President’s View

There are so many things about which Hilbert College might rightfully boast, knowing that all of them are accomplished because of the grace of God and the response of persons to those graces. Some of those things are quantifiable, and others can be measured only by the indescribable spirit which surrounds and pervades those happenings.

For the first time in Hilbert’s 46-year history, enrollment is beyond 1,000. Resident students total 128. Administrators, faculty and staff number 183. As more students enroll, they stay on to graduate, with the college having a persistence rate of 78.4 percent. Approximately 69 percent are employed in the area of their major or related field and 21 percent go on immediately to graduate school. E-mails, notes, personal visits, and the like further attest to the high satisfaction which accompanies students’ stays and the appropriateness of Hilbert’s educational programs and services to their futures.

Hilbert, together with other colleges in the independent sector, has other reasons for which to be boastful. In 2003 private colleges enrolled 42 percent of the college students in New York State. Except for CUNY, the independent colleges continue to enroll a larger percentage of low-income-family members. Institutional grants (private sources for scholarship aid) have grown faster than Pell and TAP combined. As the economy has taken a major slump, private colleges have been the catalyst for economic growth. According to the New York State Labor Department, employment figures for educational services have increased since 2001 by 7.1 percent while statewide unemployment, exclusive of agriculture, has decreased by 2.9 percent.

Additionally, we can justly be proud of and grateful to those of you who support us and have brought us to these levels of success and recognition. We know you will be there for us in the future.

Sister Edmunette Paczesny, Ph.D., FSSJ
President
Features

Celebrating St. Francis  
Sculpture is a testament to saint’s life and influence on college

Making Good Things Happen  
Residents team up to counter crime and help their urban neighborhood flourish

Departments

President’s View 2  
Around Hilbert 4  
Faculty and Staff File 12  
In the Sports Zone 13  
Events Calendar 14  
Alumni News & Notes 15  
Remember When 20

For the Record  
Enrollment makes history at Hilbert

Alumni Reconnection Wrap-Up  
Photos show some who reunited with old friends, professors
Terrorists attack a tour bus traveling from Canada to the U.S. and frightened tourists are taken hostage – some will even die. A few law enforcement at the scene will be wounded.

This “attack” had the look and feel of a real incident but was actually a re-enactment exercise for U.S.-Canadian law enforcement. Complete with mock terrorists and hostages being held “captive” on a bus, it took place in late-October at the Niagara Falls Airport.

The Hilbert Institute for Law and Justice and Criminal Justice Department were among the many co-sponsors of the exercise.

It was the first re-enactment activity in the nation that specifically addressed the impact traumatic situations have on the mental health of emergency services personnel, according to Cindy Goss ’84, an

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### Reality Check

Celebrating St. Francis

A new 50-foot long wrought iron sculpture at Hilbert College honoring the life of St. Francis of Assisi, and the last piece renowned local artist Mark Griffis worked on with his father, the late Larry Griffis Jr., now graces the Hilbert College campus.

St. Francis, patron saint of animals and the environment, founded the Franciscan order, which is the spiritual foundation of the FSSJ.

Two and a half years in the making, the sculpture is divided into three 8-foot panels. Drawing on the life of the saint, the first panel shows

Given the college’s heritage, said Hilbert President Sister Edmunette Paczesny, Ph.D., it was only fitting to have an outward symbol of St. Francis placed on campus.

“We wanted to find a way to make the Franciscan philosophy and spirit more visible at Hilbert. The sculpture captures this in a way visually and artistically that will be remembered by the Hilbert community and visitors to campus now and in the future,” she said.

Two and a half years in the making, the sculpture is divided into three 8-foot panels. Drawing on the life of the saint, the first panel shows
In Honor of Service

Newly retired Hilbert College trustees George Johengen, left, and Maureen Saab, right, receive awards, each etched with a picture of Franciscan Hall, in honor of their years of service on the college’s board of trustees. Sister Edmunette Paczesny, Ph.D., president of Hilbert, made the award presentations to the two trustee emeriti at the annual trustee dinner.

Poetry in Motion

Billy Collins, who just finished a two-year stint as U.S. poet laureate, signs books for some of the nearly 400 people who turned out at Hilbert College to hear Collins read and talk about poetry. Known for infusing humor into poems about everyday things, like making coffee, Collins’ presentation included an on-stage interview by SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Diane Christian from the University at Buffalo. The event opened the 2003-04 Visiting Artist Series, sponsored by the Hilbert English Department.

St. Francis meeting a leper, an incident he considered a turning point in his life; St. Francis with the first Franciscan woman, St. Clare; and St. Francis and the stigmata on Mt. Alvernia.

Designed by Larry Griffis, the sculpture was the last piece done with his son, Mark, who did the hands-on work to create the one-of-a-kind sculpture.

