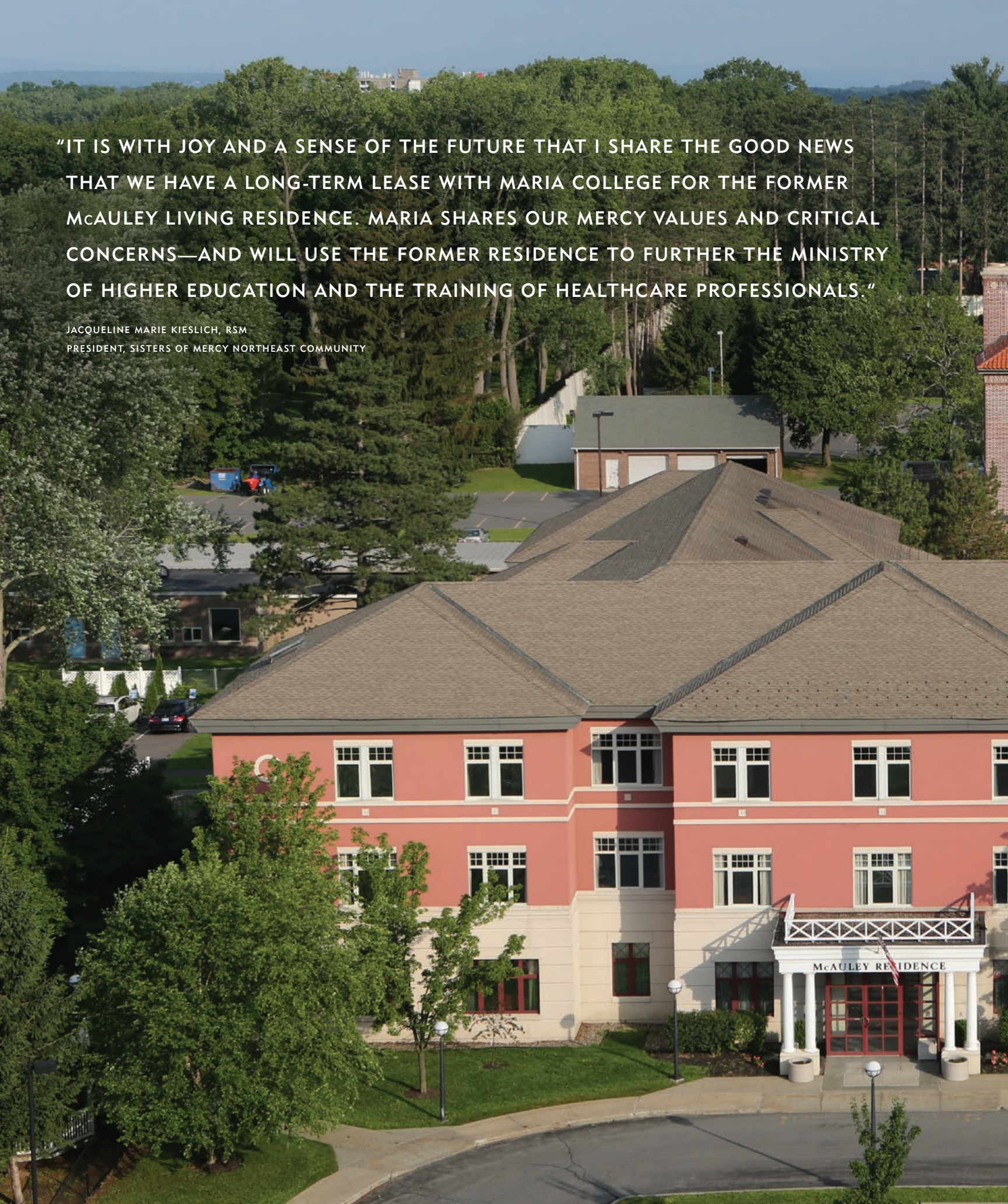


"IT IS WITH JOY AND A SENSE OF THE FUTURE THAT I SHARE THE GOOD NEWS THAT WE HAVE A LONG-TERM LEASE WITH MARIA COLLEGE FOR THE FORMER McAULEY LIVING RESIDENCE. MARIA SHARES OUR MERCY VALUES AND CRITICAL CONCERNS—AND WILL USE THE FORMER RESIDENCE TO FURTHER THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE TRAINING OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS."

JACQUELINE MARIE KIESLICH, RSM
PRESIDENT, SISTERS OF MERCY NORTHEAST COMMUNITY





The former McAuley Residence will play a key role in securing Maria's future as a leader in health professions education. The building provides expansion space for classrooms, labs, and distance education.

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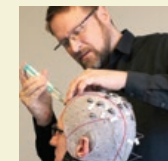
30 Commencement 2017

Graduation celebrations included a traditional nursing White Tea ceremony, a student award dinner, and the conferring of degrees.

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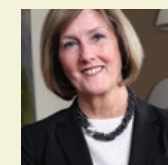
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MARIA MAGAZINE 2018 ISSUE

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FROM THE
**PRESIDENT
& CHAIR**

DEAR ALUMNI, Friends, and Members of the Maria College Community,

On April 25, 1958, Maria College was founded. It gives us great pleasure to bring you this 60th anniversary *Maria Magazine*. The ever-changing and increasingly competitive landscape of higher education has led us to a renewed emphasis on the distinct identity of Maria College as a Catholic, Mercy institution whose specific mission is in opportunity education, the liberal arts tradition, and training in the healthcare professions.

Last year, our trustees reaffirmed Maria's mission and core values—service, scholarship, justice, hospitality, and diversity. The 2016-2020 mission-oriented student success strategic plan is rooted in our values. In the last year, we united mission integration and student support, creating a new organizational structure whose focus is on academic, personal, and spiritual student support services, squarely placing the success of every student, especially our nontraditional population, at the center of who we are and what we do. With the help of alumni, friends, and donors, we are building a best-in-class student support center. The Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Student Support Center was unveiled at a dedication ceremony last fall.

Enrollment increased 10 percent in the last year—a testament to our unique opportunity education niche in the region. The associate programs in nursing and occupational therapy assistant are at capacity. The bachelor's degree programs are growing steadily. The BS degree in nursing completion is helping to advance the education of working RNs. In the past two years, our bachelor's degrees in psychology, health and occupational sciences, and healthcare management programs have celebrated their first graduates, and this May, the BA in Liberal Arts program will be welcoming its first graduating class. New partnerships with public colleges are removing barriers and opening pathways to new opportunities for students to pursue education critical in today's employment marketplace.

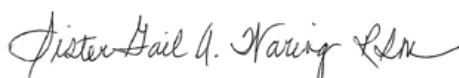
The Northeast Community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas offered Maria a long-term lease of the former McAuley Residence on South Manning Boulevard. Their generosity has resulted in classroom and lab expansion and new space for distance learning and seminars. This is an exciting step forward for Maria's future as a health sciences education leader.

Thanks to the Sisters of Mercy, Maria has been a shining light in our region. We are as committed today to the Mercy charism as when the doors of the College first opened 60 years ago. Our alumni, donors, and friends are a big part to moving Maria forward, and your continued generosity is good for our students, good for our mission, good for our margin, good for our community, and good for Maria. Let it be our faith that if we take good care of Mercy, Mercy will take good care of Maria.

Sincerely & God Bless You,



THOMAS J. GAMBLE, PH.D.
PRESIDENT



GAIL WARING '63, RSM
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

IN BRIEF

Student Awards

THE FOLLOWING AWARDS were presented to students at the commencement dinner Friday, May 19, 2017:

Outstanding Academic Achievement, HOS:

Nicole Varney (3.92 GPA)
(Dual degree HOS/OTA)

Outstanding Academic Achievement, HCM:

Mary Loughlin (3.29 GPA)

Outstanding Academic Achievement, BSN:

Thomas Sabo (4.0 GPA)

Outstanding Academic Achievement, Psychology:

Jessica Lape (3.86 GPA)

Outstanding Academic Achievement, Liberal Arts/General Studies/Management/Paralegal:

Patrizia Valerio (3.84 GPA)

Outstanding Academic Achievement, Nursing:

Karley Walsh (3.93 GPA)

Outstanding Academic Achievement, Clinical Nursing*:

Max Clayton (Day)
Todd Jones (Evening)

