Families carry on shared tradition of generosity to Hilbert

Inside: Annual Report 2010-2011
For the last five years, Hilbert College’s strategic plan, Destination 2012, has guided the college as it increased enrollment, completed the First 50 Campaign, built a new residence hall, and added two new graduate programs.

I was thrilled to have had the privilege of recently teaching as a guest lecturer in our new graduate program. What a joy to witness first-hand the outcome of several years of intensive work on the part of the faculty and staff to make the new master’s degree in criminal justice administration and master of public administration a reality. In this issue of Hilbert Connections, you will get to meet Hilbert’s new dean of graduate studies, Dr. Walter Iwanenko, who joined our team in August. Dr. Iwanenko has also assumed a leadership role for the redesign of our accelerated degree program, which will be launched next fall.

This edition of Hilbert Connections features three very special families who have been supporting Hilbert for multiple generations. The Russos, the Qualeys and the Gaughan Scotts, along with the names listed in the enclosed 2010-11 Annual Report are truly our partners in carrying out Hilbert’s mission. Your gifts to Hilbert make it possible for us to provide the financial support for more than 780 undergraduate and graduate students, or 70 percent of our students, to achieve their dream of earning a college degree. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and willingness to invest in Hilbert.

In August, the college began a new strategic planning process led by co-chairs Dr. Tara Jabbaar-Gymbrah and Dr. Edward Pristach to succeed Destination 2012. Over the next few months, we will be collecting input from a number of stakeholders, including students, parents, faculty, staff, the board of trustees, alumni, employers, and donors as we craft a vision and specific strategies to guide Hilbert’s future through 2017. While we are experiencing record enrollment this fall with 1,117 students, in this uncertain economy, we recognize the importance of carefully making choices that will enable the college to continue to thrive. We hope you will join us in this important process in the months ahead.

Again, thank you for your ongoing support of the students at Hilbert College. Our laser-like focus on student success is having a positive impact on their completion rates and we could not achieve these results without you.

Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D.
President
Generations of Giving
Over the decades, families’ acts of generosity have had a major impact on the success of Hilbert and its students.

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Chemistry lab improvements to further enhance learning environment.

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Journey begins for Hilbert’s history-making graduate students.

Hilbert gratefully acknowledges and celebrates the college’s donors in this special section.

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Hilbert Board Elects Officers

Ann Swan, an active community leader in many civic activities in the Western New York area and a longtime teacher in the Buffalo Public Schools, has been re-elected chair of the Hilbert College Board of Trustees. She’s been affiliated with Hilbert’s board since 2004. In addition to serving as board chair, for the second year Swan is chairing the Hilbert Board of Trustees Executive Committee and serving on the trustee committee. Previously, she was chair and vice chair of the student affairs committee.

Swan is executive director of the William E. and Ann L. Swan Foundation. She also serves on the boards of several local organizations, including the Buffalo Niagara American Heart Association, Christ the King Seminary, Catholic Diocese of Buffalo Foundation and the YMCA Buffalo Niagara.

The recipient of many honors for her commitment to the community, Swan most recently was presented a Bishop’s Medal from the Buffalo Catholic Diocese and a Caritas Award from the Brothers of Mercy.

Swan earned a bachelor’s degree in education from the University at Buffalo.

Other 2011-12 Hilbert board officers are Gretchen Wylegala as vice-chair, and Edward Gelia Jr. as secretary.

Wylegala, who has practiced law for more than 25 years, is an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Western New York District.

A member of Erie County Bar Association and the American Bar Association, her work in law enforcement has been recognized by the U.S. Justice Department with a 2011 National Crime Victim Service Award and a 2009 Director’s Award.

Wylegala has served in volunteer capacities with various organizations and is currently a member of the University of Virginia Jefferson Scholarship Regional Selection Committee.

She received a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Ithaca College.

Gelia is executive vice president of Amherst-based United Insurance Agency, Inc., a company he’s been with for more than 30 years.

Long active in community work, he’s vice president of the Restoration Society, Inc., and chairman of the organization’s program and personnel committee. He also holds membership in various civic and professional associations, including the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters Society, and is a past member of the Board of Regents at his alma mater, Canisius College.

Gelia holds a bachelor’s degree in history and business administration from Canisius.

Iranian Author Featured at Cultural Awareness Week

Bestselling author Firoozeh Dumas, the first Iranian author to be nominated for the Thurber Prize for American Humor, gave a lighthearted perspective on her life in Iran and America as featured speaker at Hilbert College’s Visiting Artist Series event that took place this fall.

Author of *Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America*, Dumas’ presentation was part of several educational and entertaining activities held during the college’s “Celebrating Differences” Cultural Awareness Week.

The weeklong celebration also included the unveiling of the college’s new “Wall of Peace and Inclusivity.” The wall was created with pieces of cloth designed or written by students, faculty and staff that express each individual’s view of Hilbert coming together as an inclusive community and the ways the college shows respect for cultural differences.

Alumnus Named New Trustee

Hilbert College alumnus Michael Sendor ’10, president of Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc., a Buffalo-based land surveying and engineering firm, has been named to a three-year term on the Hilbert Board of Trustees.

Active in various professional organizations, Sendor is a member and past president of the Niagara Frontier Land Surveyors Association and the Greater Buffalo Board of Professional Land Surveyors.

Among his other memberships include the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Architects, and the National Association of Industrial and Office Parks.

Most recently, Sendor served on the Buffalo Niagara Partnership Board of Directors and was chairman of the Town of Colden Environmental Board and vice president of Niagara Business Associates.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Hilbert and is a professional land surveyor.
Hands-On Labs Opening Students’ Eyes to Life Sciences

Following last fall’s opening of a renovated state-of-the-art biology laboratory at Hilbert College, phase two of the project to upgrade the college’s science facilities will soon be underway, an effort that will wrap up a changeover from virtual to hands-on science labs.

Improvements to the chemistry lab in Bogel Hall will be an important step in further enhancing the academic experience and depth of science learning for students. Featuring the latest classroom technology, renovations to the space will help make chemistry classes more interactive and offer more versatility in teaching course material.

