

# Hilbert Connections

Summer 2011

## ON TOP OF THE WORLD

**Brian Kruszka  
climbs Kilimanjaro  
for a cause  
close to his heart**



Inside: Commencement 2011

**"As (our new graduates) begin their post-baccalaureate journey, they leave Hilbert with a Franciscan values-based education that will support their efforts to lead and serve in their communities."**



## Graduation in May is my favorite day of the year.

**I estimate that** I've attended at least 49 commencements in my lifetime – 40 as a college professor or administrator, five as a Mom of three sons, and four of my own. Yet, each year the excitement leading up to this special day never diminishes. What a thrill to be part of a ceremony that represents the culmination of thousands of hours of hard work on the part of the students, faculty and staff leading up to that moment when I have the privilege of reading the words, "I now confer the degree of..." The lives of these graduates have been forever changed by their experiences at Hilbert College. As they begin their post-baccalaureate journey, they leave Hilbert with a Franciscan values-based education that will support their efforts to lead and serve in their communities.

In addition to highlighting the 2011 Hilbert commencement ceremony, this issue of *Hilbert Connections* describes the amazing life journey of Brian Kruszaka and his climb of Mount Kilimanjaro. His volunteer work with Kids Escaping Drugs exemplifies how Hilbert alumni continue to give back to their communities after earning their degrees.

With regards to Hilbert's new graduate programs, Dr. Christopher Holoman has announced the hiring of the new graduate dean, Dr. Walter Iwanenko, who will provide leadership for the master's programs in criminal justice and public administration (more information about Dr. Iwanenko is to come on Hilbert's Web site and in the next issue of *Hilbert Connections*). Other appointments have included Dr. Martin Floss as chair of the MSCJA program, and Kim Chiarmonte as director of the Center for Adult and Graduate Studies. We are thrilled with the number of applicants and will reach the cohort's enrollment maximum for the fall semester.

Finally, the strategic plan developed in 2007, *Destination 2012*, sunsets in May. Building on the success we have achieved over the last five years, we will be initiating a new planning process this fall. We hope you will be willing to participate in this important process either through focus groups or surveys that will be conducted with our alumni and special friends. This process will enable us to carefully evaluate the major issues and opportunities facing the college in the next five years from demographic population shifts in Western New York to how to keep a Hilbert education affordable for our students. We will strive to establish priorities and action plans that will ensure the legacy of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph will be sustained.

Again, we thank you for your support that enabled us to reach our Hilbert Fund goal and to raise nearly \$72,000 for student scholarships at the Hilbert Scholarship Golf Tournament held in June. Please make plans to visit the campus in this upcoming year and experience first-hand how your investment in us impacts the lives of Hilbert students on a daily basis.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia A. Zane". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D.  
President



**COVER STORY**

## On Top of the World

After overcoming drug addiction and rebuilding his life, Brian Kruszka reaches new heights as he conquers one of the top seven summits in the world.

**FEATURES**

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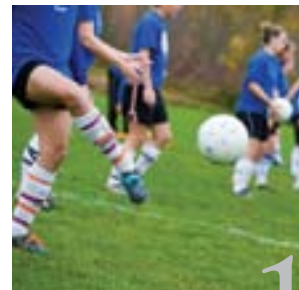
Service learning trip to Costa Rica introduces students to cultural identity in a whole new way.

### 10 A Golden Graduation

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New staff, coaching position a part of building more competitive intercollegiate program.



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Professor Amy Smith, first on left in back row, and Hilbert students with Costa Rican youngsters.



## Cultural Perspective Up Close

Thanks to the generosity of the Hilbert College community, children in two schools in Costa Rica received greatly needed school supplies from Hilbert students as part of a spring break service learning trip to the Central American country.

Pencils, paper and other basic school items were collected during the spring semester by students in Hilbert's "Reading and Writing Buffalo" honors course taught by Amy Smith, Ph.D., professor of English and director of the Honors Program (recently named chairperson of the Division of Arts and Sciences). The nine-day service learning trip to Costa Rica provided students another opportunity to explore different aspects of "place" and cultural identity as focused on in the course.

"The course focuses on ways in which people and places interact and are shaped by that interaction. With the service learning trip to Costa Rica, it was another opportunity for students to explore different aspects of 'place,' such as learning about the country's educational system that included a visit to a school where the supplies were delivered to the youngsters," explained Smith, who accompanied the students on the trip.

"The Hilbert group also had an opportunity to visit with the elementary students, who performed some wonderful songs for

us during our visit," added Smith.

In addition to their efforts for the school-children, the 10 Honors Program students on the service learning trip volunteered at a sea turtle conservation project, learned about environmentally responsible coffee production at a small coffee plantation, toured a rainforest, and assisted at a small family-run farm.



PHOTO BY IAN GATTIE

## Par Excellence

A full field of golfers turned out on a beautiful June day for the 21st annual Hilbert College Scholarship Golf Tournament, raising nearly \$72,000 for student scholarships.

Considered by many to be one of the best golf outings in Western New York, Hilbert's tournament included a day filled with golf at the Wanakah Country Club, raffles, prizes, a cocktail reception and other activities. Maureen Saab, Hilbert trustee emerita, served as this year's tournament honorary chairperson.

For a look at the 2011 Hilbert Scholarship Golf Tournament, a video photo album of the event may be viewed on the college's blog site at [hilbertcollege.wordpress.com](http://hilbertcollege.wordpress.com). Information on next year's tournament is available on the Hilbert Web site at [www.hilbert.edu](http://www.hilbert.edu).

## Franciscan Pilgrims Journey to Italy

Four Hilbert College staff and faculty had the opportunity to develop a stronger understanding and connection to the institution's Franciscan foundation and heritage during a pilgrimage from May 23-June 2 to Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, and Rome.

The college's 2011 Franciscan pilgrims were Peter Burns, vice president for enrollment management and dean of students; Denise Harris, director of career development; Kathleen Pierino, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice; and Richard Pinkowski, vice president for business/finance.

During the 11-day pilgrimage, participants

visited the major sanctuaries associated with St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. They also participated in Eucharistic celebrations, historical visits, lectures and other pilgrimage activities.

Left to right: Richard Pinkowski, Kathleen Pierino, Denise Harris, and Peter Burns.



## New Board Members Appointed at Hilbert

Patrick Backman and Sister Emily Therese Bloom, FSSJ, have been named to three-year terms on the Hilbert College Board of Trustees.

**Backman** is owner and president of Klass Ingredients, Inc., an Orchard Park-based international food ingredients brokerage firm. Joining the company in 2000, he previously served as vice president of sales.



A certified professional manufacturers representative, Backman has also held management positions at Cargill, Inc., and Texpar Energy, Inc.

He's a member of the Institute of Food Technologists and the Network of Ingredient Marketing Specialists.

An Orchard Park resident, he earned bachelor's degrees in agricultural economics and mass communications from North Dakota State University.

**Sister Emily Therese** of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamburg is ministry project director of the Learning for Life Program at Gerard Place HDFC, Inc., in Buffalo. Before this, she served as FSSJ's associate general minister.



Past executive director of the Allegany Council on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse, Inc., and Boys Hope of Florida, Inc., Sister Emily Therese has also served as intake counselor at the Wyoming County Chemical Abuse Treatment Program and the Wyoming County Jail. She's held various teaching positions at the elementary, high school and college levels, including at Hilbert.

Honored with the 2010 Franciscan Federation Award, Sister Emily Therese received a master's degree in counseling education from Canisius College, a master's degree in English from Niagara University, and a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Detroit Mercy.

## Director of Adult and Graduate Studies Named

**K**im Chiarmonite has been appointed to the newly created position of director of the Hilbert College Center for Adult and Graduate Studies.

