HILBERT COLLEGE
Connections
Taking the Classroom into the Community
Bringing Franciscan values to the learning experience
Commencement 2012: Highlights and Photos Inside
Although summer has officially ended, the return of our 1100 students for the fall semester signals the change of the seasons at Hilbert. Our enrollment includes 300 new students who are joining our community for the first time. Faculty and staff continue their laser-like focus on student success including the Foundations seminar, linked classes, and an intrusive advising model. One new initiative in the planning phase is an internship readiness experience. As you know, the sluggish economy has made securing that first job after graduation very challenging. Our goal is to significantly expand the number of internship placements for Hilbert undergraduate students which will help them in their job search.

The cover story in this edition of Hilbert Connections, describes another experiential learning opportunity: Hilbert’s new Service Learning program. As a Catholic Franciscan College, service is an integral component of our DNA. Hilbert students, faculty, and staff have been actively engaged in service since the College’s founding in 1957. This initiative builds on that foundation. Faculty members, in partnership with Ellen Oman, the Service Learning Coordinator, have formalized Hilbert’s commitment to service with classroom instruction, critical reflective thinking, as well as personal and civic responsibility. Faculty and students are addressing local needs, while concurrently developing their academic skills and commitment to the community. The students’ experiences have been life changing and it is exciting to see this mission-centric enhancement of our academic curriculum.

Dr. Meredith Ezak, describes another improvement in our academic environment, the transformation of our physical science laboratory in the Faculty Q & A section this edition. Thanks to a generous grant from the J.R. Oishei Foundation, Hilbert students now have access to the latest equipment and technology as they meet the scientific literacy learning outcome. When you are on campus, be sure to stop by the new biology and physical science labs in Bogel 151 and 155. These specialized learning environments and new equipment have made an immensely positive impact on student learning at the College.

Finally, we are putting the finishing touches on our new strategic plan, Vision 2017. Some of the details of this plan are shared in Hilbert Connections on page 18. The strategic plan may also be found on the College’s web site at www.hilbert.edu/about-hilbert/strategic-plan. The goals focus on increasing enrollment, strengthening our unshakable focus on student learning, enhancing our campus environment, and expanding our partnerships in the external community with Catholic and Franciscan organizations, as well as those with non-religious associations.

At Hilbert College we are committed to supporting and making a difference in the lives of our students every day. Please let me know if you would like to visit the campus and meet some of the students, faculty, or staff who are engaged in this journey together. We are very proud of what we are accomplishing and would be delighted to have them share their stories with you.

Hilbert’s new learning initiative has formalized our commitment to service with classroom instruction, critical reflective thinking, and personal and civic responsibility.

Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D.
President
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Gregg Fort Appointed Vice President for Institutional Advancement

There are two things that you notice the first time you meet Gregg Fort. First is his unmistakable Southern accent, and the second is his unbridled enthusiasm.

“One of my favorite quotes is from Daniel Burnham who said make no small plans. They cannot stir our blood,” Fort stated.

As Hilbert’s recently named vice president for institutional advancement, Fort came to Hamburg after spending five years as an assistant vice president for advancement at DePaul University in Chicago.

While at the nation’s largest Catholic institution, Fort developed comprehensive initiatives that were instrumental in securing over $20 million dollars in funding at the institution to support the university’s successful $250 million comprehensive capital campaign: Many Dreams, One Mission, The Campaign for DePaul University.

Fort supervised corporate relations, central major giving, and strategic planning for the Office of Advancement, DePaul’s President’s Club, as well as the division’s prospect development initiative. Fort also served as the major gift officer and campaign director for Catholic Initiatives.

“People continue to ask me what dramatic change it must be to come from the largest Catholic university in North America to Hilbert,” Fort noted. “I always point out that my alma mater is a small liberal arts college of 1,400 and my goal was to return to that type of environment.”

A native of McKinney, Texas, Fort is a graduate of Austin College where he recently completed a term on the school’s alumni board.

Fort brings almost 26 years of experience in higher education to Hilbert, spending the first 20 years as an athletic administrator before moving into advancement and university administration.

Before coming to DePaul, after serving as the Executive Director of the Big Red Fund at the University of Illinois-Chicago, Fort increased athletic giving by over 70%. He also served as the UIC athletic liaision to the Chicago 2016 Olympic Committee and coordinated both the UIC Pavilion and Les Miller Baseball Field upgrade and expansion projects.

Prior to his stint at UIC, Fort served for three years as the associate athletic director for external affairs at Florida International University in Miami. During his time at FIU, Fort coordinated the department’s external efforts. In addition, Fort spearheaded the FIU Community (Football) Stadium project and generated over $5.7 million dollars in revenue during his three years at FIU.

Fort served as the capital campaign director and associate athletic director for external affairs at Stephen F. Austin State University. He began his nine-year tenure at SFA as the school’s sports information director in 1990 and also coordinated and directed the institution’s first comprehensive capital campaign that raised over $37 million.

The move to Western New York brings Fort closer to his wife Nicci, who was named the head women’s basketball coach at Colgate University in Hamilton in May 2011.

“I saw many positives in Hilbert and this area for me both personally and career-wise,” Fort stated. “It is also a great challenge for me and a chance to really make a difference in lives of students.”

Laying a firm foundation for development at Hilbert is a challenge, but there is a consistent theme that resonates as you look at Fort’s career and his track record of building programs and generating resources.

New Board Members

Hilbert College extends a warm welcome to the six new Board of Trustees members this fall.

- Andrea Cherenzia, Director of Special Investigations for Independent Health
- Russell Corigliano, President & CEO of Rosina Food Products, Inc.
- Beth Del Genio, Chief of Staff to the President for the University at Buffalo Office of the President
- Joe Kubarek, Managing Partner of Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP
- Judge Jeremiah McCarthy, Magistrate Judge for the U.S. Courthouse
- Stuart Steiner, Ed.D., President Emeritus for Genesee Community College
County Legislature Honors Ann Swan

Erie County Legislator Edward A. Rath III honored Ann Swan, chairperson of the Hilbert College Board of Trustees, with a Legislature proclamation on July 26th. The honor was in recognition of Swan receiving the college’s 2012 President’s Medal. Swan is currently serving her third term as chairperson of Hilbert’s board.