“One of the most unique elements of the piece is the depiction of St. Francis releasing a bird in one panel and the bird is then seen in another panel flying over the people of Hilbert illustrated in the sculpture. You see a businessman, an individual in a wheelchair, a family, a couple—all individuals in the lay community who are in some way connected to the college and its Franciscan heritage. This relationship is then carried over to another panel showing the Franciscan sisters and St. Francis himself,” said Mark Griffis.

expert on law enforcement stress who was involved in the aftermath aspect of the exercise.

Goss, president of Catch a Falling Star Law Enforcement Assistance Program for Officers and Their Families, noted the exercise was a distinctive and essential international collaboration between U.S.-Canadian law enforcement.

“Given this area’s close proximity to the Canadian border and homeland security issues at an all-time high, training of this kind involving both countries is a necessity. It’s not a matter of if this type of terrorist attack will happen but rather when it will happen,” she said. “Law enforcement on both sides of the border need to be prepared for the emergency itself and dealing with stress issues in the aftermath. There must be a plan in place.”
One hypothesis of how activists are created suggests that a significant personal experience often prompts people to get involved with a cause.

Michael Degnan, Ph.D., Hilbert College’s academic dean and professor of English, is one proof point for that theory. The crucial experience was a brutal attack a few years ago on his teenaged son. But how Degnan reacted is much more than a simple stimulus-and-response reflex. The group he helped form in the aftermath of the attack, Zero Tolerance for Violence (ZTV), remains an emblem of civic responsibility.
The attack took place in North Buffalo, the Degnan family’s neighborhood. (Degnan’s son has since, thankfully, fully recovered.) In the months following the incident, Degnan and his wife, Sarah, held meetings with the parents of two teenagers who witnessed and tried to stop the attack. They talked about the imminent trial, victims’ impact statements, and other issues related to the attack.

Little by little, however, an interesting change took place. Conversations started to change. The group, initially brought together by a tragic event, gradually began focusing less on personal issues and more on neighborhood issues.

“All of the people who started the group had social awareness,” Degnan said. “But like so many, you have a career, a family. You send a check here and there and feel you’ve done enough. When something strikes home, you have to do something.”

Neighborhood on the verge
In early 2000, North Buffalo’s Hertel Avenue area between Starin and Delaware Avenues was on the fence. A number of vacant storefronts had cropped up. Crime was on the rise. Locals worried that a once-vibrant section of the city was deteriorating. The Degnans and the other parents wondered what they could do as a group to help. They began by forming ZTV.

The group heard about the work of Pamela Beal, Ph.D. As coordinator of the University at Buffalo’s Regional Community Policing Center, Beal organizes lectures, community/police discussions and workshops. ZTV members attended some of Beal’s workshops and meetings, where she introduced them to a concept in crime prevention called CPTED or crime prevention through environmental design. According to the International CPTED Association, CPTED’s premise that “the proper design and effective use of the physical environment can lead to a reduction in the incidence and fear of crime, thereby improving the quality of life.”

Beal and CPTED’s principles galvanized ZTV's collective thinking. They decided to try and improve the way their neighborhood looked and increase the social activity that went on there. Those efforts, they hoped, would attract businesses and foot traffic to Hertel Avenue, both important steps on the road to bettering the entire area.

As a first step, Beal suggested ZTV apply for a Mayor’s Matching Fund Grant, which the group ultimately received. With the money, they funded a study of the area, including recommendations on making it more crime resistant through inexpensive measures like changing street lighting and planting shrubs and flowerbeds. ZTV also sponsored two community lectures on CPTED and produced a report that it presented to the local business association. Chuck Leist, a CPTED expert in Buffalo and retired police officer, handled both activities.

The work begins
At first, the only members of ZTV were the Degnans and parents of the other teenagers involved in the attack—Kathy Steffan and Amy and Bill Prentiss. The group was pretty informal. They didn’t even have a name until someone outside the group suggested they should. Their initial hands-on undertaking, decided upon through group discussion, was to clean up the alley where the attack took place. Business owners, neighbors, and the Mayor’s Impact Team, directed by Bill Buyers, all pitched in for the clean up.

With their first effort signed, sealed and delivered, ZTV explored other activities. The group created a contest promotion in which local stores donated six-packs of tomato plants that were distributed by ZTV at a local senior center. Its tagline: “Pick up your six-pack and get sauced.” Area residents were then invited to enter a competition that would take place in late-summer for the neighborhood’s best tomato-based sauce. ZTV also wanted to run a farmers’ market in conjunction with the sauce contest to get people out and walking. Some admired ZTV’s gumption but questioned whether a market could succeed.

“Many people in the community told us there was no way we could get a market going,” remembered Degnan. “They said it had been tried already.”

Undeterred, ZTV got commitments from two farmers, Barbara Kester of the Elma Farm Market and Jim Leraci of Leraci Farms in Lewiston. The group also visited the Clinton-Bailey Market and talked to a produce vendor, Kimberly Baumann, who offered ZTV produce to sell if they could get a truck to pick it up.

