One Voice
Nadia Shahram fights for equality
As we plan for additional construction to include a new academic center and auditorium, an addition to the Hafner Recreation Center, and major renovations to Bogel Hall, and proceed with a capital campaign, the distant onlooker might be led to believe that the focus of Hilbert personnel is extremely limited, namely, on buildings. A closer look will dispel that perception.

A great deal more emphasis is being placed on student-oriented projects as we increase the number of courses and add new programs—the bachelor degree in communication studies and rehabilitation services and a minor in leadership. Research has led to a proposal to the State Education Department for a forensic science major and specific plans are underway for film studies and drama.

The academic and student life staffs are seeking out grant money to subsidize programs and activities which will increase student retention rates as well as raise the number of students who persist to graduation.

None of this can come to fruition without benefactors who have always generously and graciously supported Hilbert’s endeavors. Without you we can do little. With your assistance so much more is possible. Hilbert’s success and growth attest to that.

Visit us sometime. We would love to see you here and share personally in the advances we continue to make.

Sister Edmunette Paczesny, Ph.D., FSSJ
President

A great deal more emphasis is being placed on student-oriented projects as we increase the number of courses and add new programs—the bachelor degree in communication studies and rehabilitation services and a minor in leadership.
Enrollment Continues to Climb

Hilbert College has posted its highest enrollment in the college’s history, with nearly 1,310 enrolled for the fall semester, including a significant 14 percent increase in full-time students.

A total of 1,107 students enrolled in the fall at Hilbert, which represents a 6 percent increase from last year’s then record-breaking enrollment. The figure exceeds slightly the college’s total enrollment target of 1,100.

Included in the enrollment total is the largest entering class of full-time students. In addition, the number of returning students increased 7.5 percent.

Sister Edmunette Paczesny, Ph.D., college president, noted that “Hilbert’s strong and purposeful articulation agreements target of 1,090.

Academically, we’ve added depth to our program offerings. More options, such as new majors in rehabilitation services and communication studies, additional minors, and other measures are expanding our educational base,” she said.

In specific academic programs, human services realized the largest full-time enrollment increase with 34 percent, followed by criminal justice with a 17 percent growth.

Part-time enrollment went up 50 percent in psychology and 31 percent in accounting. Although the total number of part-time students declined 11 percent, that figure was anticipated, pointed out Olszewski.

“Many part-time students at Hilbert changed to full-time status,” he said, noting that the status of the U.S. economy tends to impact part-time numbers. “When the economy is weaker or employment is unsteady, we tend to see more part-time students opting to attend full time.”

With new transfer numbers showing a 6 percent increase, and comprising 42 percent of the entering class, Sister Edmunette stressed that “Hilbert’s strong and purposeful articulation agreements with other colleges are particularly beneficial and meaningful to students. We understand that students need a smooth transition to Hilbert and the ease of credit transfers built into these agreements accomplishes this.”

The Rev. Dr. Bernard Olszewski, vice president for academic affairs, added that initiatives to advance the college’s academic curriculum have also been a factor in increased enrollment.

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Ribbon Magnets

Special Hilbert College Supports Our Troops ribbon magnets are now available through the Criminal Justice Association. The magnets, which are in Hilbert blue and white college colors, include the college’s name and Support Our Troops message.

Cost is $5 for each 6-inch magnet and may be purchased by contacting James Sobol at 716-649-7900, ext. 328, or e-mail sobol@hilbert.edu. Proceeds will benefit Buffalo-area military units serving in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East.

You’re Fired!—Not

Modeled after the popular reality show “The Apprentice,” some area high school students participated in a real-life business competition that culminated in a final presentation, but without the risk of hearing the words: “You’re fired.”

More than 40 Erie 1 BOCES students took part in the business challenge hosted by the Hilbert College Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) chapter and Business Administration Department.

Students were asked to find ways to increase the average sale per customer at Parkside Candy Co. locations. A panel of judges selected the top project.

Using a $30,000 budget, each team had an assigned project manager, comptroller, copywriter, creative director, and team spokesperson.

Rock the Vote

With ’04 being a presidential election year, a week-long voter registration drive held at Hilbert College generated and encouraged new voters to get out and vote. Pictured, left to right, are organizers of the drive Kate Maragliano, acquisition/reference librarian; Hilbert law and government major Katie Woodruff ’06; and Kate Ross, library technical services coordinator. A Rock the Vote presidential debate comprised of students representing each candidate also took place at the college.

