Degrees to play pivotal role in advancing careers
Since becoming a member of the Hilbert College community, I have had multiple conversations with colleagues who worked with Sister Edwina Bogel, FSSJ, the college’s founding president. She was described as having a laser-like focus and determination to make the college a successful, thriving institution of higher learning. She was willing to challenge the status quo and expand the college’s outreach beyond students from her religious congregation, the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, first to lay women, and eventually male students. In 1992, the college added baccalaureate degree programs and significantly increased its outreach to traditional-aged students, which currently make up 79 percent of the student population.

Consistent with Sister Edwina’s legacy of embracing institutional change to meet the needs of the community, this issue of Hilbert Connections describes the process a talented group of Hilbert faculty, led by Dr. Christopher Holoman, provost and vice president for academic affairs, engaged in over the last two years to design and implement Hilbert’s first graduate programs. The college carefully analyzed mission fit, market demand, existing graduate programs in Western New York, and a candid assessment of our academic program capacity.

After an extensive review of the feasibility study data, the Hilbert Board of Trustees supported our intent to request a charter amendment from NYSED granting Hilbert the authority to award graduate degrees as well as approved the programs in criminal justice administration and also public administration. It was truly a thrilling experience to attend the March meeting of the New York State Board of Regents in Albany and hear the approval vote. The return trip to Hamburg was a joyous ride that seemed to be half the distance!

While this edition of Hilbert Connections describes many features of the two new programs, there is one aspect that resonates personally with me. When I attended graduate school at Northern Illinois University in the early 1980s, I was a working mother with two elementary school-aged sons. Multi-tasking the responsibilities of family, work and school were doable because of weekend classes in compressed time frames and supportive faculty who understood the unique needs of the adult student. Hilbert’s new graduate programs, like NIU that I attended, will make it possible to earn your degree while fulfilling your other family and work commitments. The class calendar and schedule will be available at a graduate student’s initial registration and will accommodate the complex demands of working adults.

We are grateful for the guidance provided by our St. Bonaventure University colleagues during our planning phase, especially Kevin Brayer, who assisted Hilbert in designing a student-centered cohort model. In Hilbert’s graduate model, students will complete a three-credit course every five weeks, attending one evening and a Saturday session. In class learning will be augmented by electronic learning experiences shared by a group of 15-20 other adult students completing the 18-month journey as a cohort.

If you are thinking about continuing your education, we hope you will consider becoming a member of Hilbert’s inaugural graduate class. Contact us if you would like to visit campus in the near future to tour the new Center for Adult and Graduate Studies located in 166 Paczesny Hall and learn more about Hilbert’s first graduate programs.

This is an exciting time in the history of Hilbert and all of this is possible because of your ongoing support. I am proud to be a member of the Hilbert community, and I know you share that feeling. Thank you for all you do to support Hilbert’s continuing quest for excellence.

Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D.
President
Graduate Programs Mark a New Era

Adding master-level programs is a watershed moment for Hilbert as the college sets out to further professional careers in two sought-after fields of study.

4 Forensic Science Goes Virtual

New technology is bringing intro course to students in blended traditional-online classroom format.

12 Faculty Q & A: The Advocate

How former music teacher Sharon Sisti became a leading advocate for domestic violence victims.

15 Alumni Awards and Reconnection Dinner

Photos from celebration of award honorees, special evening with former classmates, faculty and friends.
Forensic Science Goes Virtual

An introductory course in Hilbert College’s forensic science/crime scene investigation major, one of only two bachelor-level programs of its kind in New York State, will be offered for the first time as a blended traditional-online class, an innovative offering that’s being developed with an $18,000 Verizon Foundation grant.

Starting this fall Hilbert will offer an “Introduction to Forensic Science” course that will use a “hybrid” format that links online and classroom-based instruction. The course will be open to current students and others interested in learning more about the program but are not yet enrolled at the college, an endeavor that will help the college reach out to a larger student population.

Using the latest in virtual classroom technology, online students will be able to view and interact via “live chat” with the professor and students during the traditional class sessions scheduled for the introductory course, which is designed to familiarize students with basic forensic science concepts and techniques for the collection and preservation of crime scene evidence. A recorded version of each class will also be made available online to all students enrolled in the course, giving them access to the classes at any time and the advantage of reviewing course material as needed.

“Creating the forensic science course in a merged online and classroom-based approach evolved from numerous requests to make the course accessible online to provide flexibility for students unable to attend a traditional class due to professional or personal commitments,” said Mary Ann Hobar, assistant chairperson and associate professor of forensic science/CSI. “For individuals who are not current Hilbert students, participating in the course will familiarize them with Hilbert’s distinctive forensic science/CSI program, an opportunity that may prompt them to pursue their studies in the major at Hilbert.”

The online component for the course will also allow students to view PowerPoint presentations, DVD and video clips and other technology applications used as part of the class.

“With the virtual classroom, online students will be able to listen and see the instructor, demonstrations and experiments that are relevant to the class,” said Hobar.

“Technology is a powerful tool that opens a window to the global community,” said Maureen Rasp-Glose, director of government and external affairs at Verizon. “The Verizon Foundation is proud to support Hilbert’s use of broadband technology to enhance and expand learning.”

The pilot online forensic science course is intended to serve as a model at Hilbert as the college looks to steadily add more hybrid courses in the major and other academic programs.

“As we perfect the virtual classroom, it will allow us to tailor future online courses to offer broader choices for students who want or need the flexibility of online learning, whether they are traditional students or adult learners. We are providing students more opportunities to learn in ways that fit their busy schedules and, ultimately, to complete a degree at Hilbert,” said Hobar.

Online Giving Option Launched

Supporting Hilbert College has never been easier with a new online giving option now available on the college’s Web site.