Said Degnan, laughing, “We picked up the produce in the truck on a Saturday at 5 a.m. It was pitch black and raining. As we were driving over the Skyway, our windshield wipers broke. All I could imagine was tossed salad on the Skyway.” By the time they got to the market location, the sun had broken through the clouds. At the end of the day, ZTV came back to Baumann with one bushel unsold and $900.

“It was great,” Degnan enthused. “We and the farmers pretty much sold out.” As well, 12 people entered their homemade sauces in the competition, with prizes donated by local businesses going to the winners.

Over the past couple of years, the market has become a neighborhood staple. It runs from July through the end of October in a Hertel parking lot owned by David Bunis, who donates the space.

“We have music every once in a while,” said Degnan, “and we’re expanding the product offerings next year. We’re also trying to get grant...
money to offer more music and make it a social event.”

Project by project
Degnan emphasizes that ZTV started out as, and is still, a project-oriented group, taking on one or two activities a year. “We saw that other groups had tried to tackle all the issues at once and just burned out.”

Other projects have included graffiti cleanups; supporting efforts to make the city’s annual Italian Festival on Hertel more cultural and family-oriented; and creating a “Hertel Now” totebag listing all the neighborhood side streets. “We sell them at cost at the farmers’ market, and one merchant even gives them away to customers who buy a certain amount,” said Degnan.

ZTV gets its name out into the community in part by staffing a table during the annual Hertel Happening festival and at the farmers’ market. ZTV has also taken on the green space issue in North Buffalo, which, Degnan noted, “is our toughest challenge.” An unused railroad bed some 300 feet wide and a fifth of a mile long runs smack dab through the middle of the neighborhood.

“It’s a wonderful area that could be used for dog runs or gardens, bikers, joggers,” said Degnan. “And it’s located so that it could hook up with other green spaces; bikers and joggers could go for miles.”

ZTV is working with a number of other groups to help make the green space a reality. “It hasn’t happened yet,” he said. “But a developer wanted to put aluminum storage units on the site and we fended him off at zoning board meetings.”

ZTV is ready and willing to continue its efforts. Indeed, after three years of activity, the group seems a neighborhood fixture.

“When we first started people looked at us a little sideways,” Degnan conceded. “But we’ve been welcomed into the community.”

The Hertel/North Buffalo Business Association has become a big supporter. It mentions the market in its advertising, provides liability insurance and participates in graffiti cleanups. Local block clubs join in the activities. UB’s Beal continues to be a strong backer. Her Regional Community Policing Center and ZTV support each other whenever possible, and Beal has participated in several ZTV projects. Though some of the original members have moved out of Buffalo, the Degnans, UB Professor Jo Schweitzer, Debbie deBeer, Carolyn Kerr and Sally Rogers sustain ZTV. New members cycle in as old members go out, but a core group of about a dozen remains.

Perhaps most important, ZTV has achieved results. People thank group members for starting up the market. The alley ZTV initially repainted is still clean two years later. “The Hertel area has turned around wonderfully,” Degnan said.

About a year into its existence, ZTV received an award for creative solutions from United Neighborhoods, a Buffalo-based community organization. Most recently, Senator Byron Brown presented the group a $500 award, which was funded by the Neighborhood Crime Prevention and Keep Western New York Beautiful programs, for its efforts in the community.

Although its activities are important, in Degnan’s eyes ZTV’s true role is catalyst. True to its principles, ZTV tries to spin off its projects and keep them self-sustaining through other organizations. Alliances among the groups working together may shift depending on the issue, but their work together has helped reinvent the area.

Into the classroom
You might wonder if tying Degnan’s efforts with ZTV back to his work at Hilbert would be difficult. On the contrary—Degnan sees a direct link.

“At Hilbert, I see an awareness among faculty that we’re not privileged scholars in ivory towers,” he said. “We’re members of the community as well as scholars. Lots of us are involved in a variety of projects to help make the area better.” (See sidebar on pg. 9 for partial list.)

This activist trend, if you like, has influenced Hilbert’s redesign of its entire curriculum. The Rev. Dr. Bernard Olszewski, vice president for academic affairs, initiated the idea but asked Degnan to supervise its development.

The curriculum redesign is based on a change in higher education that
has taken place over the last 10 years. This “liberal learning movement” stresses a holistic curriculum in which students know from the start where their four-year liberal arts curriculum will lead.

“When freshmen come in, we will tell them they have to master six goals,” Degnan said. One is to be an informed and responsible local and global citizen. “Many students don’t think through issues. We want them to be more independent in thought. In their senior year they’ll have to complete a capstone course or project where they have to prove they’ve mastered the six goals. At the end of the four years, we want our graduates to be informed, responsible local and global citizens.”