With the latest renovations, it will complete the physical framework for a new general science curriculum that will be rolled out in Fall 2012. To achieve this goal, support is being sought to assist in completing the science facilities modernization project.

For more information or to discuss ways to support this project, contact Craig Harris, director of development at 716-926-8888 or e-mail charris@hilbert.edu.

Teaming Up to Reduce Underage Drinking

Educational programs, sobriety checkpoints and other proactive measures intended to reduce alcohol and drug use among underage youth in the Town of Hamburg will be established through a new college-community collaboration involving Hilbert College, the Town of Hamburg Police Department and the Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ECCPASA).

The joint pilot program is being funded by a one-year $20,000 College Community Coalition Sub-Grant awarded to ECCPASA, which is administering the grant, and one of only five presented across the state from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). Funding is being provided by the Office of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Grant Program.

With the 2011 grant, a Hamburg Underage Drinking (HUD) Coalition, under the guidance of the Western New York Prevention Resource Center, has been created with representatives from Hilbert, the Hamburg police, ECCPASA, and stakeholders in the community.

“As a Hamburg-based college with strong criminal justice programs, this grant provides Hilbert an opportunity to tap into its expertise in the law enforcement field and work with key partners in the community to address alcohol use by youth in the Hamburg area,” said Edward Qualey, chairperson of Hilbert’s Criminal Justice / Forensic Science Division. “We recognize there is a crucial need for effective preventive components to be in place to address underage drinking and to educate students about the short- and long-term impact alcohol can have on their life goals.”

According to a recent Roswell Park Cancer Institute study on underage drinking in Erie County, 28 percent of ninth-graders reported drinking alcohol in the past 30 days and 16 percent reported being drunk in the same time period. With this and other indicators cited by the Center for Health and Social Research at Buffalo State College, Hamburg is considered at high risk for underage drug and alcohol use.

“Support from the grant allows us to take an active role in assisting the Hamburg community and to be involved in a cohesive partnership that’s instrumental to addressing a challenging issue,” said Andrea Wanat, executive director of ECCPASA. “Ultimately, it is our goal that with the success of this new initiative it can be used as a statewide model for similar programs in other communities.”

In addition to the HUD Coalition recently being formed, an educational seminar on “Conduct and Successful Decision Making,” which examined negative behaviors, including alcohol abuse and its impact on life and employment success, was held at Hilbert for residence assistants and students who reside in campus housing.

Also, a campus-wide survey developed by the HUD Coalition was done at Hilbert to better gauge the perception and attitudes of resident students about the risk and harm related to alcohol use by underage drinkers. Survey results will serve as a guide for messaging to correct misperceptions about underage drinking via a social norms campaign that will be developed by the HUD Coalition.

To further engage Hilbert students in the process, criminal justice and digital media and communication majors will participate in focus groups and assist with grant-related activities as they move forward.

In another effort, 50 local students who show high-risk behavior due to alcohol or drug use or violate Hilbert’s substance abuse policies will participate in the ECCPASA’s two-session educational intervention program “Focus on Consequences.” Participants will learn about the risks and negative consequences of their behavior and be educated about making safe, healthy choices.

Working together through partnerships like the HUD Coalition, we can best protect our future generations from the risks and consequences of underage drinking and help keep them on track to achieve their aspirations in life,” said OASAS Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez.

A number of other measures both on campus and in the Hamburg community will be implemented in the coming year, including retail compliance checks, party patrols, and sobriety check-points as ways to curb drinking by area youth under the legal drinking age.

To this end, Hilbert will work with ECCPASA staff and the HUD Coalition to re-evaluate the college’s current drug and alcohol policy and make adjustments as needed based on suggestions and outcomes from the year-long strategies.
A look at generations of families whose tradition of giving has helped nurture Hilbert’s evolution over the past five decades – a belief and support that endures for what the college and its students are poised to achieve now and in the future.

by Grace Lazzara

“With private colleges facing funding challenges, support has to come from people who themselves have been given opportunities. Those who want to go to college need the door opened for them, often through scholarships and financial aid.” – Karen Gaughan Scott

Karen Gaughan Scott is speaking of her family’s generations-long commitment to giving, whether in the form of funds, time or knowledge. As Hilbert College nears its 55th year since its founding, the institution is fortunate to have in its community several families who have through generations passed along their commitment to giving to the Franciscan college. Among these generous families are three who are well into a second- and third-generation of Hilbert supporters.

“The families who continue to support us know they’re helping to build a legacy – a legacy of our students completing a college degree, many of whom represent the first generation of their families to attend college,” says Hilbert President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D.

“We’re very humbled that multiple generations of families like the Gaughan Scotts, Qualeys and Russos continue to believe in our mission and support us in such a generous way,” she adds.

Why do some families focus their collective attention outward toward supporting something in the community? A recent study actually goes a long way in answering this question: “Giving families often identify a set of shared values, a philanthropic culture that has grown up around their giving.” (Families Making Good on Philanthropy’s Promise, August 2011, Family Giving News)

To a striking degree, each of Hilbert’s “giving families” bears out what the study shows: Each has developed an internal culture that revolves around an important value, amplifying their natural tendency to give back.
For years, the Russo family, who founded the Sorrento Cheese Co., has served Hilbert as a sustaining force, an ardent contributor to the college’s success and growth. Indeed, the Russos encompass three-generations of Hilbert support.

The late Louis Russo, founder of Sorrento, and his wife, Anna Mae, were introduced to the college by family friends. They developed a close personal relationship with Hilbert President Emerita Sister Edmunette Paczesny, FSSJ. The importance of the relationship was made clear when Hilbert named the McGrath Library Conference Room in honor of Louis and Anna Mae.

The foundation that Louis and Anna Mae established, the Russo Family Charitable Foundation, also continued the support to Hilbert. Louis and Anna Mae’s children, Celia, John and Joseph, maintained the commitment, supporting Hilbert and its mission to educate students in the Catholic Franciscan tradition through the family foundation and Sorrento. Today, Jeff Russo, president of Pine Hill Fresh Foods, Inc., who is the grandson of Louis and son of Joseph Russo, also maintains the connection to Hilbert.