The recently launched feature provides Hilbert donors a quick, easy and secure way to make online gifts with a major credit card to their funding area of choice. Using the online giving form, supporters may also set up recurring or installment contributions. It’s a convenient, easy way to support Hilbert and to have an immediate impact at the college.

To make a gift online, simply click the Give Now button located on Hilbert’s homepage at www.hilbert.edu, or visit the Giving to Hilbert section.

DONATE NOW
Enhancements Keep Students Warmer, Safer

Posted inside the bus shelter located near Hilbert College’s main entrance, a new sign with a weather appropriate message “Baby, it’s cold outside!” said it all for this season’s harsh winter. Yet, bus commuter students stayed warmer with cold weather winter items from Hilbert made available to them and a new bus shelter heater that was installed.

Along with the shelter heater in place, bus commuter students warmed up with gloves, hats and other winter items provided by the college’s Office of Mission Integration and Campus Ministry.

In addition to the cold weather assistance, a new campus sidewalk is helping to keep students safe as they walk from the bus shelter and enter the front end of campus. The sidewalk is the culmination of months of work by Gary Dillsworth, superintendent of physical plant operations, and the maintenance team, a project completed in cooperation with the Town of Hamburg Planning Board, NFTA, NYSEG and others.

Commuters also have a new place to relax, study and socialize with the addition of a commuter lounge that opened last fall in the Campus Center Lower Level. Lounge amenities include computers, wireless Internet access, lockers, a refrigerator and microwave, television, and sofas, offering students a comfortable and convenient place to go to between classes.

Giving Thanks to Donors

Doris were honored for their steadfast commitment and selfless generosity to Hilbert and higher education, including Alfred State College, the University of Notre Dame and Cornell College. In addition to establishing an endowed scholarship at Hilbert, they have provided numerous mentoring opportunities for members of the college’s Student In Free Enterprise organization.

A Hilbert trustee for many years, Bob Drago is a past recipient of the Hilbert College Medal, one of the highest honors bestowed by the college, which he received for his extraordinary commitment and service to higher education and for exemplifying Hilbert’s Franciscan values.

Bob Drago, Hilbert trustee emeritus, and Doris Drago were recognized as the college’s Distinguished Honoree at the Association of Fundraising Professionals WNY Chapter’s National Philanthropy Day luncheon.

Long-time Hilbert College donors Robert and Doris Drago were recognized as the college’s Distinguished Honoree at the Association of Fundraising Professionals WNY Chapter’s National Philanthropy Day luncheon.

National Philanthropy Day is a celebration of donations of time, talent and treasure that acknowledges individuals and organizations whose lifetime or long-term achievements have made a significant impact on the community.

Bob Drago, Hilbert trustee emeritus, and Doris Drago were honored as the college’s Distinguished Honoree at the Association of Fundraising Professionals WNY Chapter’s National Philanthropy Day luncheon.

Spring 2011 5
For a relatively young institution, Hilbert College has had a remarkable, transformative history. Now, the college is poised for its next momentous step as the institution prepares for its first graduate programs designed to improve and, ultimately, to take the careers of many working professionals to a whole new level.

In its rich history, Hilbert College has reached a number of significant educational milestones. From its 1957 founding as a teaching training college for the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, it opened its doors to lay women in 1964 and lay men in 1969. In 1992, Hilbert launched its first bachelor degree programs.

Now, the college is poised to embark on the next stage of its evolution. Come this fall, for the first time Hilbert will offer graduate degree programs.

“The new graduate-level programs will broaden Hilbert’s identity while adhering to our core values,” says Hilbert President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D. “Students being at the center of what we do at Hilbert guided this important decision. The college’s graduate programs are built on the very same Franciscan principles Hilbert was founded on and are being applied to a new constituency of students.”

Hilbert is launching two master’s degree programs: one leading to a master of science in criminal justice administration (MSCJA) and the other culminating in a master of public administration (MPA), making it, at present, the only master-level program of its kind in Western New York. Within each 18-month program, it’s expected the first class will number between 12-15 students and grow to a maximum of 25 in five years.

Faculty and administrators expect both 36-credit hour degree tracks, which will be taught by doctorally-prepared faculty, will attract professionals seeking advancement within their field, as well as traditional students, especially Hilbert alumni. Graduates will be equipped for mid- and upper-level administrative positions in

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**Job Outlook**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Type</th>
<th>NYS degrees conferred in 2009</th>
<th>NYS job openings projected annually</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice Administration</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>6,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>1,758</td>
<td>5,206</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Hanover Research Council
a myriad of criminal justice agencies, including law enforcement, courts and corrections, and government and non-profit agencies.

With the New York State Education Department having recently approved both programs, college stakeholders eagerly anticipate taking their part in an initiative that capitalizes on Hilbert’s existing strengths as it prepares graduates for promising careers in WNY and beyond.

“This move reinforces Hilbert’s presence in the community as a provider of a quality education and demonstrates that we have well-credentialed faculty prepared to teach at the undergraduate and graduate level,” says Christopher Holoman, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs, who headed the Graduate Program Task Force.

Together, graduate students in both programs will complete 15 credit hours of core courses before they branch off into advanced courses in their respective disciplines.

“The core curriculum that’s been developed,” says Holoman, “will provide common academic experiences for students in each program, creating a shared knowledge base that will provide a richer interdisciplinary educational experience and allow students to build skills that will be readily applicable in their professional field. Using this integrated approach, the five core courses are designed to ensure a foundational understanding of organizational management, finance and budgeting, statistics, program planning, and politics and policy analysis.”

All students also will complete a capstone course in their program of study that will integrate classroom learning and concepts learned throughout the curriculum that will culminate with a research project.