Before his experience with civic activism, Degnan said, “I would have thought the curriculum redesign was a good idea. But now through my own experience, I realize how critical it is, how Americans have to be reengaged with society and the world, almost in a way we’ve never been before. Just as the incident with our son catalyzed me and my wife, the events since 9/11 have shown us that we not only need to be more engaged in the world but we also need to know more about the world in which we are engaged.”

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

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Jumping Right In

Numerous Hilbert faculty and staff volunteer their time to help in the Western New York community and beyond. Here’s just a small list.

- John Babi
  Associate Professor
  Erie County Department of Mental Health Alcohol and Substance Abuse Committee

- Wendy Edson
  Associate Professor
  Volunteer Mediator—New York State Unified Court System, Erie & Niagara County Family Courts

- Kathryn Eskew
  Associate Professor
  Southern Erie Neighborhood Advisory Committee, Hamburg Drug Treatment Court—Steering Committee

- Ron Eskew, Ph.D.
  Associate Professor
  Coordinated Care of Western New York Board Member

- Thea Harrington, Ph.D.
  Associate Professor
  Asian Connection of Western New York

- Julie Kusmierz, Ph.D.
  Associate Professor
  Girl Scouts

- Rev. Dr. Bernard Olszewski
  Vice President for Academic Affairs
  American Red Cross

- Edward Qualey
  Associate Professor
  BOCES I Advisory Board

- Sharon Sisti
  Assistant Professor
  Hamburg Youth Services Consortium

- Amy Smith, Ph.D.
  Associate Professor
  Camp Good Days and Special Times

- Gordon Snow, Ph.D.
  Professor
  Asian Connection of Western New York
There’s a new parking lot. In college life, that’s a seemingly minor feat but a new lot is a great thing when you know why it was built in the first place.

As Hilbert College President Sister Edmunette Paczesny, Ph.D., put it: “Parking being at a premium is actually a challenge we don’t mind having as it’s a sign of our growth.”

That growth refers to Hilbert having achieved last fall its highest enrollment ever in the institution’s 46-year history. The total represents a 9 percent increase over Fall 2002 figures.

The enrollment gain includes the largest entering class of full- and part-time students, the best on record and up 19 percent from last year. First-time freshmen also marked an impressive 44 percent growth.

A total 1,055 students enrolled at Hilbert last fall, including an 11 percent jump in full-time students. The total exceeded the college’s fall semester target of 995 enrolled students.

All of which brings us back to the new parking lot. With more students on campus, it wasn’t long before parking was in high demand; thus, the lot addition.

The record-setting enrollment, Sister Edmunette said, is “momentous for the college and fulfills a goal we had established in the college’s three-year strategic plan. From more refined marketing efforts to the work of our faculty and staff, this success represents combined efforts that are having a positive impact and a commitment by many people at Hilbert to help the college grow.

“It’s clear,” she added, “that Hilbert’s reputation of high-quality academic programs is starting to reach more students, particularly those pursuing an education in criminal justice and business administration, both of which marked the largest enrollment increase and fol-
allowed closely by our specialized economic crime investigation degree. All our programs are fortified by the college’s strong liberal arts core.”

In the face of a competitive higher education market, Hilbert is also attracting a better caliber of students who are drawn to the college’s vigorous academic programs and first-rate intern and career prospects.

“Our academic environment is one that makes it possible for students to attain their educational and career goals, something of great relevance in attracting and retaining more high-achieving students. We often hear from students that advantages at Hilbert like personal attention from faculty, smaller class sizes and even getting timely financial aid assistance all make their college experience that much better at the college,” said Sister Edmunette.

A slowing economy played a part in the enrollment increase, but the boost was also fueled by other factors, noted the Rev. Dr. Bernard Olszewski, vice president for academic affairs.

“Job forecasting for the next five to 10 years in fields related to homeland security dovetails nicely with Hilbert’s law and justice-related programs for which we are noted. Our other programs are also seeing an increase in enrollment as students recognize the career potential they offer,” said Olszewski.

Enhancements at Hilbert have further made it more appealing to students, he pointed out, such as the college’s new apartment-style housing, and the addition of academic minors, concentrations and a study abroad program, among other improvements. But there’s more to come.

“With enrollment growth comes the realization that we need to consider expanding Hilbert in the short-term rather than in the future,” Olszewski pointed out. “Classroom space, facilities, an increase in faculty, these all need to be considered to accommodate the growth.”

To celebrate Hilbert’s enrollment record, the college named criminal justice major Serena DeSantis ’07 to represent the 1,000th student enrolled at Hilbert. The Depew resident, a first-time freshman, received a certificate in recognition of this honorary selection.

Even as Hilbert looks ahead to the next academic year and beyond, there’s a palpable optimism around campus that enrollment will continue to climb.