Swan received the President’s Medal, one of the college’s highest honors, at Hilbert’s 51st annual commencement ceremony in recognition of “her steadfast belief in the vitality of Hilbert and enriching the institution’s future, her support in fostering the success of Hilbert students and for her esteemed leadership."

“It is an honor to recognize Mrs. Swan and her outstanding efforts to provide valuable education and services to her community. At Session No. 14 of the Erie County Legislature, the members unanimously approved a proclamation recognizing Mrs. Swan for her exemplary public service and being named the recipient of the Hilbert College President’s Medal,” said Rath.

Pictured here, left to right, are Legislator Edward Rath, Ann Swan and Hilbert President Cynthia Zane.

Annual Golf Tourney Surpasses Goal

Nearly $76,000 was raised for student scholarships at the 22nd annual Hilbert College Scholarship Golf Tournament held in June. Deborah DiMatteo, Hilbert trustee, served as the 2012 tournament chairperson. The event exceeded the $74,000 goal and surpassed last year’s grand total by almost $4,000.

Regarded as one of Western New York’s premier golf tournaments, Hilbert’s tournament included a full field of golfers at Wanakah Country Club. Golfers enjoyed a cocktail reception, raffles, prizes and other activities. A video photo album of the event is available on the tournament’s web site: www.hilbert.edu/alumni/golf. The 2013 Scholarship Tournament is planned for June 17th at Wanakah Country Club. For more information on how you can participate, please contact Alaina Houseknecht at 716-926-8938 or ahouseknecht@hilbert.edu

Vintage Car Show Raises Funds for Scholarships

A vintage car show fundraiser was held on August 21 to support student scholarships. “A Classic Evening: Hilbert College Celebrates the Roaring ’20s” took place outside on Hilbert’s campus and featured award-winning collections of the Gernatt and Gacioch families. Approximately eighty friends, board members, staff and faculty of the Hilbert Community enjoyed an evening of 1920’s era music by the Buffalo Swing Band, cocktails and hors d’oeuvres.

Pictured here (left to right) are: Merle Whitehead, trustee emeritus; Jim Kirchmeyer; Brooke Anderson-Tompkins, trustee; and Matt Whitehead.

Left to right: Mike Sendor, Fr. Mike Sadja, Michael Gacioch, Joe Dommer, Cynthia Zane, Jim Dunlop, Dan Gernatt, Ann Swan, Russ Corigliano, John Ciminelli.

Clarification:

The MLK keynote speaker in the Around Hilbert Spring 2012 issue was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.
A family of five moves from North Carolina to Buffalo after finding jobs with Erie County. Unknowingly, they rent from a landlord who doesn’t pay his mortgage. When the bank forecloses on the home the family is left standing, quite literally, on the doorstep. Belongings seized as assets, their only option is to move to a motel, paying on a credit card.

Human services major Carl Jackson met the family during his service learning experience with homeless assistance program, Family Promise. They “get their stuff back after four months,” he explains, “but they’re out of money, and the parents lose their jobs because of budget cuts. They sell their car to get money to live on, so they’ve got no transportation for work, and it’s the middle of the school year.”

Jackson, a full-time property manager, military veteran and non-traditional student, admits he once had “zero tolerance” for the homeless; people he considered “lazy.” Working with Family Promise turned that notion right on its head.

“I learned that no one is safe from homelessness. It can happen to people you wouldn’t believe it would happen to,” Jackson says.

Jackson’s change of heart is by no means a unique experience for students who take part in service learning. Dr. Amy Smith, chair of the Department of Arts & Sciences and professor of English, has offered service-learning experiences in her courses. She believes that service learning transforms many students. “It changes how they see the world and themselves,” she says. “It can make them more compassionate and aware of difficulties people face.”

Experiences in reality

Hilbert students can find service learning opportunities in courses from Religion and Social Justice, Psychology of Women and Human Service Methods, to Mathematical Applications, Introduction to Leadership and Sport Event Marketing—and more.

Faculty devise their own ways of integrating service learning into the required coursework. Some professors assign a project with an end goal. Students in the African-American History II course, for instance, worked with Concordia Cemetery to write biographies on people buried there. Another model is “placement” based: students serve with an organization over a period of time, usually around 20 hours per semester. Students also must write a reflection on their experience. Much of the format depends on the course itself and the needs of the community organization partners.

Connecting the Classroom

Hilbert’s new requirement brings traditional Franciscan values and learning experiences together.

by Grace Lazzara

A family of five moves from North Carolina to Buffalo after finding jobs with Erie County. Unknowingly, they rent from a landlord who doesn’t pay his mortgage. When the bank forecloses on the home the family is left standing, quite literally, on the doorstep. Belongings seized as assets, their only option is to move to a motel, paying on a credit card.

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“Courses that have a human service focus tend to be more placement based,” explains Ellen Oman, part-time coordinator of the school’s Service Learning Office. “Those students are building skills and practicing them at service sites.”

During his service learning experience as part of the course called Loss, Grief and Dying, psychology major Jonathan Hulbert chose to serve with Peaceprints Prison Ministries, which helps newly released inmates acclimate to life outside prison. Hulbert spent an hour a week talking with ex-inmates during sessions that found him giving—and taking—advice. Even though he’s pursuing a career in higher education administration, Hulbert feels strongly that his Peaceprints experience will help: “Working with different populations of people, understanding differences and connecting, being able to talk about a high-stress issue while staying calm—all that will help later on,” he says.