Vanguard Award

Awarded by the NYS Nontraditional Employment & Training program:
Peter Bach

Bearldean Burke Award

Nicole Varney

**Recipients selected by the nursing faculty*

Vanguard Award 2018

JOSEPH AKLASSOU-GANA, a Maria College associate degree in nursing (ADN) student is one of eight statewide Vanguard awardees recognized for enrolling in career and technical education programs that



are not traditional for their gender. His story began in Ivory Coast, West Africa. He described the heartbreak of seeing people lose their lives to preventable or easily treatable causes. After his family's immigration to the U.S., he became an American citizen and started working as a certified medical assistant,

thus opening the door to the healthcare field. His journey is inspiring. Victoria A. Callagan, EdD(c), RN, Maria College ADN Program Director, says, "Joseph has demonstrated an eagerness to learn and lives our mission by his dedication and compassion to help others. His positive and determined attitude with a passion for succeeding in healthcare is very inspiring. He believes strongly that he can make a difference as a male role model in nursing." His sights are set on graduating from Maria's ADN program in May, passing the NCLEX-RN exam, and then continuing his education to one day become a nurse practitioner.



recoveriX: Motor Rehabilitation After Stroke

MARIA COLLEGE HAS PARTNERED with Austrian company g.tec to pilot their RecoveriX brain computer interface technology in the United States. The McAuley Building hosts the inaugural RecoveriX flagship gym, and Health Sciences Chair Scott Homer is the first occupational therapist in the country to be trained in the use of this cutting-edge therapy for stroke recovery. In a treatment session, the patient imagines moving their hemiplegic limb on command. These impulses are recorded by EEG and rewarded with a motor stimulation that reinforces the brain's intentions.



Laureen Fitzgerald '61, RSM, Named Maria College President Emerita

The Maria College Board of Trustees proclaimed Sister Laureen as President Emerita last year, honoring her 40 years of service. Above: Sisters of Mercy gather on the Maria campus in Marian Hall's Fitzgerald Court with Sister Laureen holding the trustees' proclamation.

Welcome, New Board of Trustees Members

FOUR NEW MEMBERS recently joined the Maria Board of Trustees:



PAULA COLARUSSO



EDWARD F. GARRIGAN, PLS



JEAN MCGINTY '62, RSM



GIOVANNI VIRGIGLIO

Paula Colarusso is a fundraising and philanthropy professional with notable campaign accomplishments in her portfolio. A resident and business owner in Columbia County, she currently serves on the FarmOn! Foundation's Executive Board of Directors as treasurer. This public charity preserves family farming by supporting youth in agriculture, preparing them for successful careers in sustainable farming.

Edward F. Garrigan, PLS is the president of C.T. Male Associates. He has over 40 years experience as a licensed land surveyor and frequent lecturer for New York's Society of Professional Land Surveyors, bar associations, and for the American Council of Engineering Companies. He has an AAS degree from Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) in Civil Technology and is a graduate of the Capital Leadership Program, Class of 2001. He serves on the Board of Governors for the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation and HVCC Board of Advisors for Civil Technology.

Jean McGinty '62 RSM, MSN, RN, earned a Master of Science in nursing degree from Russell Sage College. Since 1965, she has been a vital force in the St. Peter's Hospital Nursing Department in Women's and Children Services, Assistant Vice President for Nursing, and Director of Home Care Services. Her current community contributions include serving on the Neighborhood Natural Occurring Retirement Community (NNORC) Partners Committee, NNORC Neighborhood Council, and the Board of Mercy Community Health in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Giovanni Virgiglio has been a student, teacher, principal, and administrative leader in local Catholic schools his entire career. He received both his bachelor's degree in elementary education and master's degrees in special education 1-6 and educational leadership and administration from The College of Saint Rose. He also holds New York State certifications in elementary and special education. He currently serves on the Diocesan Accreditation Steering Committee.

UPDATES

1 NEW MEMBER joined the President's Leadership Team.



JOEL NUDI, MBA, PMP

Vice President for Finance and Administration

Nudi came to Maria a year ago from The Boggs Center, New Jersey's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, which is part of Rutgers University. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School in Dublin, Ireland. His wife Deirdre Muldoon, Ph.D., of County Galway, Ireland, is a faculty member at the College of Saint Rose.

Nursing Panel Discussion

IS 19TH CENTURY IRISH NURSING PHILOSOPHY A PART OF TODAY'S PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF NURSING?



ON MAY 12, 2017, a panel convened with special guest Therese Meehan, RGN, Ph.D., Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Nursing, School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems, University College Dublin, Ireland. Other panelists included Carole

Wickham '84, DNS, RN, CNS-BC, Director of Professional Practice & Nursing Research, St. Peter's Hospital; Celeste DesChamps '77, MS, RN, NEA-BC, Interim Chief Nursing Office, St. Peter's Hospital; Elizabeth Heywood, Ph.D., RN, Maria College Nursing Chairperson; and Ellen J. Argust, MS, RN, CNOR, Director of Maria College BS Degree in Nursing Completion Program.

The panel was moderated by Victoria L. Battell, RSM, Maria College Vice President of Mission, Planning, and Student Affairs, and Dean of Students.

Culture and Its Impact on Nursing

Maria nursing students (NUR110) explore how culture impacts nursing and presented findings to the Maria community.



SISTER VIRGINIA ESPOSITO '67, RSM, BA, MBA

Sister Virginia Sposito retired October 9, 2017, after 25 years at Maria College. She began in fall 1992. Sister Virginia started the Gerontology Certificate Program and served as its Director. Sister Virginia taught all gerontology courses and Introduction to Sociology for many years. She was a student advisor and worked for Student Services in Pastoral Care.

IN BRIEF

Catherine McAuley Award for Distinguished Service

THE COLLEGE RECOGNIZES individuals who have an outstanding reputation for service to others; a life that exemplifies the ideals of the Judeo-Christian tradition; an identification and association with Maria College and the founders of the College, the Religious Sisters of Mercy; can serve as a role model for service to the graduates of Maria; and have an identity with the greater Capital District.

2016

Mary Beth Casey O'Brien,
Humanitarian



2017

Presented to Rhea Clark in honor
of her husband, James A. Clark, Jr.



Magdalen Coughlin, OP Provides Memories of the Albany Monastery

THE MONASTERY of the Immaculate Conception on New Scotland Avenue was founded circa 1910. I entered in 1957, having completed high school and a year of training in the art of sculpture in the atelier of Professor Ferenec Varga in Detroit, Michigan. There were five in the novitiate at the time, all in their 20s with me in my teens; and the ages in the community ranged from late teens to 80s. At that time, most women entered after high school and perhaps a year of work, and completed philosophy and theology studies in the monastery. We received training in the arts and crafts with local professionals, and one of our sisters trained as an LPN at St. Peter's Hospital.

We had a life of prayer, reading/study, housekeeping and manual labor, the latter being an essential component of monasticism. We were fortunate that we could pursue creative work in the arts and crafts, and around 1955 we had a small but beautifully appointed gallery in the monastery's basement featuring pottery, paintings, sculpture, calligraphy, and needlework. We had a large garden tractor and mowed our 5-acre enclosed property, kept a vegetable garden, and the novices played baseball, volleyball, and croquet during recreation periods in the summer. In the winter, we would gather in the community room for sewing and conversation.

I transferred to the founding house of the Albany monastery in Farmington Hills Michigan, (Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament) in the spring of 1970 and volunteered for the foundation in Western Canada in 2001. Today, those who remain from the old Albany monastery still have fond, poignant memories of our time there.



The Dominican nuns maintained the monastery grounds themselves, managing the expansive side yard via a large riding lawnmower.

CONGRATULATIONS 2017 PHI THETA KAPPA (PTK) INDUCTEES!

For nearly 100 years, PTK Honor Society has recognized scholars and prepared them for successful futures.

Recognition News



Congratulations to faculty member, **David P. Hoffman**, DPS, CCE, for completing a doctorate in bioethics in the Health Ethics and Policy Concentration at Alden March Bioethics Institute of Albany Medical College.



Victoria L. Battell, RSM, Maria College Vice President of Mission, Planning, and Student Affairs and Dean of Students, was named chair of the Mission Officers Council for the Conference for Mercy Higher Education. She will serve from October 2017 through October 2018.

Maria Opportunity Program Students Express Gratitude

An inaugural gratitude reception was held last spring to express appreciation to student mentors—individuals who play a critical role in opportunity program students' success. Thank you to all who are helping our students achieve their dreams!



Bachelor's Degree Programs Celebrate First Graduates

IN 2013, Maria became a baccalaureate institution. Four high-demand bachelor's degree programs were added to the academic offerings—psychology in 2013, healthcare management (HCM) in 2014, health and occupational sciences (HOS) in 2015, and liberal arts in 2015. Enrollment has been steadily growing as talented high school graduates and transfer students are recruited. A required internship enhances classroom learning and provides relevant work experiences with professional practitioners giving students a competitive edge when seeking employment. This May, the liberal arts BA will welcome its first graduates.