Michael Degnan, Ph.D., chairperson
of the Arts and Sciences Division and professor of English, who served on the task force, says: “While there were several compelling reasons for launching these programs, through the years, we heard from a number of graduating students who expressed strong interest in continuing their graduate-level studies at Hilbert.”

As the programs get underway, task force member Martin Floss, Ph.D., has been named chair of the MSCJA program. The college’s graduate programming will “take Hilbert to a new level,” Floss asserts. “This involves higher expectations and a rigorous academic program,” says Floss, professor of criminal justice and most recently director of the Hilbert Institute for Law and Justice. “The program will pay off several-fold for our students as it will position them to be exceptionally well prepared for more opportunities in the workplace.”

A Strategic Move

Several years of intense preparation brought Hilbert to this point. The college’s graduate degree programs emerged out of Destination 2012, Hilbert’s five-year strategic plan. The plan’s academic programming goals called for a feasibility study for graduate education to be completed in 2009 followed by a decision on implementation. To that end, the task force undertook an exhaustive internal audit to determine whether the college was fully equipped to offer graduate degree programs. Examining all aspects of Hilbert—its infrastructure, facilities, technological capabilities, faculty and staff—they determined that the college was, indeed, ready to move forward.

“The timing was right,” says Carol Nowak, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and a task force member. “This is a natural progression for us. With our strong undergraduate programs and from an organizational point of view, it was in the stars for graduate degrees to be added.”

Determining which programs the college would offer was the next step for task force members. While they considered several different options, ultimately, they concluded that the MSCJA and the MPA programs aligned with the college’s strengths and its mission.

“These two programs rose to the top because of our existing expertise in these areas,” says Zane. “We have tremendous expertise in criminal justice”—the college’s largest division—“and related strengths in areas in public administration. We felt strongly that we have the infrastructure to launch these graduate programs. In addition, the faculty have wonderful networks in Western New York to support our students in these fields.”

Throughout the process, Holoman says, a key mandate for the task force was to consider only those programs that translated to solid, stable careers. “In this case, the statistics are rather clear that there will not only be a demand for jobs in these areas, but the demand will grow in years to come,” says Holoman, adding that an advanced degree is highly desirable for career advancement in the fields targeted by the graduate programs.

According to independent research conducted for Hilbert by Hanover Research Council, 505 criminal justice administration-related degrees were conferred at the master’s level statewide in 2009, while an average of 6,950 job openings are projected to be available annually in New York through growth and replacement. Within the criminal justice field, a growing number of employers expect job candidates to hold advanced degrees, says long-time

Milestones in Hilbert’s History

1955 Immaculata College is founded.
1960 Lay women admitted.
1964 Institution officially becomes known as Hilbert College.
1969 First admittance of lay men.
1969 Bogel Hall, college’s original academic building, and McGrath Library open.
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1992 Hilbert begins offering bachelor-level degrees.
Hilbert faculty member Edward Qualey.

"Roughly 50 years ago, a college degree wasn’t required, except in the FBI," says Qualey, chairperson of the Criminal Justice/Forensic Science Division and associate professor of criminal justice. "But over the years, that’s changed. Many fields in criminal justice require a degree just for you to sit down and take a qualifying) test. Many positions at the federal level look for master’s degrees. And the reality is when you get into the police academy, almost everyone has a college degree. Hilbert’s criminal justice administration program is a good fit for those in the workforce who need more credentialing and experience."

In the MSCJA program, criminal law and courts, penology and causes of crime are among the focus areas for the 21 credit hours of degree specific courses, all of which cover essential advanced concepts in criminal justice.

"As for Hilbert’s MPA, “it’s a very popular degree in other parts of the country,” Holoman says, “and it’s increasingly seen as a valuable alternative to other types of degrees, whether an MBA or a law degree. This is a multidisciplinary degree that combines the best of those degrees for mid- and upper-level managers in a wide range of institutions.”

Employment prospects are bright for MPA graduates. Hanover’s research revealed that in 2009, 1,758 public administration-related degrees were conferred at the bachelor’s and master’s levels, while an annual average of 5,206 job openings are projected for individuals with those degrees statewide. Locally, WNY is home to an abundance of governmental agencies and not-for-profit organizations, and many face challenges staffing positions created by the retirement of baby boomers. MPA degree recipients will be poised to fill these vacancies or, in the case of mid-career professionals, advance within their own organizations. And in both circumstances, graduates will have the skills to handle the increasingly complex budgeting, strategic planning and governmental oversight that are often part of the job description.

The major components of the MPA curriculum cover state and local government functions, court administration, values and ethics and a concentration of study in management as it relates to nonprofit, governmental and law-related organizations.

“The MPA is suitable for Hilbert in so many ways,” says task force member Yvonne Downes, Ph.D., professor of criminal justice. “Hilbert is a service-oriented institution, so we strongly support the idea of being of service to people. The MPA is designed to help people move up in a variety of agencies. It allows them to be better prepared to serve in many fields.”

A Cohort Model

Within their respective disciplines, Hilbert’s graduate programs feature several unique and enriching characteristics.

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Hilbert's Criminal Justice/Forensic Science Division and associate professor of criminal justice, Edward Qualey.

Enrollment tops 1,000 for the first time.

Paczesny Hall, new academic building, and William E. Swan Auditorium open.

Hilbert’s first graduate programs launched.

$2 million Title III grant received aimed at bolstering student success.

What we’re hoping is that after a couple of cohorts complete the programs, we can apply for national accreditation. Right from the start of the programs, we are aiming high.”

~ Dr. Michael Degnan
Hilbert College’s MSCJA program is designed to examine the nature and causes of crime in society. A multidisciplinary approach is used to examine how society and criminal justice agencies should best respond to issues of crime, delinquency and social control. This academic program is practically based by providing students with skills in research, planning, management, as well as budgeting and finance that can be applied within the context of the criminal justice system.