As director, she is managing the center and overseeing recruitment and enrollment for Hilbert's new master-level programs in criminal justice administration and public administration, and the college's adult degree program, which is expected to be launched next year. She is also coordinating marketing and advertising for the programs and providing guidance to adult and graduate students. **HC**

For information about Hilbert's new graduate programs, contact:

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## Scholarship Students Thank Donors

**H**ilbert College donors had the opportunity to meet student scholarship recipients and to learn firsthand the positive impact their support has had on the lives of many students at a breakfast held on campus in the spring.

The morning gathering brought together more than 40 scholarship donors and recipients, who had the chance to connect with the donors and to personally express their gratitude for helping to make a Hilbert education possible.

Addressing the gathering, President Cynthia Zane thanked the donors for helping scholarship students achieve their college goals, pointing out that scholarship support makes the difference for many Hilbert students, including a large number of first-generation students, who otherwise would be unable to attend Hilbert.

Student speaker Christina Hollenback '12, a paralegal studies major and scholarship recipient, shared her appreciation for the donors' generous contributions to



Left to right: Donors Ann and Patrick Heraty, professor of business administration; student Gregory Zitnik; President Cynthia Zane; and students Lucas Machlas, Michael Werner, and Zachary Cattoi.

her education and for giving her the opportunity to pursue a college education.

For the donors, they were grateful for the chance to meet the students who have benefited from their scholarship support and to hear about how their gifts have been a valuable part of their academic success.



PHOTO BY IAN GATTIE

# ON TOP OF THE WORLD



Karanga Valley

Barranco Camp

Following a period beset by drug addiction and a troubled past, Brian Kruszka has rebuilt his life, including graduating with honors from Hilbert, and discovered a newfound courage by taking on Africa's tallest mountain.

**Y**ou're tired, and it's hard. I kept telling myself, 'You've been through worse. You'll be there in a couple of hours. It's not going to kill you; just get through it.' You have to push yourself, so I literally just put one foot in front of the other and did it."

That's what Brian Kruszka '09 remembers thinking on his way to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain. He and a team of climbers had been ascending for five days and were within an hour or two of reaching the summit.



Shira Camp

By Grace Lazzara

Brian Kruszka stands with WGRZ's Ed Kilgore.



Machame Camp

Kruszka might just as easily have been recalling his thoughts as he climbed another mountain: recovery from a period in his life darkened by serious drug abuse and addiction.

His journey to the top of these two mountains, one real, one metaphorical, has the makings of a classic tale of fall and redemption. Kruszka, however, lived the tale. Reaching both peaks is a testament to his mental toughness, determination and, according to Hilbert Professor Amy Smith, Ph.D., his "courage."

Outpost Lodge

Machame Gate



Summit -  
Millennium Camp

Kosovo Camp



Above: After climbing for five days, the group reaches Uhuru Peak, Kilimanjaro's summit. At 5,895 meters, climbers hold a hand-made quilt comprised of individually designed pieces by inpatient residents of Renaissance House where the specially created quilt, centered on the theme "face your fears," is now on display.

### Roots of Adventure

The roots of Kruszka's Kilimanjaro odyssey date back to 2009. That's when legendary WGRZ-TV Buffalo sportscaster Ed Kilgore was determined to field a team to ascend Kilimanjaro ("Kili" to its friends) to raise funds for Kids Escaping Drugs (KED), an organization with which he'd long been involved. He approached KED with the idea. Representatives from the organization liked the notion of putting together a team, a group that would include a climber closely associated with KED. "They immediately thought of Brian because they knew he was committed to KED and was adventure-some," Kilgore recalls.

Kruszka remembers when Kilgore asked him to join the effort, aptly named the Kilimanjaro Klimb for Kids, telling him to take 48 hours to think it over. Kruszka said he knew right away he wanted to make the trip. He had always pushed the envelope physically: skateboarding, roller blading and extreme sports when he was younger, scuba diving, bungee jumping

and other demanding sports more recently. Kili would be a challenge unlike any he'd experienced.

An arguably more telling factor in his decision was his desire to help an organization to which he owed much. Seven years before, just shy of his 18th birthday, Kruszka had entered Renaissance House, KED's residential rehabilitation program for chemically dependent boys. He had reached the low point of years of abusing and selling drugs from marijuana to heroin, exhausting the patience of even his most loyal supporter, his mother, and learning first-hand the pain of going through withdrawal while in jail.

### Getting Fit

At 19,340 feet, Tanzania's Kilimanjaro is the world's tallest freestanding mountain (it's not part of a range). Although considered a non-technical mountain among the world's "Big Seven" peaks, climbing Kili is still challenging.

"Being in shape was important," Kruszka says. Always a sports enthusiast, he none-

theless knew he had to significantly ramp up his level of fitness to make the summit.

Kruszka and the eight-person Kilimanjaro Klimb for Kids team Kilgore had assembled started to train as soon as they made the decision to make the climb. They began hiking at Western New York's Chestnut Ridge Park, gradually increasing the frequency to three or four times every week. WNY doesn't offer the altitudes they needed, so they did interval training on the hills. "The object is to try to lower your recovery time," Kruszka explains.

He and the team finally had a taste of high-altitude training when they traveled to Colorado to meet the mountaineer who would be their main Kili guide. In Aspen, already at around 8,000 feet, they climbed 6,250-ft. Mt. Sopris and the 2,000-ft. American Lake Trail. Over the more than 12 months he trained, Kruszka dropped weight and increased his stamina, speed and strength.

The actual trip to Kili began, ironically enough, with a flight into Amsterdam, where drugs are legal, available and very much in evidence. "We spent a day there, surrounded by drugs," Kruszka recalls. Before he'd even set foot in Africa, Kruszka was experiencing the very definition of the team's motto: "Face your fears."

"No one realized that day was pure misery for Brian," recalls Kilgore. "People were getting high right in front of him."

"To say it didn't bother me would be



“Something beyond my belief and power,” he says simply, “had better plans for me. My life now is amazing. I’m where I’m meant to be.”

a lie,” Kruszka says. “But I didn’t want to throw away seven years (of living drug-free) for one night of fun, not to mention that I was there on behalf of KED.”

Indeed, Kruszka’s attachment to KED is family-like. He spent 14 months living at Renaissance House, developing close relationships with staff who helped him emerge from addiction and repair his outside relationships with family and friends. “Without KED, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” he says.

He remains in touch with the organization and its staff, and has joined its board and even the organization’s softball team. He also oftentimes speaks about his experiences as part of KED’s school outreach (Kruszka along with Kilgore were featured speakers at a spring semester presentation at Hilbert). “It’s important to me to remember where I came from and to give back,” says Kruszka.

### Altitude Ahead

On Aug. 15, 2010, Kruszka and the Kilimanjaro Klimb for Kids team arrived in Tanzania. They did a little sight-seeing, met their local guides and got their gear together for the climb. Kili isn’t a technical climb requiring ropes and other mountaineering equipment, but the list of required items was long. Kruszka had to pack clothes appropriate for Kili’s range of climates, from tropical at the base (Kili is 3 degrees south of the equator) to subarctic at the peak.

The next day, with a good deal of weight on their backs, the team began its climb through steep tropical jungle terrain. Subsequent days took them through savannah, desert and, at the highest elevations, a snowfield. The team climbed

daily for around seven hours. The first few climbs, Kruszka admits, were “a lot harder than I thought they would be.”

Each afternoon, team members invariably fell exhausted into their tents for a nap. Dinner, as most meals, was nutritious but simple. That hardly mattered due to the altitude decreasing climbers’ appetites. Even so, eating was vital to maintaining energy levels. “You also need to drink lots of water to keep hydrated,” says Kruszka. Early bed-times were the norm.

However, exhaustion wasn’t the only challenge. Many team members had altitude sickness, which includes headaches, nausea, vomiting and other symptoms. The most physically fit team member, a 16-year-old climbing with his father, actually abandoned his climb after developing pulmonary edema, a life-threatening condition associated with acute altitude sickness that causes fluid in the lungs. Kruszka experienced scary moments when his gastroesophageal reflux disease acted up, but he worked through it.