2016 HOS graduates Chelsea Marie Atanasio and Shannon N. Breen with HOS Program Director Scott Homer.



2017 HCM graduates Jill McMullen and Mary Loughlin (Cassie) with HCM Program Director Dr. Rob Cella, Jr.



2016 psychology graduates Gillian Marie Alexander and Cassandra Joy Ibbetson.



Anatomage Presentation in Turkey

DR. STEPHANIE HUTCHINS, Maria Assistant Professor of Science, presented on the Anatomage tables four times between November 2016 and July 2017 in Antalya, Turkey; Florence, Italy; Salt Lake City, Utah; and San Jose, California. She discussed the pros and cons of incorporating Anatomage technology as a teaching tool for human anatomy. The Turkey presentation was at the International Council of Associations for Science Education 5th World Conference on Science and Technology, which attracted about 100 attendees from 23 countries.



Maria and Albany NNORC Partner

MARIA COLLEGE, located within the catchment area of the Albany Neighborhood Naturally Occurring

Retirement Community (NNORC), is providing interprofessional learning opportunities for its nursing and OTA students while helping residents live independently in their own homes through health, education, and social activities. Last fall, Maria hosted a fall-prevention workshop three-part series under the direction of Maria Chairpersons Scott L. Homer, MS, OTR/L, Health Sciences Department Chair, and Dr. Elizabeth J. Heywood, RN, Nursing Department Chair. Judi England '74, RN, NNORC Senior Health Education Coordinator, led activities, such as exercises to build strength, balance, and stability. Nursing and OTA students were a vital part of the program that included a questionnaire created by the Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing completion students and OTA students assisting seniors with activities. Maria OTA Instructor Jake Ashby, MBA-H, OTR/L, CAPS, CEAC, demonstrated assisted device usage strategies and discussed home safety modifications. For more information on the NNORC program, call 518-514-2023.

NEW TO MARIA

2016-2017 STAFF HIRED

FULL-TIME

Joel Nudi, MBA, PMP
VP for Finance and Administration

Jillian Mertzluft, MPH
Student Affairs, Professional Tutor and HEOP Counselor

Jason Coley, MFA, Ph.D.(c)
Assistant Director of Student Support and Planning

Lisa Steinle
Financial Aid Coordinator

Adrienne Rickson, MA
Director of Career Services

Roza Peretta
Assistant Director of Financial Aid

Cian Nudi-Muldoon
Registrar Operations Specialist

Max Clayton '17, RN
Professional Nursing Tutor

Kim Noakes, MSED, MHC
Disabilities Services Coordinator

Sr. Chris Connelly
Pastoral Care

2016-2017 FACULTY HIRED

FULL-TIME

Mollyann Lombardi, MS, RN, CPN
Nursing Faculty

Michelle Issah Danao, MSN, MAN, RN, CCRN
Nursing Faculty

Keylon Cheeseman, Ph.D.
Science Faculty

Usha Palaniswamy, MEd, Ph.D.
Science Faculty

Tara Flanagan, Ph.D.
Religious Studies Faculty



Sisters of Mercy establish Maria as a sister formation college—higher education for the community of sisters.

Maria receives provisional five-year charter as a junior college from NYS Board of Regents to grant associate degrees in arts and applied sciences.

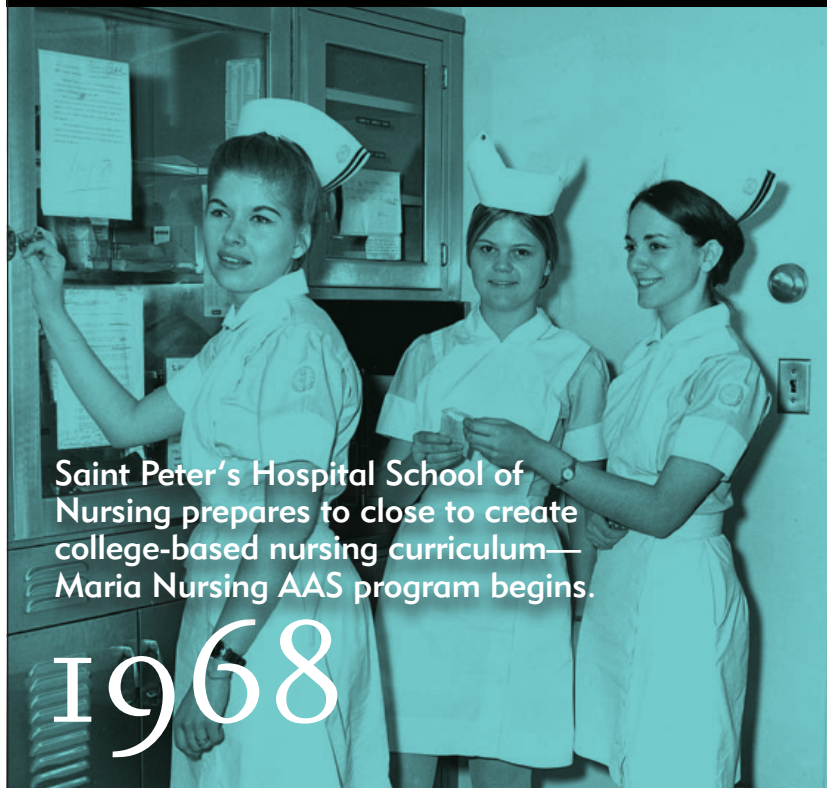
1958



NYS Board of Regents grants absolute charter to admit laypersons and members of religious congregations as students.

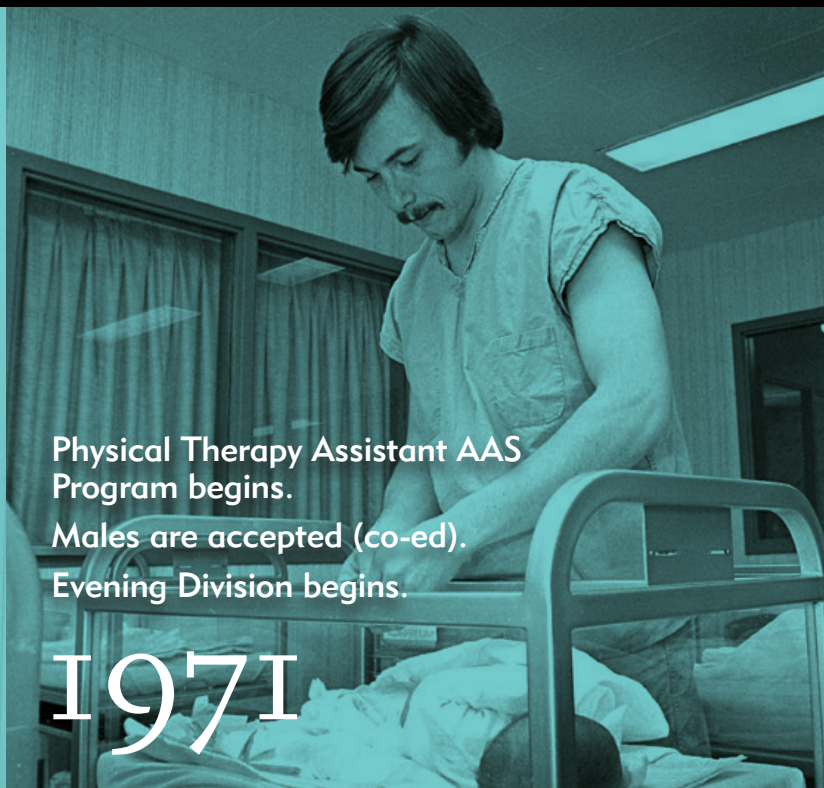
1963

60 YEARS OF MERCY EDUCATION



Saint Peter's Hospital School of Nursing prepares to close to create college-based nursing curriculum—Maria Nursing AAS program begins.

1968



Physical Therapy Assistant AAS Program begins.

Males are accepted (co-ed).
Evening Division begins.

1971



Laywomen are accepted.
Liberal Arts AA, General Studies AS
programs begin.