Student Population
The MSCJA is targeted to mid-career adult learners, and also will appeal to Hilbert students who are currently enrolled in, or recently completed, a bachelor’s degree program.

Career Objectives
Graduates will be prepared for leadership positions in criminal justice and related agencies, teaching at the community college level, and continuing their education at the doctoral level.

Curriculum
The program consists of 36 credit hours of graduate study which comply with the standards of the American Criminal Justice Science for graduate programs. The initial 15 credit hours constitute a common core curriculum that is shared with the MPA program.

Sampling of Courses
• Criminal Law and Courts
• Nature and Causes of Crime
• Policing in Contemporary Society

MSCJA Information
masterscriminaljustice@hilbert.edu

The MPA program at Hilbert College is intended to provide the credentials and skills necessary for promotion into managerial positions in nonprofit, governmental and law-related organizations. Currently, this is the only master-level program of its kind in Western New York. It is designed for mid-career professionals and will allow students to attain the necessary skills in an integrated curriculum that also draws on their current work environment.

Student Population
The MPA program is targeted to individuals who have professional working experience and/or those who are currently employed professionals or paraprofessionals intending to move into managerial positions in their field.

Career Objectives
Graduates will be qualified and prepared for middle and upper management positions in a wide variety of public service fields and in all levels of government (federal, state, local, and regional), nonprofits organizations, international arena, and the private sector.

Curriculum
The program consists of 36 credit hours of graduate study that comply with the standards of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA). Of the total 36 credit hours, the initial 15 constitute a common core curriculum that is shared with the MSCJA program.

Sampling of Courses
• Court Administration and Processes
• Financial Resource Development
• Marketing and Public Relations for Not-for-Profits

MPA Information
masterspublicadministration@hilbert.edu

Unlike a traditional learning model, the MSCJA and the MPA programs are organized in an accelerated cohort format. Over 18 months, each class of students advances through the program together, taking a specified set of courses as a group through to degree conferral. Research has found this type of structure encourages in-class participation, cohesion among classmates and student retention.

“The cohort model allows students to build relationships with classmates, to work together as a team and to have a good understanding of the material in a team environment,” says Holoman.

To that end, course schedules have been tailored with the working professional in mind. Each term lasts five weeks and consists of one course that meets on Wednesday evenings and Saturdays.

“This academic schedule allows adult students to plan their lives,” Zane says. “Rather than going into a program where one semester you have class on Monday and the next you have class on Tuesday, you know the days you’ll have class for the next 18 months, so you can organize your work and home life accordingly.”

Both programs have been designed to qualify for accreditation from the relevant accrediting bodies – the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) in the case of the MPA, and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences for the MSCJA.

“What we’re hoping is that after a couple of cohorts complete the programs, we can apply for national accreditation,” Degnan says. “Right from the start of the programs, we are aiming high.”

The curriculum also aims, from the start, to hone students’ research skills. Unlike many master’s programs in which students devote their final semester to an independent research project, Hilbert’s master’s candidates will work on their project throughout the program.

“This is a research-oriented curriculum,” explains Nowak. “It starts from the moment students walk through the door and finishes with a capstone course. At the end they will have put together a very comprehensive research project.”

Research projects will likely explore different aspects of program planning and evaluation. They may be a student initiative developed during an internship at a public agency or in the workplace. A student in the MSCJA program could, for example, launch an after-school program for at-risk
youth or evaluate policy change within an organization, such as how the shift from two-officer police patrol units to one impacts a police department.

“Throughout the curriculum they will be advancing their research project,” Floss says. “They’ll be reviewing the literature on organizational change, exploring research methods writing and working on their research proposal. Our students—all of them—will be working on changing and improving agencies and people’s lives.”

Supporting Students at Every Step

For all of the programs’ demands, graduate students can expect to receive Hilbert’s trademark support and guidance every step of the way.

An information literacy initiative has been woven into each program to ensure that students possess up-to-date research skills. Hours at Hilbert’s McGrath Library will be extended on Wednesdays to accommodate graduate students, and the library is expanding its holding of books, journals and other resources essential to academic success at the master’s-degree level. Evening academic support will be offered to students seeking to bolster their math or writing skills.

“It’s always been the tradition at Hilbert to support students, and that’s going to extend to the graduate level,” says Nowak. “Many graduate students will likely be returning to college after years in the workforce and may need additional support to meet the demands that come with being a student again. At Hilbert, we want to be sure that every student receives that support in order to be successful in their studies.”

Adds Downes: “We have been successful over the past few decades attracting and retaining very creative, very dedicated undergraduates. Part of the reason we can do that is because of the wonderful environment we have here. We build strong bonds. With the graduate program, we will retain that sense of connection.”

As the college prepares to receive its first graduate degree applications, Hilbert’s faculty and staff stress that undergraduate education will remain central to the college’s mission.

“Our undergraduates are the heart and soul of Hilbert. Having this additional graduate student population on campus will be exciting and enhance the overall student experience at the college,” Holoman says.

“The engaging cohort curriculum and integration of core and graduate coursework tracks will all be vital to the development of our students’ knowledge and professional skills,” he adds. “With this cohesive educational environment, we’re preparing students to go on to the next step in their careers and to bring a higher level expertise to their organizations.”

A former Buffalo News reporter, Nicole Peradotto is a freelance writer who frequently covers higher education.

“The program will pay off several-fold for our students as it will position them to be exceptionally well prepared for more opportunities in the workplace.”