“We’ve become more of a college of choice among a growing number of students,” said Sister Edmunette. “Hilbert has proven itself to be a top quality institution, one that reflects our dedication to academics and student success.”
SANDRA AUGUSTINE, chairperson and professor of economic crime investigation, and GORDON SNOW, PH.D., chairperson of law and government and professor of philosophy, co-presented on “Ethics and the Decision Making Process” for the Institute of Internal Auditors Western New York Chapter.

ROB deGRANDPRE, sports information director and head men’s basketball coach, served as head coach for the Western Open men’s basketball team at the 2003 Empire State Games held in Buffalo, N.Y.

WENDY EDSON, assistant chairperson and associate professor of paralegal studies, has received a certificate of recognition and appreciation from the Western New York Paralegal Association. In addition, she was a reviewer for a recently released book on “Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing.”

CHARLES ERNST, PH.D., chairperson of arts and sciences and professor of English, presented a paper on “In the Mind’s ‘I’: The Singular ‘I’ and the Singularity of ‘We’ as First-Person Narrators in Steven Millhauser’s Shorter Fiction,” at the New York College English Association fall conference at St. John Fisher College.

THEA HARRINGTON, PH.D., chairperson and professor of English, is serving on a Middle States Association’s Commission on Higher Education team which is conducting a site visit at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pa.

A mock trial on grand larceny was held at Hamburg Town Court as part of the fall semester’s economic crime investigation senior seminar course, which is taught by WILLIAM HASLINGER, ECI assistant professor.

THOMAS HONAN, vice president for institutional advancement, is chairing the government affairs committee of the Association of Fundraising Professionals Western New York Chapter.

PATRICK LUPANI, software engineer, was among five to receive credit for a story on “Electronic Patient Registration and Tracking at Mass Vaccination Clinics: A Clinical Study,” published in a Journal of Public Health Management and Practice issue on bioterrorism preparedness.

MICHAEL MORAVEC, adjunct instructor of business administration, received an award from the Joan A. Male Family Support Center for his long-standing contributions to the safety and well-being of children.

DANIEL ROLAND, professor of business administration, has been designated a certified student leader by the National Conference on Student Services.

Accounting adjunct instructor JAMES SEGARRA has been named a managing partner at the accounting firm Tronconi Seggara and Hore in Williamsville, N.Y.

SHARON SISTI, assistant professor of human services, was a presenter at a “Domestic Violence in Law Enforcement” conference at Hilbert, as well as a panelist at a Faculty Senate Lecture Series event on the child protection system.

PAULA WITHERELL, public relations director, was a judge for the institutional relations and alumni relations publications category for the 2003-04 Counsel for Advancement and Support of Education District II Accolades Awards.

SEPIDEH YEON, director of resident life and student activities, was a co-presenter on effective supervision at a College Student Personnel Administration conference held in Silver Bay, N.Y. She was also a student personnel administration panelist in a Buffalo State College course.
In the Sports Zone

Going the Distance

Hilbert College junior Katy Dorsheimer ’05 has retained her title as North Eastern Athletic Conference women’s cross country champion and remains undefeated on her home course at 5-0.

Dorsheimer was also recognized by the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference as the runner of the week for the week ending Oct. 26 and placed second at the AMCC Championships.

An AMCC all-conference selection this past fall, Dorsheimer was also Hilbert’s September Student-Athlete of the Month and competed in the NCAA Regional Qualifier in November.

Champs, Once Again

It’s a repeat. The Hilbert College women’s soccer team won their second straight North Eastern Athletic Conference tournament championship by defeating Keuka College 1-0. Coach Jamie Ruggiero’s Hawks won nine of their last 11 games to finish their season at 12-9 overall (6-2 NEAC).

Players Rack Up Fall Post-Season Honors

Men’s Soccer
All-NEAC First Team
Chris Fassl and Jacob Opala

All-NEAC Second Team
Brian Dohl and Tim Jordan

NEAC Coach of the Year
Kevin Mahoney

Women’s Soccer
All-NEAC Team
Shannon Bieniek,
Wendy Brusso,
Nicole DeVantier,
and Jessica Macri
Michelle Greco

NEAC Newcomer of the Year

Women’s Volleyball
All-NEAC Second Team
Lisa Piccone

Cross-Country
All-AMCC Team
Katy Dorsheimer

NEAC Individual Champion
Katy Dorsheimer

2004 Winter/Spring Home Sports Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Men’s Volleyball</td>
<td>Eastern Mennonite</td>
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<td>Men’s Volleyball</td>
<td>Baptist Bible</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
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<td>FEB 28</td>
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<td>Villa Julie</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
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<td>MAR 2</td>
<td>Men’s Volleyball</td>
<td>D’Youville</td>
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<td>1 PM</td>
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<td>APR 5</td>
<td>Women’s Softball</td>
<td>St. John Fisher</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
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<td>Women’s Softball</td>
<td>Penn State Behrend</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
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<td>Men’s Baseball</td>
<td>Keuka</td>
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<tr>
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<td>D’Youville</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
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<td>D’Youville</td>
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<td>Keuka</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
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<td>Women’s Softball</td>
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<td>Men’s Baseball</td>
<td>Penn State Behrend</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
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<td>APR 27</td>
<td>Men’s Baseball</td>
<td>La Roche</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 1</td>
<td>Men’s Baseball</td>
<td>Medaille</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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We’re Counting on You

When you give to the Hilbert College Annual Fund, it enables students and faculty to achieve, create, dream and get ahead. The power of the annual fund is that it provides support that’s both flexible and immediate. Our 2003-04 annual fund campaign is well underway and you can help us reach and even exceed our $110,000 goal.

