What Crime Scenes Reveal: The Reality of Evidence Collection
CELEBRATION is a word that we heard frequently around the Hilbert College campus this spring as we honored the 50th year anniversary of the college’s founding and achievements that continue to evolve from our Catholic and Franciscan mission.

We celebrate our academic excellence in the cover story that describes our forensic science/crime scene investigation program. The highly qualified faculty are helping students connect theory with practice in a realistic manner that will prepare them for the world of work.

We celebrate the completion of our new strategic plan, Destination 2012. Over 350 people participated in the planning process — students, alumni, the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, the Hilbert Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, high school counselors, and business leaders. The five goals address institutional growth and effectiveness, distinctive academic programming, service to students, facility enhancement, and campus community development.

We celebrate the beginning this summer of our High School to College Program. Fifteen inner-city young persons who have completed their sophomore year will spend three weeks on campus in this Oishei Foundation funded project. Our goal is to support their successful journey of becoming college-educated.

We celebrate the contributions of three leaders who are leaving the Hilbert Board of Trustees after completing their nine-year terms. The college has undergone tremendous changes since Karen Gaughan Scott, Merle Whitehead and Thomas Waring, Jr. joined the board in 1996. Enrollment has doubled, new academic programs have been added, and two new buildings have transformed the campus. We are forever grateful for their extraordinary service to the college.

We celebrate the 273 students who completed their degrees this May and were honored at our commencement on May 12, 2007. We welcome them as sons and daughters of Mother Collette Hilbert and look forward to the ways in which they will make a difference in our complex world.

Our first 50 years have been possible only because of the pioneering spirit of our founders, the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, and the vision of Sister Edwina Bogel and Sister Edmunette Paczesny. Now we move forward guided by Destination 2012 to a brilliant future. That most certainly is cause for celebration.

Cynthia Zane, Ed.D.
President

Our first 50 years have been possible only because of the pioneering spirit of our founders, the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, and the vision of Sister Edwina Bogel and Sister Edmunette Paczesny.
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Vaughan Named to Vice President Post

Frances Vaughan, an accomplished fundraiser in higher education, has been appointed vice president for institutional advancement at Hilbert College by President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D. Her appointment was effective May 14.

As vice president, Vaughan is overseeing Hilbert’s development, public relations and alumni relations programs as an integral team in enhancing the college’s relationships with its external constituencies. In addition to her management responsibilities, she will also play a key role in comprehensive major and planned giving fund-raising endeavors.

Zane noted that Vaughan’s “extensive knowledge and experience in fundraising in Western New York will be instrumental to Hilbert as we move forward with strategic efforts to advance the college in the years ahead. With her expertise and demonstrated successes in development, I’m confident she’ll excel in this vital leadership role.”

Vaughan has 17 years experience in fundraising, most recently as director of development at the Boy Scouts of America Greater Niagara Frontier Council. Prior to this, she was individual giving officer at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and assistant dean and director of development at the University at Buffalo. In addition, she has held positions as director of development at Trocaire College, assistant director of annual giving at Canisius College, and prospect research and donor records manager at Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo.

Vaughan is board president of Preventionfocus, Inc., and a member of the Western New York Planned Giving Consortium and the Association of Fundraising Professionals Western New York Chapter.

A certified fund-raising executive, she holds an MBA from Canisius and a bachelor’s degree in home economics from Hood College in Frederick, Md.

Vaughan, a native of Kailua, Hawaii, resides in Holland, N.Y.

Work in Progress

Nearly 40 years since it first opened its doors, Bogel Hall is now getting a makeover. A major $1.5 million renovation project is underway on Bogel Hall, Hilbert College’s first academic building, which opened in 1969 as part of the institution’s original five campus buildings.

Slated for completion in time for fall classes, building renovations include additional faculty office space, new floors and wall coverings, and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning improvements.

Other plans call for a hands-on forensic crime scene lab, including dedicated space for various crime scene scenarios to serve as a learning tool for forensic science/crime scene investigation students.

Creating a Legacy

Hilbert College’s continued success and growth depends on planning today for tomorrow.

Through planned giving, there are many ways you can provide generous support to Hilbert to help ensure the college’s future while providing benefits for you and your loved ones. A planned gift can often help you make a larger gift than you ever thought possible.

We can assist you with your decision on the type of planned gift that works best for you. To learn more, contact:

Fran Vaughan, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
716-926-8790, fvaughan@hilbert.edu

“A planned gift to Hilbert College is a wonderful way for me to give something back to the college in appreciation for the many outstanding opportunities I received as a student.”