Photo Documentary

Internationally acclaimed photographer Steve Hart discusses his photo essay “A Bronx Family Album: The Impact of AIDS” at the opening of the 2004-05 Hilbert College Visiting Artist Series. The collection chronicles over a seven-year period the joys and pains of a family in which the mother and father are HIV-positive. Award-winning poet Irving Feldman will be the featured visiting artist at 7 p.m. May 4.

Photo by Nancy J. Parisi
The day was decisive and unforgettable for Nadia Shahram. Shortly after 9/11, the native Iranian was returning to Buffalo from a trip to Toronto with her two daughters. Reaching the U.S.-Canadian border, Shahram was “harassed and questioned for 30 minutes” as her children watched from the back seat of the car.

The memory of the event brings her to tears even now. “It was very difficult, because I never thought I was not an American,” says Shahram, a naturalized U.S. citizen who has lived in this country since 1976. “I understood the need for extra precaution but when that happened, even though I had lived here for 25 years, I knew I was being looked upon differently.”

An adjunct professor in Hilbert’s law and government program, Shahram was appalled, as was the rest of the country, at the World Trade Center attacks. “I thought I owed both my non-Muslim and Muslim friends an explanation of why I didn’t approve of that kind of aggression and to question why that aggression is done in the name of Islam,” she says. Shahram found coping difficult, a feeling that only increased after the incident at the border.

She decided “to do something to make myself whole again, for me and my children—the new generation.” During her youth, Iran had been a secular society. Shahram had not practiced her Muslim religion, nor did she know it well. Post 9/11, she wondered if the terrorists’ aggression could really have evolved from the faith’s teachings. So Shahram embarked on a journey of education and self-renewal.

She began learning about her faith, examining it in an effort to find some answers. She developed and began teaching courses at Hilbert that compare Western and Islamic family and criminal law. Last summer, she returned to Iran for the first time in 11 years, in part to do primary research on women’s rights in her home country. Ultimately, Shahram’s self-described “technique for survival” has reshaped her career and, in a major respect, her life.

Teaching to understanding

Today, as an adjunct professor at Hilbert, Shahram begins all her classes by telling students that she wants them to listen, hear, ask questions and increase their critical thinking on the subjects. “There are no right or wrong answers,” she insists. “Maybe no answers at all.”

Continued on page 9
Shahram believes that, in reality, Iranian women are “the victims of the patriarchal interpretation of the practice of Islam followed in the country today, which came about to defy the rule of a corrupted secular government, the (former) Shah and Western culture.”

Interestingly, until 9/11 and its aftermath, Shahram had not considered the teaching profession. In fact, she had already successfully pursued two other careers. After coming to Western New York from Toronto where she received her high school diploma, she earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration at the University at Buffalo and then opened and ran a restaurant in downtown Buffalo. Interacting with her clientele, lawyers and judges mostly, Shahram became intrigued with the law. She graduated in 1997 from the UB School of Law and is now executive director of the Matrimonial Mediation Center in Amherst, as well as pursuing a doctorate in conflict analysis and resolution at Nova Southeastern University.

Shahram approaches her subjects as “an educated woman, who isn’t close-minded, who is looking for answers and tries not to be biased.” Her course on “Comparative Perspectives on American and Islamic Law” takes up the contrasts between Muslim and Western criminal law. “Some criminal laws that directly have been taken from Koran are very similar to Western laws,” she notes. “When we look at them closely and thoroughly, 80 percent of my students say that the Islamic system is working, not barbaric. They get closer to understanding the philosophy behind what seems to be harsh punishment.”

Take the notion of “blood money.” Islamic law allows the victim’s family to take the life of the killer (the state will handle the actual death sentence) unless the killer’s family can convince the victim’s family to accept monetary compensation. “People think it’s barbaric,” says Shahram. However, the Koran says the victim’s family should “forgive, believe in God and let him punish the person.”

Western law embodies a similar notion in punitive damages and capital punishment. But victims’ families in Western countries can find themselves at the mercy of the legal system, waiting for finality through round after round of appeals. Islamic criminal law, Shahram says, “empowers the victims’ families directly,” helping them achieve a measure of closure.