The final stage of the climb to Kili’s summit began in the dark around midnight on Aug. 22.



The terrain was steep, the air a frigid 12 degrees. Remembers Kruszka, “I knew summit night would be hard, but I prepared mentally for it.” No one on the team spoke during those final few pre-summit hours, focused, as was Kruszka, on simply getting the job done.

“I thought about doing the climb for the people I’m close to. I just put one foot in front of the other . . . small steps, like getting off drugs,” he says.

Time went quickly, recalls Kruszka. “Before I knew it, we were there,” he says. At Kili’s summit, Uhuru Peak, the sun came up behind his back. The view was clouds, rocks and glacier. The moment, Kruszka says, “was overwhelming. You made it; all the stars aligned. I realized why I had spent five days struggling to get up there. It was a sense of happiness, accomplishment, of being literally on top of the world.”

Again, Kruszka had met the challenge of facing his fears. The climb, says Kilgore, perfectly reflected the team’s motto and Kruszka’s spirit. “Over time, I’d had a good sense of what Brian had gone through. But those difficulties toughened him up for the climb. He was very determined and that inspired me.”

### Abandoning Addiction

It’s not hard to connect the mental toughness that brought Kruszka to Kili’s summit with the will he needed to overcome his addiction. What is difficult to fathom is just how far Kruszka had come on that day in August 2010. His mother, Laura Wood, straightforwardly recites the litany of Kruszka’s history of addiction: Using pot at 11-years-old. Declining grades at age 14. Stealing. Arrests. Car accidents. Even attempted violence against family members. In his drive to keep using, Kruszka once tried to run down his uncle with a truck and chased his mother through their house with a butcher knife.

The final straw was his arrest in Buffalo for heroin possession. “We finally got help from the judge at Buffalo’s drug court,” Wood recalls. The judge heard Kruszka threaten his mother in the hallway as they waited to go to court. “He locked up Brian, which was a blessing. That’s when we got him into a spot at Renaissance House.”

After a tough start in rehab, Kruszka began to trust and work the program. Wood says she knew his journey would be successful when she learned he was going to be able to begin his college studies even before graduating from the Renaissance program.

# KILIMANJARO KLIMB FOR KIDS

Gradient eases slightly as the forest merges into heather covered ground. Reach Machame Hut in 10 km (6.2 miles) after a 1,200-meter ascent.



**Day 1:** Depart United States.

**Day 2:** Arrive Amsterdam in morning, arrive Kilimanjaro International Airport that evening. Overnight at Outpost Lodge.

**Day 3:** Rest day, shopping, gear check. Overnight at Outpost Lodge.

**Day 4:** Machame Gate to Machame Camp

- Elevation change: +1,200 m
- Camp elevation: 3,100 m
- Early pick-up at lodge and 40-minute drive to Machame gate (5,400 feet). Trek follows easy track for the first hour through the dense forest. Path continues to follow ridge, rising steadily with several steep sections.



**Day 5:** Machame Camp to Shira Camp

- Elevation change: +800 m
- Final elevation: 3,800 m
- From Machame Hut, cross stream onto west bank, follow path up steep rocky ridge crises, crossing a few times before reaching Shira Hut at base of rock wall. Ascent of 900 meters in 5-7 hours and about 6 km (3.72 miles) of walking.

**Day 6:** Shira Camp to Barranco Camp

- Elevation change: +100 m
- Camp elevation: 3,900 m
- From Shira Hut, hike to Lava Tower, then proceed to Barranco via Great Barranco Wall.

**Day 7:** Barranco Camp to Karanga Valley

- Elevation change: +100 m
- Camp elevation: 4,000 m
- From Barranco Camp climb through edge of Great Barranco Wall. Day's walking fluctuates around 4,250 m elevation.

**Day 8:** Karanga Valley to above Barafu Hut (Kosovo Camp)

- Elevation change: +600 m
- Final elevation: 4,600 m

- Gain elevation, acclimatize and rest for summit attempt next morning. Camp at isolated spot above Barafu. This day takes 4-6 hours of walking.

**Day 9:** High Camp to the Summit and Millennium Camp - Summit Day!

- Elevation change: +1,300 m
- Final elevation: 5,895 m
- Elevation change: -2,800 m
- Camp elevation: 3,100 m
- Start trekking before sunrise. Walk takes 10-14+ hours. Snow is still safely frozen. 1,100-meter (3,600') ascent in just over 3 km (1.86 miles) takes about 6-8 hours. After brief stay at the summit, Uhuru Peak, at over 5,898 meters (19,340'), descend via Barafu Route roughly 2,500 meters (8,200') in 12 km (7.44 miles) in about 4-7 hours to Millennium Camp.

**Day 10:** Millennium Camp to Mweka Gate

- Elevation change: -1,250 m
- Final elevation: 1,828 m
- Descend about 1,400 meters (4,592') through forest on jungle path for about 10 km (6.2 miles) in 3-4 hours to reach Mweka Gate.

"He's in the 3 percent of children who don't relapse," she says. "Some relapse and then come back again. Brian didn't go back to using drugs."

Kruszka received a two-year degree from Erie Community College and then transferred to Hilbert. He was accepted into the college's Honors Program and majored in liberal studies.

Hilbert's Amy Smith is director of the Honors Program and first encountered Kruszka when she taught him in a required class for new honors students. "Brian really embraced the college experience and took advantage of the opportunities available to him. He studied abroad for a summer in Australia, traveled with the Honors Program on service trips, and completed a minor. I think these things have allowed him to educate himself in ways that go beyond the typical classroom." Ultimately, as a Hilbert student, Kruszka made trips to Italy, the Dominican Republic, Paris and London.

Today, Kruszka is office manager at a WNY law firm and considering a career in law enforcement or in the environmental field. In addition to his continuing world travels, he also indulges his adventurous

side as part of a local search and rescue team.

Smith says, "One of my favorite lines from a poem is, 'I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.' That's what I hope for Brian. I have no doubt that he will be successful at whatever he attempts and will continue to grow and learn."

### More Peaks to Come

Kruszka admits that reaching Kili's peak was a "very satisfying personal accomplishment." Yet, he downplays all that he has attained, especially when he speaks at local schools on behalf of KED.

His goal with the school talks is to let kids know that they can do whatever they want if they have the will to do so. "I tell them, 'I'm not special. I've done great things, but anyone can do this. You have one life, and it's yours to do with what you want. Just live every day and do something awesome.'"

The outlook from others on where Kruszka finds himself today might belie his assertion. "Brian is an excellent role model for young people," Smith says. "He's overcome some enormous obstacles and turned his life around, which took an incredible amount of courage and determination. He's straight-

