Political Pursuits
A new face on the political landscape

Commencement 2009
I AM HOPELESSLY IN LOVE WITH HILBERT COLLEGE IN MAY! Walking around campus with the trees and flowers in full bloom while observing the new baby geese and ducks scrambling up the sides of the pond after their swimming lessons, leaves one with a sense of hope for new beginnings.

I treasure the magical moments of graduation, baccalaureate Mass and the honors reception where we recognize the achievements of our students. What a joy it is to witness the expressions of jubilation on the faces of our graduates, their families and friends. Faculty and staff as well delight in celebrating the successful journey of these men and women who have accomplished their dream of earning a college degree.

In this edition of Hilbert Connections you will get acquainted with three special women. First, Diane Lanpher ’75, whose journey after graduation has taken her to Vermont where she is serving as a member of the State House of Representatives. You will also meet Rear Admiral Mary Landry, our commencement speaker, who shared with Hilbert graduates her lifetime journey of leadership and service from her childhood in South Buffalo to becoming one of the highest ranking women officers in the U.S. Coast Guard. I know you will find the story inspiring on Kelly Warren, who despite having the most severe form of spina bifida, has achieved her dream of completing her college degree.

Along with the joys we celebrated in May, Hilbert also experienced deep sadness with the loss of a very special woman. Cheyenne Jumanah had been a long-time member of the Hilbert community, both as a student earning associate and bachelor’s degrees, and as a staff member, first at the switchboard, then as an administrative assistant, and, most recently, as director of multicultural affairs. She worked tirelessly to push students to succeed in a way that only Cheyenne could do; serving as coach, mentor, Mom, and friend. Her sense of humor and genuine care for the well-being of students made her a true inspiration.

In 1904, Bessie Anderson Stanley entered a poetry contest run by Brown Book Magazine. Bessie won a cash prize of $250, which paid off the mortgage on her house, among other things. The poem is often attributed erroneously to Ralph Waldo Emerson. I believe it captures the importance, especially in these challenging economic times and with the multiple losses from our college community this academic year of valiant Hilbert women — student Meghan Sorbera, Professor Janet Facklam and Cheyenne — to step back and celebrate special people and life’s wonderful moments. Although written more than a century ago, the message in the poem is still relevant today (see poem to the left).

Thank you for all you do to support the success of Hilbert College that enables us to graduate students committed to leading and serving in their communities.

Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D.
President
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Surviving the Dust Bowl

“...And then the dispossessed were drawn west — from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico; from Nevada and Arkansas, families, tribes, dusted out, tractored out,” wrote John Steinbeck of the flight of families from the Dust Bowl in his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel The Grapes of Wrath.

Capturing the experience of this devastating time in American history, Great Depression era music and historical photographs from the Dust Bowl and the period of mass migration of farmers from the drought-stricken plains westward to California were featured in a special multi-media presentation in March at Hilbert College.

“...Whose Names are Unknown: Songs and Images From America’s Dust Bowl Migration” included an interpretive narrative by Joan Crouse, Ph.D., Hilbert professor of history and historical consultant for the program, who also wrote liner notes on the history and songs compiled on a CD under the same title.

“The program put a human face and voice to the staggering economic impact from the Dust Bowl and Great Depression while celebrating the endurance and resiliency of anonymous Americans,” said Crouse.

The title of the program came from an eviction notice to “John and Mary Doe, whose names are unknown” that was posted on a Midwest farm at the time of the Dust Bowl, a catastrophic drought in the 1930s that was brought on by decades of poor farming practices in the plains compounded by the devastating economic crisis.

Songs performed by the 198 String Band, including “Prairie Fare well” and Woody Guthrie Dust Bowl ballads, personified the survival and experience of Americans who lived and survived one of the worst agricultural disasters in U.S. history. They were accompanied by a historical narration by Crouse.

Song selections were dedicated to the plight of migrant workers who fled farms in search of jobs, and followed the heartache and humor of the journey west taken by thousands of families.

Also as part of the presentation, poignant photos showed migrant workers and camps along with other powerful images from the Dust Bowl exodus.
Save the Date!
New Home On Campus

The Hilbert College community is invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 18 for the opening of Trinity Hall, the college’s new $7 million residence hall that, starting this fall, will nearly double the number of students living on campus.

The 3 p.m. event will take place outside the entrance to the three-story residence hall with a reception to follow. Guests will be welcome to tour the facility.

A centerpiece of Hilbert’s residential quad, the 155-bed residence hall features six-person suites with common living areas and double rooms adjoined by private bathrooms, as well as a recreation area and study rooms. It’s distinctive two-story windowed foyer and architectural look matches that of other recently added buildings at the college.

Registry Recognition

Hilbert College’s rehabilitation services program has been approved by the Council on Rehabilitation Education Commission (CORE) to be included in its international Undergraduate Registry, making Hilbert’s program the only one in the state to receive this honor.

Approved by CORE’s Commission on Undergraduate Education, the selection is based on Hilbert’s detailed self study on the program’s curriculum and standards. Hilbert’s academic major, which was the first undergraduate degree of its kind offered at a Western New York college, met the stringent standards of the registry and is listed as an approved program on the CORE Web site.

The registry is the only formal recognition available for undergraduate programs in rehabilitation and disability studies.