—Jason Luna ’96
Destination 2012

For the past year, the Hilbert College Strategic Planning Committee and President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., have led the charge in establishing the steps for Hilbert’s future and prioritizing directions for the college.

From this, a new ambitious five-year strategic plan has evolved, Destination 2012, which outlines five targeted goals for Hilbert.

More information about Destination 2012 will be provided in a future Hilbert Connections (for a summary of the plan, go to www.hilbert.edu/AboutHilbert.asp).

As part of the strategic planning process, Hilbert’s mission statement was modified while staying true to the philosophical tenants and foundation of the college. The following is the new mission statement:

Hilbert College is an independent institution of higher learning that embraces its Catholic Franciscan heritage and values. Students from diverse backgrounds are educated in liberal arts and professional programs to become informed citizens committed to serving and strengthening their communities.

Shooting Victims Remembered

The day after the worse mass shooting in modern U.S. history, Hilbert College students, faculty and staff gathered in the campus quad for a candlelight prayer vigil in memory of the Virginia Tech shooting victims. The group mourned the loss of the 32 victims and prayed for the Virginia Tech campus community. The outdoor vigil also included a rendition of “Amazing Grace” by Hilbert student Leala Bowens ’08.
What Crime Scenes Reveal

Whether its learning the difference between a blood pattern from a gunshot or blunt force trauma, finding trace evidence or dusting for fingerprints, Hilbert students are getting a true picture of what it takes to be a crime scene investigator.

by Grace A. Lazzara

I received the call a few hours after the crime had taken place. The setting was hectic. Neighbors and patrol officers were milling around outside, detectives and technicians inside. The victim was
lying in a pool of blood. A gun was on the floor. Cartridge casings littered the rug. Bloody footprints. Shards of glass. I’d been warned about possible biohazards, so I put on my protective suit, boots and hood and got started. After six hours of stepping around everyone else working the scene, I had dozens of evidence bags filled and labeled. I was nowhere near done.

It reads like a scene from the widely popular “CSI” television franchise or one of the many hit forensic science shows. In reality, field-based evidence collection — hair, fibers, bloodstains, finger and footprints, and other physical evidence — is a meticulous process that requires specialized skills and training.

With this in mind, a group of Hilbert College students are given the task of examining a carefully constructed mock crime scene, complete with pseudo “bloodstains and weapon,” to test their skills in collecting relevant evidence for crime lab evaluation. It’s all part of numerous real-life elements rolled into the college’s intensive and distinctive forensic science/crime scene investigation (FS/CSI) major.

According to FS/CSI Chairperson Edward Qualey, Hilbert’s program trains students in the initial scene evaluation, evidence identification and collection, and recordings of findings. “We take evidence to the lab door and turn it over for analysis,” he emphasizes.

The curriculum reads like a “Forensic Files” fan’s scrapbook: Fingerprint Evidence. Forensic Serology/DNA. Laws and Rules of Evidence. Trace Evidence/Arson-Firearms/Impression Evidence. The program capstone is an advanced seminar with a final exam requiring students to process a mock crime scene.

Mary Ann Hobar, assistant professor of criminal justice, says she tries to make the mock scene as realistic as possible, taping off a room with crime-scene tape, incorporating bloodstains, disabled guns, cartridge casings and other evidence. Some evidence might be readily obvious, but other evidence might be more inconspicuous — bloody fingerprints on a doorknob or hair on a piece of furniture. “The scene is complex enough that it’s a real skills test,” she explains. “We send in students in groups of three or four because you usually have a number of people working together on a real scene, and you have to make sure the professionals you’re working with don’t taint or ruin evidence. The students have to sketch and photograph the scene and label and bag evidence. It’s a pretty stressful 75 minutes.”

Assistant Professor of Forensic Science Kenneth Jonmaire’s main goal ensures FS/CSI students understand the rules that apply to evidence — not just how to collect it, but also the ethics around the entire process. “What you do must be true,” he says, “and you have to stick to your guns.”

Experience backs up his assertion. Jonmaire recalls a case in which there was a strong suspect in a series of arsons. “Even the guy’s wife believed he was guilty,” he says, and she called the police late one night to say her husband had just come home and thrown his clothes in the wash. She thought the clothes might contain trace evidence and gave them up for testing.

“I went into the lab at 3 a.m., knowing just outside the door the district attorney, sheriff and sheriff’s chief investigator were waiting for the results. At 6 a.m., I came out. I hadn’t found a thing. Two weeks later, they arrested a different suspect. If I’d said the evidence showed something it hadn’t, I would have been a hero for about two weeks.”