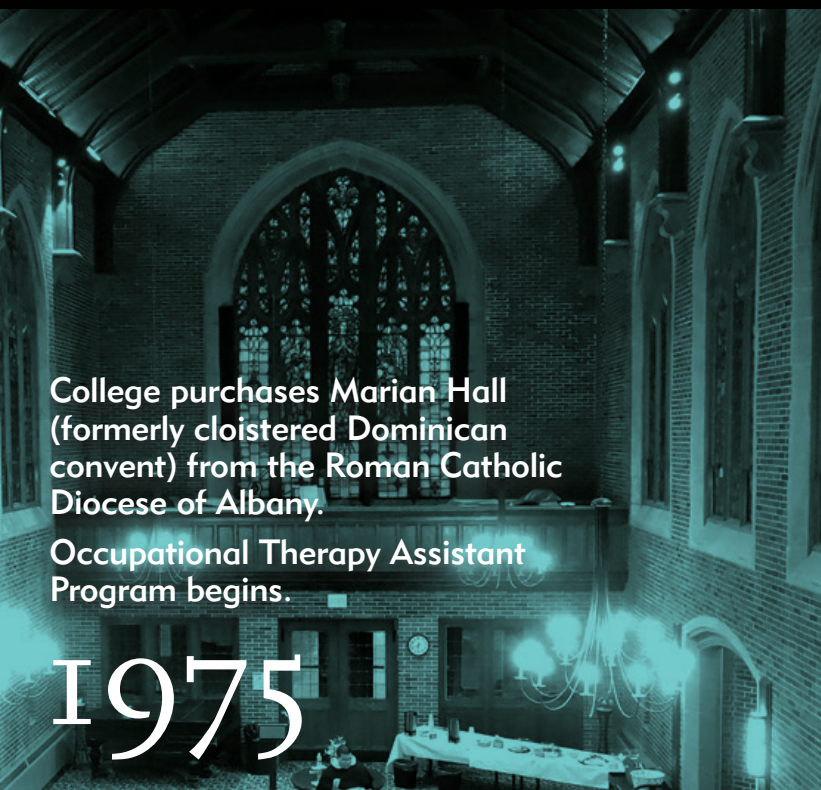
1964



Maria Main Building gets addition;
library is extended.
Early Childhood Education Program AAS
begins; Preschool opens as a "lab."

1967

The Maria community celebrates the 60th anniversary of Maria College on April 25, 2018. Maria's values in service, scholarship, justice, hospitality, and diversity have made a difference in the lives of others throughout New York State and the nation. Since 1961, 9,273 students have graduated from Maria.



College purchases Marian Hall
(formerly cloistered Dominican
convent) from the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Albany.
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Program begins.

1975



Weekend College begins.

1981



Learning Resource Center
opens.

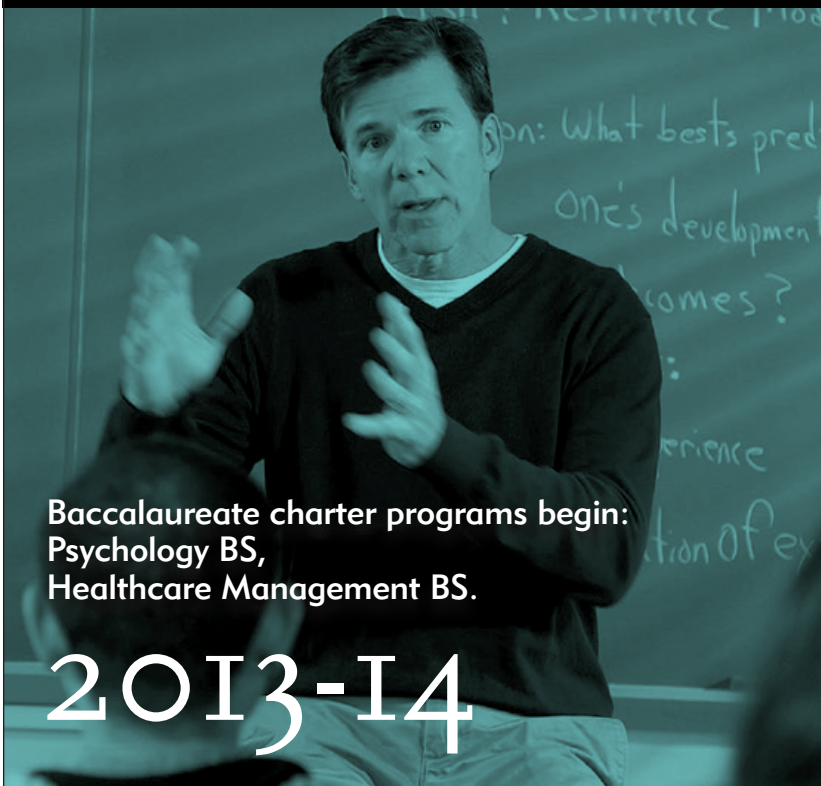
1982



Marian Hall receives designation
from Historic Albany Foundation.

1986

Today's Maria plays a singular role in the community, educating traditional and nontraditional students for careers in healthcare and other service-related fields. Through a combination of support services, academic programs, and pathways, Maria helps students realize their dreams of higher education. That education,



Baccalaureate charter programs begin:
Psychology BS,
Healthcare Management BS.

2013-14



Liberal Arts BA,
Health and Occupational Sciences BS
programs begin.

2015



RN-BS degree in Nursing Completion program begins.

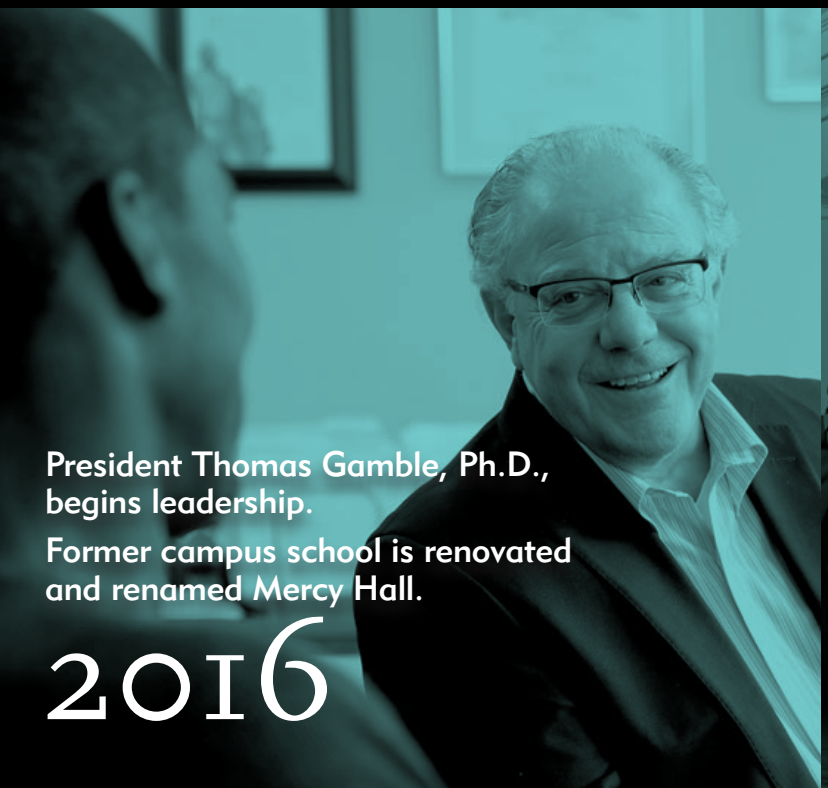
2010



President Lauren Fitzgerald '61, RSM, retires.
President Lea Johnson, Ed.D., is appointed.

2012

in turn, has a powerful, ripple effect on the Capital Region. In hospitals and schools, rehabilitation centers and senior facilities, medical offices, and virtually every other type of healthcare setting, Maria graduates are healing and helping others—and carrying on the Mercy tradition in 2018 and into the future!



President Thomas Gamble, Ph.D., begins leadership.

Former campus school is renovated and renamed Mercy Hall.