Driver Gets Maximum Sentence

Hamburg attorney John Duffy has received the maximum prison term in the hit-and-run accident that killed 19-year-old Hilbert College student Meghan Sorbera last October.

Before a crowded Buffalo courtroom, including several dozen Sorbera family members and friends, Duffy was sentenced to two to seven years in prison at legal proceedings held in early April.

The now disbarred attorney was driving the SUV that hit the young student as she walked along South Park Avenue early the morning of Oct. 18 after working at an off-campus job. Duffy, who turned himself in several days following the fatal accident, had pleaded guilty to a felony charge of leaving the scene of an accident.

On Hilbert’s campus, a pear tree planted near the pond in front of Franciscan Hall stands in Sorbera’s honor.
Political Pursuits

With a family history of political involvement dating back to the suffrage movement, freshman Vermont Representative Diane Lanpher is right at home in today’s political arena, a role she relishes every day after years of hard work behind the scenes.

by Grace A. Lazzara
One typical day while on the campaign trail during her run for the State House, Vermont State Representative Diane Lanpher ‘75 walked through a relatively disheveled yard before knocking on the front door of an area resident’s home.

The man who opened the door was blind. Lanpher introduced herself, expecting the usual “Thanks for coming,” or “I was wondering when you were going to get here.” She told her story and started to take her leave: “I said, ‘Enjoy this lovely afternoon.’ And the man said, ‘It was a year ago today that she died,’ obviously talking about someone he loved. At that point, it became a totally different conversation.” Lanpher says she thinks about that day each time she passes the man’s house.

Lanpher visited more than 3,000 homes in the district when campaigning. The state’s political culture requires that of those who would vie for office there. “We go to every single door, even when lawn signs are for opponents,” she explains.

Her diligence paid off as the Hilbert College graduate was elected in 2008 to the Vermont State House of Representatives for five communities in Addison County, an area located in the lower Champlain Valley of Vermont. She is somewhat of an oddity for her district; it hasn’t elected a Democratic representative in years. With only 600,000 residents in the entire state, “one person can make a big difference,” she says. “That’s wonderful but also a burden. If you don’t show up to a meeting, major things may not happen.”

Making things happen is what Lanpher is all about. Her main goal as an elected official is “giving a voice to people who don’t have one.” Her campaign literature reinforces that impulse. It says, simply, “Diane Lanpher cares.”

Her father, William McDonald, known as “Pops” on the Hilbert campus where he’s worked for some 20 years, gives a picture of his daughter’s personality that elaborates on that theme. “She’s honest, dedicated and persistent when she wants to do something,” he says. “She’s been like that all her life.”

Says Lanpher emphatically. “No matter if your barn burned down or your car was just stolen or your baby has pneumonia, I get my energy from trying to make a difference.”

**Political family culture**

Lanpher might not have come from a political dynasty as high profile as others, but politics were a big part of her life growing up in Lackawanna, N.Y., according to her father. Both of Diane’s grandmothers were involved in the women’s suffrage movement in the early 1920s. “My father was party committeeman,” McDonald says, “and I was a committeeman, too.

“Diane was always free to give her opinions and thoughts. From the time she was 4 or 5, she started telling me what she thought,” McDonald says, laughing, “and she never quit!”

After graduating from high school, her attending Hilbert was largely unplanned. She spent a day on campus with her best friend who was enrolled at the college. Absent that experience, Lanpher admits, “I’m not sure I’d have gone on to any college, but at Hilbert I saw the higher level of instruction, the respectful interaction between the [Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph] and students. That was an awakening to something new.”

Lanpher enrolled at Hilbert as a secretarial sciences major. She describes her time at the college as “a gateway. I learned how to learn. We were all challenged to think and not just repeat.” She discovered a love for biology, psychology and other sciences to which she’d not previously been exposed, even considering further education in one of those fields after Hilbert.

Life, however, intervened. Lanpher got married a year out of college and had two children over the next several years. In 1984, the young family moved to Vergennes, Vt. There, Lanpher’s day-to-day existence shifted tangibly: “My horizons expanded as my family grew,” she says.

Her participation in her community increased. She became a CCD teacher at her local church and got involved at her children’s school. Mother to a son with a severe form of dyslexia, Lanpher worked in special education at the Vergennes Elementary School for several
years, following a block of students as they moved from elementary to high school. Later, she spent nearly a decade overseeing all U.S. retail merchandise fulfillment for some 70 stores of global fashion retailer April Cornell.

During this time, Lanpher and her husband divorced, leaving her to find her way as a single parent for five years. The period was financially difficult for her, but valuable nonetheless. “Your character is honed when life has you to the grindstone; it will grind you down or polish you up, it all depends on what you are made of,” she says. She has since remarried to husband Jim Lanpher.

Growing involvement
Lanpher’s political life also blossomed in Vermont. She started out attending local and county political events, then began recruiting candidates and working on campaigns. She was in the audience in 2004 when Vermont Gov. Howard Dean announced his run for president and worked in his Democracy for America initiative before and after Dean ended his presidential bid. She was state Democratic Party committeewoman for Addison County for four years and continues as a member of the state Democratic Party Finance Committee.

Lanpher says, for her, the political equation is simple. “You find a need and you address it.”