~ Dr. Martin Floss

“Applications and Information

Online applications available at: www.hilbert.edu

Spring 2011 11
The Advocate
Sharon Sisti is steadfast in her pursuit to help domestic violence victims

By Max DelSignore

Sharon Sisti has dedicated nearly 30 years of her professional career to human services in Western New York. Through teaching, music and art, the Long Island native has been an inspiring figure to Hilbert College and its campus community.

Sisti, chairperson of Hilbert’s Social Sciences Division and an assistant professor of human services, started as a faculty member at the college in 1996 after working almost 20 years as a social worker at Child & Family Services in Buffalo. A former instrumental elementary music teacher, Sisti earned a master’s degree in social work from the University at Buffalo and a bachelor’s degree in music education from SUNY Fredonia.

A dedicated, proactive advocate for domestic violence victims, Sisti was named the 2009 Social Worker of the Year by the Western Division of the National Association of Social Workers New York State Chapter, and in the same year received the William B. Hoyt Award from the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence. She also received honors for excellence in teaching and service from Hilbert over the past seven years. However, it’s no surprise that Sisti is quick to deflect praise and even quicker to give back, especially to Hilbert and the surrounding area.

What drew you to the human services profession?

When I was working with young children in education, I realized that a lot of these kids had difficulties that were far beyond what I could handle as a music teacher or could approach as a teacher. At the time I was looking at graduate programs, cutbacks were being made in arts and music programs, so I knew being in that field wasn’t going to be productive in the long-term. I felt I could reach families better if I was in a helping profession field, and social work made a lot of sense to me. It’s a broad-based effort to help people.

Why did you choose family/domestic violence as your area of specialty?

So many families are affected by violence. When we think about family violence, we think of just spousal abuse, but family violence really includes violence throughout the life span. The families I’ve worked with have each experienced abuse of some kind. I found that if we could work with adult victims of abuse, we had a lot better chance of having successful outcomes with the children.

What three words best describe you?

Loyal, fair and passionate.

How do you integrate drums into your teaching practice?

Talk therapy is not the only way to reach people. In the helping professions, very often talk therapy is the first line of defense. Yet, for most of us, we learn things in different ways, whether it’s our own individual learning styles or our emotional learning styles. For many people, the way to reach them isn’t through talk therapy, but other ways of communication. How do you communicate with the other parts of you that are damaged or need to heal? Therapeutic drumming is just one of the means to accomplish that.

In one of my classes, we bring in many drums and spend the whole time just drumming. I teach the students a little history about the drums. They learn how to communicate with each other without talking. It’s an opportunity to let go of what’s going on in their lives and to connect in a different way.

You’re incredibly active outside of teaching. What’s the catalyst for being as helpful as you are?

I think it’s a sense of giving back. My personal belief is if you’re going to be in this field, specifically social work and human services, I think it’s important to give back and to experience giving back. In my years of working, I’ve always volunteered with something, it gives you a greater sense of self to know you’re not doing it simply to earn a living.

One way in which you gave back to Hilbert was with a wooden art piece nearly 10 years ago.

That was a cool experience. When I began drumming 15 or so years ago, I couldn’t afford a drum. So, I thought I would just make my own. I didn’t know anything about how to make one, but I learned about it and made my first one. Then I just made another one, and another one, and another one. Then, all of the sudden I had all these drums at home. I thought I would start selling some and do some shows, like Allentown Arts Festival. Then I tried making some other pieces, which led to receiving a small grant for the wooden sculpture project. The piece was designed to address the spirit of community and there were about 17 species of wood used to represent diversity.

On the topic of fun, what do you do with your free time?

I’m a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Between March and May I participate in hawk migration research for the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Hamburg happens to be within the Mid-Atlantic flyway and we’re anxious to break our 2003 record of 17,411 hawks this coming season. The better part of my days, however, are reserved for time spent on the weekends with my wonderful grandsons. Ethan and Collin (ages 3 and 5) make every day a great day.

Continued on page 14
In the
SPORTS Zone

Varsity Lacrosse Debuts at Hilbert

The Hilbert College men’s lacrosse team has kicked off its inaugural regular season, marking the debut of the first new varsity-level sport at the college since men’s volleyball was added nearly a decade ago.

“Adding lacrosse to Hilbert’s athletics program offers new opportunities for our student-athletes to participate in intercollegiate sports. We believe that broadening our varsity sport offerings, particularly with one of the fastest growing sports in the country, will help enhance the overall student experience at Hilbert. We’re excited to move forward with the first season of the men’s lacrosse program,” said Susan Viscomi, director of athletics.

Lacrosse began at Hilbert as an active club sport in 2003, giving the program a good foundation to build on to take it to the varsity level. To prepare for their first full season of competition, the team played on the road during a spring training trip to Myrtle Beach and Philadelphia, and participated in preseason exhibition games last fall.

The Hilbert women’s lacrosse program is starting as a club sport with plans to move up to NCAA Division III in Spring 2013.

A Silver Season

Hilbert College’s 2010 women’s soccer team has received a Silver Award for completing a season with zero red cards and less than five yellow cards, marking the ninth season in a row the program has earned a National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Team Ethics/Sportsmanship Award for their fair play on the field.

Garnering numerous previous accolades from the NSCAA, the Hawks women’s soccer program is a four-time Gold Award winner for completing a season with zero red or yellow cards and a five-time Silver Award honoree.

Also in Hilbert women’s soccer, the 2010 NSCAA/adidas Women’s Team Academic Award winners included the Hawks for achieving a team cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher during the 2009-10 academic year. It’s the second year in a row and fifth overall the program received this distinction.

Did you know?...