The foundation of this bond, says Jeff, was a common thread and belief shared by Jeff’s grandfather and Sister Edmunette: personal commitment and a tireless effort to see a vision through to completion. “They shared the same drive,” says Jeff.

The relationship has existed as long as Jeff can remember. “When the college needed help with a project or moral support, there was always a family commitment,” he says.

“It’s our family culture,” Jeff explains. “In business and life, we’ve been very fortunate, and we’ve never lost sight of the fact that a community is out there. It’s just expected—you do for those who need your help.”

Jeff himself has served as a Hilbert board trustee and stays connected as much as his growing business and two young children allow. He is also considering, with President Zane’s guidance, a plan for the family to become more specific in its giving to the college; for instance, to provide scholarships for students in certain academic programs. “We’re trying to author some new ways to offer support in an effort to be more focused on what we’re trying to accomplish,” he says.

Jeff articulates a family philosophy of giving that speaks to this: “Legacy involvement is vital. Having the organization you support intertwined with who you are as a family engenders a lifelong involvement that sees efforts through to completion. We have a belief system that says we’re always going to have this relationship because it rises above what we thought it would with every contribution of time, energy, funds and commitment,” he says.

The Russo family’s support of Hilbert actually reflects their lifelong support of their home base, Hamburg, N.Y. “We all were born, raised and live here,” Jeff says. “Western New York has always been very good to us.”

In return, the family has invested in the region’s schools and real estate. “One of the area’s biggest assets is Hilbert,” he adds. “The vision that President Zane and the board have brought to the growth and development of the college is a tremendous advantage to Hamburg and all of Western New York. There’s so much potential for Hilbert to do more and to have an even greater impact on our community and its students.”

“If you have a way to help people and to make a difference, then take the steps to make good things happen. Talk to the people who have benefited from your efforts, and you’ll be hooked. It’s life-changing for everybody.” – Jeff Russo
A truism in law enforcement is that it runs in families. It’s true for Edward Qualey ’74 and his family. Interestingly, the family’s support for Hilbert stretches across the generations, too. Ed, a retired New York State trooper, is a long-time associate professor and current chairperson of the college’s Criminal Justice/Forensic Science Division. His son, Richard Qualey ’88, followed in his father’s footsteps as an alumnus, in teaching as an adjunct instructor of criminal justice, and in his career as a New York State Police investigator. Richard’s wife, Maureen ’01, a Hilbert graduate as well and a retired police lieutenant from the Kenmore Police Department, teaches at the Erie County Police Services Academy. Daughter Melissa Qualey Sentz ’94 also received her degree from Hilbert. (She’s a teacher whose husband, John, is a sergeant in the Erie County Sheriff’s Office.)

The Qualey’s educational and professional connection with Hilbert evolved into a giving connection several years ago on a bittersweet note. Ed and his wife, Beverly, wanted to find a lasting, different way of honoring family members who had passed. That realization led them in 1993 to establish the Flood-Qualey Family Scholarship, which supports criminal justice majors.

“The older Qualey generation’s desire to give seems to have rubbed off on the younger. Richard says that his first experiences with community involvement came through his family environment. “One of my contemporaries and best friends has a term he calls ‘Qualey-ing’—taking on lots of projects,” he says with a smile. “Dad manages that really well.” Ed jokes that he uses the power of guilt to motivate his kids to give to Hilbert. A close look, though, reveals another, more powerful motivator: family pride. “Seeing the Qualey name on a scholarship makes me feel proud,” Melissa says. “People benefit from [the scholarship] and can follow their educational dreams.”

Richard’s thoughts run along similar lines. “The scholarship is a tribute to members of our family who have passed, and I’m proud to be part of it. Even when the time comes that I’m no longer with the college, I want to continue supporting the scholarship.”

“As a fourth generation law enforcement officer, supporting a college that is well respected in the field is one of the best ways I can give back to the profession and honor my family’s law enforcement legacy.”  – Richard Qualey ’88
Long-held family beliefs in education and Franciscan values have wrought a strong bond between the Gaughan Scotts and Hilbert.

The link began with the late Vincent Gaughan, a noted attorney who was an advisor to Hilbert’s founding president, Sister Edwina Bogel, FSSJ. He also served on the college’s Board of Governors. Vincent’s interest in then Immaculata College became a drive to help guide the college’s evolution into a two-year co-educational institution. He also, according to college lore, suggested naming the institution after Mother Collette Hilbert, foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph (FSSJ).

Vincent’s daughter, attorney and Hilbert trustee emerita Karen Gaughan Scott, remembers the attraction that Hilbert held for her father. “With seven children, my father always had a keen interest in education. He also was a very devout Catholic and admired the Franciscans,” she recalls.

Her own relationship with Hilbert has ranged from serving as First 50 Campaign co-chair to board of trustees chair, but began in some ways long before. “My sisters and I attended Immaculata High School, also founded by the FSSJ congregation,” she says. “We were educated by many incredible sisters who I fondly remember.”

Her father’s pledge of a scholarship fund in his will prompted Karen and her husband, Stanley, to focus and amplify his gift by making a gift to Hilbert’s Institute for Law and Justice. “The gift was in remembrance to my father and honored the FSSJ sisters,” Karen says.

Hilbert’s role in providing educational opportunities to everyone, regardless of their financial means. Her feeling is based on the idea that molding highly skilled, well-educated people who can take leadership positions helps to ensure a solid future. “You are given certain opportunities in life and if you want to have a positive influence and touch the future, help someone receive an education,” she says.

Of her three children, one remains in Western New York and has “continued the chain” of giving to Hilbert. Patrick Scott, D.D.S., M.D., is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Orchard Park, N.Y., and contributes his time and support to events like Hilbert’s Scholarship Golf Tournament. His motivation, like his mother’s and grandfather’s, is the certainty that education is vital. “Education can never be taken away,” he explains. “It gives people the opportunity to do whatever they want to do.”