2016

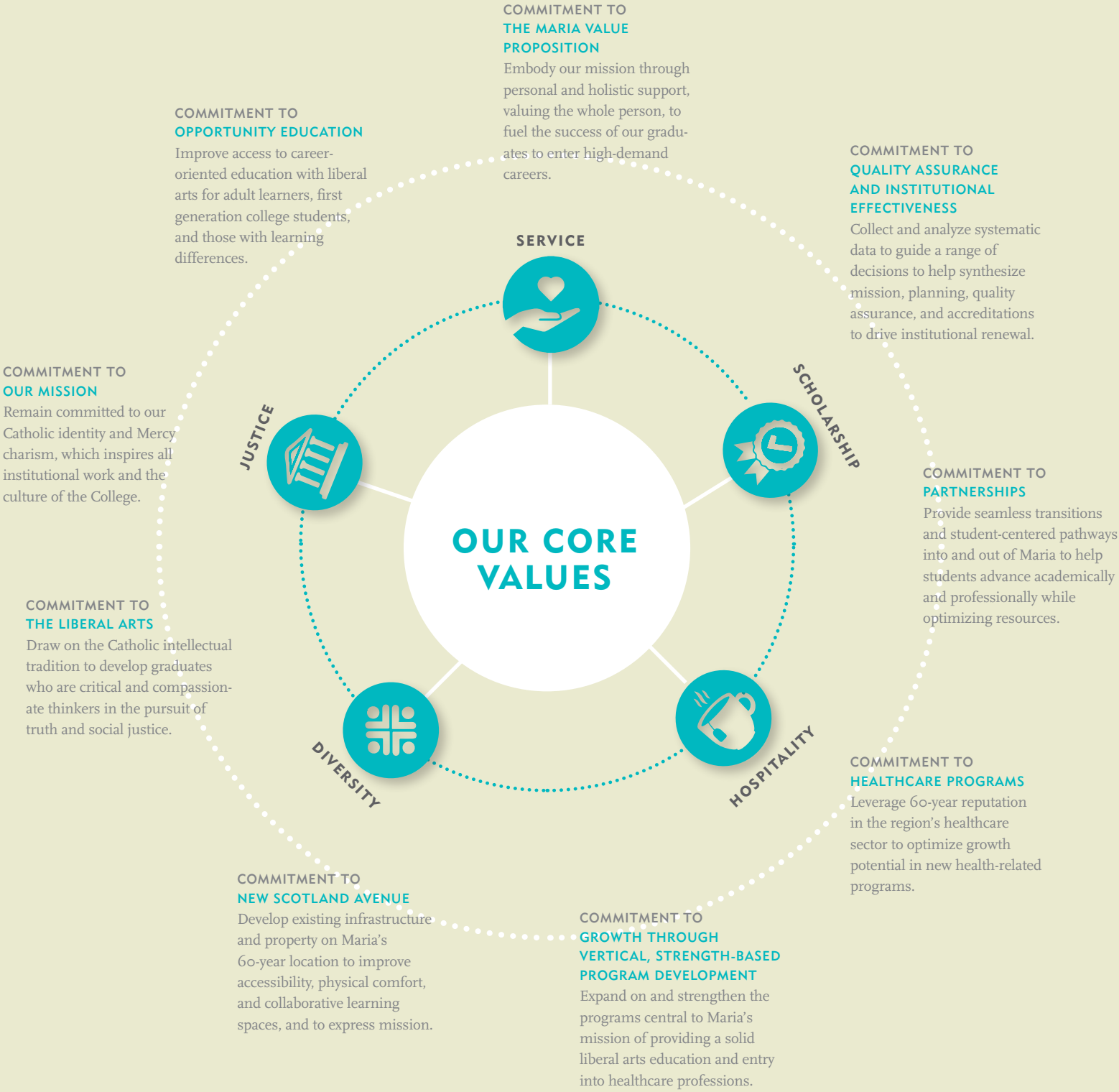


Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Student Support Center, Mary Beth O'Brien Tutoring Center, and Donald S. Rubin Student Support Suite are dedicated.

McAuley opens: Maria expands health professions education.

2017

Nine commitments to ensure faithfulness to the mission going forward



MISSION ORIENTED STUDENT SUCCESS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2016–2020

MARIA IS REANIMATING AND REFOCUSING ITS MISSION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE: provide students with career-relevant opportunity education in the context of the Catholic intellectual tradition to all who can benefit from it.

Under the guidance of President Thomas Gamble, Ph.D., at the July 2017 Board Retreat, the Maria Board of Trustees made nine commitments to ensure faithfulness to the mission over the next strategic period (2016-2020) and build a strong foundation infused by the College's core values.

These commitments and values are reflected in the five strategic initiatives derived from a strategic planning process undertaken by Dr. Gamble in 2016 after he was appointed president. The goal of that planning session was to identify a small set of strategic priorities that would be the focus of the entire college community over the next two years to provide high-quality opportunity education for women, minorities, adults, the disadvantaged, and all those seeking affordable, high-quality, and career-relevant higher education. The 2016 process provided a strong focus for academic years 2016-2018 and a platform to achieve momentum and accomplishment in student success, academic programs, mission, people and culture, and data reporting and forecasting.

Successes from the 2016 priorities form the backbone of today's strategic plan, "Mission Oriented Student Success (2016-2020)." This plan brings mission and margin in tight alignment, enabling Maria to drive institutional renewal, achieve educational and financial sustainability, and foster academic excellence in an equitable and inclusive educational environment that proliferates student success.

Maria trustees reaffirmed and restated the mission statement in October 2017, which was the driving force for the ordering and development of the 2016–2020 strategic plan. Victoria Battell, RSM, Vice President for Mission, Planning, and Student Affairs says, "It places Maria on a strategic course that reinforces the College's 60-year roots and reputation in healthcare while inventing new capacities for an exciting future as a leader in health science education within the Mercy tradition."

The plan's design ensures that the College's strategic goals and associated actions are mission- and outcome-driven to provide integrated and holistic student support services that enhance the success and retention of students and produce graduates who are both marketable and employable. This overarching strategy honors Maria's 60-year history in Mercy education by connecting her to **A BRIGHT FUTURE.**

5 strategic initiatives

1. GOVERNANCE, ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE, AND LEADERSHIP
2. INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS: PLANNING, DATA & ASSESSMENT
3. RELEVANT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
4. STUDENT SUCCESS
5. STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES



CENTER OF



*Maria opens the Frank E. O'Brien, Jr.
Student Support Center*

AT TIMES, THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE CAN BE DAUNTING. That's especially true if, like so many Maria students, you're also balancing work and family life. For these students, strong support services can make an enormous difference, setting the stage for success at Maria and beyond.

To better serve these students—and to deliver on a mission that includes a commitment to “outstanding and holistic student support services”—in 2017 Maria opened the Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Student Support Center. Located in Mercy Hall, the state-of-the-art facility is devoted to meeting students' academic, personal, and spiritual needs. It combines comprehensive, centralized services with a warm, welcoming environment that [helps students gain confidence while developing life and study skills](#).

SUCCESS



ONE-ON-ONE

TREATING EACH STUDENT AS AN
INDIVIDUAL

THE SEEDS FOR THE FRANK E. O'BRIEN, JR. STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER were planted in 2016, soon after the arrival of Maria President Thomas J. Gamble, Ph.D. As part of a summer strategic planning session, Dr. Gamble challenged College leadership to identify and address barriers that prevent Maria students from realizing their education and career goals. Leadership responded with a plan to create a Student Affairs Department to administer student support services by assembling a

mission-driven team and creating a one-stop shop where students can easily tap an array of resources.

The Maria community quickly rallied around the project—and the decision to name the new center in memory of the late Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Those who knew the longtime chairperson of the Maria Board of Trustees say the center continues his work at the College by providing the types of services he supported during

his lifetime. The center also reflects Maria's enduring connection to the Religious Sisters of Mercy and their founder, Catherine McAuley. Service to others has been the hallmark of every Mercy institution, starting in 1827 with the first House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland. As Dr. Gamble is fond of saying, "As it was on Baggot Street in Dublin, so it is today at 700 New Scotland Avenue in Albany."

**"THE PERSONAL ATTENTION
IS JUST WHAT I NEED TO
HELP ME MOVE FORWARD
WITH SOMEDAY BEING A
NURSE...EVERYONE IS SO
SUPPORTIVE IN HELPING
ME PUT ONE FOOT IN
FRONT OF THE OTHER."**

REBECCA PETRUCCI-LITTLE

A COMMITTED, COORDINATED TEAM

Maria selected Victoria Battell, RSM, to lead the effort to expand and enhance student support services as dean of students and vice president of mission, planning, and Student Affairs.

Andrew Ledoux was named to the new position of associate dean of Student Affairs and deputy Title IX coordinator. They are joined by a top-notch, committed group of counselors, tutors, and other support professionals. Many were already part of the Maria community, delivering vital services via a less-coordinated approach, in locations around campus. Now, the team is together under one roof, with the tools and skills to best serve Maria students.

"Student Affairs is home to highly dedicated, solution-oriented individuals who care about supporting our students and their learning styles," Ledoux says. "Identifying the right individuals, and capitalizing on their strengths, has been incredibly important to the development of the department."

The goal is to encourage students to take advantage of the services available to them—starting on day 1 and continuing throughout their time at Maria. The easier it is to access services, the more likely that students will seek support. That's why Accessibility Services, Career Services, and tutoring are conveniently located in the Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Student Support Center. The center also offers distraction-free testing space in the Callaghan Room, and is home to Maria's three opportunity programs for students who face financial and academic challenges: the New York State Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP); HOPE, Maria's institutionally funded program; and the Renaissance Scholars Program.

"We made a concerted effort to co-locate services to support the whole person," Sr. Victoria says. "On any particular day, a student can walk into the center and get the support they need, whether it's help preparing for an exam or assignment, advice on handling a personal crisis, or a sympathetic ear when life takes an unexpected turn."