Hawks basketball player Dan McFarland hit for 30-plus points five times this season.
What makes the human services program at Hilbert unique?
We definitely have a commitment to diversity and to communities. We have an extremely active Human Services Association, which does a tremendous amount of quality work in the community—working with children’s programs, domestic violence victims and older adults. Last year, some students helped senior citizens fill out Medicaid forms online. Something like that seems mundane to most of us, but if you haven’t had that experience or knowledge, it’s tricky.

What are some of your fondest memories from teaching at Hilbert?
Having a student that has struggled academically or has had issues in their personal life, and seeing them pull it together to not only graduate but to get a job and let us know about their successes, that’s what makes it all worthwhile.

You’ve been recognized with numerous accolades. What do you see as the greatest achievement you’ve received from your professional experiences?
This is the honest truth: having seen children from families I worked with many years ago be successful. It shows that it’s all worth it and we do things that can impact people in a positive way. HC

“A Terra Nova,” a play directed by Taylor Doherty, assistant professor of drama, was selected by The Buffalo News theater critic Ted Hadley as top of the five best plays of the fall season. The play was performed last September by the Buffalo Laboratory Theatre in Hilbert’s William E. Swan Auditorium.

A review of “Bite-Sized Marketing: Realistic Solutions for the Overworked Librarian” by Katie Donahue, assistant library director and information literacy coordinator, has been published in the Western New York Library Resources Council’s Journal of Library Innovation.

Kathryn Eskew, associate professor of human services, has been named a member of the Council on Disability and Rehabilitation Studies, a national group working on accreditation standards for undergraduate rehabilitation studies, an undergraduate code of ethics and coordination with the Commission on Rehabilitation Education.

Ron Eskew, Ph.D., professor of psychology, has been appointed director of institutional research and assessment.

Christopher Gallant, assistant professor of digital media and communication, has received the 2010 Professional Achievement Award from the Buffalo State College Communication Department.

Craig Harris, most recently director of alumni relations and annual giving, has been named director of development.

Erika Haygood, assistant professor of liberal studies, performed in the 11th annual “When Sisters Speak,” North America’s largest spoken word concert held in Toronto.

Patrick Heraty, professor of business administration, has achieved the designation of Certified Six Sigma Black Belt through the Acuity Institute.

Alaina Houseknecht, who earned bachelor’s degrees in communication/journalism and psychology from St. John Fisher College, has been named special events coordinator.

Andrew Kolin, Ph.D., professor of political science, is presenting a paper on the “Formation of the American Police State” at the New York State Political Science Association’s 65th Annual Conference being held in April at Niagara University.

Sam Palmiere, adjunct instructor of criminal justice, has been elected chairman of the board of directors of the Erie County Law Enforcement Foundation, Inc.

The Criminal Justice Educators Association of New York State has presented Edward Qualey, chairperson of the Criminal Justice/Forensic Science Division and associate professor of criminal justice, the 2010 Richard B. Lewis Award, the association’s highest honor.

Don Vincent, Ph.D., assistant professor of digital media and communication, will have an article published on “Religion and the Decision to Donate Organs: Exploring the Potential Role of Religious Leaders,” which is based on his dissertation research. The article will be published in the Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology.

Paula Witherell, public relations director, has received an honorable mention in the electronic newsletters category for Hilbert Weekly in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District II’s Accolades Awards Program.

Hilbert President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., has been elected vice-chair of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities Board of Directors. HC
2010 Alumni Award Recipients

Susan Farrell accepts for her husband John Farrell ’74 – St. Francis Award for Community Service (posthumous)

Ruth Lovelace ’89 – St. Francis Award for Community Service

Amy Pfeffer ’06 – Graduate of the Last Decade Award

Sarah Reynolds-Seweryniak ’09 – Graduate of the Last Decade Award

Professor of Business Administration

Daniel Roland – Sister Adrienne Faculty/Staff Lifetime Achievement Award

Trustee Emerita

Karen Gaughan Scott – Hilbert College Franciscan Values Award

Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

Donna Zimpfer ’98 – Dominique Thompson Memorial Alumna of the Year

To read more about the alumni award recipients, visit the Newsline section at www.hilbert.edu.
As president of the Hilbert College Alumni Association for another term, I feel honored to be a part of the success and progress we have made over the past several years. The association continues to develop and there are many more achievements left for our team to conquer. The Hilbert Alumni Association has made several fundraising strides since the beginning of the year. As graduates, it is our distinct pleasure to continue giving back to the college we know and love.

Over the past few months, we have hosted several wonderful events, including a sold-out dinner theater, a well-attended fish fry dinner and our annual Professional Success Program.

The Hilbert Alumni Association has been very busy planning some enjoyable upcoming events. We are looking forward to our 5K Memorial Run/1 Mile Walk on April 9, sponsored this year by Liberty Mutual. All proceeds will benefit student scholarships. We will also host on July 29 our 10th annual Hilbert Day at Coca-Cola Field, which includes a Buffalo Bison’s game and other fun benefits at an affordable price.

We always welcome all alumni members to “come back to Hilbert” and to participate in our events, as well as appreciate your opinion on future activities to encourage more alumni involvement. The Hilbert Alumni Association strives to continue your connection to the college. I hope to see you at our next event.

Amy M. Meisner
alumnipresident@hilbert.edu

From the Alumni President

‘60s
SISTER ANNA MARIE HUDZINA AA’ 69 has been named general minister of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamburg, N.Y.

SISTER JOYCE KUBINIEC AA ‘69 has been named general councilor of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamburg, N.Y.

‘70s
SISTER ANN FIUTKO AA ‘73 has been named associate general minister of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamburg, N.Y.

STATE ASSEMBLYMAN JOSEPH GIGLIO AA ‘75 has been named to New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s Medicaid Redesign Team.

SISTER SHARON GOODREMOTE AA ‘71 has been named general councilor of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamburg, N.Y.