All Hilbert’s FS/CSI faculty are well aware of these kind of on-the-job demands. For instance, in addition to Jonmaire, a retired chief forensic investigator, Qualey put in 25 years with the New York State Police, and Hobar spent 25 years as a patrol officer, detective and patrol lieutenant, as well as a deputy sheriff and corrections officer. “The people who teach here know what’s real and
what’s not,” says Qualey. Adds Hobar, “I show students lots of tricks of the trade.”

Theresa Ferrara ’07, who has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and graduated from the University at Buffalo School of Law, appreciates the experience-based insights: “Hilbert’s professors are so knowledgeable, and they can also actually teach it to you. They get it to a layperson’s level.”

**Hands- (and Fingers-) on**

The program’s salient feature is its emphasis on students literally getting their hands dirty. The old adage “practice makes perfect” definitely figures in the equation. Crime scene work is repetitive and practitioners get better as they gain experience in any given area. Says Jonmaire, “When I worked on police cases, from homicide to jaywalking, the best evidence came from jurisdictions with the greatest number of cases. They knew what to look for and collect.”

Says Hobar, “For most people, if you’re doing it, you remember it much better. We’re trying to give students experience in as vast an array of tools as possible, with the hands-on processes they’ll need if they get into any type of incident or crime scene career, whether in law enforcement or a private organization.”

Students have opportunities to practice and, with time, achieve a level of proficiency in the most important processes they’ll use on the job, like:

- Bloodstain pattern analysis: Faculty use spatter blood, a chemical that acts like real blood, to demonstrate how bloodstain patterns work. Students learn how to measure drops of blood, useful in determining, among other things, the location of a victim or amount of force used during a crime.
- Photography: Students team up to document a crime scene by photographing the scene and describing it in writing.
- Fingerprint examination: Students take part in practical labs in which they fingerprint one another to learn about different print patterns and dust for prints. Says Ferrara, “You think dusting for prints will be easy, but there’s definitely a technique.”
  Karen Leavenworth ’07 agrees: “I have always been a hands-on learner, and to actually lift prints and learn how to do it correctly is wonderful.”

Other lab topics range from blood typing and blood alcohol measurement, to DNA sampling, handwriting analysis and the use of alternate light sources.

The capstone “Advanced Seminar” with its mock crime-scene exam serves as arguably the most intensive form of hands-on learning. “Students always wish they could go through the test again because they learned so much,” says Jonmaire.

Leavenworth feels the mock crime scene was her most helpful experience in the program: “You have to be really careful about everything, like making sure
the liquid in a bottle isn’t a bomb, as one of our teachers pointed out to us.”

Brian Stachowiak ’07 ran the gauntlet last May when he and classmates were tested on a scene that contained obvious evidence. The scene, however, also contained “lots of evidence that didn’t make sense to the crime itself,” Stachowiak recalls. “We had to differentiate what did and didn’t need to be collected.”

Therein lay the day’s key lesson: “We rushed a little bit and forgot to process one piece of evidence that could have helped our case,” he remembers. “So we learned that a crime scene takes a huge amount of time to process, and you have to take the time to do everything and not rush it. That’s where you’ll make mistakes.”

Internships add to the level of experience that students can gain before they move on in their chosen profession or further study. Leavenworth wants to be a crime scene technician. Her recent internship with the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department sealed the deal. She accompanied investigators to car theft scenes, to suicides and to the morgue. “I did everything from dusting evidence at burglaries to photographing crime scenes,” she says.

On the flip side of that coin, Ferrara had her mind set on working in a medical examiner’s office — until she did just that during her internship. “It’s probably not the best job for me,” she admits. “I can sit in an autopsy room and watch, but after that…”

Growing enrollment
The program has proven undeniably popular. In Fall 2005, 72 students signed up for the major, 81 the following semester. This past fall 112 students were declared CSI majors. Interestingly, women made up 90 percent of the first crop of majors; today, the group is still more than three-quarters female. The reason why is a mystery to faculty, but they cite female students’ inquisitiveness, drive and conscientiousness as some possible reasons they’re drawn to the field.

“The people who major in this,” Qualey says, “are more analytical, more detail-oriented.” That’s important, according to Jonmaire, because success in crime scene investigation goes hand in glove with meticulousness about the chain of custody of evidence. “Crime scene investigation goes hand in glove with meticulousness about the chain of custody of evidence — technically defined as the movement and location of evidence from the time it is obtained to the time it is presented in court. If, for instance, someone shoots the team quarterback during a football game, but investigators can’t account for the location of the gun at all times afterward, it can’t be admitted in court as evidence even if 80,000 fans in the stands witnessed the crime.