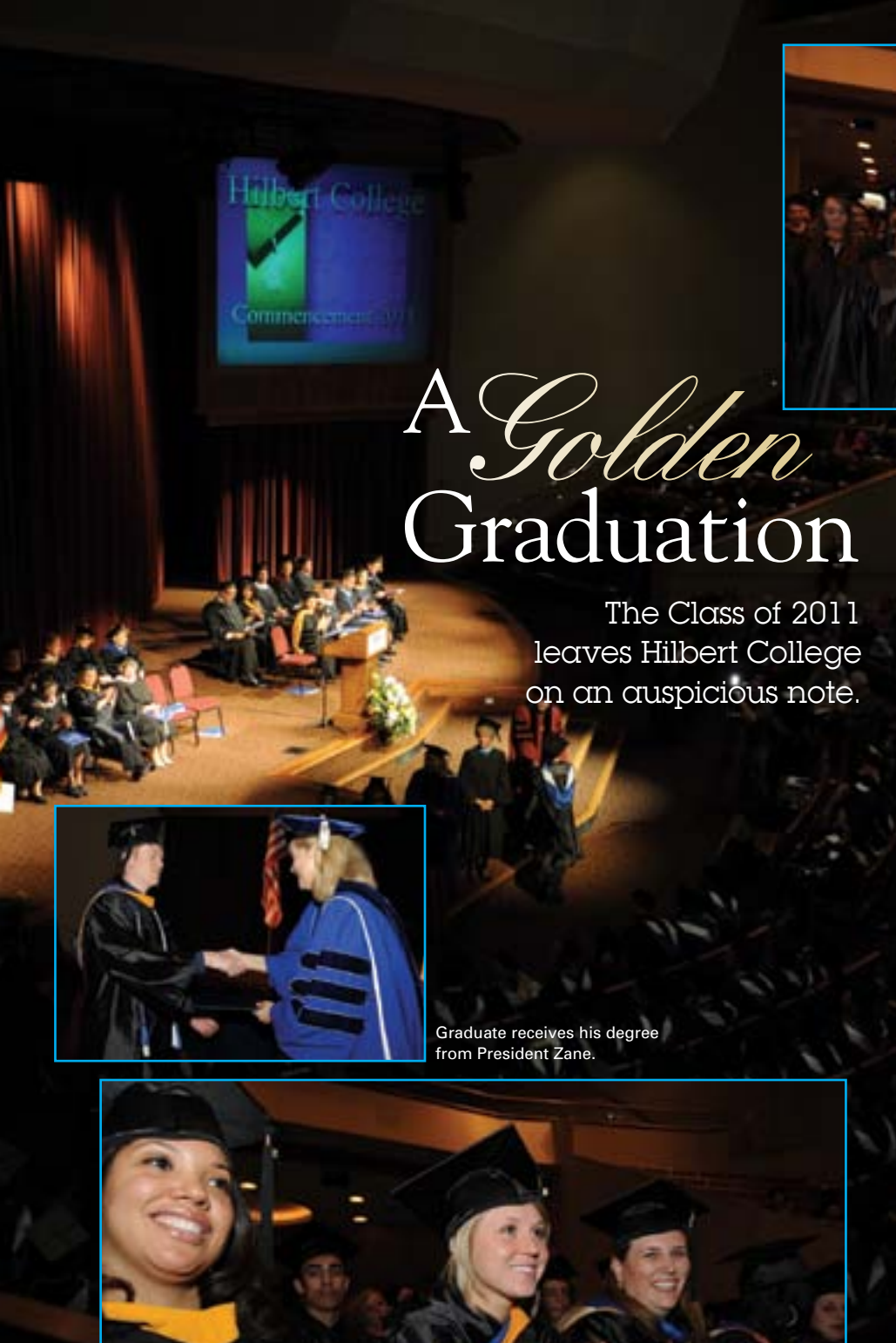
forward and honest about bad decisions he's made, but he's also learned from those decisions and is willing to share his story with others so that they don't have to go through the same things he did."

Kruszka's opinion about using drugs of any kind is, he hopes, a way to prevent others from going through the experience he did. "Regardless of how harmless or fun it might seem, don't get involved with drugs," he says emphatically.

His mother is quite naturally proud that Kruszka keeps going in the right direction and giving back to the community. When she first heard about the possibility of a Kili climb, she said, "'Go for it! I knew his perseverance would get him to the top. He gave 100 percent to the climb.'"

At the heart of it, Kruszka doesn't really attribute his success to perseverance or intelligence or mental toughness or courage. "Something beyond my belief and power," he says simply, "had better plans for me. My life now is amazing. I'm where I'm meant to be." **HC**

*Grace Lazzara is a freelance writer and public relations consultant residing in Buffalo, N.Y.*



# A Golden Graduation

The Class of 2011 leaves Hilbert College on an auspicious note.



Graduate receives his degree from President Zane.



PHOTOS BY NANCY J. PARISI

Hilbert College Commencement 2011 photos may be purchased directly from the college's photographer by visiting: [nancyjparisi.zenfolio.com/hilbert2011](http://nancyjparisi.zenfolio.com/hilbert2011).

By Paula Witherell

**A**s nearly 205 graduates rejoiced in receiving their degrees, their celebration was heightened by being a part of a historic moment for the Franciscan institution as the college marked its 50th annual commencement ceremony on May 7.

Joining in the golden jubilee commencement at the Wesleyan Church Hamburg was Sister Helen Dirig, FSSJ, representing Hilbert's first graduating class of nine from the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, the college's founding congregation.

Commencement speaker Donna Fernandes, Ph.D., president/CEO of the Buffalo Zoological Society, called on the Class of 2011 to strive for success but also delivered this message reflective of her own experience: "One phrase that best captures my philosophy and best expresses my approach to my career, relationships and role on this planet is this: leave everything you touch better than you found it."

With this, Fernandes, who has been credited with leading the nation's third-oldest zoo to become one of the best zoological parks in the U.S., pointed out that the "most important area where my mantra can be applied is when it comes to our planet. I'm asking on behalf of wildlife around the world and in the spirit of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals, that you commit to leave this planet better than you found it."

Addressing her fellow graduates, student speaker Angelika Summerton, a summa cum laude graduate who earned a bachelor's degree in legal studies, emphasized the lifelong bond they now share with Hilbert.

"Hilbert College is more than bricks and mortar. Hilbert is everywhere we go from here on in life. The value of our education from Hilbert will be measured by our achievements, our accomplishments and by our loyalty to our alma mater," said Summerton, who plans to continue her studies at Hilbert in the college's new master's in public administration program.

At commencement, Hilbert President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., conferred four- and two-year degrees to graduates in the Class of



"Leave everything you touch better than you found it."

—Dr. Donna Fernandes  
2011 Commencement Address



President's Medal recipient Barbara Bonanno Wilcox, center, is shown with President Zane and Ann Swan, chairperson of Hilbert's Board of Trustees.



Hilbert College Medal recipient Phillip Catanese.



Sister Helen Dirig, FSSJ, of Hilbert's first graduating class.



Dr. Christopher Holoman, provost and vice president for academic affairs; Dr. Donna Fernandes, honorary degree recipient; President Cynthia Zane; and Daniel Gernatt, Jr., honorary degree recipient.

2011, including mother-daughter graduates Linda Akbar and Joy Swanson (see sidebar story on page 12).

She also presented an honorary doctorate of science to Fernandes, and an honorary doctorate of humane letters to Hilbert trustee Daniel Gernatt, Jr., CEO of Gernatt Asphalt Products, Inc.

The 2011 Hilbert College Medal, which is presented to those "who embody Franciscan values, demonstrate excellence in their profession or career, and excellence in community service," was awarded to Phillip Catanese, vice-chairperson of the Hilbert Board of Trustees and vice president of retail stores at The Buffalo News.

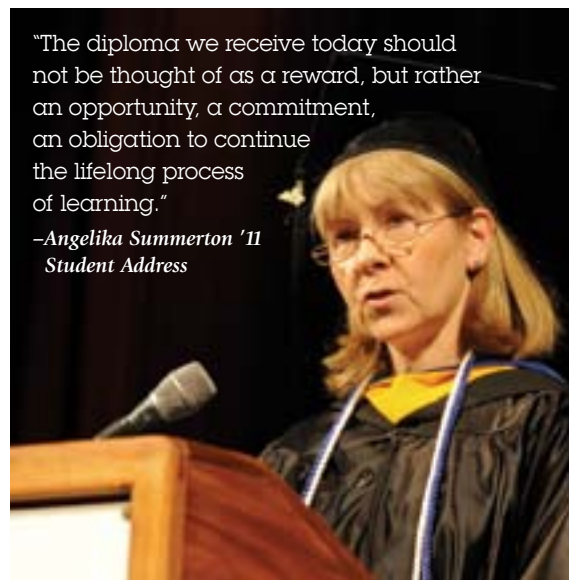
Barbara Bonanno Wilcox, Hilbert director of campus ministry and mission integration, received this year's Hilbert College President's Medal, one of the college's highest honors that recognizes faculty, staff and board trustees for extraordinary commitment and service to higher education and for exemplifying Franciscan values.