Patrick knows well the family stories about his grandfather’s active support of Hilbert, as well as the fact that Vincent encouraged his children to get involved. He’s keen to instill a similar impulse in his three young sons. “I try to show them via my actions that it’s important to give back to education and our community.”

Ultimately, the Gaughan Scotts share a simple philosophy of giving back. Every person can make a difference based on whatever they have to give: funds, time, knowledge. “Choose something that has meaning to you and your family,” Karen suggests. “If it has meaning, it will go on through several generations.”

HC Grace Lazzara is a freelance writer and public relations consultant residing in Buffalo, N.Y.
A New Opportunity Debuts

With the inaugural cohort of students starting this fall, Hilbert’s new graduate programs are now a reality.

By Paula Witherell

When 25 graduate students arrived on Hilbert College’s campus in late August for their first courses, they took a historic place at the college. The eclectic group of working professionals, recent and past alumni, and adults starting on a new career path became the first-ever students to take part in Hilbert’s newly launched graduate programs leading to a master’s degree in criminal justice administration (MSCJA) or a master in public administration (MPA). It was a turning point at the college following several years of extensive planning and preparation that went into bringing the programs to fruition.

For 18 months, the tight-knit cohort of students will attend classes Wednesdays and Saturdays as each works toward completing their graduate degree. Using an accelerated format, by the end of 2011, students have already finished three terms of classes.

Robert Gardner ’03, an investigator in the New York State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation, is among the initial group to go through the MSCJA program, which uses a multidisciplinary approach to expose students to a breadth of knowledge in advanced issues in criminal justice, ranging from causes of crime to penology. Once completed, this will be the third Hilbert degree for the 23-year law enforcement professional.

“Hilbert has a well-respected criminal justice major so when the college started the graduate program it was a perfect fit for me. Academically, it offers an excellent blend of relevant courses taught by professors who bring a high level of insight to every class. Plus, they make the courses challenging, interesting and immediately useful to students,” says Gardner, who holds both bachelor’s and associate’s degrees in criminal justice from Hilbert.

Ultimately, “the program will strengthen my knowledge and skills to become a strong leader in the criminal justice field and in the New York State Police,” he adds, pointing out that his long-term goal is to eventually teach in Hilbert’s criminal justice program.

Martin Floss, Ph.D., chair of the MSCJA program, says that “students in the cohort have been fully committed to succeeding in this very challenging and rigorous program. As the students continue to deepen their knowledge base, they recognize the value in what they are learning and the professional opportunities this degree will open up for them.”

One of only two programs of its kind in Western New York, the MPA program emphasizes the importance of serving and strengthening the community. That, says MPA student Crystal Rodriguez-Lane, is what drew her to the distinctive educational program, which offers a diverse curriculum on local and state government functions, values and ethics and other essential areas.

Continued on page 14
Bringing Business to Life

Pat Heraty is known for his leadership and determination. Those traits have served him well inside and outside the classroom.

By Paula Witherell

For 30-plus years, Hilbert College Professor Patrick Heraty’s approach to business education has sparked students’ minds and inspired many to follow their dreams in the world of business.

The Chicago native’s interest in the business arena started in his teen years during his days as a golf caddy at Indian Hill Country Club located in an affluent area north of the city. Also pitching in with bussing tables, washing dishes and shining shoes, Heraty’s fascination with the dynamics of business was piqued from his daily interaction with the many club members who were working professionals.

It was also while at the country club where the future college professor crossed paths and worked with for nearly a decade with actor and “Saturday Night Live” alum Bill Murray, who later turned that country club experience into the famed comedic film “Caddyshack.” Like me, says Heraty, “he came from a large Irish family being cared for by a mother widowed at a young age.”

Looking to turn his enthusiasm for business into a career, Heraty attended Marquette University in Milwaukee during the turbulent 1960s. He received a bachelor’s degree in finance and later earned an MBA and a master’s degree in business education from Canisius College.

Along the way, he started teaching in 1978 at Hilbert, where he’s been honored with the President’s Medal, the college’s highest honor, and the Sister Adrienne Faculty/Staff Lifetime Achievement Award, among other honors.

You’ve been with Hilbert for nearly 35 years. What led you to teaching at the college?
In late 1977, my wife, Ann, and I lived in Angola with our son, Jon, who was about 18 months old at the time. We decided I would take a “paternity leave,” a new concept at the time, and stay home with Jon while Ann returned to teaching full time. Looking for part-time work, I expressed interest in teaching at Hilbert. I was interviewed and began teaching my first college course in economics in January 1978.

Through the years, what positive change or development at Hilbert stands out most in your mind?
There have been two major developments which have helped Hilbert become the great place it is today. First, Hilbert’s reputation for academic rigor and quality continues to grow. Second, it’s the college’s ability to attract new faculty, staff and administrators who reflect and promote the best of Hilbert’s culture. There is a common purpose here that is evident and energizing.

What’s the greatest lesson Hilbert students have taught you?
Students have taught me the importance of thinking long term. I’ve discovered along the way that learning is a process that is different for every student. Most who appeared unmotivated and indifferent in the early stages came around and went on to great careers. I’ve learned to be more patient and to work with students to keep “moving the needle,” even in small increments.

One of your areas of expertise is leadership. Past or present, who do you consider the all-time great leader?
I would not want to single out one person. When I think of historical figures, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King had permanent and significant impacts on our nation. My favorite leadership guru is Peter Drucker, who was inspired by Mary Parker Follett, an author in the early 20th century. The fact that businessmen would read her teachings and listen to her presentations at that early time is a testament to her wisdom.

You’ve frequently been interviewed by news media about the U.S. auto industry. What’s needed to keep the domestic auto industry competitive?
Some big steps have been taken. The domestic auto industry has sized itself to match current and anticipated demand. It had far too much capacity and that resulted in a cost structure which rendered them uncompetitive. They are in an excellent position now, profitable even though industry sales are significantly lower than a decade ago. “Kaizen” (Japanese for continuous improvement everywhere) will need to be the norm, so the automakers and UAW will need to continue to work together to innovate.