In her other course, “Islam, Family Law and Culture,” Shahram tells students “the prophet Mohammed was a ‘feminist.’” In the sixth century, Muslim women were given the right to own property and keep it, and, in case of a divorce, they could keep whatever they brought to the marriage. Unfortunately, she says, many of the laws derived from Koran today “tend to oppress women and children and that was not the prophet’s intention.”

In the classroom, Shahram, who is also developing new Hilbert courses in Middle Eastern studies and Arabic language, says that she doesn’t “question the right or wrong of the verse, but I look at the context in which it was revealed and why it worked then. And I question its applicability in the 21st century.”

The trip to native country

Shahram took a research trip to her birth country last summer to “truly see Iran. I needed to go there; sit in court and go through cases to see if my perception (of how the country had changed since the Iran revolution) was accurate.” Iran, she says, “appears to be more modern but it’s only on the surface.”

Shahram believes that, in reality, Iranian women are “the victims of the patriarchal interpretation of the practice of Islam followed in the country today, which came about to defy the rule of a corrupted secular government, the (former) Shah and Western culture.” Today, Iranian women have the right to divorce their husbands. But, she points out, “you have to read the cases to discover that, in fact, divorce is a discretionary right left up to the judges, who are all men. Yes, I can divorce my husband based on 12 conditions, but 10 of those conditions are discretionary on the part of a male judge.”

During her visit, Shahram had the opportunity to sit in on a number of court cases. Her encounters with the judges were cordial, but she doubts they would have treated her the same way if she weren’t a lawyer from America.

Shahram also took another opportunity—to question Iranian judges on Islamic law. “I was polite,” she says, “but I knew their language, their religion. When they said, ‘According to Koran, ABC,’ I’d say, ‘What about D?’”

For instance, polygamy in Iran is on the increase; judges allow the practice as a man’s right when economic conditions warrant it. “I asked the judge who gave men that right,” Shahram says. When the judge quoted the applicable verse from the Koran, Shahram rebutted him: “What about the verse right after that verse? It says even though polygamy is permitted, it’s not acceptable unless you love your third wife as much as the first and second. It’s not an economic question. It talks about being just in your heart. Is that possible?”

If a current wife dislikes the situation, the judge can allow her to divorce her husband. That, says Shahram, is no option at all. “I don’t think that’s such a great freedom; I have no rights except to leave and get a divorce in a culture where it carries a stigma,” she says.

Shahram relates a case she learned of while in Iran of a woman seeking a divorce due to years of mental abuse by her husband. “The woman was accompanied by her husband everywhere she went and was otherwise confined to her home,” she says. “Despite this, the judge did not accept the woman’s account of the situation because there were no visible signs of misbehavior or physical abuse. The petition for divorce was denied.”

After a divorce, a woman loses custody of her children to her husband. Children under 2 (for boys) and 7 (for girls) can stay temporarily with their mother and are then handed over to their father. However, if a divorced wife remarries, she automatically loses temporary guardianship of her children under age 2 and 7.
In effect, says Shahram, “a woman never has custody, only temporary guardianship. Men can remarry simultaneously several times and never lose custody.” Using the difficulty with these issues as a mother of two precious daughters, I can understand the context in which these rights came about in 6th century Arabia because women couldn’t support their children in the past and were dependent on their husband. The economic burden to raise kids was put upon men.

That context is not as applicable today, she adds, but “My narrator with marital issues. Couples go through this every day.” That context is not as applicable today, she adds, but “My narrator with marital issues. Couples go through this every day.” Shahram has the same wish for her book. “I also want to raise awareness in a meaningful way. My goal is that the book’s process used to be one way to deal with marital issues. Couples go through mediation with their family, then go to court and tell judges what they want. Judges ask questions, present options, direct the parties in question to think about their decision and come back. The process, says Shahram, “keeps people more honest.”

Her trip proved so fruitful that Shahram will return to Iran this May to conduct more research and make a documentary of actual court cases to show to her classes.

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Raising awareness
Following her experience at the border, Shahram wrote an editorial piece for The Buffalo News, which reawakened her desire to write. And so she’s writing a book about temporary marriages, a concept nearly unknown outside the Muslim world. In a temporary marriage, a married or single man and a single woman enter into marriage for a set price for a specified length of time, which can be as short as one hour. There’s no divorce or commitment beyond what’s in the contract. This practice is unique to the Shi’a minority sect in Iran.