Additional space is being created in the newly renovated McAuley Hall, enabling Student Affairs to provide more private offices for mental health counseling, a Catholic chapel, an interfaith room for students of different beliefs, and a designated resource room for veterans, furnished by the Veterans Miracle Center of Albany.

HELPING STUDENTS REALIZE THEIR DREAMS

Rebecca Petrucci-Little started at Maria this spring as a student in the two-year General Studies Program. Her goal is to pursue an associate degree in nursing, but first she must pass the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). In the past, test anxiety has held her back. At Maria, Petrucci-Little is tackling the stumbling block head on—with help from the Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Student Support Center.

Kim Noakes, MSED, MHC, Counseling and Accessibility Services Coordinator, arranged for Petrucci-Little to receive support services to help reduce anxiety and boost her confidence. Twice a week, Petrucci-Little works one-on-one with Colleen Reilly, a professional tutor. Together, they review typical TEAS questions and test-taking strategies. Already, Petrucci-Little is seeing positive results of above-average and excellent grades on tests and quizzes.

"The personal attention is just what I need to help me move forward with someday being a nurse, which I know is my calling," Petrucci-Little says. "Everyone is so supportive in helping me put one foot in front of the other. I really feel that everyone has taken a personal interest in my goals."

Her experience is exactly what the College intended when creating the new student support center and the Mary Beth O'Brien Tutoring Center. "Our vision is to build a dynamic, collaborative learning environment where students know it's safe to come with different learning styles, and they do not feel isolated," says Jon Collier-Takahashi, Director of Student Support. "We've expanded the tutoring center workspace and operate it as a centralized tutoring model—a busy hub where students can get assistance with multiple high-attrition academic subjects, such as physics, anatomy and physiology, chemistry, mathematics, English as a second language, and writing."

Named for a former Maria trustee, the Mary Beth O'Brien Tutoring Center provides judgment-free academic support for students of all majors. Space is designed to accommodate one-on-one and collaborative sessions. A state-of-the-art online scheduling, recordkeeping, and recording system—funded by a U.S. Department of Education Perkins Act grant—enables students to make appointments online. The system also allows Student

"OUR GOAL IS TO HELP STUDENTS AND ALUMNI PUT THEIR MARIA EDUCATION TO WORK TO MAKE MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR EMPLOYERS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES."

VICTORIA BATTELL, RSM

Affairs to track service utilization and student satisfaction. Nearly 600 tutoring sessions took place in fall 2017, and early results indicate that students overwhelmingly rated their experience as "excellent." Fully 98 percent strongly agreed that they were comfortable working with a tutor, and 99 percent would return or recommend the service to a friend.

A team of faculty, professional tutors, and peer tutors provides individualized tutoring as well as a variety of services that target common concerns. Learning labs offer opportunities for students to work with their peers on challenging coursework. Seminars and workshops emphasize test-taking strategies and other skills to help students become independent, lifelong learners and critical thinkers. Special sessions help students prepare for critical exams, such as the TEAS, Test of English as a Foreign Language, National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for nursing students, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) exam, and Graduate Record Examinations (GRE).

The tutoring team continually finds new ways to engage students and improve outcomes. For example, tutors are developing customized modules that faculty can use in the classroom to help students master complicated concepts in more challenging subjects, such as chemistry. Equally important, in keeping with Maria's holistic approach, tutors are quick to refer students for additional support services, both within and beyond the College.

The most important step, according to the Student Affairs team, is for students to walk through the door. Once that happens, a world of services becomes available.

Jason Coley, Assistant Director of Student Support and Planning, says more and more students are getting that message. "Building trust and a supportive learning environment to encourage individual growth and development has been our biggest success in the past year," he says. "Knowing that someone feels safe to talk about their learning deficits so we can design a plan to help them achieve success is the best feeling in the world."

TAPPING INTO OPPORTUNITY

The Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Student Support Center also is the ideal home for Maria's Accessibility Services and the College's three opportunity programs. The goal of all these programs is to help students build on their strengths and

develop the skills necessary for long-term success. Locating the programs near other support services provides yet another incentive for students to take advantage of all that Maria offers.

Accessibility Services helps ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to educational programs and the opportunity to participate in all aspects of campus life. Services are designed to promote students' independence, self-advocacy, and development, and to ensure that students are recognized for their abilities—not their disabilities. Students self-identify, register with Accessibility Services, and work with Accessibility Services staff on the necessary accommodations.

Opportunity programs—HEOP, HOPE, and Renaissance Scholars—provide a combination of financial assistance and academic and personal support for students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend college. Qualifying students receive help with expenses, including tuition, fees, and books. Equally important, students benefit from personal mentoring and coaching; a strong, supportive peer network; and comprehensive academic support services.

Each student is assigned an advisor who provides intensive, individualized support and collaborates with colleagues "to make sure the students' needs are met," says Sade Moore, MSEd, Assistant Director of Opportunity Programs. "Everything we do is student-centered."

PRIVATE, NONJUDGMENTAL COUNSELING

Maria's holistic approach recognizes the additional stress faced by the College's nontraditional students and acknowledges the impact that everyday life can have on academic achievement. Students in their 30s and 40s typically are juggling family, work, and academic responsibilities. Some also are struggling to make ends meet. For them, the counseling relationship offers a unique opportunity to speak freely with a trained, trusted professional and to consider alternative ways of thinking and behaving.

"Counseling Services supports the overall wellness of the campus community and the Mercy mission by providing free, confidential support in a welcoming, nonjudgmental environment," Noakes says. "The approach to counseling is authentic and compassionate. It is important to show mercy to individuals who seek a 'safe' place to explore the challenges in their life."



BUILDING OPPORTUNITY

HELPING STUDENTS REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL

Students are encouraged to talk about social, emotional, or behavioral problems that are creating distress or interfering with their ability to function. Some seek help with issues related to coursework, such as difficulty concentrating or completing academic tasks, procrastination, and other self-defeating behaviors and habits. Others focus on family or relationship problems, sexual concerns, compulsive behaviors, problems with alcohol or other drugs, domestic violence or social assault, or a variety of other issues.

Noakes urges students to reach out for help, regardless of the reason. “Counseling can be transformative,” she says. “A certified counselor

can help students gain personal insights and coping skills that they can draw on long after they graduate from Maria.”

NURTURING THE SPIRIT

In August 2017, in keeping with its Mercy heritage, Maria created the ministry of Pastoral Care to meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of the College’s faculty, staff, and students. Pastoral Care focuses on enriching the spiritual and emotional lives of individuals regardless of their religious beliefs. “Maria opens her arms to individuals of all faiths,” says Chris Connolly, OP, who heads the Pastoral Care ministry. “Everyone is included and welcome.”

Pastoral Care ministers are trained to listen, respond empathetically, make assessments, and provide resources to those who request help. “We provide a compassionate ear for those who need a non-therapeutic space to talk,” Sr. Chris explains. “Many times, a conversation can help someone self-identify areas that will lead to greater understanding and inner wisdom.” She stresses that pastoral care is not the same as—or a replacement for—therapeutic counseling. “I’m very conscious of the boundaries between pastoral care and counseling and when to make a referral to Maria Counseling,” Sr. Chris says. Professionals in both offices do work hand in hand, however, to create a “you can do it” environment.

**"COUNSELING CAN BE
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AFTER THEY GRADUATE
FROM MARIA."**

KIM NOAKES, MSED, MHC

Sr. Chris also provides spiritual direction for individuals interested in a deeper personal relationship with God. Here again, the emphasis is on respectful listening, helping students recognize and be guided by their own experience of God. "We may offer suggestions for reflection and prayer, but we don't tell people what to do," Sr. Chris says.

Most of all, she views her role as a source of support and encouragement. "Many of our students face so many challenges and are trying so hard to pull themselves up and improve themselves," she says. "It's a gift to be there as a listener to help provide comfort and to walk with them."

CAREER CONNECTIONS

Maria Career Services plays a vital role in fulfilling Maria's mission of preparing students for lives of service to others. Coursework and hands-on experience provide the knowledge and skills, and Career Services adds the finishing touch: the tools to connect with potential employers.

Students can come to Career Services to explore their options at Maria and in the workforce. Since career planning should start almost as soon as students arrive at the College, Maria pre-registers all students, free of charge, for Career Services' online job board and career resource system. Furthermore, to assist both associate and bachelor's degree students, Career Services offers two- and four-year plans that help keep students on track. Individualized services—including personality assessments and career planning, résumé critiquing, mock interviewing, and job preparation—take the personalized, student-centered approach that defines a Maria education.