Students characterize their attraction in various ways. Says Ferrara, “I love the idea of having a giant puzzle, fitting pieces together and solving it.” Many cite their interest in helping solve crimes that might go unsolved without solid physical evidence.

Faculty all give a large helping of credit to forensic television shows, from reality programs like The New Detectives to dramas like CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, for stoking society’s and students’ interest in forensics. “Students definitely drove the idea of this program,” says Hobar. “They wanted to know where they could go to learn about CSI. They’d seen so much in the media about how crimes are solved.”

Hobar feels, however, that the 1995 murder trial of O.J. Simpson jump-started the public’s heightened attention to evidence and crime scene investigations. “Before that,” she says, “you didn’t see too many jurors taking notes. I was in law enforcement work for 25 years, and they used to take your word for it. Now jurors all have pencils in their hands. You have to explain how you got the information.”

Birth of a program
Whatever its origins, the growing status of forensics stoked faculty’s interest in a program as well. Additional impetus for the program came from the popularity of a class that’s been offered since 2002 on “Criminalistic Chemistry,” taught by Assistant Professor Joseph Parkinson, which highlights scientific techniques for obtaining and analyzing criminal evidence. “It always closed almost immediately, so we knew the interest was there,” Qualey says. National research revealed
similar programs but none that focused on the initial identification, processing and collection of evidence.

Qualey, Hobar, Jonmaire, Parkinson and other faculty decided that the time was ripe for Hilbert to jump into the forensics pool. Over the summer of 2005, the group developed the forensic science/CSI program, hammering out the 12 required courses. Western New York offers no other programs approaching the scope of Hilbert’s. Says Hobar, “Nothing else out there provides a venue to learn the actual processes.”

Graduates of the CSI program have dozens of professions from which to choose. Job titles range from the expansive, such as crime scene technician, accident investigator, to the specific, like entomologist (applies insect evidence to investigations), odontologist (examines dental evidence) or voiceprint examiner. Law enforcement agencies offer the greatest number of opportunities. Some jobs require an advanced degree like a master’s degree in forensic science or even a medical degree; others, merely another month of additional training.

Some of the possibilities go beyond even what faculty might consider. One graduate from the first crop of CSI majors interned at the county morgue but ended up working at a funeral home. “We’d never really thought about that as a possibility,” says Hobar, “but this student found himself fascinated by pathology.”

Unreality TV

Perhaps the true driver of growth in forensics and crime scene investigation is the fact that the available technology has grown by leaps and bounds in the past 20 or so years. When Jonmaire started, he says, “You could start a lab with about $10,000 worth of equipment — a gas chromatograph, ultraviolet spectrometer and a comparison microscope.” Today, most crime labs house at least a quarter of a million dollars in the highest of the high-tech — capillary electrophoresis units, genetic sequencers, mass spectrometers, micro infrared spectroscopy.

The growth in the importance of CSI has an interesting legal aspect, as well, Jonmaire says. “Back in the day, many crimes were solved by confessions. With Miranda and other laws, CSI has moved into a much greater role.”

Though Qualey’s sense is that the science on popular shows like “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation” and its spin-offs “is relatively OK,” faculty are emphatic that real forensic and crime scene work is nothing like television. In particular, TV shows misrepresent what crime scene investigators do. What they don’t do is wear a gun and a badge, conduct lab analysis and arrest people. The specificity of the field’s titles alone — police identification technician, latent print examiner, criminalist, crime lab specialist, firearms technician — reveal the truth about the separation of duties. Says Jonmaire, “In 22 years in the field, I didn’t interrogate one suspect.”

Hobar laughs that she gives students a “rude awakening” by coming in on the first day of class wearing a protective white coverall and boots. “It’s not the woman in the low-cut shirt and high heels contaminating the crime scene by wandering around,” she says. “You might have to deal with biohazards like blood pools, so in certain scenes you’ll usually have on a lot of protective gear to protect you and the scene.”

Even though they’re still in college, program majors already realize the differences between the reality of their chosen field and the fiction of it. Take DNA sampling, says Stachowiak: “On TV, they get a sample, send it to the lab to match, and it’s back in a couple of days. In real life, processing DNA samples can take from a couple of days to a couple of months.”

“Don’t think it’s going to be as easy as it is on TV,” Leavenworth warns. “You’re not going to be able to solve every crime. Make sure you really want to get into this, because you have to be able to deal with life and death.”

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

Editor’s note: Graduating seniors included in this story were completing the FSI/CSI program at the time interviews took place and have since received their degrees.
In a fitting example of merging the past with the present, Sister Helen Dirig, FSSJ, one of nine Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph in Hilbert College’s first graduating class, joined the college in celebrating the graduation of nearly 275 at this year’s commencement ceremony. In many ways, graduating seniors in the Class of 2007 symbolized how far the college has come over the past 50 years.