SISTER MICHAEL MARIE JORDAN AA ‘70 has been named general councilor of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph in Hamburg, N.Y.

‘80s
MARIE (GRISANTI) BRZUSZKIEWICZ AAS ‘81 received the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation Award in November.

KIMBERLY (PIAZZA) FISHER AAS ‘85 is director of the back office at Iberdrola Renewables in Houston, Texas.

SANDRA MATTucci AA ‘84 has published her second children’s book entitled Clipperet the Caterpillar.

MARK WIPPERMAN BS ‘89 has become the youngest undersheriff in modern history at the Erie County Sheriff’s Office, a post he was appointed to in August.

‘90s
CATHERINE (MASSARI) BURGASSER BS ’99 is a paralegal at Prisoner’s Legal Services in Buffalo.

DANIEL BENZ BS ’97 is a border patrol agent in Detroit, Mich.

DAWN BOUDREAU BS ’99 is a compliance coordinator at the Erie County Industrial Development Agency.

MARY ANN (BUTTON OLEJNIK) CROOKS BS ’98 is employed at U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Buffalo.

DAVID DEWOLFE BS ’99 is a police officer in the Lexington Division of Police in Lexington, Ky. He received a master’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati and is an adjunct instructor at ITT Technical Institute in Lexington.

GARI RICCI II BA ’99 is a qualified professional (QP) at A Small Miracle, Inc., in Wilson, N.C.

MEGAN BESSEY AM ’06 is a Title Examiner in M&T Bank in Buffalo.

‘00s
AMY ANDERSON BS ’07 is studying nursing at Trocaire College in Buffalo.

BRAD BARTRAM BS ’07 is vice president of information technology and chief technology officer at Digits LLC in West Seneca, N.Y. He is also an adjunct instructor in Hilbert’s computer security and information assurance program.

MEGAN BESSEY BS ’06 is an adjunct professor of criminal justice and crime lab coordinator at Beckfield College in Florence, Ky.

DENNIS BROWN BS ’09, also known as “Downtown Dennis Brown,” is a flyweight contender in mixed martial arts (MMA) and holds a record of 5-0.

AMANDA CALI BS ’08 is a border patrol agent in the Department of Homeland Security in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

THOMAS CONE BA ’06 is a contact representative for the Internal Revenue Service in Buffalo.

KEVIN DASH BS ’05 is a security forces sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

SARA DEANTHONY BS ’04 is director and head preschool teacher at A Leap in Learning Child Care Center in Boston, N.Y.

RYAN EBERHARDT BS ’01 is employed with the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol in Buffalo.

Funeral Home, she is a member of the East Aurora Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of East Aurora, and was instrumental in developing a benefit for the local fire department.
JENNA ENGEL BS ’09 is assistant to the chief of staff in the Erie County Executive Office.

CHRIS FANALE BS ’09 has been accepted into the Chautauqua County Sheriff’s Academy.

KATIE (LANGE) FIELDS BS ’02 is a payroll auditor at Arcara and Borczynski LLP in Buffalo.

DEVON (HERKIMER) FIK BA ’02 has been promoted to claims manager at NCAComp, Inc., in Buffalo.

PAM GIBBINS BS ’09 has received a master’s degree in education from Canisius College.

JEREMY GILBERT BS ’05 has been promoted to inside sales representative in Ingram Micro’s Cisco Business Unit in Buffalo.

STEVEN GOLDSMITH BS ’09 has been accepted into the doctoral program in criminal justice at SUNY Albany.

TONYA (DRILLING) GOURDINE BS ’02 is a litigation supervisor/lead paralegal at Shapiro, DiCaro and Barak LLC in Gates, N.Y.

TRAVIS JACKSON AA ’09 has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

ERIK JOHANSON BS ’08 is a police officer in the City of Tonawanda Police Department.

PATRICK JOHNSON AA ’02 received a bachelor’s degree in business management and a master’s degree in public management from Park University. He is Pacific region reports manager at ManTech International Corp., in Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

JESSICA (JUREWICZ) LILIENTHAL BS ’05, who received a master’s in integrated marketing communications from St. Bonaventure University, is a proposal coordinator at Independent Health in Buffalo.

ANDREW MANCINI BS ’07 has completed Army basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina.

NATHANIEL MEAD BS ’03 is an environmental conservation officer for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Buffalo.

BRIAN MEYERS BS ’05 is emergency preparedness coordinator for Wyoming County in New York.

MICHAEL ODERNO BS ’06 has completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and earned distinction as an honor graduate.

JACOB RACHWAL BS ’09 is a fraud examiner at Photofacts Fraud Surveillance, Inc.

MARK RAMOS BS ’06 is a teacher’s aide at the Stanley G. Falk School in Buffalo.

JESSE REED BS ’07 is a police officer in the Town of West Seneca Police Department in New York.

LINDSAY RINDOS BS ’07 is a police officer in the St. Petersburg Police Department in Florida.

LEANNE ROSNER BS ’07 received a master’s degree in intelligence studies from the American Public University System, and is working in market development for SonicWALL at Buffalo’s Ingram Micro.

SHAWN SHEARER BS ’00 owns Total Cleaning Solutions and Nickel City Redemption in Buffalo.

GREG SZAROWICZ BS ’05 is a police officer in the Town of Evans Police Department in New York.

GLEN UFLAND BS ’07 is an agent for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

JACOB WHITEHEAD BS ’07 has been promoted to criminal investigator for the New York State Department of the Inspector General.

KEITH WESOLEK BS ’00 is a police officer in the Town of Cheektowaga Police Department in New York.

JACOB WHITEHEAD BS ’07, who recently received a master’s degree in forensic psychology, is a drug and alcohol counselor at the Gowanda Correctional Facility. She also was a presenter in Hilbert’s “Forensic Psychology” course.