As a corporate consultant, what project have you found to be the most rewarding?
Patrick Crotty (adjunct instructor) and I worked on a Ford Motor Company project. Ford recognized that its hierarchical structure was inefficient and stifling worker involvement, and we were brought in to work with the UAW and Ford to facilitate the transition to “natural work teams.”

You recently achieved the designation of Certified Six Sigma Black Belt. Why did you pursue this?
Six Sigma is a cutting-edge performance management methodology. The certification is becoming more common in several sectors and I want to remain current in workplace developments.

What’s the future of the business world?
It’s going to be more global, diverse, complex and competitive.

What are your favorite leisure activities?
Most of my free time is spent with my family. I also enjoy a glass of wine and the Wall Street Journal – it doesn’t get much better than that.

Who has influenced you most in your life?
My mother and my wife have been most influential. My mother was widowed with six children, the oldest of which was age 8, and the seventh child arrived a month after my father’s death. She has a story of courage and faith which continues to inspire me. My wife is the most compassionate and caring person I have known. She is my role model.

Where did you grow up? Why did you come to Western New York?
I grew up in Chicago. After graduating from Marquette in 1970, I joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and was assigned to the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana. A young lady from Buffalo, named Ann Bellanti, was also assigned to Fort Belknap. We stayed there three years and married in Buffalo in 1973.

Describe yourself in three words.
Fortunate. Grateful. Determined. HC
Recently named full-time faculty are Lisamarie Bensman, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology; Raymond Ernst, assistant professor of forensic science; and Meredith Ezak, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology.

Martin Floss, Ph.D., chairperson of Hilbert’s master’s degree in criminal justice administration, has received the 2011 Richard B. Lewis Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Criminal Justice Educators Association of New York State. With the 2010 honor going to Edward Qualey, chairperson of the Criminal Justice/Forensic Science Division, this marks the first time in the award’s 15-year history that it was presented for two consecutive years to faculty from the same institution.

Maura Flynn, director of human resources, has received recertification as a professional in human resources (PHR) based on education, experience and knowledge established by the HR Certification Institute.

Ashley Goodwin, who has experience in residence life and other student/campus life areas as a graduate assistant, has been appointed assistant director of residence life.

Erika Haygood, assistant professor of liberal studies, was keynote speaker at the fifth annual “A Call to Women of Color” social gathering to help improve the health status of women of color in Rochester.

Christopher Holoman, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs, conducted a working session on academic success and targeting solutions at a one-day Educational Leadership Summit on developing and sustaining partnerships among K-12 school districts and higher education.

Alaina Houseknecht, special events coordinator, is also serving as career counselor in the Career Development Center.

At Hilbert’s McGrath Library, Christopher Hulsman has been named night and weekend library supervisor, and Kristina Kopp has been appointed assistant reference librarian.

Tara Jabbaar Gyambrah, Ph.D., director of multicultural affairs, is participating in the Council for Independent Colleges Senior Leadership Academy.

Andrew Kolin, Ph.D., professor of political science, has been appointed referee for the academic publisher Rowman & Littlefield. He is in the process of evaluating for publication a book manuscript on genocide studies.

Catherine Nagel, adjunct instructor of legal studies, has received the Erie County Hon. Michael F. Dillon Attorneys for Children Award in recognition of her vigorous advocacy on behalf of children.

Amy Smith, Ph.D., director of the Honors Program and professor of English, has been named chair of the Division of Arts & Sciences.

Anthony Wiertel, assistant vice president for business/finance, has received a 20-Year Service Award from Meals on Wheels for Western New York, Inc.

Hilbert President Cynthia Zane, Ed.D., has been elected to the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees, which represents executive-level participation from colleges and universities throughout New York state’s independent higher education sector.

HC

Coming in Fall 2012

Hilbert College’s Accelerated Degree Program

An exciting new educational opportunity designed for working adults who have completed 50 to 60-plus college credits and are seeking to complete a bachelor’s degree in a flexible, accelerated format.

Bachelor’s degrees will be offered in:
- Conflict Studies and Dispute Resolution
- Organizational Development

Complete your degree by attending classes just one night per week.
Details to be available soon on Hilbert’s Web site.
First FT Women’s, Men’s Soccer Coaches On Board

With funds awarded to Hilbert College from a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Strategic Alliance Matching Grant, the college has appointed Kelly Starchok-Gillow to the newly created position of compliance and student services coordinator/head women’s soccer coach.

Hilbert was one of only seven institutions in the U.S. selected to receive the highly competitive three-year grant, which is designed to provide funding to D-III institutions seeking to develop professional administrative opportunities to enhance diversity and inclusion within an institution’s athletic program.

“The new position’s coaching responsibilities allows student-athletes to have greater access and more interaction with their head coach, who oftentimes serves as a key mentor for college-level athletes,” said Susan Viscomi, director of athletics, adding that the position will also allow for more time and resources to identify and attract higher-caliber student-athletes to Hilbert.

Kelly Starchok-Gillow brings to Hilbert more than 10 years coaching experience as a head coach in the Empire United Soccer Academy and has earned several team and coaching awards. During her four years at Genesee Community College (GCC), she led the Cougars to the National Junior College Athletic Association’s (NJCAA) National Tournament in 2010 (runner-up) and became the NJCAA Division III District A Champions and Region 3 Champions in both 2009 and 2010.

Starchok-Gillow was named the 2010 NSCAA/Mondo Junior College National Northeast Coach of the Year, the 2009 and 2010 NJCAA Region III Coach of the Year and the 2008 New York State ODP Coach of the Year.

As Hilbert’s compliance and student services coordinator, Starchok-Gillow is overseeing a recently launched program developed specifically for at-risk Hilbert student-athletes to help facilitate their academic success. She’s also maintaining all student-athlete eligibility matters and assumed the advisor position to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

In men’s soccer, Jeff Panik, a former Professional Arena Soccer League (PASL) and Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) professional player, has been named as Hilbert’s first full-time head men’s soccer coach and is also handling athletic facilities coordinator responsibilities.