Maria alumni have access to Career Services long after graduation. Whether to network with peers and potential employers or to consider new options, alumni can turn to Career Services for guidance on advanced education and other pathways to service and success.

"Our goal is to help students and alumni put their Maria education to work to make meaningful contributions to their employers, organizations, and communities," Sister Victoria says. "It is yet another way that all of us, as members of the Maria community, can embody the Maria mission, embrace the Mercy charism—and find ways to continually serve others."

A Campuswide Commitment

Compassion, encouragement, and personal attention aren't exclusive to the new student support center. Those values are reflected throughout the Maria community, where faculty, staff, and leadership model the same commitment to service that they seek to instill in students.

Russ Blair, DNP, Associate Professor in Nursing, looks for that commitment when considering new members for the Nursing Department. A husband and father of Maria graduates, Dr. Blair has seen the difference Maria's approach can make.

"Maria is all about lifting people up and helping them," he says. "Things come up in life, and it's important for us to help students adjust. Through something as simple as a conversation, we can help a student pivot. And because we have cared for them, they can care for others and become better nurses."

For Tracy Jeune Ciufo, honor student in liberal arts, the time at Maria has been life-changing. She gives much of the credit to Victoria Battell, RSM, Dean of Students and Vice President of Mission, Planning, and Student Affairs. With Sr. Victoria as a mentor, Ciufo has undergone what she describes as a "spiritual awakening" and has gotten back in touch with her creative, artistic side. Two of her paintings are displayed at Maria—in Sr. Victoria's office and in a room in Mercy Hall.

Ciufo came to Maria in fall 2015, intending to study nursing. Instead, "the readings assigned in my coursework inspired me to take another direction, and another door opened," she says. This spring, Ciufo will receive an AA in liberal arts, with a concentration in religious philosophy. She is considering further studies in theology.

She also will continue to draw on her Maria experience, which has helped her come to terms with her mother's death, "get closure, and has made me a more grounded person today. Maria has done so much for me personally," Ciufo says.

Although every student's story is different, the hope is that, like Ciufo, all Maria students draw strength and purpose from their time at the College long after they leave campus.

"We live our mission by providing students with a path to achieve serenity in their inner lives, as well as satisfaction and fulfillment in their personal and professional aspirations," Sr. Victoria says. The goal is for their Maria education to remain "a guiding light for living their life and going forward to help others."



Victoria Battell, RSM, and Drew Ledoux, Associate Dean of Student Affairs



Among those celebrating the dedication of the Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Student Support Center are (from L to R): Sr. Victoria Battell, Maureen O'Brien, Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard, Mary Beth O'Brien, Helen Adams-Keane, David Rubin, and President Thomas Gamble.

FRANK E. O'BRIEN, JR

A LEGACY OF SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

FOR 27 YEARS, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIA COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, FRANK E. O'BRIEN, JR. WORKED TIRELESSLY TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARIA STUDENTS. In a fitting tribute, the place that continues the late O'Brien's efforts also bears his name: the Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Student Support Center.

Members and friends of the Maria community gathered September 21, 2017, to dedicate the center, memorialize its namesake, and express appreciation to all who helped create a facility where students can receive holistic, centralized support services.

"It's exactly the kind of place my dad would have championed," says Maureen O'Brien, who serves on the Maria Board of Trustees and chairs its Advancement Committee. "Whether in business or in life, my dad loved to see people succeed. He worked hard to make sure that the people around him had opportunities to do well."

An Albany native with deep ties to the community, Frank O'Brien was known for his quiet generosity and unwavering commitment to the organizations he supported. A graduate of The Albany Academy for Boys and Notre Dame University, Frank worked briefly as an engineer in Detroit and Chicago. He returned to Albany in 1960 to join his father—and eventually succeed him as president—at Fuller and O'Brien Insurance Agency. Frank also served as president of the Contractors, Agents, and Brokers Association of New York State.

Frank earned a reputation for giving without hesitation but shying away from recognition. At Maria, he worked alongside President Laureen



Fitzgerald '61, RSM, from 1985 until his death in 2012. Together, Frank and Sister Laureen expanded certificate and degree offerings, increased enrollment, and introduced flexible course schedules to meet the needs of working adult students.

The fundraising campaign for the Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Support Center kicked off in January 2017. Inspired by Frank's memory and his example, donors were quick to respond. In fact, the first-phase goal of \$300,000 was met well ahead of schedule.

Maureen O'Brien and her husband Paul F. Vogt— together with Frank's widow and former Maria trustee, Mary Beth O'Brien—spearheaded the effort. Daughters Constance, Kathleen, Cara, and Patricia joined to make

it a family endeavor.

More than 100 donors, including the BBL Charitable Foundation, Paul and Paula Colarusso, Dan and Ellen Hogarty, the Massry family, David Rubin and Carol Ju, and Sano-Rubin Construction, provided generous, major-level gifts. All contributions are acknowledged on a donor wall that also was unveiled during the September dedication ceremony.

The ceremony also marked the official opening of two specialty areas within the Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Student Support Center: the Mary Beth O'Brien Tutoring Center and Donald S. Rubin Student Support Suite. A longtime Maria trustee, Rubin was vice-chair for more than 20 years of Frank's tenure as chair.

"We sincerely thank all those who generously contributed," Mary Beth O'Brien says. "Frank would have been humbled and so thrilled."



BUILDING NEW PATHWAYS

MARIA COMMITS TO PARTNERSHIPS AND NEW PATHWAYS

Maria College has committed to creating new partnerships as part of the mission to make higher education more affordable and accessible for traditional and nontraditional students. The College recently entered into agreements with four State University of New York (SUNY) institutions to encourage community college students to continue their education at Maria and to help Maria graduates pursue advanced degrees. Other agreements give high school students a jump on college.

"WE ARE ALL BEST SERVED WHEN OUR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS COOPERATE TO FORGE AGREEMENTS DESIGNED TO BENEFIT OUR STUDENTS, ALIGN WITH OUR RESPECTIVE EDUCATIONAL STRENGTHS, AND HELP SATISFY THE NEEDS OF CAPITAL REGION EMPLOYERS." PRESIDENT THOMAS GAMBLE, PH.D.

FROM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO MARIA

Maria has articulation agreements with Hudson Valley Community College, Fulton-Montgomery Community College, and SUNY Schenectady County Community College (SCCC) to help students seamlessly transition to Maria programs. For example, Hudson Valley students who graduate with an associate degree in nursing, pass their NCLEX-RN license exam, and meet other program requirements can transfer into Maria's BS Degree in Nursing Completion Program. Those with an AAS in community health navigation can transfer into Maria's BS in healthcare management at third-year status. (Note: GPA and other program requirements apply.)

"The majority of our graduates stay in the Capital Region, so having a transfer partner in Maria increases their opportunities and their chance for further career advancement," Hudson Valley Community College President Drew Matonak says.

Arrangements with Fulton-Montgomery and SCCC encourage students who earn certification as nurse assistants (CNA) or home health aides (HHA) to continue their education in Maria's practical nursing certificate (LPN) program. In addition to assisting students, these agreements help meet the region's need for skilled healthcare workers.

"We are very pleased to work with our educational partners to create new pathways and opportunities for students," Maria College President Dr. Thomas Gamble says. "Together we are building a strong healthcare infrastructure in the Capital Region."

Other arrangements help clear a path into Maria associate and bachelor's degree programs. Specifics for each program are available at [mariacollege.edu/academics/articulation agreements](http://mariacollege.edu/academics/articulation%20agreements) or type this in your browser: bit.ly/eztransfer.

FROM MARIA TO A MASTER'S

Last September, Maria and SUNY Empire State College signed a first-of-its-kind agreement for both institutions, creating an early admission pathway from Maria to graduate-level programs at Empire State College's School for Graduate Studies and School for Nursing and Allied Health.

2017—2018 AGREEMENTS

EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

SCHENECTADY COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HUDSON VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BISHOP MAGINN

FULTON-MONTGOMERY

The arrangement supports Maria students who are pursuing bachelor's degrees in business, education, nursing, public policy, and health-related fields. Many have career goals that will require a graduate degree. With its flexible course offerings—in person, online, and a combination of both—SUNY Empire is an excellent option for Maria graduates.

Pauline A. Mojica was one of the first to apply to SUNY Empire under the new arrangement. The healthcare management major at Maria will graduate in May 2018 and has already been accepted into the MBA in Business Management Program at SUNY Empire.

"Like Maria, SUNY Empire is extremely accommodating when it comes to full-time workers," Mojica says. "The SUNY Empire/Maria College agreement definitely influenced my decision to apply because it made the path to an MBA program very easy and straightforward. The waived application fee definitely helped!"