The options that Hilbert students have for service-learning experiences are wide ranging. Some examples:

- In their Literature In History: The American Experience class, students recorded Viet Nam War veterans telling their stories as part of a Library of Congress oral history project.
- Introduction to Psychology offered service learning in after-school programs for disadvantaged youth at the YMCA Southtowns.
- During the Crime and Society class students spent time in homeless shelters and soup kitchens looking at the societal perspective of why people come to need services.
- Disability and Society students surveyed restaurants for accessibility for people with disabilities.
- In the Introduction to Psychology and Social Psychology courses, students worked at an agency that offered a day program to adults with disabilities.

Franciscan values at core
The form that service learning takes elsewhere is more varied than one might imagine. According to Vice Provost for Student Engagement Denise Harris, “Every campus has a different definition or achieves service learning goals in a different way.” The way service learning is conducted at Hilbert makes sense for Hilbert: it fits the school’s Franciscan values, benefits students and engages the community outside the school.

Indeed, says President Cynthia Zane, service is “at the heart and soul of Franciscan values and the Franciscan intellectual tradition.” And the power of service learning, she adds, comes from its “nexus of classroom learning and the application of knowledge.”

Although the theological underpinnings are strong, service learning also strengthens and “supports our educational mission,” says Harris.

“Building service learning into the curriculum is consistent with the data that shows experiential learning of all sorts is retained better,” says Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Christopher Holoman.

According to Oman, a growing body of literature from organizations like the University of Minnesota Community Service-Learning Center, affirms the benefits of service learning:

- Increased student retention.
- Greater self confidence in study and social skills.
- Better academic performance.

Studies also show students who participated in service-learning reported having better relationships with their peers and faculty and a greater sense of cultural competence.

The stories from Hilbert students definitely underscore the evidence, whether anecdotal or published in a scholarly journal. Jackson’s experience with Family Promise impressed him in a profound way: “Service learning gives you a better awareness of what you’re learning, how the world around you works, and what you have to do as a potential helper of people,” he says.

A new, old tradition
Service learning has been part of the Hilbert landscape for quite a while. After attending a 1999 conference that explored service learning, former president Sister Edmunette Pascezny asked faculty and staff to investigate the concept. Provost Holoman, then a faculty member, volunteered to chair a committee. In 2001, Hilbert joined the Western New York Service Learning

...with the Community
Coalition, a collaboration of colleges, universities and community organizations that serves as the hub for service-learning.

“We had some significant faculty training on service learning and had good enthusiasm,” Holoman recalls. “At the time, we couldn’t provide staff support. No matter how enthusiastic faculty were, they didn’t necessarily have the time or expertise to arrange for service learning opportunities.” Nonetheless, faculty had begun including opportunities or requirements for service learning in courses.

Later, with the school’s new strategic plan in development and a supportive new president, the committee asked that a service learning component become part of the strategic plan. Now in his new role, Holoman also recommended hiring staff to help develop service-learning opportunities and work with community partners. Hilbert brought on Ellen Oman, who had the perfect expertise after working with the WNY Service Learning Collaborative, in 2011.

“Ellen brought the energy and great ideas to make service learning less daunting for the faculty,” Holoman says.

What ultimately emerged from the service learning effort at Hilbert is the new Service-Learning Requirement, approved by the Faculty Senate in March 2012: “Students will complete at least one service-learning experience as part of an academic course during their Hilbert College career in order to be eligible to graduate.” The document outlines the ways students can meet the requirement, recognizing that the experiences will be “unique to each course.”

“The goal,” Harris says, “was to embed service learning so deeply here that it seems like it always existed.”

Hilbert isn’t unique, but it is in rarified company in its service learning graduation requirement. The idea and inclusion of service learning within curricula is growing, however: “Service learning is currently demonstrating a surge of growth that can be regarded as a qualitatively distinct stage of curricular reform,” say experts in the Journal of Public Service & Outreach.

“Building service learning into the curriculum is consistent with the data that shows experiential learning of all sorts is retained better” ~ Christopher Holoman

Hilbert students (left to right) Katie Newton, Kayla Silver, and Melinda Manzella join women in the village at the Mwandaza School in a ceremony dance to celebrate the completion of the school’s new kitchen they helped build.

Shared learning

The graduation requirement is new, but service learning at Hilbert isn’t. Many faculty have long realized the value it brings to students and their classroom efforts.

Professor Smith directs Hilbert’s Honors Program, which has always included community service. Two years ago, she ran a course called “Service Learning Abroad,” in which students studied about Kenya in class, then took a two-week trip to the African country. There, they worked at a rural school in an extremely impoverished area.

“It was a moving experience,” Smith recalls. The African schoolchildren were “happy, but we also saw their living conditions—many with no plumbing or electricity.” One student asked a boy what he wanted to do in the future. “He said he wanted to be an airplane pilot,” says Smith. “The student was struck by the difficulty he would face trying to achieve his dream. It’s easy for us to talk about things like that in the States. But this boy also had a powerful hope.”

Smith shepherded another group of students to Kenya for three weeks this past May and June. Eight students (and Hilbert psychology professor LisaMarie Bensman) helped build a kitchen and walkway at a community school and worked on day-to-day tasks at a home for girls who have been orphaned as a result of AIDS. Three Hilbert students organized a donation drive before the group left and collected shoes, clothing, school supplies and other items. Two others collected soccer balls that they took with
them and gave to the school. Smith recalls a distinct feeling of pride in the way the Hilbert students carried themselves. “They were excellent representatives of Hilbert and its Franciscan values,” she says. Students themselves emerged profoundly impressed by a “powerful” learning experience, especially when they had the chance to visit the homes of some of the schoolchildren they’d met. Student Melinda Manzella felt her experience taught her a great deal about Kenya, the lives of Kenyans and herself: “Starting off our service trip in one of the poorest villages really put into perspective what I have at home. Seeing one of the poorest villages really put into perspective what I have at home. Seeing one of the poorest villages really put into perspective what I have at home. Seeing...
Today we reflect on your past here at Hilbert College, and we celebrate your excellence,” said music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, JoAnn Falletta, as she spoke to graduates as Hilbert College’s 51st commencement speaker. “Every one of you is thinking today of your own particular future- and of your success in the future. I have learned in my musical life that those two words - success and excellence - hold very different meanings.”