Jim Zielinski ’80 shared his thoughts about the importance of the annual fund in a letter to Hilbert Connections and summed it up best on why your support is needed.

“I opened the fall issue of Hilbert Connections and was greatly saddened by the news of the passing of Sister Adrienne...I’m sending this letter with my contribution to the annual fund, which I have chosen to increase this year in memory of Sister Adrienne Rapnicki. I challenge all alumni who were impacted by Sister A to honor her by making a gift to the annual fund. She gave so much of herself to Hilbert and to each of us and I cannot think of a more fitting tribute than to give a little bit back in her memory.”

Your gift, whatever the amount, can make a difference now and into the future. To make a gift today, simply use the envelope provided in this issue of the magazine, or contact Mark Bindig at 716-649-7900, ext. 340, mbindig@hilbert.edu. If you’ve already given to the annual fund, we extend our sincere thanks.

Happening @ Hilbert

February
23 Internet Job Search Techniques Workshop
1–2 PM, Career Lab
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
radle@hilbert.edu

25 Graduate School Workshop
3–4 PM, Career Lab
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
radle@hilbert.edu

26 Resume & Cover Letter Workshop
1–2 PM, Career Lab
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
radle@hilbert.edu

March
3 Professional Success Program
6–9 PM, Franciscan Hall
Info: 649-7900, ext. 265
pbaubonis@hilbert.edu

4 Spring Job Fair
9 AM–Noon, Franciscan Hall
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
radle@hilbert.edu

22 Graduate School Workshop
2–3 PM, Career Lab
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
radle@hilbert.edu

April
4 Live Stations of the Cross & Easter Party
2–3:30 PM, Palisano Lecture Room
Info: 649-7900, ext. 253
srjackie@hilbert.edu

19 Resume & Cover Letter Writing Workshop
2–3 PM, Career Lab
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
radle@hilbert.edu

May
2 Baccalaureate Mass & Brunch
11 AM, Franciscan Hall
RSVP: 649-7900, ext. 265
pbaubonis@hilbert.edu

5 Visiting Artist Series
7 PM, Franciscan Hall
Louis Grachos
Director, Albright-Knox Art Gallery
Info: 649-7900, ext. 226
ahughes@hilbert.edu

15 Commencement
11 AM, Hafner Rec Center

June
21 14th Annual Golf Tournament
See page 19 for details
From the Alumni President

I hope this New Year finds you all happy and healthy. Last year was filled with many memorable moments for the Hilbert College family - some for the joy they brought, some for the sorrow left behind.

To learn about some of the things the Hilbert Alumni Association accomplished last year, you can review the year-end report on the alumni Web site. Thank you to all who lent time, experience, and expertise to make 2003 a very successful year for Hilbert alumni.

Now it’s a time of renewal and growth. That means it’s time for the alumni association to begin plans for another big year! Just like so many of us, the alumni association has made a New Year’s resolution. We have resolved to provide another fun-filled year of activities and educational functions, and we’re well under way! Watch the alumni Web site for details of our upcoming events. We could use your help in the planning and preparation of our endeavors.

Remember, all alumni are welcome to attend board meetings, join committees or help out with alumni events. For remaining meeting dates and upcoming events, check the Web site or contact me via e-mail or alumni relations director Pat Baubonis at pbaubonis@hilbert.edu. We look forward to seeing you!

Robin Anne Meyer
alumnipresident@hilbert.edu

News & Notes

To contact the Hilbert Office of Alumni Relations, e-mail: pbaubonis@hilbert.edu

MARY NOVAK, AAS ’76 (EDUCATION), is teaching fifth grade at Rankin Elementary in Guilford County, N.C.

‘60s
SISTER KAREN KLIMCZAK, AA ’65 (LIBERAL ARTS), is director of Bisonette House in Buffalo, N.Y.

NANCY (HAMES) KUSHNER, AA ’66 (LIBERAL ARTS), recently retired from teaching in Washington.

PATRICIA (O’NEILL) LORETTI, AA ’70 (LIBERAL ARTS), has retired after 24 years as an administrative secretary to the director of special education at Lake Shore Central School District in Angola, N.Y. She’s a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and the Salvation Army.