Lanpher also ran as a delegate for the Democratic Convention in 2004. That she did not win the race still brings a twinge of regret - Vermont’s delegation closely interacted with the delegation from Illinois, which included a young senator named Barack Obama whose speech at the convention laid the first stone on his path to the presidency.

Eventually, the Speaker of the Vermont House approached Lanpher to ask if she’d considered running. “I found out,” she says, “that I, like many other women, will work and work behind the scenes but often do not consider running for office themselves unless invited.”

Duly invited, Lanpher found out what running for office would entail. Her most important discovery at the time was that state election law forbade people in state jobs to run for office. Lanpher was relatively new in a job she’d taken at the Vermont Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs. She decided she wasn’t quite ready to make the leap.

Ironically, one particular initiative she oversaw while at her state job cemented her desire to throw her hat into the political ring. Among other tasks, Lanpher helped the state police get legislation dealing with methamphetamine on the radar in Montpelier. “That meant I could merge my political knowledge and my work at the health department,” she says.

Lanpher spent so much time working on getting a bill in production and passed that she became well known in the halls of the state house. She also had the chance to work with and testify before legislative committees. “I spent lots of time in committee rooms, which helped me realize I could do the job,” she says.

In 2006, Vermont legislators passed the bill, H.480 “An Act Relating to Precursor Drugs of Methamphetamine,” on which Lanpher had spent so much energy. Says Lanpher, “If I do nothing else in Vermont but have helped pass that bill, I’ll be happy.”

Hat into the ring
But “nothing else” wasn’t in the cards. Her husband had retired from a career in banking and was in now
in the insurance field. He invited Lanpher to work at the family insurance business. That meant she would no longer be on the state payroll, thus eligible to run for office. After she made the move back to the private sector, she made her first run for the Vermont State House, unsuccessfully. “She came very close,” her father recalls. “She only lost by a few hundred votes.”

Her next effort came after members of her parish council asked her to consider running for the Vergennes City Council in 2006. That election took place during a town meeting. Vergennes, with a population of about 2,800, saw an approximately 80 percent turnout that day. Lanpher won a significant victory, which was important to any further ambitions she might have for a state office. “If I couldn’t win my town, I couldn’t win the district,” she explains. “So, with this victory, I knew I was on right track.”

As a council member, she immersed herself in local government. Council proceedings were broadcast on the local cable access station; Lanpher was on television eight times a week. “People in Vergennes watch,” Lanpher explains. At the grocery store, the post office, wherever, people felt free to make personal contact and encourage her.

At the same time, Lanpher was preparing for 2008 and a run for the state house. Not surprisingly, she says such an effort takes “a lot of energy, money and commitment.” Navigating the campaigning process is “exhausting,” Lanpher admits. Once she announced her intentions, she expended 90 to 120 hours each week during five months on the campaign trail.

“You’ve really got to have a tough hide,” she says, laughing. She calls winning the election “a rush. Then you crash for two days and go right back at it.”

Back home in Lackawanna, her extended family also felt the rush. “It felt great when she won,” her father says. “I am very proud of her and so is the rest of the family.”

On the job
Vermont’s State House in Montpelier is a “beehive of activity,” says Lanpher. A day there “is like a week. It’s all very fast. You’re seizing opportunities all the time.” Vermont has a “citizen legislature” and most representatives keep other jobs. Legislators have no offices in Montpelier. They work in their committee rooms and in the “well” of the state house floor, so they’re accessible to anyone. The environment is remarkably open. Legislators have access to the state house whenever they need to work. There are no metal detectors, no frisking of visitors. Sessions stream live through Vermont Public Radio’s Web site.

Because she knows re-election is not guaranteed, Lanpher treats each day in her position “as if it were the last.” Her hot-button issues are health care, affordable housing and energy—especially energy. (On the Vergennes City Council, she was Energy Chair.) For instance, the license for the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant is up for renewal in 2012, and Lanpher is advocating for a comprehensive energy plan for her state. “Vermont is in a position to be almost oil independent if we can get the political will behind it,” she says.

Lanpher sits on the House Transportation Committee, which is unusual for a freshman representative. The committee is a tight-knit group of 11 people who work together for 10 or 12 hours a day. Traditionally a male bastion, the committee now includes four women, “three of whom are originally from Buffalo,” Lanpher says, laughing.

Lanpher is quickly learning the rules of engagement and culture of state government. Her first report to the full house was on the transportation bill, which included a 5-cent gas tax. “I was not assigned tough sections because I’m new,” she explains. “When you report out [on a bill to the rest of the legislative body], you’re assumed to be the expert. You can be ‘interrogated’ by any member, so you have to be prepared to answer.” With some 1,000 bills introduced each year, Lanpher says it’s “impossible for anyone to know all of them inside and out. You must trust others have done their homework and ask questions, lots of questions. I do lots of quick thinking on my feet!”

Lanpher obviously loves what she’s doing. “I’m in awe every moment.” The history within the walls of the building is palpable, she says. “Just about every piece of furniture is original. You can almost smell the cigars and bourbon from the past. The State House is a functioning museum.”

Indeed, the Statehouse’s curator likes to tell representatives that they’re nothing more than “living, breathing exhibits in my museum,” Lanpher says. There are moments when she’s working all alone on the House floor, she says, the atmosphere “is just like church.”