Men may have an unlimited number of temporary marriages at the same time plus four permanent marriages, as opposed to women who are allowed only one temporary or permanent marriage. According to the interpretation anything but what Shahram says, the aim of the temporary marriage is “pure pleasure.”

In Shahram’s book, the narrator becomes a temporary wife and a money to get an education. “My narrator only temporary marriage is “pure pleasure.”

In Shahram’s book, the narrator becomes a temporary wife and a money to get an education. “My narrator
First-Team Runner

Senior cross-country runner Stacey Zinck '05 was named to the 2004 All-Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) First Team. Zinck, a human services major, finished seventh out of 53 runners at the AMCC Championships in Frostburg, Md. She finished the 6K race in a time of 27:44, five seconds behind fifth place finisher Willa Paterson of Penn State Behrend. The top 10 finishers in the conference meet were selected to the all-conference team.

Kickin' It Up

The 2004 Hilbert College women's soccer team was among 363 intercollegiate soccer programs to earn the National Soccer Coaches Association of America/Adidas Team Academic Award. The annual honor is presented to intercollegiate teams that post a grade-point-average of 3.0 or higher. This marks the second consecutive season the women's soccer team has earned this distinction.

"This truly is a great award that recognizes the quality of our student-athletes," head coach James Ruggiero said. "The coaching staff is very proud of this accomplishment."

The Hilbert women's soccer team finished the 2004 season 6-9-1, and 3-6 in Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference play.

Three Join Coaching Staff

Shannon Steinwandel is now serving as head women's volleyball coach and as facility coordinator for Hilbert College Athletics Department, while Tim Kronenwetter takes over as head men's soccer coach, and Ryan Kingsland begins his first season as head coach of the men's volleyball team.

Steinwandel comes to the Hamburg campus after three seasons as an assistant coach at Bishop Timon St. Jude High School in Buffalo.

A graduate of Mt. Mercy Academy in Buffalo, Steinwandel was a standout three-sport athlete participating in volleyball, basketball, and track and field. She moved on to St. Bonaventure University where she played Division I lacrosse before graduating with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She also earned a physical education teaching certificate.

Kronenwetter arrives at Hilbert after spending the past 10 years coaching youth soccer and serving as Cheektowaga Cougars soccer director. His Cheektowaga Cougars team won a division title and his Cheektowaga Revolution program finished in first place during his tenure. He has also served as girls head coach for the Exceptional Seniors Program for the past four years.

Ryan Kingsland comes to Hilbert after serving as coach for the Eden Volleyball Club Under-18 team for the past two seasons. He previously worked with the St. Francis High School varsity volleyball team and served as junior varsity coach.

He graduated from SUNY Cortland with a bachelor's degree in physical education and a concentration in teaching. At SUNY Cortland, he served as a volleyball instructor and played on the club volleyball team for four seasons, as well as provided swimming instruction to mentally handicapped children.
Currently, he's working with area youth at Baker Victory Services as a wrap around community leader.

2005 Winter/Spring Home Sports Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>OPPONENT</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 18</td>
<td>Women's Basketball</td>
<td>Penn State Altoona</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men's Basketball</td>
<td>Penn State Altoona</td>
<td>8 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 19</td>
<td>Women's Basketball</td>
<td>Mount Aloysius</td>
<td>2 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men's Basketball</td>
<td>Mount Aloysius</td>
<td>4 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAR 9</td>
<td>Men's Volleyball</td>
<td>D'Youville</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
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<td>MAR 30</td>
<td>Men's Baseball</td>
<td>Medaille (DH)</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
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<td>APR 2</td>
<td>Men's Baseball</td>
<td>Frostburg State</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 5</td>
<td>Women's Softball</td>
<td>Penn State Behrend (DH)</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>APR 9</td>
<td>Women's Softball</td>
<td>Mount Aloysius</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 11</td>
<td>Women's Softball</td>
<td>Alfred University</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 13</td>
<td>Women's Softball</td>
<td>Lake Erie (DH)</td>
<td>3 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 16</td>
<td>Men's Baseball</td>
<td>Penn State Altoona</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
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<td>APR 20</td>
<td>Men's Baseball</td>
<td>Brockport State</td>
<td>4 PM</td>
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<td>APR 23</td>
<td>Women's Softball</td>
<td>La Roche (DH)</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
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<td>APR 24</td>
<td>Women's Softball</td>
<td>Pitt-Greensburg (DH)</td>
<td>11 AM</td>
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<td>APR 30</td>
<td>Men's Baseball</td>
<td>Pitt-Bradford (DH)</td>
<td>1 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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February 22
Internet Job Search Techniques Workshop
2-3 PM, Career Lab
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
rade@hilbert.edu

