Hilbert Turns Special Memories
Celebrate College’s History
President’s View

This issue of Hilbert Connections celebrates the 50th anniversary of the college. The magazine is full of stories and photographs that recount the rich history of the college. Our heritage offers a context for our current strategic planning efforts that will guide the future of Hilbert.

If we take ourselves back to the 1964-66 Immaculata College Catalog, we learn that Sister M. Edwina (president-dean), Sister M. Sanctia (registrar), Sister M. Virgilia (bursar), Sister M. Tiburtia (librarian), and the Rev. Giles Kacmarek (religious counselor) served as officers of the college. The institution offered two degrees - an associate in arts (A.A.) or an associate in applied science (A.A.S.). Full-time tuition for lay women was $200 with a $5 library fee. The catalog described the “college facilities” as part of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, which included Immaculata Hall that contained classrooms, a study hall, a general laboratory, a dining room, service rooms, and the dean’s office.

The portion of the catalog that I found most interesting was the description of the college aims:

(1) to lay emphasis on the basic areas of knowledge essential to every educated person so as to enable him to live as a useful responsible member of society; (2) to provide for intensive study in at least one area of learning in which the student exhibits interest and aptitude; (3) develop women of culture, free from prejudice, bias, ignorance, and provincial narrowness; (4) to inculcate lasting appreciation for things of value; and (5) to set forth high ideals based on a sound philosophy of life which will guide the young women in her responsibilities to God, to her fellowman, and to herself.

Since that time, the college’s name changed from Immaculata to Hilbert, the cost of one credit hour in 2007 exceeds the annual 1957 tuition, and we have expanded the learning spaces far beyond the square footage of Immaculata Hall. However, other than the gender reference to women students, those of us connected to Hilbert know unmistakably that our aim for our students has not changed. Hilbert is driven by its focus on preparing students who will make a difference in their professions and the communities where they serve. Everything about Hilbert that we recognize as distinctive flows from these aims.

For 50 years, Hilbert has prepared the next generation of leaders in the Franciscan tradition. We hope you will join us in April as we celebrate our accomplishments and share with you, as part of the inaugural address, what lies just around the corner as we continue the journey.

Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D.
President

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Only 14 percent of blacks in Western New York hold associate or bachelor degrees as compared to 23 percent of whites. What’s more, the rate of blacks who earn advanced degrees is less than half of whites.

In light of this disparity, starting this summer, selected Buffalo inner-city high school students will take part in a new comprehensive initiative at Hilbert College, including a three-week stay on campus, which will guide black youth from pre-college preparation to, ultimately, graduation from college.

The specialized outreach program in which students will be recruited through a partnership between Hilbert and Buffalo faith-based organizations, is being funded by a $450,000 three-year grant from the John R. Oishei Foundation. The initiative is believed to be the only collaborative effort of its kind in Western New York that will target combating the effects of low educational attainment in the inner-city community, particularly among the city’s young black residents.

Named the High School to College program, it’s structured for mid-level achieving students who traditionally either don’t pursue a college education or find it difficult transitioning from high school to college.

“Many mid-level inner-city students have great academic potential but oftentimes don’t aspire to attend college. With this program, Hilbert will play a role in enabling more young persons in Buffalo to go to college, successfully receive their degree and go on to become strong, solid citizens working and serving the local com-

### Capital Campaign Giving

- **San Damiano Society**
  - $50,000 or more
- **La Verna Society**
  - $10,000 - $49,999
- **Porziuncola Society**
  - $5,000 - $9,999
- **Greccio Society**
  - $2,500 - $4,999

### Planned Giving

- **Mother Colette Hilbert Society**

### Combined Annual Giving

- **President's Council Chancellor**
  - $25,000 or more
- **Benefactor**
  - $10,000 - $24,999
- **Regent**
  - $5,000 - $9,999
- **Distinguished**
  - $2,500 - $4,999
- **Patron**
  - $1,000 - $2,499
- **1957 Circle**
  - $195.70 - $999
- **Friend**
  - $1 - $195.69

### New Giving Societies

Hilbert College’s donors are at the heart of the institution. As the college marks its milestone 50th year and to recognize the vital role our donors play in the future of the college and the lives of our students, Hilbert has established new giving societies that will be effective as of June 2007.

Hilbert appreciates every donor and every gift. The giving societies
munity,” says Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., president of Hilbert, adding that it’s anticipated the majority of participants will be first-generation college students.

To start, program participants will be recruited with the assistance of the Rev. Richard Stenhouse from Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest black church in Buffalo, and Pastor Darius Pridgen from True Bethel Baptist Church, which has a predominantly young congregation. Following the program’s pilot phase, partnerships with additional organizations will be established to recruit participants.

Knowing some students may feel overwhelmed by the college experience, having the “support of church and family for this program will be critical to its success,” emphasizes Cheyenne Jumanah, director of multicultural affairs, who will serve as liaison between Hilbert and the churches. “Many of Buffalo’s faith-based institutions have connections to the population we are trying to reach. Working together, students will know support at home, church and Hilbert is available as they go through their college journey.”