Her new role isn’t all a bed of roses, of course. For instance, Lanpher says she often doesn’t sleep much and lives life as a public figure even when she goes “to the store to get coffee. That’s an adjustment.” Nonetheless, even the more challenging aspects seem only to add to her fascination with her new life.

“This experience will change me,” says Lanpher.

Grace Lazzara is a freelance writer and public relations consultant residing in Buffalo, N.Y.
Strive to be contributing members of society and “when the time comes to sit back and reflect on this important accomplishment in your life, I hope the word ‘service’ comes to mind,” commencement speaker Rear Admiral Mary E. Landry, one of the highest ranking women in the U.S. CoastGuard, told the Class of 2009 at Hilbert College’s 48th annual commencement exercises on May 16.

“Each of you,” she added, “in pursuing a degree from Hilbert, have prepared yourself to serve your country whether you choose service in the military, law enforcement, education, business, politics or the many other professions that lie before you.”

Recognizing the challenging times the U.S. is enduring, Landry, a South Buffalo native, was optimistic good changes are ahead. “Our nation is still very young and today the country is facing some real challenges, but with challenges come opportunities. We have proven throughout our history that when Americans face adversity we come together united in what our country stands for and determined to see our way through to better times.”
On a windy, warm spring afternoon, more than 240 degrees were conferred by Hilbert President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., at the college’s annual commencement ceremony. In addition to degrees to new graduates, an honorary doctorate of humane letters was presented to Landry, newly appointed commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District headquartered in New Orleans.

Also at commencement exercises, the Town of Hamburg Police Department received the 2009 Hilbert College Medal, which is presented to those “who embody Franciscan values, demonstrate excellence in their profession or career, and excellence in community service.” The medal was accepted by Detective Todd Ehret, Hilbert Class of 1998, on behalf of the department.

The Hilbert College President’s Medal, one of the highest honors bestowed by the college, was presented posthumously to Janet Facklam, assistant professor of rehabilitation services, who was instrumental in designing the first undergraduate degree program in rehabilitation services offered at a Western New York college. The President’s Medal recognizes faculty and staff for extraordinary commitment and service to higher education, and for exemplifying Franciscan values. The medal was accepted in Facklam’s memory by niece Amanda Facklam.

“Achievement is never realized immediately. It is a slow process. Each one of us has an opportunity to serve in some way in making this nation greater and stronger.”

—Rear Admiral Mary E. Landry
Commencement Address 2009
The student address was given by summa cum laude graduate Deborah Mogavero, who received a bachelor’s degree in forensic science investigation.

Selected for top student awards were Christopher Balon, the John Kissel Man of the Year Award; Kelly Goodwin, the Sister Mary Edwina Bogel Award; Amy Sarna, the Lambert and Margaret Graham Award; and Erik Seeger, the Kimberly Bruch Raczkowski Memorial Alumni Association Award.

At Hilbert’s baccalaureate Mass held commencement morning, Balon and Goodwin also received Outstanding Community Service
Graduate With Spina Bifida Shows What Dreams Are Made Of

As a college-bound student, Kelly Warren finished her senior year at Frontier Central High School in Hamburg, N.Y., anxious to start studies in the fall at Hilbert College. The high-achieving criminal justice major has since earned academic honors, successfully completed a challenging internship, and was active in college clubs. When not in the classroom, she volunteers with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Western New York.

Even as she planned for Hilbert’s May 16 commencement ceremony where she received a bachelor’s degree, Warren is mindful the remarkable journey to her college and other accomplishments throughout her life has been filled with many physical challenges she’s met head on.

Warren was born with myelomeningocele spina bifida, the most severe form of spina bifida, a life-long condition in which the spine has not closed completely and the most common permanently disabling birth defect in the U.S. She also has hydrocephalus, which causes too much fluid in the brain and common among individuals with myelomeningocele.

Since birth, the 23-year-old has undergone more than a dozen surgeries, including one shortly after birth, two for shunt revisions and another to remove a kidney. Because of the severity of the spina bifida, she uses a manual wheelchair.

In many ways, Warren’s disability has made her stronger and more determined. She set her sights on obtaining a college degree but had a specific type of institution in mind. Once she visited Hilbert, she was immediately attracted to the college.

“I came to Hilbert when researching colleges and knew the first time...”
I visited campus it was the right fit for me,” says Warren. “Everyone was so welcoming and helpful. I wasn’t looked at solely in the context of my disability but rather the focus was on easing my transition to college and making my time at Hilbert as rewarding as possible.”

After assessing her needs, special assistive resources, including test modifications and use of a reader for classwork, were provided to Warren through Hilbert’s Academic Services Center. Ironically, Debbie Dimitrovski, the center’s assistant director, was Warren’s seventh-grade science teacher when Dimitrovski was a faculty member in the Frontier school system.

“Since I first met Kelly as a seventh-grader, she’s undergone quite the transformation,” she says. “She went from being a quiet, shy student to an outgoing young woman willing to advocate for herself, and has been very sociable and active on campus.”

“Kelly has overcome so many challenges in her life because of her willpower and determination,” adds Dimitrovski. “One conversation with Kelly and you can understand why she excels in anything she sets her mind to do.”