SALLY (JANKOWIAK) OSHIER, AA ’69 (LIBERAL ARTS), is assistant principal of Niagara Catholic High School in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

‘70s
YVONNE BETTINGER, AA ’75 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION), has been named by Business First as a 2003 Women of Influence in WNY. She’s assistant vice president and Springville branch manager for Cattaragus County Bank and has a bachelor’s degree from Medaille College.

RUTH (HESS) CHAMPION, AA ’75 (LIBERAL ARTS), is with the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Md.

DONALD MOLENDA, AA ’79 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), is a police officer for the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority.

‘80s
BROOKE ANDERSON-TOMPKINS, AAS ’86 (PARALEGAL), has been appointed to the Hilbert Board of Trustees. She was a panel speaker at the National State Board of Accountability, Eastern Regional Convention in Louisville, Ky.

CINDY GOSS, AA ’84 (HUMAN SERVICES), was a presenter at a “Domestic Violence in Law Enforcement” conference held at Hilbert, and was a facilitator of a simulated terrorist attack re-enactment exercise for U.S.-Canadian law enforcement held at Niagara Falls Airport.

JAMES IGLEWSKI, AAS ’85 (BANKING), has been named co-president of FleetBoston Financial in Buffalo, N.Y.

FATHER ROBERT ORLOWSKY, AA ’89 (LIBERAL ARTS), is parochial vicar at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Williamsville, N.Y.

‘90s
THOMAS DOODY, BS ’97 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION), is on the strategic planning committee for the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Ariz.

TODD EHRET, BS ’98 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), conducted professional success sessions on dressing for success and networking for Hilbert criminal justice and business administration student interns.

PETER ERTLE, BS ’96 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION), has been named

Correction
Sister Helen Royack ’69 was pictured with Hilbert College’s oldest alumna in a photo published in the Fall 2003 Hilbert Connections. The name was incorrect in that issue.
The Alumni Reconnection Celebration was a great success. More than 100 alumni, faculty and staff attended the all-class event on Oct. 4, with many alumni coming back to reunite with old friends and to meet new ones. Co-chairs Nichole Becker ’01 and Jason Luna ’96 and their committee devoted their time to an event that culminated into a terrific evening.
The class of 1968 celebrated its 35th anniversary and shared many memories, including their class yearbook, with everyone in attendance.

The event was best summed up by Tom Doody ’97: “From the class of ’68, down through the classes of ’96, ’97 and even the recent graduates, it is apparent how the family atmosphere of Hilbert College has touched so many lives. Walking into that reception hall was like taking a step back in time, instantly reconnecting old relationships and picking up conversations like we hadn’t missed a beat. I’m extremely proud to be an alumnus of Hilbert College and proud to have traveled 3,000 miles to this event.”
You Can Shape the Future

Making a planned gift can enable you to do more for Hilbert College than you ever thought possible. With it, you’ll ensure a high level of excellence for future students while securing your financial future.

Your gift is an individual expression of your goals. For instance, you can support student scholarships, academic programs, campus expansion or faculty development—whatever is close to your heart.

Even small gifts can make a big difference and help transform the quality of the Hilbert experience.

Consider including Hilbert in your estate plans. You’ll be giving hope to future generations.

Hilbert welcomes the opportunity to help you find the best way to make a planned gift. For more information on how you can support the college, please contact Thomas Honan at 716-649-7900, ext. 302, or e-mail honant@hilbert.edu.

MELANIE (ANGELO) KRAFT, BS ’03 (HUMAN SERVICES), is with Gaymar Industries in Orchard Park, N.Y.

SABRINA MAY, BS ’03 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), who is pursuing a master’s degree at Niagara University, is a graduate assistant in the Hilbert Office of Residence Life.

MELISSA MCCAFFERY, BS ’03 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), is a customs inspector in the Department of Homeland Security in Buffalo, N.Y.

BRIAN MICHALEK, BS ’03 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), who writes under the pen name Homer Bobcat, published an article on the “Legacy of DiPaolo” in Sports and Leisure Magazine.

THOMAS MERLETTE, BS ’00 (ACCOUNTING), is a loan analyst at Capital Source in Buffalo, N.Y.

LISA MORRIS, BS ’03 (PARALEGAL), is a paralegal at Hodgson Russ in New York City.

MICHELLE RICKARD-PULEO, BS ’00 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), a deputy sheriff in Erie County, teamed up with fellow deputy sheriff NICHOLAS BUDNEY, BS ’00 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), to capture a man wanted on an Oklahoma warrant.

CHRISTA SCHUELER, BS ’03 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION), services Canadian customers at UPS-Supply Chain Solutions in Buffalo, N.Y.

LAURIE (FELTON) SCHWING, BS ’01 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), is an immigration inspector for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

DAVID SCHWING, BS ’01 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), is completing training at the New York State Police Academy.