The first group of 15 high school juniors in the program will take part in a three-week summer residence in July where they will live in Hilbert’s on-campus apartment-style housing complex. Each student will receive a small weekly stipend as an added incentive and to help offset lost wages from summer jobs.

During the junior program, students will be involved with a non-credit leadership project, non-credit math and writing refreshers and tutorials, and recreational and cultural activities, and receive information on applying to college and career opportunities. Family and parent connections will be a component as well, such as financial aid workshops and student project presentations.

The senior summer program will emphasize preparation for college and give an orientation on campus life and the Hamburg community. In addition to leadership projects and field trips, placement assessment and enrollment in credit- and non-credit bearing classes will be included.

Christopher Holoman, Ph.D., Hilbert interim vice president for academic affairs, notes that the coursework “will bring students up to a proficiency that will prepare them for college-level courses. Since the emphasis is on core skills of reading, writing and math, these courses will benefit students in their high school studies and into college.”

At the same time, Holoman added, “students will be exposed to a college campus environment, which will give them a better sense of what to expect when their college careers begin.”

Program participants who decide to attend Hilbert as freshmen will participate in the college’s new First Year Experience program, which is designed to help students learn effective skills to meet their new academic and social challenges and to form connections with faculty and peers. With this, the core group of students will create a special learning community, receive supplemental academic support and participate in residence life activities tailored to the group.

“The overall goal is to help students find academic success in college and to have optimistic expectations about what it means to be college-educated,” says Zane.

reflect the college’s continuing gratitude for capital campaign giving, planned giving and combined annual giving. There are many benefits to being a part of a Hilbert giving society, such as mementos, priority campus parking, invitation to special events, and access to the college library and its services.

More information about the giving societies is available by contacting Mark Bindig, director of development, at 716-926-8792, or e-mail mbindig@hilbert.edu.
As Hilbert College celebrates five decades since it first took shape with classes in the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, the college has transformed into a growing four-year institution on a nearly 50-acre campus it calls home. Here, members of the Hilbert community share their stories of friendship, devotion and, most of all, the memorable people from their days at the college.

by Grace A. Lazzara
Dates and timelines show historical facets of a college’s past. The most poignant pictures though that capture the true essence of a college’s history come through the eyes of the people who took part in it. Now, take a journey through Hilbert College’s past to where it is today with 10 top reasons to celebrate the college’s 50 years as seen through the memories of alumni, professors, staff and administration who give a portrait of a place that’s touched the lives of many.

Number 1: Our beginning

Hilbert’s 1957 inception was a response to the Sister Formation Conference, a nationwide movement that, among other strategies, called on sisters who wanted to teach to become certified. (The conference’s goal was—and remains—raising the educational standards of the nation’s teaching sisters.)

Institutions for sisters cropped up to meet this goal, some by joining existing colleges. Sister Edwina Bogel, FSSJ, believed the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph had enough sisters who would benefit—and that the surrounding community also would benefit—to warrant an independent college. The community founded Immaculata College with Sister Edwina as its first president.

“Since 1957, when the college was founded, classes have been held within the Motherhouse... When in 1964 Immaculata opened its doors to lay students, we knew that we would need a new campus to properly handle the educational needs of the students.”

Sister Edwina Bogel, FSSJ - January 1967

Sister Edmunette Paczesny, FSSJ, Hilbert’s president emerita whose 32-year tenure was one of the longest at a U.S. college, remembers Immaculata was “certified through the Catholic University of America. We gave degrees under their auspices.”

Immaculata’s initial offerings were few. Sister Helen Dirig ’62 was part of its first graduating class of nine sisters. “I was a beginner and the convent registered me when the college started. I went wherever they needed warm bodies,” she says with a chuckle. “We had a few classrooms in the convent building. Sometimes we had the library in the classroom with us.”

Initially, all Immaculata’s instructors were sisters. An evolving curriculum, however, required additional expertise in the form of lay faculty; mathematics instructor Joan McGowan was the first. “I taught in high school. The key difference is that the sisters did their homework!” she says with a laugh.

McGowan soon was joined by instructor Carmen Notaro. During faculty meetings, McGowan recalls, she and Notaro “wouldn’t hesitate to bring up various issues and the sisters would just smile. (Sister) Edwina was the boss, but she listened to and respected us. The atmosphere was always pleasant, and we felt useful.” Eventually, lay women (a few were even Motherhouse boarders) and later lay men entered Immaculata.

1964

Among course offerings are classes on Franciscan spirituality, voice and diction, conversational Polish, and art appreciation.

1967

Construction starts on major five-building project.

1968

193 are enrolled at Hilbert.

1969

Institute officially becomes known as Hilbert College.

1969

Admittance of lay men begins.

1969

Bogel Hall and McGrath Library open.
Number 2: Our students

The population of lay students grew at Immaculata but the essential character of the college's student body remained. Students were friendly, respectful, studious. Says McGowan, “The college was small and religiously run; the people it attracted liked that environment.”

Hilbert’s Assistant Vice President for Business and Finance Anthony Wiertel ’78 confirms that students were serious about their work and considerate of others, even as Immaculata became Hilbert and grew “You’d see typical college-kid shenanigans but nothing radical,” he says.