As part of pursuing her career choice, Warren’s student internship at Crisis Services involved being on-call to assist domestic violence and sexual assault victims being cared for in area hospital emergency rooms. Although the internship is completed, she plans to continue on as a volunteer.

“I’ve developed some great skills and abilities because of the internship and broadened my experience beyond the classroom. It’s an organization I would like to continue contributing to after graduation,” she says.

Warren also has benefitted from Hilbert’s low student-to-faculty ratio and the college’s campus size and close proximity of buildings, which eased navigating the Hamburg campus especially during the winter months.

As a Hilbert student, Warren’s parents drove her to and from campus but she’ll soon be able to take on the role of driver.

“With some vehicle modifications, like hand controls and a smaller steering wheel, I’ll then be able to drive. I’m really excited about getting my driver’s license, which will give me more independence,” she says.

Outside of college, Warren is a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, something that evolved from when she was a child.

“Having a wish granted when I was younger left a deep impression on me. Volunteering with Make-A-Wish has made me a more well-rounded student, and it gives me an opportunity to connect with children who have varying degrees of disabilities and to send a positive message that it’s possible to accomplish many things in life,” she says.

Dimitrovski has seen first-hand the powerful impact Warren can have on people, referring to an event they attended together last fall.

“Following a panel discussion we participated in at a college night aimed at students with disabilities, we were approached by a mother of a son facing some of the same challenges as Kelly,” says Dimitrovski. “The mother was completely moved by Kelly’s determination and shared that Kelly is everything she wants her son to be some day. That’s the kind of positive affect she has on people.”

Warren is looking forward to the next phase of her life as she considers job and graduate school options. With her naturally upbeat outlook and resourcefulness, she plans to “take it all one day at a time and not let my disability get in my way. I’ve been changed in so many good ways by my experience at Hilbert. Not only have I received an outstanding education, I’ve become more self-assured of what I’m able to achieve.”

“I’ve been changed in so many good ways by my experience at Hilbert. Not only have I received an outstanding education, I’ve become more self-assured of what I’m able to achieve.”

—Kelly Warren
Hilbert College has named Livingston Alexander, Joseph Dommer, Vastye Gillespie, Sterling Kozlowski, and Father Michael Sajda, OFM Conv., to three-year terms on the college’s board of trustees.

Alexander, whose career in higher education spans more than 30 years, has served as president of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford since 2003. Prior to his tenure at Pitt-Bradford, he was provost and vice president for academic affairs and professor of psychology at Kean University.

Alexander has served as a seminar leader and lecturer for the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellowship Program in higher education administration and is a member of ACE’s Commission on Lifelong Learning. He has published and presented on many higher education topics, including learning and cognition, planning and assessment of learning outcomes, and leadership. A frequent presenter, he has spoken at seminars and workshops throughout the country on leadership and diversity.

Alexander received a doctorate in educational psychology and a master’s degree in curriculum from the University of Houston, and a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Saint Joseph Seminary College.

Dommer is president of Baer & Associates where he’s been involved with more than 3,000 construction projects since joining the firm in 1991. Prior to becoming the firm’s president, he held various positions, including chief estimator and project manager.

Active in the community, Dommer serves on the Erie Community College Construction Technology Advisory Board, a role that led him to assisting with vital curriculum update initiatives. He’s also a volunteer with Junior Achievement of Western New York and vice president of the board of the Boys and Girls Club of the Northtowns.

Dommer, who is a 2007 recipient of Business First’s Forty Under 40 award, is an affiliate member of the American Institute of Architects, a member of the American Society of Professional Estimators, and an officer on the Construction Exchange of Western New York Board of Governors.

Dommer completed the University at Buffalo School of Management Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership program and received an associate’s degree in construction technology from ECC.

Gillespie, a Hilbert graduate, is counsel for the Erie County Department of Social Services, a position she was appointed to in 2008. Previously, she was staff attorney for the UAW-GM Legal Services Plan.

Gillespie is a former board member of Elmwood Franklin School, Catholic Central School and the Mark Twain Museum of Buffalo. She was recognized in Buffalo’s Uncrowned Queens: African-American Women Community Builders and was a 1999 Business First Forty Under 40 honoree.

An Arthur A. Schomburg Graduate Fellow, Gillespie, received a law degree from the University at Buffalo.

Kozlowski is president of KeyBank’s Western New York District where he oversees retail, business and commercial banking. He previously spent 23 years with HSBC Bank USA, most recently as senior vice president for national small business banking.

Active in the community, Kozlowski is first vice president of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Western New York and is a board member of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Heritage Centers, the Buffalo Zoo, Buffalo Niagara Enterprise, and Mayor Byron Brown’s Advance Buffalo Fund. He’s also chairman of the New York State Small Business Development Centers Advisory Board.

Kozlowski is a graduate of UB’s advanced commercial lending program and the University of Virginia’s Graduate School of Retail Bank Management, and received a bachelor’s degree in marketing management from Syracuse University.

Father Michael has worked in Catholic education for 31 years and is president of St. Francis High School, having previously been the school’s principal. Prior to this, he was president of John Carroll High School in Fort Pierce, Fla.

He’s a member of the St. Anthony of Padua Province Education Commission and serves on the Franciscan Center Board of Directors. He’s also past chairperson of the board of principals of the Monsignor Martin High School Athletic Association.