Recipients of top student awards at Hilbert's 50th annual commencement were: Eric Davies, the Kimberly Bruch Raczkowski Memorial Alumni Association Award; Brandon Morse, the John W. Kissel Man of the Year Award; Michael Nero, the Lambert and Margaret Graham Award; and Nicole Phillips, the Sister Mary Edwina Bogel Award.

Recipients of Outstanding Community Service awards presented at the baccalaureate Mass held commencement morning were Frank Castiglia, Jillian Cohen, Rebecca Easton, Madison Lux, Brandon Morse, Holly Opanashuk, Jillian Pelechaty, Sister Jabulisile Phungula, Heather Smith, and Kayla Tigie.



Lonna McCrary '11 and her mother Donna Zimpher '99, assistant professor of criminal justice.



"The diploma we receive today should not be thought of as a reward, but rather an opportunity, a commitment, an obligation to continue the lifelong process of learning."

—Angelika Summerton '11  
Student Address



PHOTO BY NANCY J. PARIS

## Like Mother, Like Daughter

It was a Mother's Day weekend to remember.

By Paula Witherell

**A**fter sharing countless commutes to Hilbert College's campus over the past three years, often-times stopping along the way for a cup of coffee, working on assignments side by side in college computer labs and supporting one another, Class of 2011 mother-daughter graduates Linda Akbar and Joy Swanson each received their bachelor's degree at the college's 50th commencement ceremony on May 7.

"Attending Hilbert with my mother was an incredible experience and one that really enriched our relationship," says Swanson. "It was wonderful to celebrate graduating together and Mother's Day in the same weekend."

It all started in 2008 when Akbar, mother of three and grandmother of six, enrolled at Hilbert and urged Swanson to do the same. Having previously attended Erie Community College with her oldest child, continuing the familial ties at Hilbert with her middle daughter was a natural fit for the Columbus, Ga. native.

"Being a small college and with its strong academic programs, I knew that Hilbert was the right environment for both of us," says Akbar, 52, who applauds her daughter's persistence to attend college even with

many family and work obligations. "Throughout our time at Hilbert, we inspired and encouraged each other to keep up with our studies knowing that we both had busy schedules outside of classes. Joy is a strong woman. I admire her so much."

While balancing college life with the demands of motherhood and working as a school bus driver in Buffalo was challenging, it was also highly gratifying for Swanson, 33, who is married and has four children ranging in age from 4-15. "I always felt close to my mother but going to college together gave us an opportunity to develop an even tighter bond. She was a terrific role model and showed that I can be successful as a student and, at the same time, a great mother.

"Although we didn't have classes together at Hilbert," she adds, "I'm truly blessed for having had my mother with me through the whole experience. It's enriched my life

To view a television news story about mother-daughter graduates Linda Akbar and Joy Swanson, search for "YNN" in the Newline section of Hilbert's Web site at [www.hilbert.edu](http://www.hilbert.edu).

in so many ways."

Swanson, also an ECC graduate, readily admits that juggling the demands of a full-time job while attending classes and caring for her family required some creative planning. "All in all, the hectic schedule and the effort was well worth it to achieve my college dreams," she says.

Akbar and Swanson are like kindred spirits as they share many smiles and laughter when talking about their time together at Hilbert. "Because of my tutoring, my mother is now great at cutting and pasting when working in (Microsoft) Word," jokes Swanson, who received a bachelor's degree in legal studies.

"Sharing our time together as students and that moment at graduation is something we will carry with us for the rest of our lives."

~ **Linda Akbar**

For Akbar, she was the first among her siblings to receive a college degree, a goal she's encouraging for the younger generations in her large family. "It's important to me that I set a good example for my children and grandchildren and for them to know that a college education is achievable. I strongly believe that the hard work you put into college and earning a degree will have a positive, lifelong impact," she emphasizes.

With her daughter's encouragement, Akbar adjusted exceptionally well to the academic rigors of a bachelor-level program and her collegiate experience as a human services major was welcoming every step of the way. "The support and assistance from my professors and Hilbert staff was incredible and my fellow classmates were so respectful of me throughout my studies," says Akbar, an active volunteer with a local self-help group.

Now that their celebratory weekend is over, the mother-daughter graduates will once again be fellow classmates as they look forward to pursuing graduate degrees at the same university. Looking ahead, Akbar's goal is to become a school psychologist while Swanson wants to be a correctional treatment specialist.

Reflecting on their overall experience at Hilbert, Akbar sums it up by saying: "It was a rewarding journey. Sharing our time together as students and that moment at graduation is something we will carry with us for the rest of our lives." **HC**

## On the Air

Don Vincent is putting his communications know-how to work with Hilbert's new Web radio station

By Paula Witherell

Since he was a teen making mixtapes of his favorite songs and recording his own DJ intros, Donald Vincent has had a passion for radio. Now entering his fifth year teaching in Hilbert College's digital media and communication major, the assistant professor has channeled that enthusiasm for an ever-evolving industry into the classroom and, this summer, launched Hilbert's new Web radio station, aptly named Hawk Radio.

A New York State native, Vincent received a doctorate and a master's degree in communication from the University at Buffalo, and a bachelor's degree also in communication from SUNY Geneseo.

### Where did you grow up? What is it about Western New York that you like most?

I grew up near Albany, N.Y., first in the transient suburb of Clifton Park. In high school, my family moved to Johnston, N.Y., a small town south of the Adirondacks. Having lived in other parts of the state, I find the people in Western New York to be among the friendliest.

### What sparked your interest to study communications/journalism in college?

Growing up, I always loved radio. As a SUNY Geneseo student, I hosted a late-night show on WGSU-FM, the campus radio station. I had an internship during my last semester at Clear Channel Radio in Rochester, which turned into a job in promotions after I graduated.

### You previously served as music director at a radio station. What changes have you seen in the industry since you held that position?

Changes in radio have been well underway for some time. Large companies own multiple radio stations in each market, most programming is automated, and on-air personalities share their talents with multiple radio

markets. Based on my own informal student surveys, young people today are still listening to radio. The industry must continue to adjust to new technologies, like Web radio, but radio will always exist in some form.

### Why did you start a Web radio station at Hilbert?

Many colleges have radio stations, which serve an important role in education and campus life. Ultimately, my goal is for Hawk Radio to be a great addition to Hilbert's campus culture. The station will be a good source of information and will entertain listeners with different genres of music, while also allowing students to develop valuable experience and skills in broadcasting, marketing and business management.

*Note: Listen to Hawk Radio at [hawkradio.hilbert.edu](http://hawkradio.hilbert.edu)*

### Your doctoral dissertation focused on religious leaders' communication on organ and tissue donation. Why did you focus on this?

I never thought about organ donation until graduate school at UB. My advisor, Thomas Feeley, Ph.D., had published several studies on the psychology of organ donation and the role communication plays in that decision, a topic that really intrigued me. One common finding is that people are unaware or mistaken about their religion's position on donation. From my research, I found that generally there is not much discussion about organ donation within religious communities but religious leaders are willing to talk about it. Based on what I learned, I believe religious leaders can and will serve as opinion leaders on the topic.

### You were completing your doctorate while teaching full time. What would you say to adult students about juggling a career, family and college studies at the same time?