Many students shared similar profiles. Then, as it is now, Hilbert pulled most of its students from Western New York. When Michael Degnan, academic dean and 30-year professor of English, first came to Hilbert, he knew countless students who were the first in their family to attend college. “Some of them would have gone to work at Bethlehem Steel,” he says, “but the plant was closing. They needed an education to find a job.”

Alumna Diane Hennessy ’73, who met her husband and fellow alumnus, Paul ’73, at Hilbert, “knew a lot of people who were returning to college or were adult first-time students.”

Their two-year education at Hilbert and mostly commuter status meant that some students in the early years weren’t as involved in extracurricular activities as other students. However, that has greatly changed over time, as clubs, sports and many events and activities have been added.

Today, someone like Nicholas Pasquarella ’03 might represent a typical Hilbert student. Says Pasquarella, “College is supposed to be the time of your life, and I wanted to do something with it.” His four years at Hilbert were filled with the Student Government Association and the Student Business and Accounting Association. “I got to know a lot of professors and other people who became good friends, many of whom I keep in touch with.”

Number 3: Our professors

The character of its faculty is an aspect of Hilbert that, telling, hasn’t changed over time. Part of Sister Edmunette’s work with the Hawk Calls Committee was talking with first-year Hilbert students about their thoughts on the college. “The number one thing that impressed them most was the caring faculty,” she says with pride.

Students confirm that faculty were, and still very much are, always available to help. “They listened,” says alumna Diane Hennessy.

Assistant VP Wiertel agrees. “I still remember my business professor, Bill Harwood. He saw I was wet behind the ears so he gave me advice on courses and navigating college. He was a tremendous influence.”

Sister Andrea Ciszewski ’66, trustee emerita and former Hilbert instructor, attests that “faculty members were always so interested in the students and course preparation. Even today, the hallmark of Hilbert remains the dedication, respect and con-
cern of administrators, faculty and staff members for the students. This is evident in the fact that they do not simply fulfill their job description, they form a vital part of the college community.”

Certainly, demonstrations of faculty enthusiasm have evolved with the college’s development. Sister Claire Ann Torla’s Immaculata-era course on the environment included a trip on a blow-up raft on the small campus pond (in front of Franciscan Hall on the present campus) to take water-quality measurements.

For 2003 graduate Pasquarella, a recommendation from Sandra Augustine, chairperson of economic crime investigation, to attend a special economic crime seminar influenced his career choice. “I had the chance to talk to people from the FBI, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and others,” he says. “I got great ideas for future careers.”

The days of an all-religious faculty are long past, but according to Wiertel, “Nothing’s changed in terms of the quality of the faculty. Some tenured members are still here and all are first rate. We’re a teaching faculty, very dedicated and very accessible.”

Number 4: Our growth

Using carts borrowed from a local grocery, in 1969 library foundress Sister Tiburtia Gorecki, FSSJ, and other sisters moved approximately 40,000 books from the FSSJ Motherhouse to the campus’s new McGrath Library. The process took one week. Soon after, state Department of Education inspectors visited and, recalls Sister Tiburtia, “said ‘This looks good.’” That slow, steady, but effective effort may be a fitting metaphor for Hilbert’s overall growth.

“Every so often,” Academic Dean Degnan says, “an enthusiastic student would wish Hilbert was a four-year college, but at the time it didn’t seem possible.”

During her time on campus, alumna Diane Hennessy was one of only 40 or so students living in the two-story residence hall. In days before cell phones were the norm, she recalls having “to wait in line to use the phone. There were some boys living on the first floor, but not enough to call it co-ed,” she says, laughing.

In the late ’70s and early ’80s, its campus had expanded and Hilbert’s enrollment hovered at around 500. Becoming a four-year school in 1992 was one of the turning points.

“When we first presented our plans for five baccalaureate degree programs to the state education department, they said we wouldn’t make it,” says Sister Edmunette. The attitude shifted after Hilbert presented its plans, with substantial research and financial projections, to the department’s financial expert. “He was very pleased with the quality of our due diligence,” Sister Edmunette says. Hilbert received the go-ahead a short time later.

Sister Edmunette marvels at the concurrent physical growth of the college. “I call myself a people person, yet during my tenure we’ve had so much physical growth.”

1978

Campus clubs included cheerleading, AXO Sorority, Wanderers and Veterans’ Club.

1979

Hafner Recreation Center opens.

1980s

Technology enhancements change learning environment.

1988

Hilbert offers two-year degrees in majors such as criminal justice, data processing and business administration/retail management.

1990

95 percent of 1990 graduates either found employment or transferred to continue their education.

1992

Hilbert begins offering bachelor-level degrees.
In 1976, explains Wiertel, “we had five buildings. Now we have 12. It’s quite impressive and amazing.”

Four-year programs—now numbering 14—have “kept pace with the growth on campus, which is just as, if not more, important,” says Jason Luna ’96, a Hilbert Alumni Association board member.

Alumna Maureen English ’83 thinks the growth “is tremendous.” But she voices a common emotion when she adds, “Even with the growth and beautiful buildings, Hilbert has never lost that family touch.”