Father Michael is a member of the National Catholic Education Association and Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State.

He received a master’s degree in history from Morgan State University, a master of divinity from St. Anthony-on-Hudson Seminary, and a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from St. Hyacinth College & Seminary.
BARBARA BONANNO, director of mission integration and campus ministry, was honored by the Character Council of Hamburg for best exemplifying the character trait “virtue.”

ELIZABETH CURRY, technical services coordinator in McGrath Library, presented a poster on “Graphic at McGrath Library: Starting a Graphic Novel Collection at An Academic Library” at the spring conference of the Western New York/Ontario Academic College & Research Libraries.

JOHN D’AMICO, associate professor of business administration, attended the Southwestern Economics Teaching Seminar in San Antonio, Texas.

“Ten Tips for Effective Communication” by WENDY EDSON, chairperson/associate professor of legal studies, will be published in the fifth edition of the textbook West’s Paralegal Today.

CHARLES EANST, Ph.D., chairperson of arts and sciences/associate professor of English, attended and was involved in organizing the New York College English Association spring conference held in Pittsburgh.

MARY ANN HOBAR, formerly assistant professor, has been promoted to associate professor of forensic science/crime scene investigation and will also retain her title of assistant chairperson.

MATTHEW HOLMES, network administrator, has been promoted to the rank of assistant adjunct professor.

ANDREW KOLIN, Ph.D., professor of political science, has had his third book, State Structure and Genocide, reviewed in the Journal of Genocide Studies.

TIM LEE, director of admissions, has been elected to a three-year term as a college delegate representing New York State in the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

DONNA LEVIN, Ph.D., chairperson/professor of psychology, was a presenter at the National Association of Disability Examiners 2009 Quad-Regional Training Conference in Niagara Falls.

RICHARD PINHOUSSHI, vice president for business/finance, was deputy chairman of the accreditation team for the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle State States Association of Colleges and Schools that visited the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

JAMIE RUGGIERO, head women’s soccer coach, has been named a full-time instructor in the Erie Community College Architectural Technology Department.

The Western Division of the National Association of Social Workers New York State Chapter has named SHARON SITTI, chairperson/assistant professor of human and rehabilitation services, the 2009 Social Worker of the Year. She also received the William B. Hoyt Award for Advocacy presented by Child & Family Services of Erie County.

PAULA WITHERELL, public relations director, received three 2009 Excalibur Awards from the Public Relations Society of America/Niagara Chapter. She was presented a silver award for Hilbert Connections magazine, and bronze awards in media relations and in crisis communications related to a hit-and-run accident that killed a Hilbert student.

PRESIDENT CYNTHIA ZANE, Ed.D., was the commencement speaker at graduation exercises for the Class of 2009 from St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, N.Y.

Hawks Chalk Up Honors

Hilbert College students Rachel Parker ’10 and Sarah Collins ’10 have been recognized by the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) as members of the 2009 All-AMCC Softball Team.

Parker hit a conference second-best .450 this spring and paced the Hawks in eight different offensive categories to land second team honors. A first-team selection in 2008, Parker had 80 putouts and a .964 fielding percentage as one of the league’s premier infielders.

Collins was recognized as an honorable-mention selection after starting 35 games at first base for the Hawks. Consistently right behind Parker statistically, Collins paced Hilbert in seven offensive categories and ranked eighth in putouts (175) and ninth in chances (191) amongst the conference’s top defenders.

Also in AMCC honors, Class of 2009 graduate Daniel Terrette com-
Taking in a Hoops Game

Local youth had a chance to experience Hawks sports at Hilbert College’s fifth annual Take a Kid to the Game Day event, hosted by the college’s athletic department.

Participating children and their families took in men’s and women’s basketball games in the Hafner Recreation Center. They also had the opportunity to win prizes during time outs and half time along with other game day activities. Free and discounted tickets for children were made available for the event.

The Take a Kid to the Game program provides NCAA member institutions a way to encourage adults to take children to collegiate-level athletic contests and introduce them to their athletic programs, as well as help boost game attendance.

Sarah Collins

completed his collegiate career with an honorable mention distinction on the 2008-09 the AMCC Men’s Basketball All-Conference Team.

The 6-foot-1 guard led the Hawks in scoring an average with 11.3 points per contest. Terrette also pulled down 3.2 rebounds per game in his senior campaign. From long range, Terrette was the Hawks’ most consistent threat, leading the team in 3-point field goals made with 63 and three-point field goal percentage at 39.6 percent.

Terrette appeared in 49 games in his Hilbert career, amassing 287 career points and made 81 three-point field goals.

Daniel Terrette

HILBERT COLLEGE HAWKS BASKETBALL CAMPS 2009

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.

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July 5-9
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For a brochure and additional information, contact:
Richard Walsh, 716-926-8800
rwalsh@hilbert.edu
As the newly elected Hilbert College Alumni Association president, I’m honored to take the reins of this strong association that has been made stronger by the dedication and hard work of the board.

The alumni association held many successful events throughout the spring, including a murder mystery dinner fund raiser that resulted in the association donating $1,500 to the Hilbert alumni endowed scholarship fund. We also hosted an on campus Lenten fish fry dinner in April and continued our involvement in the Professional Success Program, which had a makeover itself this year. Kudos for the new format! What’s more, the alumni board volunteered at the Hilbert Scholarship Golf Tournament on June 16, and helped package numerous raffle baskets and give-a-ways for the event.