Falletta spoke about the competing ideals that society has for success and excellence which the students will encounter as they continue their personal and professional lives. “Success is attaining cultural goals, which may elevate one's importance in the society in which he or she lives. Excellence is the pursuit of quality in one's work, in one's life, whether or not society recognizes it,” explained Falletta.

Drawing from her own experiences as a composer, Falletta hoped for the graduates, “that you will never forget what is potentially the richest source of joy- that is, the possibility of doing what you love, what you believe in, what matters to you, not for the monetary compensation, but for the simple rightness of it,”

Falletta was presented with an honorary doctorate of humane letters, and longtime volunteers were bestowed with distinguished honors for their international humanitarian work and service to the community during the ceremony.

The Hilbert College Medal, which is presented to those “who embody Franciscan values, demonstrate excellence in their profession or career, and excellence in community service,” was presented to Hamburg residents Dr. William and Dawn Maher. The award recognizes Maher’s humanitarian efforts with the impoverished people of the Dominican Republic through their volunteerism with the organization Jesse’s Children. Under the guidance of the Mahers, Hilbert SIFE members have coordinated and been actively involved in a number of community and business-oriented projects which have helped improve the lives of residents in some of the poorest regions of this island nation.

One of the highest honors bestowed by the college, The Hilbert College President’s Medal, was presented during the commencement to Ann Swan, chair of the Hilbert College Board of Trustees and executive director of the William E. and Ann L. Swan Foundation. The Hilbert President’s Medal recognizes board trustees, faculty and staff for extraordinary commitment and service to higher education, and for exemplifying Franciscan values. A community leader in many civic activities in the Western New York area, and a longtime teacher in the Buffalo Public Schools, Swan was honored “for her steadfast belief in the vitality of Hilbert and enriching the institution’s future, her support in fostering the success of Hilbert students, and for her esteemed leadership.”

The student address was given by graduate Brittany Kay of East Aurora, who earned a bachelor's degree in human services. Kay told the graduates to embrace new experiences and challenges. “We shouldn’t question the importance of being wrong once in a while, because sometimes, as my experiences have shown me,” said Kay, “it’s our failures (large and small), that lead us somewhere great.”

Selected for top student awards were Ann Marie Roach, the Lambert and Margaret Graham Award; Chelsea Schreiber, the Kimberly Bruch Raczkowski Memorial Alumni Association Award; Kolleen Sullivan, the Sister Mary Edwina Bogel Award; and Patrick Winney, the John W. Kissel Man of the Year Award.

Kay and Winney also received Outstanding Community Service Awards at Hilbert’s baccalaureate Mass held commencement morning. Other recipients of the Outstanding Community Service Awards were Stephanie Agone, Diandra Cano, David Denny, Samantha Hahn, Allison, Christina Hollenback, Kathleen Mangan, Jillian Martucci, Melissa McGuire, Thomas Rivera, Elizabeth Rozek, Kolleen Sullivan, and Daniel Telaak. HC
“Success may be cheaply bought, and you can often take shortcuts to get there. You will always pay the full price for excellence; it is never discounted, and there are no shortcuts. Excellence will cost you everything, but at the end of your life it will be all that is important to you.”

– Joann Falletta
2012 Commencement Address

Alumni President Thomas McArthur with the Kimberly Bruch Raczkowski Memorial Alumni Association Award recipient Chelsea Schreiber

Hilbert College Medal recipients Dawn and Dr. William Maher

President’s Medal recipient Ann Swan, center, is shown with President Cynthia Zane and Dr. Christopher Holoman, provost and vice president for academic affairs
A Hands-On Approach

In an age of constant scientific discovery, Meredith Ezak encourages her students, especially women, to become involved in the growing STEM fields. By Elizabeth Maute

Spending most of her childhood moving around the North East, Meredith Ezak says she loves experiencing the 4 seasons here in Western New York but, “I will complain as much as the next person while I’m shoveling 2 feet of snow just to get out my front door in the middle of winter.”

Growing up in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Meredith appreciates the convenience and closeness of everything after moving here in high school. After finishing graduate school, she had hoped to stay in Western New York.

Although no one in Meredith’s family was very well versed in the sciences, she says she owes her interest in the field to teachers that fostered her natural inclination and curiosity. Currently she is teaching as an Assistant Professor in Hilbert’s Arts & Sciences Department, a position that she says is a perfect fit for her. The professor brings with her to Hilbert a passion for biology, which she thinks is just fascinating. “I love learning about the complexities of life, and the ever growing body of knowledge that science uncovers. It is amazing, and humbling, to understand how everything must be so precisely and perfectly coordinated for life to exist.”

Why is science literacy an important part of a college education and for graduates in today’s global market?

We live in an exciting age of constant scientific discovery, but unfortunately there are very few that can appreciate the importance and impact of these innovations. If you glance at the headlines on any given day you’ll see stories about vaccines, global warming, stem cell therapies, genetically modified food, ozone depletion, new drug development and DNA technology to name a few. Discussions about these discoveries, and decisions about how they ought to be used, should not be limited to a minority of scientifically literate citizens. Furthermore, companies like 23andme.com that perform personal genetic tests for traits and diseases, like Cystic Fibrosis and Parkinson’s, are becoming common place. These DNA testing companies require just a small saliva sample, and can rapidly generate results for hundreds of genetic conditions that individuals can view online, without consulting with their physician. While the information these tests provide can be invaluable, they require some basic knowledge to be meaningfully interpreted, and they can be outright dangerous when uninformed individuals make important healthcare decisions based on them. We owe it to our students, and to society, to equip graduates with the foundation required to evaluate and make informed decisions about scientific issues that will impact their personal health, our communities and our environment.