Number 5: Our sisters

English believes the Franciscan environment makes Hilbert the unique institution it is. “It’s a religious, family atmosphere,” she says. From their time as the college’s sole instructors to their status today as part of a larger Hilbert community, the sisters have left indelible memories.

Alumni Paul and Diane Hennessy cite their impressions of the sisters’ influence. “They were good examples of people who were true to their faith and dedicated to their job,” Paul says.

“Sister Presentia Stawicki (former dean of students and mathematics instructor) was very caring,” recalls Diane. “She lived in the dorm with us and fit right in.”

Wiertel names the late Sister Adrienne Rapnicki, FSSJ, as “the heart and soul of the place, the spirit of the college. She was proud to be affiliated with Hilbert and to be a Franciscan sister. When she began working in the alumni office, graduates would return to campus just to see her.” Adds Maureen English, “I took one of Sister Adrienne’s sociology courses in the ’70s and she never forgot my name.”

Maybe the sisters’ own thoughts shed some light on why they engender such respect and affection.

“Shortly after I retired, Hilbert put a plaque in the library honoring me that says ‘The library was her heart,’” Sister Tiburtia says. “But I wasn’t trying to achieve anything in that way. Those years were the best of my life.”

Sister Tiburtia’s work-study students called her “the grandmother of the library” or Grandma for short. “One day I said, ‘Well, Grandma would like a banana split,’ and darn it if they didn’t go get me one.”

Says Sister Andrea Ciszewski, “We were so fortunate to be among people who knew how to face serious moments and how to laugh as well.”

Number 6: Our people

Hilbert’s faculty, staff and administration have strived to exemplify the Franciscan ideal of service to others.

“Caring is the key word,” says Wiertel. “The people who fill various roles here have great concern for students.”

Hilbert’s staff are well-known for going out of their way to help students work through issues. For instance, says Degnan, “I recently saw the registrar helping a student reshape his schedule. The extra effort she extended was of great assistance to the student.”

The attention from faculty and staff has produced positive results, then and now. When alumnus Nicholas Pasquarella first visited Hilbert, he was considering three colleges. “I met Mich Sodja (associate director of academic services),” he says. “What drew me in is that she knew my name before I introduced myself. She was welcoming. That’s one of best memories I have of the college.”

That level of care extends to others at Hilbert. Soon after becoming Immaculata’s first lay teacher, Joan McGowan discovered she was pregnant. “When I came back after Thanksgiving, Sister Edwina was waiting for me at the elevator to be sure I didn’t take the steps,” she says. Sister
Tiburtia often babysat in the library for McGowan’s youngest child when Mom was teaching. “Everyone was so friendly, so helpful,” says McGowan.

Degnan’s tenure at Hilbert itself is a product of caring administrators. As a young instructor, he’d planned to stay only a year or two. Yet, he continued at Hilbert because he so enjoyed working at the college. “The administrators I worked with were really supportive—very capable, skilled leaders. I felt I was fortunate to be here.”

Number 7: Our culture

If the operative word for Hilbert’s people is “caring,” it’s no great surprise that the word most often used to describe its culture is “family.” Imagining such a culture at the smaller Immaculata College is conceivable. Yet people from every part of the larger Hilbert community, past and present, convey the same positive thoughts about the atmosphere on campus.

Take Sister Helen Dirig of Immaculata’s first graduating class and part-time student at Hilbert in the ’90s. “Immaculata was small enough to have a homey feel,” she says. “People treated each other very well, almost like family. Everyone knew each other, like in a small town. And even when I went back, I felt very comfortable.”

Sister Tiburtia, whose tenure in the library spanned four decades, affirms that “Hilbert is not an institution, but a home. Faculty, students . . . everybody loved it. Everyone was so friendly.”

“When I taught at Hilbert,” says Sister Andrea Ciszewski, “the education classes were held in the library building, and the library, run by Sister Tiburtia, was a place of real joy.”

She also remembers being part of the lives of students and staff, attending basketball games, weddings, even wakes. “Those who remained behind have forged friendships. That extends our family.”

Alumnus Jason Luna believes that the culture is “contagious. Sister Edmunette and former Vice President of Student Life (the late) John Kissell went out of their way to meet students. Faculty have adopted that attitude.”

Hilbert was “kind of like home to me,” says alumnus Nicholas Pasquerella. “It was a warm environment, especially in the Academic Services Center.”

“We’ve spread out on campus,” notes Degnan, “but that hasn’t affected how we relate. It has helped provide better services, but hasn’t altered our basic sense of community.”

Says alumna Maureen English, “The culture is a team effort. They didn’t leave people behind. Everybody seemed to be welcome; no one was ignored.”

Number 8: Our leaders

A unique part of Hilbert’s history is the combined 50-year presidential tenures of sisters Edwina Bogel and Edmunette Paczesny. Indeed, Hilbert’s new president, Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., feels the college’s strength and growth is...
due in no small measure to the stability its leaders’ tenure offered.

Sister Andrea Ciszewski echoes that idea. “We had someone at the helm who could weather the storm, someone we could trust. That gave us the security to move forward.”