The board also has worked on scheduling a variety of fun alumni events for the summer. A boat cruise on the new Spirit of Buffalo is scheduled for the evening of July 16, and our annual Friday Night Bash with the Buffalo Bisons at the recently renamed Coca Cola Park is scheduled for Aug. 14. In addition, we are working on details for a 1K walk/5K run planned for Sept. 26 with proceeds to benefit the alumni endowed scholarship.

For the second consecutive year, the board had the opportunity to have dinner with Hilbert President Cynthia Zane, an occasion that allowed us to discuss the future of the alumni association, as well as learn about exciting future endeavors of the college.

Alumni board members attended Hilbert’s 2009 commencement ceremony, which was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with our newest graduates and to welcome them to the Hilbert Alumni Association. It was a great honor for me to present to Erik Seeger the Kimberly Bruch Raczkowski Memorial Alumni Award.

As a save the date early reminder, this year’s Hilbert Alumni Awards and Reconnection Dinner will take place Nov. 7. Last year we had more than 150 alumni in attendance representing 40 years of graduates. This popular event is a wonderful way to reconnect and celebrate the achievements of Hilbert alumni, faculty, staff and friends. It also gives alumni an opportunity to “come home to Hilbert” and observe all the spectacular changes that have taken place on campus. We welcome your nominations and votes for the 2009 Hilbert alumni recognition awards (details may be found at www.hilbert.edu/alumni/alumni-awards).

Thanks to the support of all members of the Hilbert Alumni Association Board, we were able to achieve 100 percent participation in support of the 2008-09 Hilbert Fund, an effort vital to the college’s continued success. Our goal for the 2009-10 Hilbert Fund is to again attain 100 percent board participation. We strongly encourage Hilbert alumni to join us in supporting this effort.

As my alumni association presidency begins, I will strive to maintain the growth and strength of the Hilbert Alumni Association. I look forward to seeing Hilbert alumni, including the Class of 2009, at one of our exciting upcoming events!

Randy G. Ahmed
alumnipresident@hilbert.edu

To contact the Hilbert Office of Alumni Relations: call 716-926-8888 or e-mail charris@hilbert.edu

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MOLLY (CLINE) DAVIS, AA ’72 is a library associate at the Texas Tech University Library in Lubbock, Texas.

A. DANIEL SHEA, AA ’78, adjunct instructor of forensic science/crime scene investigation, has retired as police captain of the Town of Hamburg Police Department.

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CATHERINE GRANTIER COOLEY, AAS ’86 has been named partner at Hodgson Russ LLC in Buffalo.

SHERRI PULTA, AS ’88 was on the author panel for the Hilbert McGrath Library’s “Budding Writers @ Your Library” program. She discussed her work as author of the historical reference book Boston, NY and provided advice on becoming a published author.

ROBERT SAMUELSON, AA ’89 has been promoted to captain in the Jamestown Police Department.

'S90s
YVONNE (BLADY) CARROW, AA ’91 is enrolled in the professional accountancy master’s program at Daemen College.

MEGHAN CLAREY, BS ’05 is enrolled in the elementary education master’s program at Medaille College.

BRAD DIMARTINO, AA ’91 received a letter of commendation from the Evans Police Department for his involvement in the investigation of a hit-and-run accident.

TODD EHRET, BS ’96, a detective in the Town of Hamburg Police Department, accepted the Hilbert College Medal on behalf of the police department in recognition of their professionalism in the field, excellence in community service and for exemplifying many of Hilbert’s Franciscan values. The medal was presented at the college’s 2009 commencement ceremony (see page 11).

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JOSEPH LAROSA, AA ’93 was appointed a full-time police officer in the Evans Police Department.

CHRISTOPHER MANGIONE, BS ’94 has been named a probation administrator in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington, D.C.

NINA MCDERMOTT, BS ’99 has been accepted to Texas A&M University to pursue a master’s degree in criminal justice.

For more information on the 2009 Alumni Awards and Reconnection Dinner, please visit hilbert.edu/alumni-awards. The annual dinner will take place Nov. 7 at the Doubletree Hotel in Buffalo. Tickets are $75 per person and will include a sit-down dinner, cash bar, entertainment and awards presentations. Reservations can be made by contacting alumnipresident@hilbert.edu.

From the Alumni President

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BRIAN SCHROER, BS ’98 has been promoted from patrol officer to corporal and is traffic accident investigator in the Bay City Police Department in Bay City, Mich.

DAWN VALENTINE, AA ’90 BS ’95 is an assistant teacher in the Gowanda School District and serving as a volunteer firefighter, interior rescue, in the Collins Fire Company.

SARA (HAGER) ZINK, BS ’99 teaches in the business department in the Little Valley Central School District in Cattaraugus County.

MARSHALL ZINK, BS ’98 is a drill instructor at Lakeview Incarceration Correctional Facility in Brocton, N.Y.

‘00s

SARA ANTHIS, BS ’01 has passed the New York State Bar Exam.

NICOLE AQUINO, BS ’02 is based in Chicago, Ill., as a territory manager for Sybron Dental Specialties.