Decisions that students will make on a daily basis have the capacity to affect energy consumption, natural resources, personal health, and the environment. Each individual’s decisions may not seem to be critical, but when they are multiplied by 300 million nationwide, or nearly 7 billion worldwide, they have a huge global impact.

There are steps being taken to encourage more girls to pursue a science career. Why is this occurring?

Sadly, women have long been under-represented in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. Despite the fact that women make up about 50% of the workforce, they compose less than 25% of the STEM fields. Efforts have been made to reverse this trend, yet there remains, often unconsciously, a gender bias that reinforces the idea that men possess the quantitative skills necessary to excel in STEM fields while women excel in non-STEM fields that utilize language skills. This forgone conclusion prevents many talented girls and women from pursuing STEM careers in the United States. Advances in science, technology, engineering and mathematics are critical to remaining competitive in the modern world, so we need to encourage females to enter STEM fields where they can make significant contributions, comparable to their male counterparts.

What women scientists do you see as good role models?

Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini, an amazing scientist and the oldest living Nobel Laureate. She truly is an exemplary woman who fought hard for her career. After convincing her father, who forbid her from entering a professional career, to allow her to attend medical school she earned an M.D. and began studying how neurons grow in Italy in the late 1930’s. However, just a few years later laws were introduced that banned Jewish individuals from professional careers, forcing Rita to continue her research, in hiding, from a laboratory in her home. During World War II she continued to conduct experiments from a makeshift lab in her own bedroom. The research that she conducted during these turbulent times laid the groundwork for the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine that she received in 1986, though only after some hard fought battles defending her discoveries to a male dominated field which refused to give validity to her work.

In what ways are Hilbert’s renovated science labs beneficial to student learning?

Though there is a place for computer-based science labs, nothing can replace the learning that occurs when you have the opportunity to work with your hands. The students are going to be able to experience cutting edge science, like genetic engineering, DNA fingerprinting, and preparation of biofuels, and leave with an understanding that could never be achieved during a lecture or computer-based lab.
What led you to teaching at Hilbert?

In my final year of school, about 2 weeks before I was due to give birth to my daughter, I saw the job posting at Hilbert and thought it was a perfect fit. I interviewed at Hilbert 2 ½ months after my daughter was born. I was fortunate enough to be offered the job, and I defended my Ph.D. dissertation the same month that I officially started at Hilbert. Things couldn’t have worked out better!

Your dissertation explored chemosensory signaling. In layman’s terms, explain what this is and its role in your research.

Simply put, chemosensory signaling is the ability to smell and taste. These sensations result when sensory neurons detect a stimuli, like the chemicals in perfume or apple pie, and then send a signal to the brain so the stimuli can be recognized. I studied how these types of neurons signal and regulate themselves in a process called desensitization. Desensitization results when those neurons basically stop signaling to the brain – a good example is when you walk into a room and smell a fresh baked apple pie, yet after you have been in the room for a few minutes you don’t smell it anymore even though the pie is still there. That occurs because the neurons that detected the smell desensitized; the stimuli is still present, but the neurons stop sending the signal to your brain, so you no longer detect the odor. Desensitization is an important process for all neurons because sights, sounds, tastes, smells, etc. constantly bombard organisms. The neurons need to be able to ignore some of those stimuli so an organism can focus only on the most important ones.

What was your best teaching moment?

I received an e-mail from a student thanking me after the semester was over, and saying they were surprised by how much they enjoyed my class. These kind of simple gestures speak volumes, especially since I teach non-majors classes, which many students dread taking.

What do you do in your spare time? How do you recharge?

I spend as much time as I can with my husband, Josh, and my 18 month-old daughter, Kaelyn. We love being outdoors, especially during the beautiful summer months in Western New York. Though raising a toddler and working full-time doesn’t give me much time to myself, when I need recharge by myself I’ll go for a run, or practice Vinyasa yoga.

2012 Mother Colette Staff Mission Awards have been presented to Hilbert staff members Kathy Fairbanks, Administrative assistant to the president, and Kate Munroe, executive director of student success and retention.

Erika Haygood, assistant professor of liberal studies, was a presenter at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of the Society of Biblical Literature & The American Academy of Religion held in March in New Brunswick, N.J. She presented on “Could This Be the ’New’ Black Church?: Christian Rap on Buffalo’s Eastside.”

Poet Erika Haygood, assistant professor of liberal studies, opened the Buffalo Niagara International Poetry Slam held June 16 in Buffalo’s Tralf Music Hall. The event was founded by Erika’s husband, Ntare Ali Gault, a spoken-word artist, author and playwright.

Dr. Tim Lee, director of admissions, has been named president-elect of the New York State Association for College Admission Counseling (NYSACAC), which has more than 1,800 members and is the largest state affiliate of the 23 state and regional associations. As president-elect, his main responsibilities will be to chair the organization’s Steering Committee and oversee the 35th annual NYSACAC Conference being held in June 2013 at Canisius College.

Paula Witherell, director of public relations, has received three 2012 Excalibur Awards from the Public Relations Society of America Buffalo Niagara Chapter – silver awards for Hilbert’s media relations program and in the special purpose publications category for the college’s Christmas card, and also a bronze award for Hilbert Weekly, the institution’s faculty and staff newsletter.

Division chair of arts and sciences and English professor, Amy Smith, presented a paper at the College English Association conference in Richmond, VA titled “Service Learning in an Interdisciplinary English Class: The Library of Congress, Oral History, and America at War.” Smith also presented a paper in July titled, “Picturing Their Lives: The Graphic Memoir” at Framing Lives: The 8th Biennial Conference of the International Auto/Biography Association in Canberra, Australia.

President Cynthia Zane addressed “Administration as Vocation” as a speaker at the 2012 Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education hosted by Boston College.