Sister Edwina continually pursued the idea of a college that would not only educate sisters, but also meet the changing needs of its surrounding community. She blazed a path of service, leading Immaculata, teaching and doing work for her congregation. “She was the leader,” recalls Sister Helen Dirig, “pushing all the courses.”

That the school was Sister Edwina’s pride and joy was evident to those around her. Sister Andrea remembers the evening the campus driveway lights were first lit. “Sister Edwina gathered us in the convent to enjoy the great event. She had endured many obstacles leading to that moment, and her joy was ecstatic. Her vision and determination had an influence on me.”

Sister Edwina’s vision for one young sister helped further shape Hilbert. “When I entered the (FSSJ) community,” says Sister Edmunette, “Sister Edwina must have seen something in me that would be helpful. She urged our leadership to send me to college and I worked under her tutelage.”

Sister Andrea knew Sister Edmunette first as an instructor, then as president. Sister Edmunette faced many challenges, she says, but “through all of it she stood with great integrity. She was always steeped in prayer and fulfilled her duties with everyone’s respect.”

On a more practical level, Sister Edmunette wins special respect for her leadership in moving forward with the college’s evolution to a four-year institution. “There was risk involved and we were comfortable as a two-year college,” Wiertel says, “but Sister Edmunette had no hesitation.”

Hilbert’s current success “reflects the style of leadership that both leaders offered,” adds Zane. “They were clearly visionary women. They embraced change to keep Hilbert a competitive, quality institution.”

**Number 9: Our mission**

Through its growth and challenges, Hilbert has concentrated on offering a meaningful education based on Franciscan values. Vital to the way it achieves this mission is its focus on helping students fulfill educational, professional and personal goals.

Joan McGowan sent her four children to Hilbert for associate’s degrees before all moved on to four-year colleges from which they graduated cum laude. “I wouldn’t have kept them there (Hilbert) if I didn’t think the education was solid,” she says. “I felt like I got a great (educational) base,” asserts alumna Diane Hennessy.

When ’60s alumna Sister Helen Dirig returned to Hilbert to take classes in the early ’90s, she was impressed with the college’s professors, courses and resources. “The whole attitude was of service to the student and continuation of the college. They were always updating, expanding and keeping up with the processes and trends of education.”

That attention speaks to what Degnan calls Hilbert’s “particular talent for helping students get focused on and aim for the future.” He talks about a few former students whose inconsistent grades reflected a need to focus: “Hilbert takes students like that and gets them turned around. After graduating from Hilbert, one taught at Kent State University, one attended Georgetown Law School and another received a fellowship. They might have been lost at a larger institution. We treated them as individuals, so they succeeded.”

### 2003
- First phase of apartment-style student housing opens.

### 2004
- Center for Disability and Rehabilitation Studies opens.
- Banners with Franciscan values added to campus quad.

### 2005
- Hilbert’s majors increase to 14 along with 50 minors and concentrations offered.
- Groundbreaking for Paczesny Hall and William E. Swan Auditorium.
- Campus Dining Hall renovations completed.
- Men’s basketball among nation’s NCAA Division III leaders in 2005-06 final rankings.

### 2005-06
- Hafner Recreation enter expanded and new fitness center opens.
The spirit of Franciscanism undoubtedly influences Hilbert’s success in achieving its educational mission. “We are concerned that somehow, within any course, the Franciscan element is transferred to students,” Sister Edmunette explains. That element includes concern and compassion, hope for the future and service to others. Indeed, most in the Hilbert community can connect Franciscan values to their role on campus.

In Sister Andrea Ciszewski’s view, as Hilbert strives to live out its Franciscan heritage and educational mission, it naturally meets evolving needs in education and society. “As did Colette Hilbert, foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph and the person for whom the college is named,” Sister Andrea adds. “Hilbert’s Franciscan legacy continues because that has made it great in the past. That’s what will answer the needs of humanity and will make people whole.”

Number 10: Our present

“When I first started telling people where I was going to college,” recalls alumnus Jason Luna, laughing, “they’d ask if it was Hillman, the college from The Cosby Show.” Luna was one of Hilbert’s first baccalaureate degree recipients and feels today’s Hilbert’s has presence. “Now, people all over Western New York and even in other states know Hilbert and the kind of student it produces.”

If Degnan were a newcomer today, his impression “would be that this is a small college that’s on the move. It shows many signs of success. The promise of growth and development is evident.”

Expansion and development notwithstanding, Degnan thinks “We should be celebrating the success Hilbert has had in helping people. We’re not just providing an education, but we’re caring for people as individuals, trying to make sure they’re successful.”

Hilbert’s spirit continues to burn brightly today, according to Sister Andrea Ciszewski, which enhances the college’s present as much as physical and program growth. “Hilbert cares about each individual, striving to offer all it can to assist in realizing the best in each person. Faculty and staff members are genuinely interested in how they can offer classes to prepare individuals as they meet the evolving needs of society.”

When President Zane considers Hilbert in 2007, she thinks the characteristics that made it great “are still here and a driving force. We want graduates—some 6,000 to date—to make meaningful contributions to communities where they live and serve. We remain student-centered. Our programs and the college itself fill a community need.”