The biggest challenge for me was making time to work on my dissertation while fulfilling my responsibilities at Hilbert. The key for me was

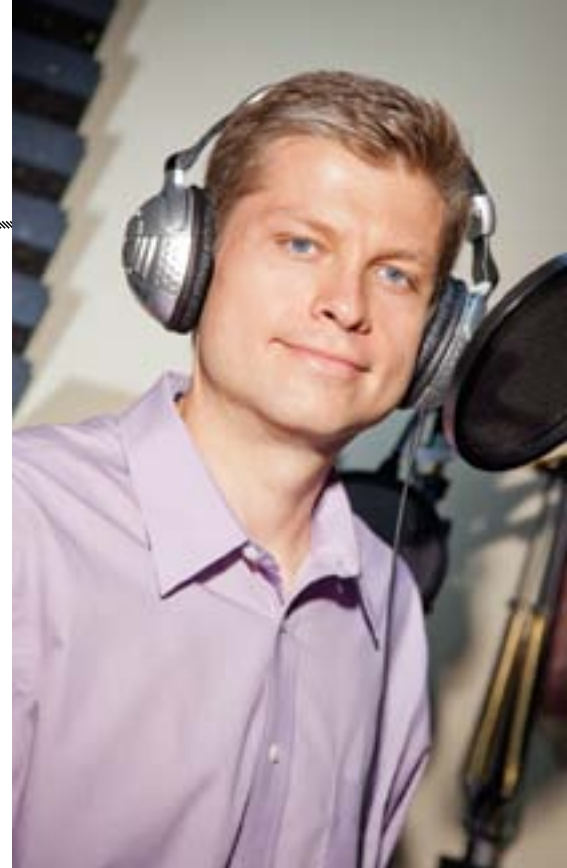


PHOTO BY IAN GATTIE

setting aside time specifically to focus on the dissertation. Students of any age can benefit by devoting certain times in their schedules to exclusively doing school work.

### Describe your teaching approach.

I see my students as adults with their own set of knowledge and experiences. When teaching a concept, I use examples from the world of music, sports and other aspects of pop culture to make them more relevant to the students' lives. I also challenge students to create their own examples to help them gain a better understanding of a concept. As unique adults, it is important students are allowed to shape the classroom experience and to learn from me and their classmates.

### How do you spend your leisure time?

I spend as much time as possible with my wife, who is a morning news anchor on Rochester's WHAM 1180, and stepdaughter. I enjoy music, movies and sports, particularly football, basketball and baseball. To stay in shape, I enjoy trail running.

### What was the best piece of advice you ever received?

Before I went away to attend college, my sister said to me: "No matter what, always go to class." I struggled at times with my study habits, but I did well in my courses because I went to class regularly and was an engaged student. As a teacher, I'm well aware of the strong correlation between attendance and student learning. **HC**

# Faculty & Staff File

**Linda Bernstein**, professor of business administration, has been named secretary of the West Seneca Academy of Finance Advisory Board.

**Joan Crouse**, Ph.D., professor of history, was one of 25 faculty members from across the U.S. selected to participate in a "Slave Narratives" seminar held at Yale University. Offered by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the seminar was co-sponsored by Council of Independent Colleges and the United Negro College Fund.

Five Hilbert faculty members participated in a two-day training session offered by the CLA in the Classroom Performance Task Academy on improving student learning outcomes. Participants were **Joan Crouse**, Ph.D., professor of history; **Yvonne Downes**, Ph.D., professor of criminal justice; **Carol**

**Nowak**, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology; **Sharon Sisti**, chairperson of the social sciences division; and **Amy Smith**, Ph.D., recently appointed chairperson of the division of arts and sciences.

**Jeanette Delaney**, assistant director of admissions, has been appointed Western New York regional representative for the New York State Transfer Articulation Association. She also received a master's degree in mental health counseling from St. Bonaventure University.

**Taylor Doherty**, assistant professor of drama, was a guest lecturer at Lake Erie College, which produced one of his plays.

Western New York professional photographer **Ian Gattie** has been named graphic design and social media coordinator at Hilbert.

2011 Hilbert Excellence Awards in Teaching and Service have been presented to **Marne Griffin**, associate professor of English, Excellence in Service Award; **Bonita Hogan**, adjunct instructor of English, Excellence in Adjunct Teaching; and **Jenelle Kostran**, assistant professor of mathematics, Excellence in Teaching Award.

**Tara Jabbaar-Gyambrah**, Ph.D., director of multicultural affairs, was a co-presenter for a session on "Hip Hope! Creative Ways to Use Hip Hop Culture and Its Music for Positive Cultural Expression" at the National Conference of Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education held in San Francisco.

**Craig Harris**, director of development, recently participated in the Council for Independent Colleges Senior Leadership Academy and has been selected for the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities Franciscan Leadership Academy.

**Denise Harris**, director of career development, had an article on "The Concerns of Adult Learners: Academic, Technology and Social Acceptance" published in *Western New York Family Magazine*.



**Erika Haygood**, assistant professor of liberal studies, presented a paper on "My Soul Knows How to Flow: The History of Christian Themed Rap" at the Popular Culture Association annual conference held in San Antonio, Texas. The paper was accepted as a book chapter in *Hip Hop Spirituality and Urban God Talk*, due for publication later this year.

**Timothy Lee**, director of admissions, has been named vice president for professional development for the New York State Association for College Admission Counseling.

**Ellen Oman**, previously program assistant at the Western New York Service Learning Coalition, has been appointed service learning coordinator.

**Daniel Roland**, professor of business administration, has been approved as an associate member of Buffalo Niagara Sales and Marketing Executives, an organization for which he coordinates Hilbert's efforts for BNSME's Student Day in the Field.

**Eileen Stack**, administrative assistant in the Office of Academic Affairs, and **Anthony Wiertel**, assistant vice president for business/finance, are this year's recipients of Mother Colette Staff Mission Awards, which recognizes staff members who exemplify Hilbert's mission.

**Paula Witherell**, director of public relations, has received a 2011 bronze Excalibur Award in media relations from the Public Relations Society of America Buffalo Niagara Chapter.

Hilbert President **Cynthia Zane**, Ed.D., has received the 2011 Bernice Poss Award from the Western New York Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education. She's also been named vice-chair of the Association of Franciscan Universities and Colleges Board of Directors, and been appointed to the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees. **HC**

## Upcoming Events

October 3

Criminal Justice Career Expo

October 5

St. Francis Week Lecture  
"Francis and the Sultan"

October 23

Children's Halloween Party

December 6

BPO

Holiday  
Pops  
Concert



For information on these and other Hilbert College events, go to:  
[www.hilbert.edu](http://www.hilbert.edu).

## NCAA Grant a Boost for Hilbert Athletics

Administrative, coaching position to be added

Hilbert College is one of only seven institutions in the U.S. selected to receive a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Strategic Alliance Matching Grant, making this the first time Hilbert has been awarded this highly competitive three-year grant.

The NCAA grant is designed to provide funding to D-III institutions seeking to develop professional administrative opportunities to enhance diversity and inclusion within an institution's athletic program.

With the grant funds awarded to Hilbert, a new compliance and student services coordinator/head women's soccer coach full-time position will be created in athletics.

"Expanding Hilbert's athletics staff with this position is an important step in continuing to improve our intercollegiate sports programs and will assist us in making strides in retention and academic success among the college's student-athletes," said Susan Viscomi, director of athletics. "With this, Hilbert is moving in the direction of fostering an athletic culture on campus that will be more competitive while complementing the overall student experience."

Viscomi noted that these comprehensive efforts have institutional leadership support from Hilbert President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., who recognized the importance of developing a consistently competitive, high-quality intercollegiate athletics program. This goal is central to the Hilbert athletics strategic plan, which focuses on developing and implementing a staffing model that will better fulfill the needs of coaches and student-athletes, and increase student participation and engagement.

"Hilbert is deeply grateful to the NCAA in providing us this generous support toward realizing the college's strategic goal for the athletics program and advancing opportunities for student-athletes," said Zane. "We are dedicated to building a competitive intercollegiate program and this grant



represents a commitment that will have long-term benefits for Hilbert athletics and our students."

The new position's head coaching responsibilities

will allow student-athletes to have greater access and more interaction with their coach, who oftentimes serves a key mentor role for college-level athletes.