“His commitment to earning several NSCAA National Diplomas is a true testament to Jeff’s passion for coaching soccer. A tireless recruiter, we look forward to growing our program and being a perennial contender in the AMCC,” said Viscomi.

Before coming to Hilbert, Panik, who has more than 10 years coaching experience, served as head men’s soccer coach at North Country Community College in Saranac Lake, N.Y. He coached two All-Region Players and three All-Conference Players with one of those young men receiving a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Player of the Week honor during the season.

In addition to his coaching duties, the Ohio native served as an adjunct instructor of physical education and as athletics facility manager/events coordinator at North Country.

Panik began his coaching career as a staff coach with the Samba Soccer Club while he was still a student at Cuyahoga Community College. Two of his teams traveled to Sweden and Jamaica for international competition and, in 2006, his U-15 boys’ team brought home the Dalecarlia Cup.

In 2004, Panik joined the college coaching ranks as an assistant coach at CCC before he moved to Great Falls, Mont., to become the men’s assistant at the University of Great Falls.

He also had a professional playing career while coaching at the college level. In 2007, he played in every game for the Cleveland North Coast semi-professional indoor team of the PASL and served as a reserve/practice player for the professional indoor MISL’s Cleveland Force team.

As a coach, Panik earned NSCAA State and Regional Goalkeeping Diplomas, as well as NSCAA National and Advanced National Diplomas.

New Coach Preparing Team for Varsity Status

In preparation for Hilbert College’s women’s lacrosse program starting varsity status in the 2012-13 academic year, Julia Decker has been named the first full-time women’s lacrosse coach of the newest Hawks team.

In addition to her coaching duties of the current club team and recruitment efforts, the 2008 College of Brockport graduate is providing administrative support to the athletic department.

To lead the Hawks into Division III competition, Decker is drawing from her coaching experience and from her playing days as a Golden Eagle. As a stand-out lacrosse player at Brockport, she propelled the team to new heights her final two seasons at the suburban Rochester college.

Upon graduation, the senior captain ranked second in points and third in goals on the college’s all-time lists. Her 2007 and 2008 teams were East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) finalists (2008 champions).

Decker was named the team’s 2009 Offensive Player of the Year and earned a 2008 SUNYAC All-Conference Attacker Award. She also earned SUNYAC All-Academic Team recognition in 2008 and 2009, as well as a SUNYAC Commissioner’s Academic List nod in 2008.

Follow Hawks! on Facebook and Twitter...

Hawks fans can now get the latest information on Hilbert College athletics on Facebook and Twitter. Visit www.hilbert.edu/athletics and click the Facebook icon to “Like” us. You can also get game updates by following the Hawks on Twitter.
“The MPA courses are immediately applicable and directly connect to the responsibilities of working professionals and to those looking to diversify their career options,” says Rodriguez-Lane, executive director of the City of Buffalo’s Commission on Citizens’ Rights and Community Relations. “Learning in-depth about administrative leadership, budget and government processes and additional core practices will help me contribute more to the City of Buffalo.”

Building on her educational background, Rodriguez-Lane, who holds a law degree from the University at Buffalo, was looking for a way to establish a stronger foundation in pertinent processes and techniques used in the public sector, which Hilbert’s program offers. Beyond this, she says, the college’s learning environment drew her to the MPA program.

“The way Hilbert’s program is structured and the small college atmosphere lends itself to the cohort becoming a very tight-knit group. I’ve gotten to know and bond with my peers and professors and appreciate the diverse range of experiences everyone brings to the program,” says Rodriguez-Lane, who also has a bachelor’s degree in social sciences from California State University San Marcos, which she received while serving in the U.S. Navy.

As the inaugural cohort progresses through the programs, the interconnectedness among the students, as well as the high caliber of the professors and coursework have already become the hallmark of the programs, says Walter Iwanenko, Ph.D., dean of graduate studies and MPA professor (see Iwanenko Appointed on page 10).

“Right from the start, the students were remarkably positive about the programs and quickly recognized the many ways their degree will enhance their professional lives,” says Iwanenko.

“Equally notable,” he adds, “has been their reaction to learning from top quality faculty and program enrichment opportunities through regular guest speakers who are experts in their field. With this, the students are building relationships in the professional community they may otherwise not have available to them.”

For Iwanenko, “it’s been extremely rewarding to get to know each student and to learn about their goals. In many respects, it’s been exciting for me to be on the ground floor of Hilbert’s new graduate programs.”

Nearly 160 Hilbert College alumni, staff, faculty and guests came out on a beautiful late-July evening for the 10th annual Hilbert Day at Coca-Cola Field, a fun summertime baseball outing that had the crowd cheering on the Buffalo Bisons as they played the Columbus Clippers.

The celebration started with a pre-game party and music, food and drinks before guests took their seats for the Friday night game. The well-attended event, which was co-sponsored by the Hilbert Alumni Association and the Office of Alumni Relations, closed out with spectacular post-game fireworks over the City of Buffalo.

To be sure you won’t miss out on the 2012 Hilbert Day at Coca-Field, check the Hilbert alumni Web site at www.hilbert.edu/alumni for details on next year’s event as information becomes available.
**News & Notes**

**‘70s**

**Paul Piotrowski** AA ’74 is running for Cheektowaga town judge in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

**‘90s**

**Julieann Lindstrom Hoerner** AA ’90 has been appointed principal of Lake Shore High School in Angola, N.Y.

**Gwen Squire** BS ’96 was featured in a West Seneca Bee story about the closing of the West Seneca Developmental Center in July. A former resident of the center, she commented on her accomplishments, including graduating from Hilbert, during the center’s “Journey Home” closing ceremony.

**Cindy Stevens** BA ’93 is an associate professor in the Wentworth Institute of Technology’s College of Management and Construction Management in Boston, Mass.

**Robyn Young** BS ’97 has been elected to the board of directors of the Credit Union Association of New York. She is currently chief executive officer of Great Erie Federal Credit Union in Orchard Park, N.Y.