Those were the foundations of a small teaching college established 50 years ago, foundations Hilbert remains centered on fulfilling.
An enthusiastic, capacity crowd from the Hilbert College community turned out for the Nov. 16 building dedication for Hilbert’s new academic building, which doubles classroom space at the college, and state-of-the-art auditorium and theater space.

Originally planned for the day the now famous October 2006 snowstorm hit Western New York (and also Sister Edmunette Paczesny’s birthday), the extra time until the special evening event featuring on-site tours, exhibits and presentations made it all the more meaningful for the several hundred in attendance.

Completed in time for fall classes, the 24,000-square-foot Paczesny Hall is Hilbert’s first new classroom and faculty workspace since its original academic building, Bogel Hall, opened in 1969.

“The technology and other tools available in Paczesny Hall’s classrooms,” says Hilbert President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., “make the spaces flexible and configurable for all types of teaching formats, creating a highly interactive learning environment that’s student-focused. These are well beyond standard classrooms.”

Christopher Holoman, Ph.D., interim vice president for academic affairs, notes Paczesny Hall is expected to have a positive impact on recruiting and retaining high-quality students at Hilbert.

“When touring campus,” he says, “prospective students will see firsthand a modern facility with many high-tech amenities that offer a variety of learning opportunities. It’s a building that will leave a powerful, lasting impression.”
Paczesny Hall’s distinctive two-story windowed foyer allows in much natural light, matching the look and appeal of Hilbert’s Franciscan Hall. The academic building is named in honor of Sister Edmunette, president emerita.

Situated on the front end of campus, Paczesny Hall contains 12 networked classrooms, including a “3-1” room that may be divided into as many as three separate classrooms. Attention was given to technology infrastructure with all classrooms outfitted with either interactive Smartboards or Sympodium presentation tools and DVD and video capabilities with high-quality virtual surround sound available.

In addition to office space for 12 faculty members and student study areas throughout the building, Paczesny Hall houses the college’s Institute for Law and Justice, the Center for Creative Media and the Honors Program.

The building dedication will also mark the official opening of the 452-seat William E. Swan Auditorium, which is connected to Paczesny Hall in the new academic-auditorium complex. It’s named after the late Bill Swan, former CEO of First Niagara Financial Group, as testimony to his dedication to the Franciscan spirit and ideals.

Equipped with state-of-the-art stage sound and lighting capabilities, the 24,000-square foot Swan Auditorium features a performance space, two dressing rooms, a green room and a large rehearsal space that may be divided into two areas. The venue will be ideal for lectures, conferences, theater productions, music concerts and other special events offered by Hilbert and area community groups.

“We’re very excited to have this multipurpose space available for Hilbert’s needs and to extend that usage to the community,” says Zane. “Like Paczesny Hall, the Swan Auditorium is an outstanding facility that exemplifies growth at the college and we foresee it contributing to the academic and cultural enrichment of the on- and off-campus communities.”

Completion of the $6 million academic-auditorium complex culminates a capital construction project that started last fall. It was designed by Silvestri Architects, with Picone Construction Corp. as general contractor, and Kulback’s Construction, Inc., overseeing main site work.
SISTER JAQUELINE BENBENEH, director of campus ministry, attended the Catholic Campus Ministry Association’s national conference, “From the Heart of Christ to the Heart of Campus: Engaging the Campus Culture,” in San Diego.

COLLEEN DIPPOLD, reference librarian in McGrath Library, has been selected as a core books database contributor in the category of girls and girlhood for the Association of College & Research Libraries/American Library Association Women’s Studies Section.

WENDY EDSON, assistant chairperson/associate professor of paralegal studies, was a panelist on capstone courses at the 25th annual American Association for Paralegal Education Conference in New Orleans.

JASON ENSER, director of student activities, won first place for Hilbert’s Fall Fest 2006 poster in the North East Regional Poster Competition sponsored by the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities.

MARTIN FLOSS, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Law and Justice/professor of criminal justice, was a guest speaker at the National Drug Court Institute in Denver.

SUZETTE HINO, public services/library instructor coordinator, assisted in planning and attended the Western New York Library Resources Council’s program on “Library Adaptation: Evolution of a New Species.”

WILLIAM HOCHUL, adjunct instructor of criminal justice, received the 2006 Investigator of the Year Award from the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation.

KIMBERLY KLINE, Ph.D., director of institutional research, presented on “Toward an Outcome of Well-Being for Our Students” at the 11th annual Student Affairs Professional Conference in Buffalo on “Accountability and Higher Education: Assessing Student Learning Outcomes in a Global Environment.”

MARGARET JONGIN, adjunct instructor of communication studies, has been promoted to training and development manager at Colopast Corp., based in Minneapolis.

AMY SMITH, Ph.D., director of the Honor and Elder Scholars programs/professor of English, participated in the 2007 Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Seminar on Literature and the Holocaust, sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

MARK THRASHER, chairperson/assistant professor of accounting, has passed the California bar examination.

PAULA WITHERELL, public relations director, received an Accolades bronze award in the general news writing category from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District II. The award was presented at the annual CASE regional conference in New York City.