"With Hilbert's current staffing configuration, regular access to coaches on campus is limited. Having the new coach at the college full-time will allow for more opportunities to strengthen the coach-athlete relationship, a vital connection that ultimately will make a difference in recruitment and retention of student-athletes," said Viscomi.

Selecting women's soccer for the full-time coaching position was spurred by the size and student interest in the program. Viscomi pointed out that "women's soccer has traditionally been one of the largest roster sports and one of the most competitive at Hilbert. With adding the coaching position to the athletics staff, we'll be serving the needs of a sizeable number of student-athletes while focusing on a program with one of the best opportunities for further success."

As student services coordinator, the new athletic staff member will oversee and build on a recently launched program developed specifically for at-risk student-athletes to help facilitate their academic success at Hilbert.

In addition to the other duties, the position responsibilities include compliance oversight of all Hilbert athletic programs and student-athlete eligibility.

## Newly Launched Men's Lacrosse Joins NEAC

The North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) has accepted Hilbert College as an associate member in men's lacrosse, which completed its inaugural season in the spring. As an associate member, Hilbert will be immediately eligible for regular season conference awards and post-season championship opportunities.

With the addition of Hilbert, the NEAC will now have nine men's programs (seven NCAA full and two NCAA provisional members), which will allow the conference to begin the two-year waiting period to earn the NCAA automatic qualifier in the sport

of men's lacrosse.

Hilbert's men's lacrosse team completed its first season of Division III competition with a 6-6 over-all record, having gone 3-5 against NEAC opponents.



## Brunger to Lead Cross Country Teams

Geoffrey Brunger, who has more than 30 years coaching experience in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda School District, has been named head coach of Hilbert College's men and women's cross country teams.

In 1977, Brunger assumed his first head coaching position as the outdoor track and field coach at Kenmore East High School. He retained that title until 2008, shortly before retiring as a social studies teacher and then served as assistant coach for the next two seasons.

Brunger's cross country leadership role is rooted back to 1981 when he coached the Kenmore Middle School modified team for three seasons. In 2000, he assumed the assistant coach role, becoming head coach one year later and also was head coach for the track and field squad.

Having earned a bachelor's degree in history from Alfred University and a master's degree from Canisius College, Brunger taught for 39 years before retiring in 2010. **HC**



**Amy Meisner**

As president of the Hilbert College Alumni Association, I feel honored to be a part of the successful growth and progress we have made over the past few years. The alumni association continues to develop and there are many more achievements left for our team to conquer.

We have made several strides in fund raising. I'm pleased to announce that the Hilbert Alumni Association has again fulfilled its goal of a \$1,500 donation to the college in 2010-11. Alumni board members make individual contributions as well as strive for 100 percent participation in giving back to the college we once called "home."

Over the past few months, we have hosted several wonderful events, including a dinner theater, a Lenten fish fry dinner, our annual Professional Success Program, and the Memorial Miles 5K Run/1 Mile Walk sponsored by Liberty Mutual. We always welcome all alumni members to participate in our events, as well as appreciate your opinions on future activities.

We are very excited to have the Hilbert Class of 2011 join our distinguished group of alums. We sincerely hope you stay connected to Hilbert and look forward to your participation in our upcoming events!

The Hilbert Alumni Association has been very busy planning some enjoyable events, including the annual Awards and Reconnection Dinner that will take place on Nov. 11 (see page 17). We are looking for award nominees of fellow alumni, faculty and distinguished members of the Hilbert community. Nomination forms are available on the alumni Web site at [www.hilbert.edu/alumni](http://www.hilbert.edu/alumni), so please take a few minutes and make your nominations.

The Hilbert Alumni Association strives to continue a sense of family and encourages you to "come home to Hilbert." I hope to see you at our next event.

Amy M. Meisner '01  
[alumnipresident@hilbert.edu](mailto:alumnipresident@hilbert.edu)

# News & Notes

## '60s

**SISTER ANDREA CISZEWSKI** AA '66 received the Father Lawrence Cyman Award during Catholic Education Week in Springfield, Mass.

## '70s

**MICHAEL MANOLIS** AA '77 is employed at the U.S. Postal Service.

**CELINE BUCZEK ROBAK** AA '76 and her husband, Joseph, will celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary on Aug. 16. Having traveled to all seven continents, last year's travels brought them to regions throughout China. They also participated in a river cruise that included Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary and Bulgaria on the Danube River and Black Sea.

**DONALD THEN** AA '72 has had his novel, *That Tender Light*, published.



Donald Then and his novel.

**DAWN TURNER** AAS '79 is finance director at the Warren Forest County Economic Opportunity Counsel in Warren, Pa.

## '80s

**DONNA MERGENHAGEN** AAS '80 was featured in an *Elma Review* Spotlight article, a piece which she was nominated for by a parent at Parkdale Elementary in East Aurora, N.Y. As a teacher aide stationed near Parkdale's main entrance, she provides a safety and security presence at the door, as well as reception.

**DEBORAH WALTER MYERS** AAS '83 is a senior marketing manager at IBM, Corp. in Armonk, N.Y.

**CYNTHIA ROLAND** AAS '85 is a personal aide at Erie I BOCES.



**LORRAINE STURDEVANT HRITCKO** AAS '81 is director, senior software and advisory strategist at Conning in Hartford, Conn. Pictured above at Hritcko's 50th birthday celebration are, left to right: **SISTER ALBERTA SUROWIEC** AA '63, former Hilbert board member; Sister Edmunette Paczesny, FSSJ, Ph.D., president emerita; Hritcko, and **NANCY BLASZAK** BA '02.

## '90s

**JANICE BEACH** AA '95 is a portfolio underwriter at First Niagara Bank in Buffalo, N.Y.

**DEBORAH CRITOPH** AAS '94 is a financial aid advisor at Bryant and Stratton College in Buffalo.

**TRACY GRIMM** AAS '94 is employed in the Gowanda Central School District in Gowanda, N.Y.

**MICHAEL McCARTAN** AA '90 works in the Department of Homeland Security in Buffalo.

**GINA VANDERMEER** BA '97, owner of The Sassy Little Bakeshop in Eden, N.Y., was featured in a *Buffalo News* story entitled "The Art of the Cookie."

**CHRISTINE ZACHER** BS '97 is graduate coordinator in Cornell University's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology.

## '00s

**JENNIFER ARMSTRONG** BS '01 is a public safety dispatcher in the Lancaster Police Department in Lancaster, N.Y.

**CHRISTOPHER BALON** BS '09 has earned an MBA from the University at Buffalo and has been named pricing coordinator at North American Breweries in Rochester, N.Y.

**JAMES BONA** BS '08, previously a customs and border protection officer, has accepted a position with the U.S. Marshals Service in Philadelphia, Pa.

**ANDREA CORIGLIANO** BS '10 is a sales and marketing analyst at Rosina Food Products in Buffalo.

**ROBYN DUNHAM** BS '02 received a master's degree in legal administration in May from the University of Denver.

**JESSICA DUBIE** BS'09 is pursuing a master's degree in organizational leadership at Medaille College in Buffalo.

**HEATHER EARL** BS '03 works for the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

**SPENCER GEORGE** BS '08 works in customer service at Key Bank in Buffalo.

**STEVEN GOLDSMITH** BS'09 was selected as an intern for the Juvenile Justice Policy Unit of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.

**SHAWN GOURDINE** BS '05, a New York State trooper, was deployed to Iraq in May and is expected to return in March 2012.

**TERESA GREENE** BS '06 is a compliance manager at HSBC in Buffalo.

**DEVIN HERKIMER FIK** BA '02 has been promoted to claims manager at NCAComp in Buffalo.

**MARY HERMANS** BS '04 is a paralegal at Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP. She has also been elected to the board of directors of the Taste of Buffalo,

Western New York's annual premier outdoor food festival.