The May 12 commencement exercises in the college’s golden anniversary year was also significant in that it marked the first Hilbert graduation ceremony for Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., the college’s new president who started last July.

Calling upon the Class of 2007 to “give something back to our community,” commencement speaker Thomas E. Baker asked the graduates:

“Where do you stand on rebuilding and reshaping Buffalo for the future? You are the very life blood that could drive the rebirth of Buffalo. In a relatively short time, you can become the leaders of our community.”

Baker went on to tell the graduates that “your academic training must be supplemented with a strong work ethic, continued curiosity and a healthy balance between work, family life and community involvement. The rewards of becoming a successful working professional will be great if you contribute and are committed to the success of your place of employment.”

Former executive president and currently a board director of The John R. Oishei Foundation, Baker received an honorary doctorate of humane letters in recognition of his remarkable dedication and service to the community.

Baker served nine years at the helm of The John R. Oishei Foundation, a leadership position he held until his retirement last December. During his tenure, the foundation granted more than $120 million to area groups.

Along with his work at the Oishei Foundation, Baker was chairperson of the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority. Before joining the Oishei Foundation, Baker had an exemplary 33-year career at PricewaterhouseCoopers where he was managing partner of the Buffalo office. He later moved to the corporation’s
national office in Connecticut from which he retired in 1998.

Hilbert’s 2007 President’s Medal was accepted by Joseph and John Russo on behalf of the Russo Family Charitable Foundation for their many years of philanthropic dedication to the college and higher education, Christian agencies and churches, hospice and health care institutions, the arts, and the Food Bank of Western New York.

For 20 years, the Russo family has steadfastly supported Hilbert and its mission to educate students in the Catholic Franciscan tradition. From the time the late Louis and Anna Mae Russo, owners of the Sorrento Cheese Co., first became associated with Hilbert, they shared a deep dedication to the college. In recognition of this commitment, Hilbert’s McGrath Library Conference Room is named in honor of Louis and Anna Mae Russo.

Their legacy has continued on through support from the Russo Family Foundation and the contributions of third-generation supporter and Hilbert trustee Jeff Russo, president of the Orchard Park-based Pine Hill Coffee Services, Inc.

Also at commencement, criminal justice major Noel Lehman, a summa cum laude graduate, gave the first ever student address at a Hilbert commencement.

Top student awards went to Jennifer Allen, Sister Mary Edwina Bogel Award; Mariya Balicki, Kimberly Bruch Raczkowski Memorial Alumni Association Award; Kyle Cavalieri, John Kissel Man of the Year Award; and Gregory Sawicki, Lambert and Margaret Graham Award.

Baker summed it up for graduates by encouraging them to “go forth with confidence on this new journey and enjoy the trip. As I have been reminded frequently, life isn’t a dress rehearsal, every day is opening night!”

(Above) Student speaker Noel Lehman. (Below) President Cynthia Zane with John and Joseph Russo, who accepted the President’s Medal on behalf of the Russo Family Charitable Foundation.
“Today, with the demands and challenges in our very complicated world, Hilbert College stands ready to ‘reinvent’ itself once more in the spirit of the bold, visionary leaders who have preceded us.”

—Hilbert President Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D. Inaugural Address

Reflecting on Hilbert College’s past and its role in the college’s many successes, Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D., delivered an inspiring inaugural address at her April 20 installation ceremony as the college’s third president. Her address also defined the vision for Hilbert as it looks toward the future with goals set forth in a new ambitious five-year strategic plan – Destination 2012.

She went on to share the plan’s five main goals – institutional growth and effectiveness, distinctive academic programming, service to students, facility enhancement, and campus community involvement. (The President Zane inaugural address and information on the strategic plan are available at www.hilbert.edu/AboutHilbert.asp.)

The installation ceremony was a significant moment for Hilbert as it was the first formal investiture of its kind in the college’s history and the first presidential inauguration in more than 30 years.

A brilliantly sunny inauguration day started in the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph (FSSJ) Immaculate Conception Convent Chapel where family, friends, colleagues, faculty, staff, students, alumni, board of
trustees, and members of FSSJ, Hilbert’s founding congregation, gathered for the inaugural Mass.

With music by the St. Francis High School Male Chorus, the Rev. Michael Sajda, OFM Conv., president of St. Francis HS, served as presider. Homilist was the Rev. George Lundy, SJ, provincial assistant for higher education of the New Orleans Province of the Society of Jesus.