2007 HOME BASEBALL & SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 24</td>
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<td>MARCH 26</td>
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<td>MARCH 26</td>
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<td>Lake Erie</td>
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Good Sports

Hilbert College women’s soccer player Amber Balseca ’09 was named second team All-Conference in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC). Teammates Tricia Knight ’08 and Lucy Zver ’09 were Honorable Mention selections, and Coach James Ruggiero was named the conference’s Coach of the Year.

Balseca scored five goals and recorded a team high seven assists for 17 points on the season. The sophomore midfielder played in 17 games and ranked 15th in the conference in points per game with an average of 1.0 per contest.

Knight scored 13 goals to rank her fourth in the conference in goals scored. Her 28 points led the Hawks and her average of 1.87 points per game was good enough for fourth in the league. She also was briefly ranked nationally during the season.

Zver returns to the post-season honor roll for the second straight year and helped anchor a defense that produced seven shutouts. The sophomore started all 17 games and tallied one goal while averaging 91 minutes per contest.

Ruggiero led the Hawks to an improved 8-7-2 overall record. Hilbert finished in fourth place in the AMCC and advanced to the conference tournament semifinals after a first round upset of Medaille College.

Coaches on Board

When Hawks baseball and softball players take the field this spring, both Hilbert College teams will be led by new coaches.

Robert Gladwell has been named head baseball coach and Kerry Levett will take over as head softball coach.

Gladwell comes to the Hamburg campus after spending last spring at nearby Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) member Medaille College. He helped the Mavericks to a 13-29 mark and a seventh place finish in the conference while primarily working with the team’s infielders.

Gladwell has experience instructing at a variety of youth baseball clinics and works as part of the grounds-crew staff at Dunn Tire Park, home of the Buffalo Bisons.

As a student-athlete at SUNY College at Brockport, Gladwell was a four-year member of the baseball program and helped the Golden Eagles win the 2004 State University of New York Athletic Conference Championship.

"Rob was an outstanding student-athlete at Brockport and understands what it takes to succeed academically and athletically at the Division III level,” said Richard Walsh, director of athletics.

Gladwell earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Brockport.

Levett, who has been at Hilbert since 2004 as director of residence life and judicial affairs, served as the softball program’s assistant coach in 2006.

In her lone season as an assistant under head coach Bill Goc, Levett helped the Hawks to an 8-23 overall record and a 4-12 mark in the AMCC.

A graduate of Westminster College in Pennsylvania, Levett helped the Titans to four consecutive President’s Athletic Conference playoff appearances before earning a bachelor’s degree in Christian education.

After playing in the Western Pennsylvania Women’s Fast-Pitch League, Levett held youth coaching and instructing positions in Nebraska and Arizona, and also worked at the U.S. Olympic Festival in Colorado.

“I’m looking forward to the continued development of our returning student-athletes while integrating new players into our program,” said Levett.

Levett holds a master’s degree in education from the University of Colorado and received certification from the American Sports Education Program. She’s working on a doctorate in higher and postsecondary education from Arizona State University.
From the Alumni Relations Director

Greetings!

I would like to take a moment and introduce myself to each of you. My name is Craig Harris and I’m the new alumni relations director at Hilbert College. I’m very excited to join you at this pivotal time with 2007 being our golden anniversary. As a colleague of Pat Baubonis’ for many years, I know that she has laid a solid foundation and will certainly be big shoes to fill. It is my honor to continue the traditions that she has helped develop and provide the same level of service and dedication to you and Hilbert.

As mentioned, 2007 will be an exciting and important year for Hilbert. This year will be host to many major events beginning with the inauguration of Hilbert’s third president, Dr. Cynthia A. Zane, on April 20. The week leading up to the 20th will be filled with many exciting events and programs. We hope that you are able to join us at some point during the week. We will also be hosting homecoming Sept. 28-30, which will be tied to our annual Fall Fest. More information will be sent as the date comes closer so please keep your calendars free that weekend.

Over the past two months, we have hosted two alumni reconnection socials in Hamburg, N.Y. and Phoenix, Ariz., which were both successful and we look forward to hosting more in the near future. Please know that there are many opportunities afforded to you as a Hilbert alumna/alumnus. When you get a moment, please visit us online at www.hilbert.edu/alumni and the Hilbert Alumni Association Web site located at www.hilbertcollegealumni.org/.

I hope to have the pleasure to meet you at some point in the next few months and if there is anything I can do to assist you, please let me know.

With Pride in Hilbert,

Craig A. Harris
Alumni Relations Director
charris@hilbert.edu

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

‘70s

JOSEPH GIGLIO, AA ‘75 has been elected to the New York State Assembly in the 149th District, which includes Alleghany, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties.

CHARLES KLAUS, AA ’75 has been re-elected treasurer of the Hilbert Alumni Association.

‘80s

BROOKE ANDERSON-TOMPKINS, AAS ‘86, president of Anderson Funding Limited, has been reappointed to the New York State Board of Public Accountancy for a second five-year term. She also serves as chairperson of the Exam/License Committee.

LISA-MARIE (DE MONT) BOLOGNESE, AAS ’94 received the annual Cheryl Steinbach Archives Award for Excellence in Local Government Records Management on behalf of her work with the Town of Cheektowaga. The presentation was made at the State Education Building in Albany.