NICHOLE BECKER, BS ’01 has been named director of special events at the Western New York Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

MARGARET BESSEY, BS ’06 has graduated with a master’s degree in criminal justice from Xavier University.

AMANDA CALI, BS ’08 has accepted a position with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

JOHN CROMMILLER, BS ’08 has been named a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer.

THOMAS CZORA III, BS ’08 was named a financial representative for the Compass Group of Upstate New York, a general agency of New England Financial, a company of MetLife.

JESSICA (KOSHINSKY) DIETEMAN, BS ’04 is a preventative services case-worker at Baker Victory Services in Lackawanna, N.Y.

WILLIAM HAAS III, BA ’08 was honored by the Character Council of Hamburg for best exemplifying the character trait “honor.” A photo and caption related to the recognition was published in Haamburg’s The Sun newspaper.

SISTER CECELIA HAIER, FSSJ AA ’82 celebrated her 25th anniversary as a Franciscan Sister of St. Joseph.

CHRISTOPHER HULL, BS ’02 recently celebrated five years with the Southtowns Financial Group, Inc., where he is operations manager and a partner with the group.

ANTOINETTE INCORVAIA, BS ’05, owner of the Noni Bacca Winery in Wilmington, N.C., received a gold and bronze medal for two selections from her winery in the ninth annual Finger Lakes International Wine Competition.

PATRICK JOHNSON, BS ’01 was part of a five-man team that planned, coordinated and executed the world record “wall of fire,” which measured 10,178 feet, at the 2009 MCAS Yuma Air Show held March 14 in Yuma, Ariz. They bested the previous record of 6,700 feet. Video of the record-setting event is available on www.examiner.com (search for “wall of fire”).

JOHN KORDRUPEL, BS ’06 graduated in May with a master’s degree in urban planning from the University at Buffalo. He has accepted an offer from AmeriCorps VISTA and Massachusetts Campus Compact, and will be working at Northeastern University in Boston starting in August for a one-year commitment as service-learning assistant coordinator at Northeastern’s Center of Community Service.

BRADLEY LAWRENCE, BS ’01 is an accountant at the Jewish Community Center in Buffalo.

CHRISTINA LOUNSLEY, BS ’08 was named a paralegal in the Erie County Department of Western New York at its annual awards luncheon. She was recognized for her work on developing health education programs and building partnerships with other WNY organizations.

MALVIN PILATO, BS ’09 was on the author panel at the Hilbert McGrath Library’s “Budding Writers @ Your Library” program. He discussed his book of poetry, A Nefarious Felicity, and gave pointers on becoming a published author.

KATIE RALICKI, BS ’08 works with children ages 12-18 with behavioral problems at Child and Adolescent Treatment Services in Erie County.

JESSE REED, BS ’07 is a campus police officer in the New York State University Campus Police.

KEN ROUSE, BS ’07 graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and is working in road patrol in Gettysburg, Pa.

JEFFRY SOJA, BS ’06 graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and participated in a five-week park police training program.

JILLIAN SUTTELL, BS ’05 is enrolled as a student in Medaille College’s accelerated MBA program.

STEVEN TENEBSUSO, BS ’07 was named a customs agent in Buffalo.

JACOB WHITEHEAD, BS ’07 is a corrections officer at the Fishkill Correctional Facility and has joined the State Emergency Response Team. He’s also an adjunct police officer in the Town of Kiryas Joel, outside of New York City.

ERICA ZIMNY AA ’04 passed the Michigan Bar Exam and is an attorney at Kreis, Enderle, Huddings & Borsos, P.C., in Battle Creek, Mich.

Births

ALLAN BOQUIN, BS ’02 welcomed a boy, Alexzander Ellis.

JAMES GOLDEN, BS ’97 welcomed a boy, Evan James.

DIANE (HOTALING) KOZAK, BA ’96 and THOMAS KOZAK, JR., AA ’95, welcomed daughter Mariska Ayva, who joins big sister Noelle Anya.

In Memoriam

CHEYENNE JUMANAH, BS ’04, Hilbert College mourns the loss of Cheyenne Jumanah, a long-time member of the college community. A staff member since 1997, Cheyenne most recently served as director of multicultural affairs. She earned both bachelor’s and associate degrees in human services from Hilbert. Cheyenne will be deeply missed at the college. On behalf of the entire Hilbert community, our heartfelt condolences are extended to her family and friends.

TIMOTHY KRZES, AA ’06

SISTER GERALD PETERSON, FSSJ AA ’66
the ’70s

The once popular Buffalo newspaper Courier-Express, which closed its doors in 1982, featured Hilbert College in its Sunday Pictorial section in November 1970. At the time, Hilbert was entering its second year under the institution’s new name, having previously been known as Immaculata College, and students, faculty and staff were settled into the campus buildings that opened in 1969. Shown among the pictorial photos were Hilbert’s audio-visual communications center with equipment that allowed for five foreign languages to be taught simultaneously, McGrath Library, which contained 30,000 volumes, and the college’s original residence hall. An enrollment of 550 was also noted, a number that marked an increase of nearly 100 percent from the previous year.

To share some of your favorite memories as a student during the ’70s, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 716-926-8888, or e-mail charris@hilbert.edu.