Adjunct professor, Lynn M. O’Connor, was promoted to the position of group vice president for M&T Bank in May.

Patrick Heraty, professor of business, earned certification in Emotional Intelligence, enabling him to administer and facilitate the EI instrument EQ-i 2.0.

John D’Amico, professor of business administration, attended The American Economic Association (AEA) National Conference on Teaching Economics from May 29-31 in Boston, MA. The conference discussed new techniques in teaching college level economics, and other research in Economic Education.

Martin Floss, chair of the graduate program in criminal justice administration, was selected for the Erie County Sheriff’s Office Jail Superintendent Selection Committee in July.

Andrew Kolin, professor of political science, was interviewed about the state of American politics for the Gary Null Show radio program. Kolin is also invited to discuss his book, State Power and Democracy: Before and During the Presidency of G.W. Bush, at the Talking Leaves bookstore in Buffalo, NY on October 25. The topic of this discussion will be “The Development of the American Police State.”
2011-2012 Team Awards

BASEBALL
Most Valuable Player: Chris Hoak;
Most Improved Player: Jim Pernick
Coaches Award: Matt Miltitelo

BASKETBALL, MEN
Most Valuable Player: Dan McFarland
Most Improved Player: Jordan VanDunk
Coaches Award: Cody Troutman

BASKETBALL, WOMEN
Most Valuable Player: Natalie Whitman
Most Improved Player: Jenah Labuski
Coaches Award: Julie Bossard

CROSS COUNTRY, MEN MOST
Valuable Runner: Matt Williams
Most Improved Runner: Stephen Crane
Coaches Award: Matt Hunt

CROSS COUNTRY, WOMEN
Most Valuable Runner: Maria Linares
Most Improved Runner: Jackie Downey
Coaches Award: Maria Linares

GOLF
Most Valuable Player: Pat Brooks
Most Improved Player: Jim Pernick
Coaches Award: Gary Gawera

LACROSSE, MEN
Most Valuable Player: Sean Purtill
Most Improved Player: Lucas Cellino
Coaches Award: Sean Manning

SOCCRER, MEN
Most Valuable Player: Eric Russell
Most Improved Player: Tyler Congilii
Coaches Award: Sarah Schmidt

SOCCER, WOMEN
Most Valuable Player: Nicole Blair
Most Improved Player: Jill Martucci
Coaches Award: Sarah Schmidt

SOFTBALL
Most Valuable Player: Jill Martucci
Most Improved Player: Kateland Ball
Coaches Award: Emili Ripley

VOLLEYBALL, MEn
Most Valuable Player: Adam Weaver
Most Improved Player: Ryan Ratajczak
Coaches Award: Stephen Phillips

VOLLEYBALL, WOMEN
Most Valuable Player: Shannon Memminger
Most Improved Player: Jordan Botsford
Coaches Award: Rachel Kwiatkowski.

The Athletics Department proudly honored their 2011-2012 student-athletes at its annual Athletics Awards Reception on May 3 in the William E. Swan Auditorium. A list of each Team Award winner is listed to the right.

After the Athletic Awards were received, the 2012 edition of Hilbert’s Chi Alpha Sigma New York Theta Chapter recognizes junior and senior student-athletes carrying a grade point average of 3.4 or higher who exhibit good moral character. The fourteen newest members inducted were: Nicole Blair, junior; Michael Cavanagh, junior; Stephen Crane, senior; Maria DeMonico, junior; Amber Grosch, junior; Allison Hall, senior; James Knapp, junior; Rachel Kwiatkowski, junior; Jessica Morey, junior; Katie Newton, junior; Kayla Norman, senior; Katherine Pettis, junior; Emili Ripley, senior; and Stephanie Smith, junior. These student-athletes joined three senior repeat honorees (Michael Maritato, Jill Martucci and Matt Miltitelo).

Once the bulk of the evening presentations were distributed, Jill Martucci (women’s softball and soccer; Hamburg, NY/Hamburg) and Matthew Miltitelo (baseball; Depew, NY/Lancaster) were announced as the 2012 McGrath Award winners. The award is provided by Francis and Marie McGrath, two generous benefactors of Hilbert College, who stipulate that an award be given to the one female and male graduating student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade point average (over the course of at least five academic semesters). Martucci graduated with a degree in computer security and information assurance, boasting a 3.91 cumulative GPA. Miltitelo graduated with a criminal justice degree earning a cumulative 3.48 grade point average.

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AMCC Peak Performance Award Winners

This was a new awards program for the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate College (AMCC) during the 2011-12 year. It was established as a way to focus greater attention on the fine collective academic accomplishments of our many teams. There is one team honoree selected for every AMCC championship sport, with the winners possessing the highest collective cumulative grade point average in their particular program.

Hilbert captured the women’s soccer team award with a fall semester grade point average of 3.58 while the men’s volleyball team earned a spring semester grade point average of 3.25. Of the award winners from all fifteen AMCC championship sports, the Hilbert women’s soccer team earned the second highest grade point average.

Continued on page 18
I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and had an opportunity to spend time with friends and family. When thinking about the upcoming presidential election this November, I cannot help but reflect back on my time at Hilbert College. During my college years, Hilbert gave me the opportunity to discuss various political, religious, social and cultural views with fellow students and college faculty and staff. I was able to participate in many exciting, enlightening and invigorating discussions while on campus. Many of the late night conversations we had helped inform, modify and challenge my personal views. I am sure the same types of engaging conversations are still taking place today on our diverse campus.

I would like to encourage all alumni to think back to similar experiences you had at Hilbert and reach out to those you had them with to say “thank you.” Send a note to a faculty or staff member, or connect with them on Facebook or LinkedIn. Stay in touch with those in the Hilbert community who gave us so much. Keep the discussions and debates going! We don’t stop our journey once we leave campus. Sharing our experiences and opinions is how we stay connected and grow.