JOHN GULLO, AAS ’85 has been recognized as a certified fire and explosion investigator by the National Association of Fire Investigators. He also earned a homeland security level III certification from the American College of Forensic Examiners Institute. Gullo is fire inspector and deputy disaster coordinator for the Town of West Seneca and is a member of the New York State Fire Marshals Association.

‘90s

TODD EHRET, BS ’98 was elected Officer of the Month by the Hamburg Police PBA and has been promoted to the rank of detective.

GEOFFREY GERMONO, BS 97 is an underwriter at Mortgage Lenders Network, USA in Horsham, Pa.

JASON LUNA, BS ’96, who recently launched a new law firm, has been inducted into the Million Dollar Advocates Forum after obtaining a $4.5 million award for a client.

MICHAEL RAPPOLD, BS ’95 has been promoted to supervisory border patrol agent for the U.S. Border Patrol in San Diego, Calif.

‘00s

AMY BARTZ, BS ‘01 has been elected president of the Hilbert Alumni Association.

DAWN BELLEZZA, BS ’02 has been elected secretary of the Hilbert Alumni Association.

JENNIFER BLAKE, BS ’03 is a child care worker at Lakeside School in Peabody, Mass.

KIMBERLY BONK, BS ’03 is a family specialist at Berkshire Farm Center for Youth for children who are in foster care or in the process of being adopted.

‘00s

TASHIEKA GERALD, BS ’03 is a family specialist at Berkshire Farm Center for Youth for children who are in foster care or in the process of being adopted.
News & Notes

MATTHEW GUNARSON, BS ‘01, a special agent in the U.S. Secret Service, has earned a master’s degree in professional leadership from St. Bonaventure University.

CHANNAN MARACLE, BS ’05 is a residential habilitation aide at Aspire WNY in Getzville, N.Y.

KEVIN MARCZAK, BS ’03 is a funding specialist for secondary financial markets at HSBC Bank in Buffalo, N.Y.

MELISSA MCCAFFERY, BS ’02 was recently appointed to intelligence analyst at the FBI in Buffalo, N.Y.

BRIAN MEYERS, BS ’05 is an emergency medical technician for Rural Metro in Buffalo, N.Y., and is a dispatcher in the Wyoming County Sheriff’s Department in Warsaw.

KRISTY MILLER, BS ’05 is a case manager at Northwest Buffalo Community Center.

ADAM MOODY, BS ’05 has graduated from the Chesterfield Police Academy in Chesterfield, Va.

RAELYN MUHBAUER, BS ’05 is a developmental aide in the Western New York Developmental Disabilities Office in West Seneca, N.Y.

LYNN PRICE, BS ’05 is a medical claims analyst at North American Health Plans in Amherst, N.Y.

MAUREEN QUALEY, BS ’01 has been promoted to the rank of patrol lieutenant in the Kenmore Police Department in Kenmore, N.Y.

KEVIN QUINN, BS ’05 is a security guard at Shamrock Security in Orchard Park, N.Y.

ANDREW RUSSEL, BS ’05 is a bank protection officer at the Wackenhut Corp. in Williamsville, N.Y.

MICHAEL SIMMS, BS ’02 is a New York State trooper in Machias, N.Y.

CAROLYN (HAMELE) STACHURA, BS ’00 was promoted to investigator in the New York State Appellate Court.

DOMINIQUE THOMPSON, BS ’03 has been elected vice president of the Hilbert Alumni Association.

MICHAEL YEHL, BS ’02 has been appointed a New York State trooper.

Giving Goes a Long Way

The combined commitment of many generous supporters to the Hilbert College Annual Fund plays a key role in making our successes possible. Every gift makes a positive contribution to Hilbert today and supports the foundation for our future.

Being an annual fund supporter is a powerful way for you to give back to the college and to make a difference in the lives of our students, faculty and staff. Simply put, everyone at Hilbert benefits from the annual fund.

By making a gift, you will provide immediate, vital support where it’s needed most, when it’s needed most. Gifts of any size enhance the educational experience at Hilbert. You can ask your gift to be used where the need is greatest or designate it for a specific fund, such as scholarships, faculty development or Franciscan charism. The annual fund goes far in helping Hilbert.

Your gift is important to helping us meet this year’s goal of $125,000. To make your gift, use the annual fund envelope enclosed in this issue of Hilbert Connections, or contact Mark Bindig at 716-926-8791, mbindig@hilbert.edu.
the ‘00s

Resident-students relax in a then newly opened on-campus apartment which was part of the first phase of Hilbert College’s $2.8 million student housing project. Added to ease Hilbert’s housing crunch, each air-conditioned apartment includes four or five bedrooms, a common area with kitchen facilities, two shared bathrooms, telephone lines and hook-ups for computers and cable television. Given the many appealing amenities, all apartments were filled to capacity before the first two buildings were even completed for occupancy in Fall 2003. With phase two of the new housing complex opening two years later, the total number of students living on campus increased by more than 50 percent.

To share some of your favorite memories as a student during the ‘00s, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 716-926-8888, or e-mail charris@hilbert.edu.