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

Resume and Cover Letter Workshop
1-2 PM, Francisican Hall Student Lounge
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
rade@hilbert.edu

March 2
Professional Success Program
6-9 PM
Info: 649-7900, ext. 265
pbaubonis@hilbert.edu

Spring Job Fair
9 AM-Noon, Francisican Hall Atrium
Info: 649-7900, ext. 253
schick@hilbert.edu

Live Stations of the Cross & Children’s Easter Party
2-4 PM, Campus Center
Info: 649-7900, ext. 253
schick@hilbert.edu

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

Resume and Cover Letter Workshop
1-2 PM, Francisican Hall Student Lounge
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April 17
Internet Job Search Techniques Workshop
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Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
rade@hilbert.edu

Resume and Cover Letter Workshop
2-3 PM, Francisican Hall Student Lounge
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
rade@hilbert.edu

Graduate School Workshop
1-2 PM, Career Lab
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
rade@hilbert.edu

May 1
Baccalaureate Mass and Brunch
11 AM, Francisican Hall
Info: 649-7900, ext. 265
pbaubonis@hilbert.edu

Visiting Artist Series
Featuring poet Irving Feldman
7 p.m., Francisican Hall Atrium
Info: 649-7900, ext. 236
Hughes@hilbert.edu

Commencement
11 AM, Wesleyan Church of Hamburg

Send us your news & photos!

Traveled across the country? Published a book?Been promoted? Let us know what’s new with you (awards, marriage, births, promotions/job changes, change of address, advanced degrees, etc.). Just fill out this form and mail it with your photo, if available, to: Hilbert College, Office of Alumni Affairs, 5200 South Park Ave, Hamburg, NY 14075, or fax it to (716) 558-6381. You can also e-mail your latest news to alumni@hilbert.edu.

Be a Part of It

With the Hilbert College Annual Fund, you have the opportunity to make great things happen. Your gift is all about joining together with other supporters in a way that will have a significant, positive impact on Hilbert students and help ensure the future of the college.

As Hilbert moves forward, we are dedicated to enriching the lives of our students and making a difference in the Hilbert experience. Annual fund gifts allow the college flexibility in providing for areas where the need is greatest and brings immediate benefits to students.

You can play a role in the life of the college and our students. We need your help to reach our 2004-05 annual fund goal of $103,000. Every gift makes a difference, regardless of the size.

The annual fund envelope in this issue of Hilbert Connections is available so that you may make your gift today, or contact Mark Bindig at 716-649-7900, ext. 340, mbindig@hilbert.edu. Our deepest thanks if you’ve already made a gift to the annual fund.
From the Alumni President
A joyful New Year to all!

A new year brings new opportunities. Your alumni association is hard at work on many new opportunities. We’ve planned for several events in 2005. Theater trips, the alumni brunch, golf tournaments, baseball games, and big celebrations are just a part of what we’re working on. I hope each of you will find a way to be a part of at least one of these events. Check your alumni association Web site often for details on events and gatherings.

I want to take a moment to remind everyone that this association is about you and for you. We rely on the input of graduates from every class to be able to provide the services and benefits you desire most. We appreciate all the feedback and suggestions we get, so keep them coming.

The schedule of association board meetings can be found on the Web site. These meetings are open to everyone. Take the time to come see your board in action and give your input. We love to get new ideas and have fresh faces on committees.

This year brings many changes to your alumni association. After two years, my term as president has ended. This year brings many changes to your alumni association. As the success business owner, will lead our association is about on events and gatherings.

JAMES IGLEWSKI, AAS ’85 was chosen for Business First’s ‘40 Under Forty’ Class of 2004.

W. SHAWN MANLEY, AS ’87 is a mortgage officer at HSBC in Buffalo. He was named to Mortgage Originator magazine’s list of Top 20 Mortgage Originators for 2003.

MARY MILLER, AS ’82 is a technical secretary/admissions at Elmira College in Elmira, N.Y.

MARK MARONSKI, AS ’86 director of security at Rosina Foods Products in Buffalo, N.Y., has joined the Hilbert Criminal Justice Department as an adjunct instructor.