With extending thanks in mind, I would like to thank Alaina Houseknecht, Special Events Coordinator, and Deanna Messinger, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, for all their work on behalf of the Hilbert Alumni Association. They both have worked very hard to plan excellent events for our alumni, and they continue to look for opportunities to keep Hilbert graduates connected. The next time you see them at an event, please tell them “thank you!”

I look forward to seeing you in the near future at our board meetings and alumni events. HC

Thomas McArthur 06
alumnipresident@hilbert.edu

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**‘60s**

SISTER ANDREA CISZEWSKI AA ’66, Hilbert trustee emerita, received the Franciscan Recognition Award at the Franciscan Federation Conference held this summer.

**‘70s**

KEVIN EBERLE AA ’79 is serving as principal at International Preparatory School in Buffalo.

SISTER SHARON GOODREMOTE AA ’71, a Hilbert trustee, received the Value Award for Inclusion at the ninth annual Leadership Buffalo Values Award Luncheon.

**‘80s**

NORINE (BOROWIEC) GABRESKI AAS ’89 is a systems analyst at Sodexo, Inc., in Williamsville.

**‘90s**

JOSEPH AIELLO BS ’94 is finance manager at West Herr Automotive in Orchard Park, N.Y.

TARRY BROCKEL AAS ’90 is a clerk-typist at Genesee Community College in Batavia, N.Y.

**‘00s**

ASHLEY BRYLSKI BS ’09 is a federal officer in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and is working at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport.

TEA BUI BS ’04 has been admitted to the bar and is listed as a new member of the Bar Association of Erie County.

AMANDA (SMOLAREK) LEAZOTT BS ’04 is a correctional officer in Orleans County.

RONALD LEAZOTT BS ’03 is a correctional officer at Albion Correctional Facility.

JANICE LEWIS BS ’06 is a paralegal at HSBC in Buffalo.

KATHRYN (MARAGLIANO) DUNLAP ’09 is a senior librarian at the NASA John Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

JULIE (PEACOCK) MICHEL BS ’02 is manager of trade settlement for U.S/Canada finance at Rich Products in Buffalo.

NICHOLAS PASQUARELLA BS ’04 is a gas accountant at National Fuel Gas Distribution in Williamsville, N.Y.

**SHARON CORSI AAS ’94** has accepted a position at the law firm of Westland, Kramer, Bennett, P.C., in Schererville, Ind.

**RACHEL McCABE BS ’96** is director of human resources at Synacor, Inc., in Buffalo.

**SHEILA POLAK BS ’08** has been promoted...
to paralegal at Geico Insurance in Buffalo.

SHERITA PRUITT BS '05 is enrolled in the occupational therapy master's degree program at D'Youville College in Buffalo.

APRIL REED BS '09 is attending Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich., and employed at Meritain Health’s Michigan office.

JENNIFER SEIB BS '03 has been appointed director of outpatient substance abuse services at Brylin Hospitals in Buffalo. She also teaches in Medaille College's Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling program.

SONDRA WINDRUM BA '09 is a district sales manager at Worldwide Logistics in Buffalo.

NICHOLAS WOLF BS '04 is a field training officer at the Nogales Border Patrol Station in Nogales, Ariz.

MARK ZANGHI BS '00, an assistant prosecuting attorney in the Licking County Civil Division in Ohio, was admitted in January to practice in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

LISA AYERS BS '12 has been hired at Geico Insurance in Buffalo.

JULIE BOSSARD '12, who has started graduate studies at St. Bonaventure University, will serve as an assistant basketball coach for Hilbert's women's basketball team.

DIANDRA CANO BS '12 is attending the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service.

RACHEL DOBIESZ BA '11 is working as a copy development coordinator at Fisher Price in East Aurora, N.Y.

JACQUELINE DOWNEY BS '12 is an administrative legal assistant in the Federal Public Defender’s Office in Buffalo.

JESSIE ROLAND-BYSTRAK BS '12 is being featured in television commercials as part of a statewide advertising campaign for the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York. A firefighter in the East Aurora Volunteer Fire Department, her involvement in the ads was highlighted in a Buffalo News story and a WKBW-TV “Western New Yorkers Making Good Things Happen Every Day” segment.

SONG SUNDIN BS '10, a Hilbert trustee, was selected for Business First of Buffalo’s “Envisioning Tomorrow” listing, which featured individuals developing the future of the Buffalo-Niagara Region. He is president of Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc., in Blasdell, N.Y.

JAMIE SLOANE BS ‘11 has graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glymco, Ga., and is employed in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office at the Port of Buffalo.

SARAH SNYDER BS '12 is responsible for pulling orders and tracking inventory as a crib attendant at Moog, Inc., in Elma, New York.

KOLLEEN SULLIVAN BS '12 is continuing her education in a master's program at Buffalo State College.

MELISSA SZYMANOWSKI BS '12 has accepted a position with the Montgomery County Police Department in Maryland.

WILLIAM WESOLOWSKI BS '11 along with his wife, Amy, has opened Billamy BBQ and Catering on Hertel Avenue in Buffalo.

ALEX WILSHAW BS ‘10 is attending the University at Buffalo Law School.

MICHAIL SENDOR BS ‘10, a Hilbert trustee, was selected for Business First of Buffalo’s “Envisioning Tomorrow” listing, which featured individuals developing the future of the Buffalo-Niagara Region. He is president of Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc., in Blasdell, N.Y.

In Memoriam

SAM LICATA AAS '74, May 1, 2012

Joan McGowan, Hilbert’s first lay faculty member who taught mathematics, passed away on March 26, 2012.
Births

BONNIE (TERWILLIGER) BENOIIT BS '03 and Eric Benoit, welcomed a daughter, Vivienne Sabine Benoit, on March 26, 2012. She is joined by big sister Genevieve.

JEANNETTE (TESTA) DELANEY BS '06 and Dustin Delaney, welcome a son, Dylan Joseph Delaney, on April 13, 2012.