JAMES SCOTT, AA ’02 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), is a materials and supply clerk at Gowanda Correctional Facility in Gowanda, N.Y.

REGINALD SMITH, BS ’02 (HUMAN SERVICES), is a tech supervisor at the Resource Center in Jamestown, N.Y.

JAMES SPADONE, BS ’01 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), is training at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Glynco, Ga.

CAROLYN (HAMELE) STACHURA, BS ’00 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION), is assistant court analyst in the Office of the New York State
Attorney Grievance Committees for the Eighth Judicial District in Buffalo, N.Y.

KARA STEINITZ, BS '01 (ECONOMIC CRIME), is a field examiner for Safeco Insurance in Buffalo, N.Y., and received a master's degree in computer forensics from the University of New Haven.

CELESTE STEVENSON, BS '03 (PARALEGAL), is an Internet researcher for experts at Phillips Lytle in Buffalo, N.Y.

NOELLE STIGLMEIER, BS '00 (HUMAN SERVICES), is client servicing manager for Capital Management Services in Buffalo, N.Y.

TARA TAYLOR, BS '02 (LIBERAL STUDIES), is distance learning Web developer and training specialist at Hilbert.

MARY KAY WALSH, AAS '00 (PARALEGAL), is with Hurwitz & Fine in Buffalo, N.Y., and continuing her studies at Hilbert in the bachelor-level paralegal studies program.

JENNIFER HAMM, BS '98 (PARALEGAL) to Christopher Roberts

REBECCA HESS, BS '03 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION) to Eric Visnesky

CONNIE HOLSCHER, AA '91 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE) to Jeffrey Przepasniak

DONALD MOLENDI, AA '79 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE) to Karen Jackson

AMANDA PEEW, BS '99 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE) to Jeremy Blydy

PAUL SCOLESE, BS '97 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE) to Tara Heckman

KARA STEINITZ, BS '01 (ECONOMIC CRIME) to George Kaufmann

NOELLE STIGLMEIER, BS '00 (HUMAN SERVICES) to Scott Forzani

ALISSA ULATOWSKI, BS '02 (ECONOMIC CRIME) to Paul H. Wolf III

SHANE WAITE, BS '96 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE) to Cheryl Hicks

CAROL WITTMeyer, BS '03 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION) to Earl Loisifs III

CHERYL WITTMeyer, BS '03 (HUMAN SERVICES) to Nick Nicholas

BRIDES

GEORGINA (BUSSI) ADAMCHICK, BS '96 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION), and MARK ADAMCHICK, BS '03 (ECONOMIC CRIME), welcomed a son, Zachary George, who joins older brother, Alexander.

DANIELLE (EDWARDS) GONG, BS '01 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION), and her husband, Harry, welcomed a daughter, Kaylee Elizabeth.

CHRISTOPHER IANNELLO, BS '96 (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION), and his wife, Early, welcomed a son, Aidan Christopher.

TINIAN (BEREBKO) MENDEZ, AAS '99 (PARALEGAL), and her husband, Nicholas, welcomed a daughter, Abagail Mae.

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LAURIE FELTON, BS '01 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE) to DAVID SCHWING, BS '01 (CRIMINAL JUSTICE)

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In Memoriam

SISTER M. BASIL BIERNACKI, FSSJ, AA '70 (LIBERAL ARTS)

LEILAH CUMMINGS, AAS '84 (PARALEGAL)

FRANCES MIEHL, AA '68 (LIBERAL ARTS)

SISTER M. DULCELINE SERWA, FSSJ, AA '68 (LIBERAL ARTS)

SISTER M. VIRGILIA TOCZYLOWSKI, FSSJ, TREASURER AT HILBERT COLLEGE FROM 1957-78, died Sept. 24. She was 88. A native of Ranshaw, Pa., Sister Virgilia’s ministry was primarily in the business field, including her work as secretary/accountant at St. Anthony’s Home for the Aged in Hamburg, and in the St. Mary’s Hospital Admissions Office in Brooklyn. She also served for 12 years as FSSJ’s general treasurer.

It’s Tee Time!
14th Annual Hilbert College Golf Tournament

Monday, June 21, 2004
12:30 PM Shotgun Start
Wanakah Country Club in Hamburg, NY
Golf, lunch, dinner and many prizes!
Supporting and corporate sponsorships available.
Tournament proceeds will benefit Hilbert student scholarships.

Information:
Thomas Honan
716-649-7900, ext. 302
honant@hilbert.edu

Weddings

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Dawn Bippert ‘85 and Brian Felker ’84 decorate a car for Hilbert College's annual Moving Up Day parade, a late-spring event that took students around campus and parts of the surrounding Hamburg community. Complete with floats, the end-of-year event celebrated students moving up from freshmen to sophomore class.

To share some of your favorite memories as a student during the ’80s, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 716-649-7900, ext. 265, or e-mail pbaubonis@hilbert.edu.