**Jenniffer Allen** BA ’07 is a senior counselor at the Union Losson Clinic in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

**Angela Baco Bonk** BA ’07 is enrolled in the community mental health counseling program at St. Bonaventure University and received a Dean’s Scholarship.

**Kyle Cavalieri** BS ’07 is an investigator at DIGITS LLC in Buffalo.

**Thomas Czora** BS ’08 is an account specialist in the commercial truck division at Enterprise Holdings (Enterprise Rent a Car) in Hamburg, N.Y.

**Melanie Grotke Dabolt** BS ’03 has been promoted to corporate controller at Affival, Inc., in Williamsville, N.Y.

**Loretta Labby Felder** BA ’05 received a master’s degree in mental health counseling from Medaille College and is working as an independent practitioner.

**Devin Herkimer Fix** BA ’02 has been promoted to vice president, claims manager at NCAComp in Buffalo.

**Kristina Kopp** BA ’08 has received a master’s degree in English from Buffalo State College.

From the Alumni President

The Hilbert College Alumni Association continues to make excellent progress in connecting alumni with each other and with the college community and campus, a place we consider home.

This year the alumni association hosted its first-ever G.O.L.D. (Graduate of the Last Decade) Wine Tour along the Niagara Wine Trail. The day-long event was filled with alumni sharing campus memories, a Hilbert trivia contest, making new connections, and, of course, tastings of some of the region’s finest wine! We hope this will be an annual event and look forward to more alumni joining us next year.

Over the past year, the alumni association also hosted the widely popular Hilbert Day at Coca-Cola Field (see page 14), where alumni gathered to enjoy a pre-game party and cheered on the Buffalo Bisons in a game against the Columbus Clippers.

In addition to alumni events, a Future Alumni Network (FAN) has been started. We’ve seen great interest from the student body in joining this group and connecting with alumni. Look for these impressive students at a future alumni event.

The Hilbert Alumni Association firmly believes in the positive impact of private philanthropy from our alumni and the impact we have on the college and students. I’m pleased to report we have 100 percent participation in the Hilbert Fund from our board of directors. In addition to our individual gifts, through the success of our events and fundraisers, the alumni association board has fulfilled its yearly commitment of $1,500 designated for the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship. I hope you will also consider giving back to support Hilbert’s current students, who need our help now more than ever.

In November, we celebrated the success of several alumni and others affiliated with the college. If you were not able to join us, I hope you will do so next year. The event provides a great way to reconnect with our Hilbert family of alumni, students, faculty and staff.

I welcome your ideas and feedback on ways the Hilbert Alumni Association can improve its relationship with you and increase its effectiveness in connecting you with other alumni, current students and Hilbert. Also, if you have new contact information, please pass along any updates to Deanna Messinger, assistant director of alumni relations and annual giving, at dmessinger@hilbert.edu.

I wish you continued success and encourage you to stay connected to other Hilbert graduates and with your alma mater.

Thomas McArthur ’06
alumnipresident@hilbert.edu
JOHN KORDRUPEL BS ’06 has been named office manager at Habitat for Humanity in Buffalo.

ALLEN LEIGHT BA ’06, a video journalist at WKBW-TV in Buffalo, is shown here filming Buffalo Bills quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick.

ANGELA MEYER KRUSZKA BS ’06 is a senior accountant of investment and debt at Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Belmont, N.C.

BRIAN MEYERS BS ’05 is Wyoming County Emergency Preparedness coordinator.

KRISTY MILLER BS ’05 is a care coordinator at Gateway Longview and works in behavior therapy at Baker Victory Services in Lackawanna, N.Y.

BRENDAN PHILLIPS BS ’08, who has been employed at the Smithsonian Institution since 2008, was shown in a photo included with a Washington Post story on “Smithsonian Inspector General Finds Substandard Storage Conditions at American History Museum.”

APRIL REED BS ’09 is enrolled at Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich., and continues to work part-time as a contract specialist at Meritain Health’s branch in Michigan.

STEVEN ROGERS BS ’08 is a legal assistant at Meritain Health in Amherst, N.Y.

SUE SHADE BS ’08 is an AML investigations officer at HSBC Bank in Buffalo.

KIMBERLY BONK SMOLINSKI BS ’04 has been promoted to account executive at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York.

JEFFREY SOJA BS ’06 is a police officer for the United States Park Police in Washington, D.C.

‘10s

STEVEN KNIERY BA ’11 is employed in M&T Bank’s Trust and Securities Department in Buffalo.

FREDERICK MARTIN BS ’11 is studying mental health counseling at Canisius College in Buffalo.

Lonna McCrary ’11, right, and her mother, Donna Zimpfer ’99, Hilbert assistant professor of criminal justice.

LONNA MCCARY BS ’11 was crowned Miss Buffalo 2012 in September. She is also a graduate student in Hilbert’s new master’s degree program in criminal justice administration.

LINDSAY MILLER BS ’11 is an admissions counselor at Alfred University in Alfred, N.Y.

MICHAEL NERO BS ’11 has been named business administrator for commercial oxygen products at Cobham Technologies in Orchard Park, N.Y.

KRYS TEN SAUER BS ’10 is a market development specialist at Ingram Micro in Williamsville, N.Y.

EMILY SCHILLING BS ’11 is a vocational case manager at Southeast Works in Depew, N.Y.

JAMIE SLOANE BS ’11 is attending the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Brunswick, Ga.

CHRISTOPHER SPENCE BA ’11 is pursuing a master’s degree in English education at the University at Buffalo and received UB’s Arthur Schomburg Scholarship.

WILLIAM WESOLOWSKI BS ’11 was pictured in the Lancaster Bee for his participation in the Taste of Lancaster held in August. Bill and his wife, Amy, are owners of Billamy’s BBQ and Catering in Depew, N.Y.

DEBRA TRED O BS ’10 is attending law school at the University at Buffalo.

Weddings

Dennis and Melanie ‘03 DaBolt with her daughter, Hilbert student Jessica Grotke.

MELANIE GROTKE BS ’03 to Dennis DaBolt on July 23, 2011.