JENNIFER (ANSELMO) GUNIA BS '00 & ANTHONY GUNIA AAS '02, welcomed twin sons, Jacob and Alexander Gunia, on April 19, 2012.

CHRISTY (ZEITLER) HEINE BS ‘04 and William Heine, welcomed a daughter, Tessa Ann Heine, on Jan. 27, 2012.

Diane (berger) Hennessy AAS '73 and Paul Hennessy AAS '73 are first-time grandparents of Giselle Jacklyn Hennessy, born on May 12, 2012.

Daniel Jachlewski BS '99 and Jennifer Jachlewski, welcome a son, Owen Andrew Jachlewski, on May 27, 2012.


Michael Nero BS ’11 and Kayla Nero, welcomed a daughter, Bella Kay Nero, on April 20, 2012.

Tara (Lowry) Pfarner BS '02 and Christian Pfarner, welcomed a daughter, Vidia Lee Pfarner, on Feb. 11, 2012. She is joined by her big sister Kaelynn.

Christine Zacher Ward BS '97 and Todd Ward, welcomed a son, Brady William Ward, on April 22, 2012. HC

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. Provide your littlest Hawk update by e-mailing: dmessinger@hilbert.edu.
Vision 2017

Hilbert College’s strategic plan for the next five years, Vision 2017, follows through on goals that were outlined in Destination 2012. The new plan is set in the context of the college’s mission, and the resources needed to achieve Hilbert’s mission to the fullest extent. Earlier this summer, the fifteen member steering committee put the final touches on the plan’s five main goals and their themes.

Vision 2017 is designed to allow for shifts in the economic and social environments that could affect the plan over the next five years. A report card monitoring the metrics that could affect the plan over the next five years, Vision 2017, follows through on goals that were outlined in Destination 2012. The new plan is set in the context of the college’s mission, and the resources needed to achieve Hilbert’s mission to the fullest extent. Earlier this summer, the fifteen member steering committee put the final touches on the plan’s five main goals and their themes.

Theme 1: Strengthen Revenue Streams
Hilbert College will achieve increased enrollment and fundraising goals in order to improve fiscal and programmatic health and more effectively achieve its mission.

Theme 2: Strengthen the Student Experience
Hilbert College will continue its unshakable focus on student learning by providing clear pathways to success.

Theme 3: Strengthen our Institutional Story
Hilbert College is committed to raising the visibility and clarifying the distinction of the Hilbert-College experience.

Theme 4: Strengthen the physical and social environment of the campus
Hilbert College is committed to providing a culture of professional development, shared accountability, and excellence that promotes student success and work-place satisfaction.

Theme 5: Strengthen External Opportunities
Hilbert College is committed to engaging its local community, region, and Franciscan affiliations to create mutually beneficial partnerships.

Hilbert Student Scores High Honors
Junior Dan McFarland was one of 467 student-athletes named by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) to the 2012 NABC Honors Court team. This award recognizes junior or senior varsity athletes who have earned a 3.2 cumulative grade point average (or higher) at an NCAA Division I, II, III or NAIA institution and who excelled on and off the basketball court during the 2011-12 year.

On the court, McFarland’s 483 points (17.9 ppg) and 58 steals led the Hawks (11-7) to a 4th place finish in the AMCC league standings. Additionally, the 6’1 guard pulled down 140 rebounds and distributed 86 assists which earned him an AMCC first team all-conference selection and helped guide Hilbert to a 15-11 overall finish. His 1,168 career points position him at #7 in Hilbert’s all-time scorers list. Off the court, the criminal justice major maintains a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 through his six semesters at Hilbert.

Erin Robson To Lead Women’s Lacrosse Program
Susan Viscomi, Director of Athletics, was pleased to introduce Erin Robson as the new women’s lacrosse coach and staff assistant in the Hilbert College athletics department. Robson assumed the full-time coaching duties prior to the start of the 2012-13 academic year. She has the ability to create a winning program accessing her collegiate playing and international coaching experiences along with her professional employment positions. Robson will also perform administrative support for the athletic department and serve as an adjunct faculty member, teaching a health and wellness class at Hilbert.
Thank you,
Dick Wipperman,
for your willingness to fight the good fight
for the support of education.

For over 40 years, Dick Wipperman ’74 has been one of Hilbert College’s biggest fans.

As a student at Hilbert, Dick was actively engaged in his coursework. As a father, Dick encouraged his sons to attend college at Hilbert. And as a donor, Dick has always kept Hilbert at the forefront of his charitable giving.

Prior to his time at Hilbert, Dick was a heavyweight boxer who fought many notable prize fighters including Buster Mathis and Joe Frazier in large scale venues like Madison Square Garden in New York City and Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto. Once his career as a fighter came to an end, he pursued a profession in law enforcement. According to Dick, “Hilbert really helped me in my next career as a police officer for the Cheektowaga Police Department. I came back as an adult student after being out of school for 12 years and they worked with me every step of the way.” To this day, Dick still speaks fondly of his time with Sr. Adrienne and Sr. Edmunette. “They really kept me in line and were major influences in me completing my degree.”

Hilbert has always been a great place to rediscover your potential as an adult student through accessible services and offerings like the office of Adult and Graduate Studies and the Accelerated Degree Programs. Through the support of Dick and others like you, we have been successful in preparing non-traditional students for the next professional chapter in their lives.

For more information on ways that you can support Hilbert students:
Craig Harris
Associate Vice President for Development
716-926-8888
charris@hilbert.edu
Hilbert athlete Stacy Wickes battles her opponents for control of the game during the spring of 2002. This was the last year in which Hilbert College sponsored the NCAA Division III women’s lacrosse. The women’s club lacrosse team took advantage of the 2011-2012 year to grow and develop. In the spring of 2013, the NCAA Division III varsity women’s lacrosse team will start back up again at Hilbert with new full-time head coach and athletics staff assistant, Erin Robinson, leading the program. Go Hawks!