On Hilbert’s campus, the afternoon formal investiture took place in the William E. Swan Auditorium. Among special guests were Robert Bennett, chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents, Bishop Edward U. Kmiec, bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo, who gave a blessing and benediction, and delegates representing various colleges and universities.

Several gifts were presented to President Zane, including the college charter; the college mission; a book containing a collection of quotations about higher education and a book on six remarkable university presidents; a sculpture depicting the ultimate symbol of service – a towel and basin, which is reminiscent of Christ washing the feet of the apostles; the college flag; an engraved redwood handle gavel; and a glass pitcher reminiscent of a saying from FSSJ foundress Mother Colette Hilbert, “You cannot pour anything from an empty pitcher.”

Special invited remarks were offered by Sister Maureen Fay, president emerita from the University of Detroit Mercy, whom President Zane first met when she was a nursing student and later became colleagues at Saint Xavier University.

The formal investiture was done by 2006-07 trustee officers Karen Gaughan Scott, chairperson, and Vincent O. Hanley, vice chairperson.
2007 HILBERT FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS have been presented to **FRED BECKER**, adjunct instructor of criminal justice, Excellence in Adjunct Teaching Award; **MICHAEL DEGNAN**, Ph.D., academic dean/professor of English, Excellence in Scholarship Award; **MARNE GRIFFIN**, assistant professor of English, Excellence in Teaching Award; and **EDWARD QUALEY**, chairperson of criminal justice and forensic science/crime scene investigation, Excellence in Service Award.

McGrath Library’s **ELIZABETH CURRY**, technical services coordinator, and **HATIE DONAHUE**, assistant director/information literacy coordinator, both participated in poster sessions at the Western New York/Ontario Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries conference on “Blur and Blend: Connecting Our Communities.” Curry’s session highlighted “MySpace and Blogging at McGrath: Reaching Out Beyond Traditional Library Walls,” and Donahue’s session focused on “Creating Campus/High School Connections.”

**HATIE DONAHUE**, assistant director/information literacy coordinator, has received a 2007 summer fellowship in the Academic Library Leadership Program offered by Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College. The program will be held in July in Nashville, Tenn.

**WENDY EDSON**, previously assistant chairperson/associate professor of legal studies, has been promoted to chairperson of the department. Edson has been with Hilbert for nearly 30 years.

**CHARLES ERNST**, Ph.D., chairperson of arts and sciences/professor of English, has received a three-year renewal as executive director of the College English Association. He also attended CEA’s conference in New Orleans.

Hilbert’s first Mother Colette Staff Mission Awards have been presented to **KATHLEEN KAZMIERCZAK**, buildings and grounds staff, and **ROBERT PAWELKJI**, coordinator of information technology. Named after the foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, Hilbert’s founding congregation, the award recognizes staff members who exemplify the college’s mission.

**Kimberly Kline**, Ph.D., director of institutional research, was invited to participate in the development of a text on value-added assessment by Gene Maeroff and the Teagle Foundation on “How Should Journalists Measure Learning Outcomes? A Roundtable Discussion.”


**SISTER EDMUNETTE PACZESNY**, Ph.D., president emerita, was keynote speaker at the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce Stars Awards dinner.

**Edward Qualey**, chairperson of criminal justice and forensic science/crime scene investigation, has been named a 2007 Pathfinder in recognition of the educational partnerships he’s developed to benefit students in Western New York.

**A Golden Year**

In 1957, a small class of Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph began their studies at the fledgling Immaculata Teacher Training School. Nine made up the first graduating class. It was the beginning of Hilbert College.

Decades since founding president Sister Edwina Bogel’s dream was realized to open a teacher training school for FSSJ members, the Hilbert community recognized its 50th year with a week-long celebration that led up to the inauguration of President Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D.

The celebration included an archive pictorial “Look Back at Hilbert’s 50 Years” and a tour of the FSSJ archives. A six-person panel discussion and presentation of papers from various academic disciplines on Hilbert’s “50 Years of Academic Excellence” was also held.

A commemorative evening in recognition of Hilbert’s 50th anniversary and the presidential inauguration closed out the week in the William E. Swan Auditorium. It included a first-time showing of a specially produced video, “Celebrating 50 Years at Hilbert,” followed by a presentation to Zane of a newly made Hilbert flag now displayed on campus grounds. A classics concert featuring the Bobby Jones Trio finished up the evening festivities.
On the Ball

In the Sports Zone

Men’s basketball players Dallas Reinard ’08 and Glen Ufland ’07 ended the 2006-07 season on a high note as did women’s Hawks player Amanda McHale ’08.

Reinard led the men’s team to the semifinals of the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) tournament and helped the Hawks to its first ever appearance in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Tournament. His 626 points scored during the season is the most ever by a Hilbert player in a single season since the program became an NCAA Division III member in 1992.

