Big Read, Marist's Library will have a display based on *The Great Gatsby*, and three of our academic departments will host public presentations related to the novel: the English Department on October 1 at 7 p.m.; the History Department on October 2 at 12 p.m.; and the Fashion Department on October 12 at 2 p.m. Special thanks to Assistant Professor of English Angela Laflen for helping to organize the Big Read. I hope you will support this worthy cause by attending one of the sessions.

Other upcoming events include the 32nd Annual William and Sadie Efron Lecture in Jewish Studies, which will be held on November 10 at 7 p.m. in the Nelly Goletti Theatre. This year's speaker will be Melvin Konner, M.D., Ph.D., a noted professor at Emory University and a prolific writer. His talk, which is entitled "An Anthropologist Looks at Jewish Culture," will explore what can be learned about Jewish history when it is examined from the perspective of a scientific study of human cultures.

There are many other upcoming events which you can learn about on Marist's online calendar. I encourage everyone to attend as many academic, musical, artistic, and athletic events as you can this semester because our students really appreciate seeing members of the faculty and staff in attendance. It is one of the perks of academic life to have so many exciting cultural and entertainment opportunities available to us, and I urge you to take full advantage.

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 "Quinn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "Q" and a small dot above the "i".