JOSEPH FERRARA BS ’06 to Jenna Krzyzaniak on June 25, 2011.

SAFINA FETTERICK BS ’10 to Richard Karns on May 12, 2011.
To contact the Hilbert Office of Alumni Relations: 716-926-8791, dmessinger@hilbert.edu

LINDA FRENZEL BS ’06 to Josh Potter on Oct. 1, 2011.

BRIAN MEYERS BS ’05 to Tricia Snyder on Sept. 4, 2010.

JEANNETTE TESTA BS ’06 to Dustin Delaney on May 28, 2011.

Paul Pitz, Chris ’08 and Tami Treavel, and Heather Hazlett ’09.

CHRIS TREVEAL AA ’08 to Tami Denson on Aug. 20, 2011.

SALLY WLOSTOWSKI BS ’10 to Thomas Paradowski on June 11, 2011.

Christine Ward ’97, Diane Hotaling Kozak ’96, Heidi Sanderson Daniels ’96, and Meghan Maska Goldyn ’96. CHRIS TREVEAL AA ’08 to Tami Denson on Aug. 20, 2011.

Linda ’06 and Josh Potter with several Hilbert staff members.

DAWN BELLEZZA EHRHARDT BS ’02 welcomed a son, Daniel Michael, on Oct. 6, 2011.

COLLEEN NEAR KUMIEGA BS ’94 welcomed a daughter, Genevieve Elizabeth, on April 14, 2011.

CHRISTOPHER CAUDILL AAS ’91
July 17, 2011
ELAINE DUNLAVEY AAS ’92
Aug. 26, 2011
TIMOTHY MCKEEVER BS ’98
Aug. 21, 2011

NICHOLE BECKER RANNEY BS ’01 welcomed a son, Kane Joseph, on Aug. 17, 2011.

AMANDA ALESSI STEINBACHER BA ’04 welcomed a son, Nathaniel Arthur, on Aug. 3, 2011.

AUDREY SINGLER, born Sept. 18, 2010, granddaughter of DIANNA LARAISO BS ’08.

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.

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.

If you are a Hilbert College alumnus, we’d like to welcome your baby Hawk to the family with a Hilbert onesie or bib.

COLLEEN NEAR KUMIEGA BS ’94 welcomed a daughter, Genevieve Elizabeth, on April 14, 2011.

HEIDI PYNCKEL AA ’11 welcomed a daughter, Amelia Rose Bell, on Aug. 27, 2011.

Christine Ward ’97, Diane Hotaling Kozak ’96, Heidi Sanderson Daniels ’96, and Meghan Maska Goldyn ’96.

LINDA FRENZEL BS ’06 to Josh Potter on Oct. 1, 2011.

BRIAN MEYERS BS ’05 to Tricia Snyder on Sept. 4, 2010.

JEANNETTE TESTA BS ’06 to Dustin Delaney on May 28, 2011.

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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.
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Julie Diehl ’88
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Joseph Doody ’75
### Financial Highlights

**2009-10** | **2010-11**
--- | ---
**Tuition & Fees – Gross** | $13,956,600 | $16,039,800
**Tuition & Fees – Net** | $11,404,400 | $12,768,400
**Gifts & Grants** | $1,138,500 | $1,046,700
**Auxiliary Enterprises** | $1,725,700 | $2,050,300
**Investment Income** | | 
Realized | $(190,300) | $458,700
Unrealized | $(545,700) | $777,200
**Other** | $326,400 | $330,000
**Total Revenues** | $15,331,000 | $17,431,300

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**EXPENSES:**

**Instruction** | $5,027,900 | $5,000,500
**Student Services** | $2,813,900 | $3,000,200
**Academic Support** | $1,551,700 | $1,593,900
**Other** | $4,718,500 | $5,005,700
**Total Expenses** | $14,112,000 | $14,600,300
**Net Surplus (Deficit)** | $1,219,000 | $2,831,000

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**Other Highlights:**

**Net Assets** | $20,524,800 | $23,355,800
**Investments** | $7,864,300 | $9,513,900
(market value on 5/31)

**Endowment** | $3,267,400 | $3,420,500
**Enrollment** | 967 | 996
**Tuition and Fees** | $17,850 | $18,490
**Room and Board** | $7,700 | $7,990
Thank you, Michael Gacioch, for your strong belief in Catholic higher education.

Over the past eight years as a Hilbert College trustee, Michael Gacioch has seen the college experience tremendous growth and achieve many successes, including the launch of the college’s first graduate programs, the addition of William E. Swan Auditorium and Paczesny Hall, a state-of-the-art academic-auditorium complex, and Trinity Hall, a new modern residence hall. As a Hilbert board member, he has shared his talents and skills with the college in many capacities as board secretary, chair of the Institutional Advancement and Academic Affairs committees, and co-chair of the Hilbert Scholarship Golf Committee.

Gacioch, president and CFO of National Property Management Associates in Orchard Park, N.Y., has also helped Hilbert grow through his efforts to reach new supporters of the college. He has played a vital role in supporting our students through scholarship funding, serving as a strong role model and inspiring others to achieve their goals. In fact, Gacioch’s parents are now proud supporters of Hilbert College. It is through his leadership and many other volunteers that Hilbert continues to thrive in higher education.

"Having experienced a Franciscan education at St. Francis High School (in Western New York), I was drawn to the Franciscan heritage and values that define Hilbert College," says Gacioch. "I feel it is important to give back and support an institution like Hilbert that provides an opportunity for so many students to be successful in their lives. Hilbert truly is a special place."

Find out how you can support Hilbert students:
Craig Harris
Director of Development
716-926-8888
charris@hilbert.edu

For your convenience, an envelope to send in your gift is enclosed in this issue of Hilbert Connections.
Sitting in Franciscan Hall’s signature two-story windowed atrium at Hilbert College, two students chat as they take a break from classes on an autumn day at the college. The 20,000-square-foot facility housing administrative and student-services offices opened its doors in 1997, making it, at that time, the first new building on the Hamburg campus since the Hafner Recreation Center was completed 18 years earlier.