In addition to being named AMCC Player of the Year, Reinard was a first team all-AMCC selection, all-ECAC South Region selection, and an All-East Region selection by D3Hoops.com. He was also recognized by ESPN the Magazine as an Academic All-American and earned Division III All-American honors.

Ufland completed his collegiate career at Hilbert as a 2006-07 AMCC Honorable Mention after averaging 15.1 points per game. His 90 three-pointers this past season led the AMCC and the 239 in his career make him Hilbert’s all-time leader in three-pointers. He finishes his four-year career with 983 points.

McHale was selected to the 2006-07 AMCC All-Conference Second Team. She ranked nationally in blocked shots per game while her 10.6 rebounds ranked her 26th. McHale also led the Hawks in scoring with 12.5 points per game.

Hawks Basketball Camps

Hilbert College Hawks Basketball Camps 2007
Open to Players in Grades 3-12

Camps include three games daily, meals, reversible jersey and camp t-shirt, camp ball, and personal evaluation.

Group and family discounts available.

Girls Camps
June 24-28
July 15-19

Resident Camper $340
Day Camper $250

Boys Camps
July 8-12
July 22-26

Sign up: Richard Walsh
716-926-8800
rwalsh@hilbert.edu

Hilbert College Day at Dunn Tire Park

Buffalo Bisons vs. Charlotte Knights
Friday, July 27
7:35 p.m. game time
6 p.m. pregame welcome party
Postgame fireworks!
Tickets $10 - includes $5 voucher for food, drinks or souvenirs
Free for children age 3 and under

Reservations by July 9:
Craig Harris, Alumni Relations Director, 716-926-8888
charris@hilbert.edu

We Love This Team!
From the Alumni President

The Hilbert College Alumni Association has made many strides through the years and there are many more achievements left to conquer in order to “raise the bar.” As the new president of the alumni association, I feel honored to be a part of the successful growth and progress we have made this past year. We have hosted several wonderful events, including the annual Professional Success Program and the alumni brunch honoring graduating seniors.

We are very excited to have the Class of 2007 join our distinguished group of alumni. We sincerely hope you stay connected to Hilbert and look forward to your participation in some of our upcoming events!

The Hilbert Alumni Association has been very busy planning some enjoyable upcoming events. We will host the sixth annual Hilbert Day at Dunn Tire Park on July 27, which includes a Buffalo Bison’s game and other benefits at an affordable price. In September, we will have the fourth annual senior tailgate party, consisting of an alumni/faculty/staff vs. the Class of 2008 flag football game, as well as food, fun and great conversation while watching the first Buffalo Bills away game.

Our third Alumni Reconnection event will take place on Sept. 29 during the Fall Festival/Homecoming Weekend (see page 19 for more details). This year’s theme will be the celebration of Hilbert’s 50th anniversary. Please watch for mailers with important information about these events or check out our Web site at www.hilbertcollegealumni.org for further details.

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. Bartz
Alumni President
alumnipresident@hilbert.edu

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

‘70s
MARY LYNCH, AAS ’71 has achieved national board certification as a teacher specializing in English language arts/early adolescence. The certification process required developing an extensive portfolio that evaluates and explains classroom philosophy and also completing an assessment demonstrating knowledge and application of national standards and curriculum.

MARY WILSON, AA ’74 is the 2006 recipient of the Dorothy B. Millard Early Childhood Award for Early Child-Care Education at Buffalo State College.

‘80s
KATHERINE MANNS, AAS ’86 was named the 2006 Paralegal of the Year by Legal Assistant Today.

KIMBERLY (FISHER) PIAZZA, AAS ’85 is manager of Gas Settlements Accounting at PPM Energy in Portland, Ore.

RODDY TORRES, AA ’89 was recognized for his professional success at Western New York’s first annual Latino Achievement Awards ceremony.

‘90s
CURTIS AHRENS, BS ’95 was recognized along with colleagues from the Connors and Vilaro law firm for winning the “Smartest Company in Buffalo” trivia contest title.

HEIDI (KALKE) BISHOP, BS ’97 is a mortgage servicing support specialist working in the bankruptcy department with mortgage loans at M&T Bank in Buffalo, N.Y.

DAVID OLDAY, AA ’90 was honored at a breakfast by the Erie County Stop DWI Program as one of the top DWI law enforcement officers in the county. This is his fifth consecutive year being honored.

JODI (LAWRIE) RZEPKA, AAS ’92 is a payroll services manager at SUNY Fredonia and is enrolled in the executive MBA program at the University at Buffalo.