KATHERINE BIFARO, AAS ’79 was honored by the Minority Association of Western New York, and the Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee also

presented her the Sanford Kulick Award for making “a substantial contribution” to lawyer assistance efforts.

SUSAN (SCHNEIDER) PILIP, AA ’72 is an itinerant teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing K-12 with the Hamilton County Department of Education in Hamilton, Ont. She received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Buffalo State College and a master’s degree in deaf education from Canisius College.

CHARLES KLAUS, AA ’75 has been elected treasurer for the Hilbert Alumni Association.

SISTER ROSEMARIE ROYER, F.S.A. ’71 is an accountant in the Department of Justice of the State of Illinois.

JERRY WZALEK, AA ’73 is training coordinator/director at CHRYSALIS Training Center in Buffalo, N.Y.

DONALD BRICKEL, AS ’99 works in technical support at Bank of America, Fleet Credit Division in Colorado Springs, Colo.

KELLY (MCKEE) CEBUL-SKJ, AA ’94 is pursuing a master’s degree in education from Buffalo State College and her thesis has been nominated for the college’s Master’s Project of the Year Award. She has a bachelor’s degree in secondary education from Buffalo State College and teaches language arts in Orlando, Fla.

News & Notes

NICHOLE BECKER, BS ’01 has been elected president of the Hilbert Alumni Association.

DAWN BELLEZZA, BS ’03 is a mortgage servicing support specialist in the Mortgage and Foreclosure Department at M&T Bank in Buffalo, N.Y. She was recently appointed to the Hilbert Alumni Association Board of Directors.

JASON B. BOSSELT, BS ’04 is a security officer at America’s First Mortgage in Buffalo, N.Y.

SISTER ROSEMARIE KURDZIEL, BA ’00 is an administrative assistant at the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

CARLA LANCASTER, BS ’04 is a paralegal at Schauss, Whipple, Clark, Nelson in Fredonia, N.Y.

MELANIE GROTE, BS ’03 is an accounts payable clerk at ESM Group, Inc., in Amherst, N.Y.

ERIC HAHN, AA ’02 is an officer in training at the New York State Correctional Officer Academy in Albany, N.Y.

MARY HOFFMAN-GUIDO, BS ’00 is a paralegal in Las Vegas, Nev.

CHRISTOPHER HULL, BS ’02 works at Southtowns Financial Group in Orchard Park, N.Y. He recently was intern supervisor for Hilbert business student Edward Blassle.

ERICA HUNT, BS ’01 is a social worker at Catholic Charities in Buffalo, N.Y. She earned a CSW in July.

PATRICK JOHNSON, AA ’02 was promoted to staff sergeant by the U.S. Marine Corp. He received a bachelor’s degree in business management from Park University in Quinutt, Va.

ELAENI KAROVO, BA ’00 is an English teacher in West Seneca Central Schools. She has a master’s degree in secondary education from D’Youville College.

JULIE (FARRELL) KURDZIEL, BA ’00 is an administrative assistant at the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

CARLA LANCASTER, BS ’04 is a paralegal at Schauss, Whipple, Clark, Nelson in Fredonia, N.Y.
KELLY LANG, BA ‘03 is pursuing a graduate degree in American studies at Bowling Green University in Ohio. LORRAINE LANNING, BS ‘03 is a senior staff assistant at the University at Buffalo Department of Sociology. HOLLY LINDSTROM, BS ‘04 is pursuing a degree in urban planning at the University at Buffalo. LORRAINE (OATMEYER) LUDICK, BS ‘02 helped develop a pro bono program that enables families to obtain guardianship rights for relatives with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities when they reach the age of 18. The program was recently recognized by the Erie County Volunteer Lawyers Project. SUSAN (FLORA) LUPIA-NI, BS ‘01 is an intelligence analyst at the FBI in Buffalo, N.Y. JEANNA MARRANO, BS ‘05 is a crisis intervention counselor at Gateway-Longview in Williamsville, N.Y. MOLLY MCCARTHY, BA ‘04 is an infirmary assistant/clinical social worker at the New York State Lottery. RANDY REESE, BS ‘04 is an investigator assigned to the New York State Lottery in Buffalo, N.Y. SCOTT ROBERTSON, BS ‘04 is an intelligence analyst at the FBI in Buffalo, N.Y. KRISTY SCHMITT, BS ‘04 is a paralegal at the law offices of Randy Gugino in West Seneca, N.Y. CRAIG MOORE, BS ‘04 is a forensic identification officer at the Niagara Regional Police in St. Catharines, Ont. NICOLE (SAVAGE) NIVER, BS ‘01 works in administrative services at the City of Buffalo Department of Public Works.