JAMIE MOLNAR BS ’10 is enrolled in the forensic science master’s program at the University of New Haven in Connecticut.

JAMES RIEHLE BA ’10 has been working on various multimedia projects at WNYSW.Media Services and also other film and broadcast projects, including a “Ghost Hunters” episode that was broadcast live Halloween night.

Send Us Your News...

New job? Traveled across the country? Published a book?

Let us know what’s new with you – weddings, births, job changes, honors, new degrees and other news you’d like to share.

To submit your class note, simply e-mail dmessinger@hilbert.edu. Please include your name, current contact information, degree, year of graduation, and a high-resolution photo (if available).

Share your news with us by May 1 and you’ll be eligible for a random drawing of a Hilbert College lanyard and hat!

‘10s

ANDREA CORIGLIANO BS ’10 is a sales and marketing analyst at Rosina Foods in Buffalo.

DAWN EVANS BS ’10 is a student in the forensic science master’s program at the University of New Haven in Connecticut.

ROXIE HERBERGER BS ’10 has completed training at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Academy in Georgia and is employed with U.S. Border Patrol in Buffalo.

GREGORY LAKE BS ’10 assisted at the Town of West Seneca Police Department’s 19th Citizen Police Academy.

JAMIE MOLNAR BS ’10 is enrolled in the forensic science master’s program at the University of New Haven in Connecticut.

JAMES RIEHLE BA ’10 has been working on various multimedia projects at WNYSW.Media Services and also other film and broadcast projects, including a “Ghost Hunters” episode that was broadcast live Halloween night.
from the Buffalo Central Terminal.

MICHAEL SENDOR BS’10 won the 2010 Buffalo Yacht Club Main & Jib Boat of the Year.

TINA STOVER BS ’10 is a contact representative for the Internal Revenue Service in Massachusetts.

BARBARA WILLIAMS BS ’10 is enrolled in the mental health master’s program at Canisius College.

Weddings

NICOLE ANTONIO BS ’07 to Robert Suszek on June 5, 2010

NICHOLE BECKER BS ’01 to Joseph Ranney on June 12, 2010. Included in Nichole’s wedding party were fellow Hilbert graduates Jennifer (Smith) Wierzbz BS ‘01, Stephanie (Sauer) Mateczun AAS ’85, and Sheri-le (Grover) Rupp BS ’05.

TONYA DRILLING BS ’08 to Shawn Gourdin in October 2009

Brian Meyers BS ’05 to Tricia Snyder in September 2010

JENNIFER (HAMM) ROBERTS BS ’94, welcomed a daughter, Sierra Lynn, on Aug. 16, 2010.

Renee (Kupski) Schaus, welcomed a son, Cayden John, on Jan. 19, 2010.

In Memoriam

EVE MAHONEY BS ’02
Nov. 13, 2010

Hilbert College mourns the loss of Eve Mahoney, a long-time staff member who had given 33 years of dedicated service to the college when she retired last April. She started work in Hilbert’s Maintenance Department. After a stint as residence hall director, she returned to the maintenance department where her duties included serving as supervisor of materials management. During her tenure, she earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Hilbert. Eve will be deeply missed. The Hilbert community extends our deep condolences to her family and friends.

MICHAEL MCCARTHY JR. AA ’74 Jan. 21, 2011 HC

New Baby Hawks!

If you are a Hilbert College alumnus, we’d like to welcome your baby Hawk to the family with a Hilbert onesie or bib. Simply share with us news of your birth announcement and we’ll send you a complimentary new baby item. Share your littlest Hawk update by e-mailing dmessinger@hilbert.edu.
One Generation Helping the Next

Thank You,
Maurice and Pearl Emerling

Maurice “Morrie” and Pearl ’75 Emerling are an exceptional example of the power of planned giving. Because of the couple’s gift planning many years ago, Hilbert College recently received a generous gift of insurance used to create the Emerling Family Endowed Scholarship Fund, which will provide support in perpetuity to Hilbert students.

After Pearl earned a business certification from Bryant and Stratton College, the mother of five decided to pursue a liberal arts degree at Hilbert “for the sheer joy of learning.” Both Pearl and Morrie placed great importance on education, which led them to establishing a trust fund to ensure their grandchildren had the opportunity to attend private secondary school, and strongly encouraged them to further their studies in college. Today, all of their 15 grandchildren have either received a college degree or plan to pursue one.

It was this fundamental value on education that motivated Pearl and Morrie, who passed away in 2009, to include Hilbert in their estate planning. It’s a gift that stands out because of the thought that went into establishing it when, at a young age, they planned their bequests with a financial planner. “Morrie was very civic-minded,” remembers Pearl, and, as a couple, they sought ways to give back.

In reflecting on the family’s planned gift made to Hilbert, Pearl says: “My husband would be very proud.”

Support through a planned gift can help you make a larger impact than you imagined possible. To learn how you can support Hilbert and its students, contact the Hilbert Office of Institutional Advancement at 716-649-7900.

Ways you can leave a legacy:

• Include Hilbert College in your will.
• Make Hilbert a beneficiary of your insurance policy.
• Add Hilbert as one of the beneficiaries of your IRA or 401K.
• Gift an insurance policy that you no longer need to Hilbert.
Relaxing in their room in Hilbert College’s first on campus residence facility, St. Joseph Hall, two students check out the soundtrack album from the 1970s era film “A Star is Born.” At the time, the two-story residence hall was the only on campus living facility, which was built as part of the college’s original five-building campus. Since then, a growing demand for residential housing at Hilbert has resulted in an expanded housing program that today includes campus apartments and a new state-of-the-art residence hall, all of which have created the largest residential community ever on campus.