‘00s
ELIZABETH (DILLENBACK) BAKER, BS ’05 is a paralegal at both Ashford Management Group and Schoeneck & King, PLLC in Utica, N.Y.

PAUL BROSTKO, BS ’03, a Tuscon, Ariz. resident, has been hired as an ATF special agent and will go through training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
M. KATHLEEN DUSSING, BS ’06 is a legal assistant at the Immigration Law Office of Serotte Reich and Wilson LLP.

CARY LEE, BS ’06 is a paralegal in the trial department at Phillips Lytle in Buffalo, N.Y.

ALLEN LEIGHT, BS ’05 has had his video, “100 Years of History,” accepted for airing on PBS affiliates. Leight was contacted last year by PBS as an up and coming young director, and gained attention for local airings of his video documentary.

JESSICA (SULLIVAN) MISENCIK, BS ’03 is a real estate paralegal at Meggesto, Crossett & Valerino in Syracuse, N.Y.

RANDY MISENCIK, BS ’03 has been promoted to bank officer at M&T Securities.

JAMES PIERCE, BS ’06 received the Chesterfield Federal Credit Union Award upon graduating from the Chesterfield Police Academy.

NICHOLAS RICHTER, BA ’03 went to New Orleans for a week under the sponsorship of Catholic Charities of Buffalo to help rebuild homes in that area.

ELIZABETH SEIVERT, BA ’06 is running her own freelance graphic design business.

RYAN SNYDER, BS ’06 has been accepted into the MBA program at Niagara University.

TIA STEINBRONN, BS ’06 is a staff accountant at CB Richard Ellis in Minneapolis.

MATTHEW STONITSCH, BS ’06 has been appointed a full-time police officer in the Village of Angola, making him the youngest officer ever appointed to patrolman in the village.

CHERI WHITE, BS ’06 is employed at Ingram Micro in Williamsville, N.Y., and has been chosen to work with the senior executive vice president in developing an international sales video for use in a sales event in Toronto.

Weddings

JESSICA SULLIVAN, BS ’03 to RANDY MISENCIK, BS ’03

Births

NICOLE (BRYMAN) CUTRONA, BS ’94 and her husband, Christopher, welcomed a son, Nicholas Christopher, born on Christmas Day 2006.

TARA PFARNER, (BS ’02) and husband, Christian, welcomed baby girl, Kaelynn Kathryn, on April 10.

In Memoriam

ELIZABETH BAPST, AA ’78 Feb. 7, 2007

MARGARET “PEGGY” BOROSKI KIBLER, AA ’71 Jan. 9, 2007

CAROL COOK, BS ’02 Sept. 21, 2006

Mark Your Calendars for Homecoming 2007!

HEAVEN IN ‘57: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Hilbert College welcomes all alumni, parents, families, students and others in the Hilbert community for a fall weekend of exciting activities as the college celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 27
7 p.m. ......................... Homecoming/Fall Fest Concert

Friday, Sept. 28
1-3 p.m. ...................... Hilbert Archive Photo Display
1-5 p.m. ...................... Campus Tours
5-6 p.m. ...................... Welcome Reception
6-7 p.m. ...................... Pep Rally
7-9 p.m. ...................... Murder Mystery Dinner
9:30 p.m. .................... Comedian Performance

Saturday, Sept. 29
10 a.m.-noon .............. 1-Mile Morning Stroll Around Campus
Noon-5 p.m. ................. Field Day, Hilbert Hawks Sports, Rides, Games, All American Soda Shop & Barbecue, Departmental Socials
7-11 p.m. .................... Alumni Reconnection Celebration
6-8 p.m. ...................... Theme Dinner
8-11 p.m. .................... Movie

Sunday, Sept. 30
9:30 a.m. .................... Mass
10:30 a.m. ................... Alumni Soccer Game & Brunch

Check www.hilbert.edu/Alumni.asp for more details in the coming months. Information: Craig Harris, Alumni Relations Director, 716-926-8888, charris@hilbert.edu
the ’60s

At this 1968 Hilbert College (then Immaculata College) commencement ceremony, 48 lay women and Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph received associate in arts and associate in applied science degrees. At that time, commencement day started with a graduation Mass in the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph Immaculate Conception Convent Chapel followed by a breakfast in the student dining room. The afternoon commencement program was then held in the chapel. The Class of 1968 was one of the last to have classes in the FSSJ Motherhouse as the original campus buildings opened the following year; the same year lay men were first admitted and the institution officially became known as Hilbert College.

To share some of your favorite memories as a student during the ’60s, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 716-926-8888, or e-mail charris@hilbert.edu.