**HEATHER HOPKINS** BS '09 is a security guard at Securitas in Wellsville, N.Y.

**TRAVIS JACKSON** AA '09 has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

**SANDRA LISOWSKI** BS '07 works for the U.S. Postal Service.

**MICHELLE MESSER** BS '08 is pursuing a master's degree in social work at the University at Buffalo.

**ADAM MOODY** BS '06 is a K-9 handler and SWAT team member in the Chesterfield County Police Department in Chesterfield, Va. He was recently featured in a radio advertisement that named Hilbert as his educator.

**MELISSA MYERS** BS '01 is a senior examiner in the New York State Comptroller's Office.

**JAMES NUCCI** BS '05 is a fleet coordinator at Linder Industrial Machinery Co., in Plant City, Fla.

**MICHAEL O'DIERNO** BS '06 completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

**NICHOLAS PLANT** BS '03 is an appointment coordinator at Jim Ball Inc., in Orchard Park, N.Y.

**LEANNE ROSNER** BS '07 is a market development specialist at Ingram Micro in Buffalo.

**SARAH REYNOLDS SEWERYNIAK** BA '09 is employed at *Metro Group Newspapers* in Hamburg, N.Y.

**JACOB WHITEHEAD** BS '07 has been appointed an investigator in the New York State Department of Corrections.

**JACY WOODWORTH** BS '07 will teach forensic psychology in the fall as an adjunct instructor at Hilbert.

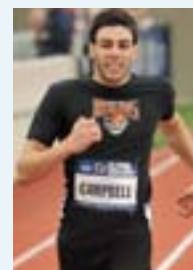
**JEANNA WOODWORTH** BS '05 com-

pleted training in the Monroe County Sheriff Academy to serve as a deputy. She was also deployed to Iraq in May and is expected to return in March 2012.

**AMBER WOZNAK** BS '08 is in the nursing program at D'Youville College.

**MARK ZANGHI** BS '00 has been named assistant prosecutor in the Office of the Licking County Prosecuting Attorney's Civil Division in Newark, Ohio.

## '10s



**JAMES CAMPBELL** AA '11, who placed 10th in the NCAA Division III national track and field championship, won the 4X400 and placed first in the preliminary race for the 400 meter at the SUNYAC Conference Championship. He is on the Buffalo State College track team.

## Save the Date!

### Sixth Annual Awards and Reconnection Dinner

Friday, Nov. 11, 2011  
6-10 p.m.

Michael's Banquet Facility  
Hamburg, N.Y.

For details and award nomination forms:  
[www.hilbert.edu/alumni-alumni-awards](http://www.hilbert.edu/alumni-alumni-awards)  
Nominations due by Aug. 30.

Info: [ahouseknecht@hilbert.edu](mailto:ahouseknecht@hilbert.edu)



**SARAH COLLINS** BS '10 is a mental health blended case manager for Service Access & Management in Pennsylvania.

**NICHOLAS DELMONACO** BS '10 has accepted a position with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and began academy training in March.

**THERESA DENTICE** BS '11 is in the litigation department at Hodgson Russ LLP in Buffalo.

**ROSALIE HERBERGER** BS '10 is undergoing training for the U.S. Secret Service – Uniform Division in Glenco, Ga.

**HILLARY LLOYD** BS '11 has been accepted in the master's program at the University of New Haven, Conn.

**ERICA MACK** BS '10 works for EDM Distributors in Buffalo.

**JEFFREY MANGOLD** BS '10 is working as a crime scene specialist in the Violent Crimes Unit in Phoenix, Ariz.

**SAMANTHA MATTOCKS** BS '11 received a scholarship from the American Society of Industrial Security (ASIS), which recognizes students that have the potential to contribute to the security field.

**CRISTINA MARTINEZ** BS '10 is enrolled in the master's psychology program at California Baptist University in Riverside, Calif.

**LONNA McCARY** BS '11 is a tax processor at Davie Kaplan, CPA, in Rochester, N.Y.

**CATHERINE MORAN** BS '10 is a case manager at AIDS Community Services in Buffalo.

**NICOLE PETRELLI** BS '10 has been accepted into the master's program in forensic science at the University of New Haven, Conn.

**KRYSTEN SAUER** BS '10 works at Ingram Micro in Williamsville, N.Y.

**MARGARET SHEA** BS '10 is a research aide in the Buffalo Board of Education's Office of Shared Accountability.

**CARRIE SISSION** BS '10 is a financial services assistant at Bryant and Stratton College in Buffalo.

**JAMIE TILLER** BS '10 has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Airforce Base in San Antonio, Texas.

## Weddings

**TRISHA HUSEL** BS '02 to Chad Sutherland

**MATT STONITSCH** BS '06 to Valerie McMillan

## Births



**BILLIE JO THOMAS JOHNSON** BS '03 welcomed a boy, Kolton Trevor, on March 25, 2011. He joins older sisters Kylie Elizabeth, 5, and Khloe Mae, 16 months.



**TRISHA HUSEL SUTHERLAND** BS '02 welcomed a girl, Casey Ashtyn, on Dec. 8, 2010.



**MICHAEL TYSZKA** BS '02 welcomed a girl, Rachel Denise, on May 7, 2011.

**SUSAN FLORA LUPIANI** BS '01 welcomed a son, Vincent, on Feb. 1, 2011.

## In Memoriam

**RONALD KAMINSKI** AAS '81  
June 1, 2011

**MICHAEL SCALISE** AAS '93  
May 30, 2011



**SISTER CLAIRE ANN TORLA**, FSSJ,  
AA '64 Dec. 23, 2010

The Hilbert community mourns the loss of alumna and long-time teacher Sister Claire Ann Torla, FSSJ, who died unexpectedly on Dec. 23 while visiting family in Massachusetts.

Fondly remembered by students, faculty and staff, Sister Claire Ann taught biology at Hilbert from 1971-92, during which she was known to take students in a rubber raft on to the campus pond where they learned about the pond environment. Her love for nature and the environment was evident as she tended to flowers and plants around the grotto at the FSSJ Motherhouse and nurtured seedlings in the greenhouse. Although she resided in Western New York for many years, she never lost her famous Boston accent.

A kind and endearing person, Sister Claire was available to help anyone in need. She will be missed by many in the Hilbert community. **HC**

*Thank you,*  
**Mike Sendor,**  
for your belief in student scholarships.



**During his days as a Hilbert College student attending business management and marketing classes,**

Mike Sendor '10 recalls taking the knowledge and innovative ideas learned in class and using that valuable information at his business the very next day.

After receiving an associate's degree in business administration from Hilbert in 2004, Sendor returned to the college and went on to graduate cum laude with a bachelor's degree also in business. He enjoyed and benefitted from Hilbert's challenging learning environment comprised of small class sizes that encouraged many meaningful, engaging discussions and interactions with his professors and fellow students.

Today, Sendor is using his outstanding Hilbert educational experience to provide strong leadership and vision to his team as president of Nussbaumer and Clarke, Inc., an engineering and surveying firm based in Hamburg, N.Y. As an alumnus and donor, he is striving to provide the next generation of students the same opportunities he was given.

"I support Hilbert because I feel the college is a critical asset in our community," says Sendor. "As an alumnus, I want to see the college grow and thrive."

Find out how you can help  
support Hilbert students:  
Craig Harris  
Director of Development  
716-926-8888  
charris@hilbert.edu



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**Parents:** If this magazine is addressed to a graduated son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please clip the address label and return it with correct address to the address shown above.

**When**  
*Remember*

## the '80s

**A**mong the more than 135 graduates in the Hilbert College Class of 1984, associate degrees recipients shown here wait for conferring of diplomas at the college's commencement ceremony held on campus in the Hafner Recreation Center. At the time the 23rd annual graduation exercises took place, Hilbert was a two-year institution and, as the college continued to grow and evolve, later began offering bachelor degrees in 1992. Nearly three decades later since '84 alumni were presented their Hilbert degrees, this year the college marked two historic moments - its 50th commencement exercise and launching of Hilbert's first graduate-level programs.