ERIN (DOMIN) PARKER, BA ‘02 has been elected secretary of the Hilbert Alumni Association. DAVID PARTRIDGE, AS ‘01 is a sales and special finance consultant at South Transit Chrysler Jeep in Buffalo, N.Y. KAREN (BOGUMIL) PARTRIDGE, AAS ‘00 is accounting department manager of P&A Administrative Services in Buffalo, N.Y. NICHOLAS PASQUARELLA, BS ‘04 is employed in the accounting department of First Priority Mortgage in Buffalo, N.Y. FLORENCE (MCMULLAN) GASKE, AAS ‘70 has been elected secretary of the SUNY Fredonia Computer Science Department. SARAH (CLARONI) SKINNER, BS ‘00, is a mortgage specialist at M&T Mortgage Corp. in Buffalo, N.Y. MICHAEL SZOcki, BS ‘02 is a systems administrator at the SUNY Fredonia Computer Science Department and teaches micro-computer software. DEBORAH VATICANO, BS ‘00 is office manager/accountant at Grove Roofing Services, Inc., in Buffalo, N.Y. CATHARINE WALKER, BS ‘03 is a paralegal in the commercial real estate/public finance department at Hodgson Russ in Buffalo, N.Y. MARK ZANGHII, BS ‘00 passed the bar exam and was sworn into the Ohio Bar in a ceremony before the Ohio Supreme Court in Columbus. KAREN ZORN, BA ‘03 is assistant women’s soccer coach at Hilbert. MICHELE KLINKO, AA ‘99 to Christian Cohan. STEVEN METZ, BS ‘96 and his wife, Lori, welcomed a son, Tanner Reid.

SISTER M. NOELLA WALAS, FSSJ, a Hilbert College trustee emerita, died Nov. 15, 2004. She was 87.

A member of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph for nearly 65 years, Sister Noella, a Massachusetts native, was a former administrator at St. Joseph Hospital in Cheektowaga and was previously with St. Mary’s Hospital in Brooklyn for 25 years. She also served as FSSJ’s community relations and general minister, as well as local treasurer of Immaculate Conception Convent.

Correction
JENNIFER HINK, BS ‘94 is a graduate of Albany Law School of Union University. The university was incorrect in the Fall 2004 Hilbert Connections.

NEW OFFICERS

Newly elected officers of the Hilbert College Alumni Association are, left to right: Nichole Becker ‘01, president; Amy Bartz ‘01, vice president; Erin Parker ‘02, secretary; Charles Klaus ‘75, treasurer; and Brenda Ellis ‘99, parliamentary.

BIRTHS

TODD EHRET, BS ‘98 and Kathy Redenbach welcomed a daughter, Jenna Marie.

MATTHEW HOLMES, BS ‘93 and his wife, Kelly, welcomed a son, Connor Joseph, who joins older brother, Jack.

Correction

JENNIFER HINK, BS ‘94 is a graduate of Albany Law School of Union University. The university was incorrect in the Fall 2004 Hilbert Connections.

New Officers

What’s It All About?

Benefits of the Hilbert College Alumni Association

For Alumni

Career networking

Professional development

Opportunities to meet potential employers

Sense of giving back to Hilbert

by assisting/mentoring students

For Students

Practical insights & experiences

Positive alumni models

Career exploration

Potential Alumni Association Activities:

Educational seminars, mentor program, workshops, reunion weekend fundraisers, involvement in professional conferences, and guest speakers

If you are interested in helping organize or participate in alumni association activities, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (716) 645-7900, ext. 265, or e-mail phbunonnis@hilbert.edu

www.hilbertcollegealumni.org

Remember you are a student for years but an alumna/us forever!
the ‘60s

Joan McGowan, the first full-time lay faculty at Hilbert College (then Immaculata College), teaches math to students in the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, where all classes were held until the first buildings on-campus opened in 1969. The student body was made up of only members of the FSSJ congregation until 1964 when the college first admitted lay women students and began offering associate degrees in arts and applied science.

To share some of your favorite memories as a student during the ‘60s, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 716-649-7900, ext. 265, or e-mail pbaubonis@hilbert.edu