SUNY Empire provides Maria students with a dedicated contact person to assist with the application process and waives both the application fee and the requirement for a personal recommendation. Students may pursue master's degrees in business management leadership (including two MBA options), education, nursing, liberal studies, and policy studies.

STARTING IN HIGH SCHOOL

Two other arrangements allow high school students to earn college credits and explore careers in healthcare. At Bishop Maginn High School, Maria established a satellite campus where students in grades 10 through 12 can take college courses. In addition to earning college credits in high school, students have the opportunity to push themselves academically and to consider future educational options and goals.

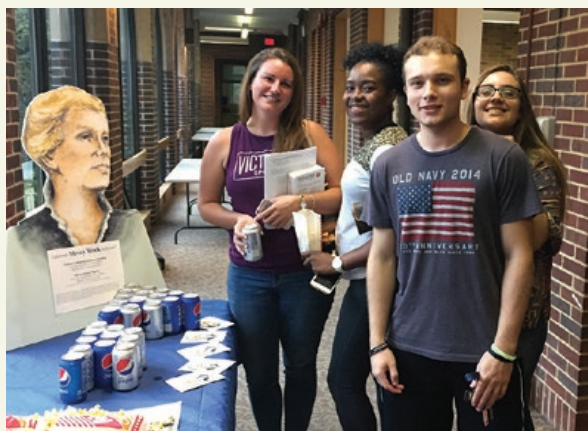
Through an arrangement with Capital Region BOCES, Maria hosts high school seniors from the Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Guilderland, Schalmont, Scotia-Glenville, and Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk school districts. Students take a three-credit course in anatomy and physiology and a one-credit lab and have access to Maria's exceptional facilities, including the state-of-the-art Anatomage virtual dissection table. Students engage with a challenging curriculum guided by experienced faculty in a caring college setting.

CELEBRATING CATHERINE McAULEY AND OUR MERCY ROOTS

- **MERCY DAY: SEPTEMBER 24**
(weeklong celebration: September 18-24)
- **REMEMBRANCE: NOVEMBER 11**
THE LIFE OF CATHERINE McAULEY
(September 29, 1778 – November 11, 1841)
- **FOUNDATION DAY: DECEMBER 12**

Maria College traces its heritage to Catherine McAuley, who founded the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831. She was passionate about helping women and children in need and believed that education was a key to one's ultimate success. The Maria community, led by the Maria Mission Animation Committee, celebrated three major Mercy events in 2017 to continue her legacy of compassion, justice, hope, peace, and courage. These events, along with countless acts of kindness, service, and support, provide daily reminders that the door of Mercy is open at Maria College.

*"What Mercy
Means To Me"*
glass display



Animating the Maria Community

Various activities allowed reflection on the meaning of Mercy. An inspiring "stained" glass window was one of the creative outcomes. Thoughts and expressions were written by participants on colorful, heart-shaped paper and displayed on windows.



Celebration Mass

On September 20, Bishop Edward B. Sharfenberger, DD, offered a votive Mass in Marian Hall's Fitzgerald Court. Prayers were offered for the present day mission at Maria and all who bring grace and Mercy in the world.



Catherine McAuley Statue Unveiling

Mercy Week began with the unveiling of a commissioned bronze sculpture in the likeness of Catherine McAuley, created by artist Marie Henderson, RSM.

Above left to right: President Tom Gamble, Marie Henderson, RSM, and Vice President Victoria Battell, RSM.



Catherine's Song—A Musical Prayer

A spiritual aura graced the Maria campus as vocalist and guitarist Judy Rosebrook sang Catherine's "Suscipe" (music by Elaine Deasy, RSM). The Maria community sang the refrain, "My God, I am yours for time and eternity..."



November 11: Remembering Catherine's Life

She lived two centuries ago, but her influence today is evident in over 40 countries, where sisters, laymen, and laywomen continue to meet the needs of those seeking mercy and to respond to issues of poverty and injustice.



Mary Sullivan, RSM

Professor Emerita of Literature and Dean Emerita of the College of Liberal Arts at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she served for 33 years. She also authored many books on Catherine McAuley.

More about this on next page ➞

Legacy of Hospitality and Community

As she lay dying, Catherine McAuley asked a sister to tell the community to "have a good cup of tea when I am gone... and comfort one another. We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us."

CATHERINE MCAULEY, FIRST SISTER OF MERCY

Watch the 2017 Mercy Week video at: mariacollege.edu/mercy-week





MARIA COLLEGE CONTINUES FIRMLY IN THE TRADITION OF CATHERINE MCAULEY AND THE WORKS OF MERCY SHE FOUNDED

A 21ST CENTURY HOUSE OF MERCY

BY MARY C. SULLIVAN, RSM

Maria College is the Mercy college whose academic offerings and philosophy most immediately remind me of the House of Mercy that Catherine McAuley (1778-1841), the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, established on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland, in 1827. In the early 1800s, after the death of both her parents, Catherine began to live with Catherine and William Callaghan, an older, childless couple. She served as a companion to Mrs. Callaghan, and as the manager of their household, first in Dublin and then in the village of Coolock. Catherine Callaghan died in 1819, and when William Callaghan died in 1822, he revealed their respect and gratitude for Catherine McAuley by naming her the sole residuary legatee of their estate. It was a large fortune, estimated to be between \$1 million and \$2 million dollars today.

CATHERINE'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS URGED HER TO MARRY, or at least to stay on in Coolock. Instead, she chose to implement the vision that had for years "haunted her very dreams." She decided to devote her inheritance to "the benefit of the poor," and to build a very large, three-story House of Mercy on Baggot Street, Dublin.

She intended the House to serve three purposes: to provide a live-in shelter for poor young women who were unemployed, or working as domestic servants in households where they were sometimes exposed to sexual abuse or harassment; to provide a free school for poor girls who had no other means of education; and to be a center from

which she and other volunteers could reach out to the sick and dying poor living in dark cellars along Dublin's back alleys.

The House of Mercy was opened on September 24, 1827, 190 years ago—and it is still standing, as Mercy International Centre, still promoting the spiritual and corporal works of mercy to which Catherine

McAuley gave not only her fortune but her very life.

By early 1829, after she sold Coolock and cared for her dying sister and brother-in-law, Catherine moved permanently into the House of Mercy. She was by now the adoptive mother of at least nine children, ages 7 to 18: two cousins and two orphans she had cared for

at Coolock, and the five children of her sister's family—two girls and three boys. She soon sent the boys off to boarding school. In time, Catherine and her co-workers began to see the wisdom of founding a new religious congregation, if they wished the merciful efforts of the House of Mercy to continue beyond their lifetimes. Eventually Catherine and two others served a required novitiate with the Presentation Sisters, and on December 12, 1831, they professed their religious vows as the first Sisters of Mercy.

When I think of the origins of the House of Mercy on Baggot Street, and then study the self-descriptions and academic offerings of Maria College, I am moved by this striking realization: Maria College is a 21st century House of Mercy, firmly in the tradition of Catherine McAuley and the works of mercy she founded and to which she gave the last 14 years of her life.

In your College brochures, you say that Maria College is dedicated to “the pursuit of truth and knowledge, and to the furtherance of the social, political, economic, and spiritual well-being of the human community.” You also say that “the identity and mission” of the College are “uniquely expressed by living the values of compassion, justice, hospitality, and service,” and that “a Maria education” is “grounded in programs that make a difference in the lives of others by combining academic study with caring service.” Catherine McAuley would be truly at home in such a place, one that is trying its best to be a modern version of the House of Mercy.

THINK OF THE BAGGOT STREET SHELTER FOR POOR WOMEN

Today those who come to Maria College need to acquire many things: useful skills, confidence in their own strengths and abilities, the capacity and desire for lifelong learning, and secure employment when they leave the college, if



not before.

This was what the House of Mercy was all about. In the original Mercy Rule—which Catherine McAuley composed—in the chapter on the training of the “distressed women” received into the shelter, she says:

Suitable employment shall be sought for and great care taken to place [these women] in situations for which they are adapted, in order that they may continue such length of time in their service as shall establish a character [i.e., a good character and employment reference] on which they can depend for future support. Many leave their situations not so much for want [i.e., lack] of merit as incapacity to fulfill the duties they unwisely engaged in (Sullivan, 2012, p. 299).

Valuing truthfulness and knowledge, gaining appropriate skill training, and receiving perceptive student advising were as crucial to the success of those in the shelter at the House of Mercy in Dublin as they are to the success of Maria's students.

In the Mercy Rule she composed, Catherine also says that the women in the shelter “shall not be encouraged to remain long in the House, as it will generally be... more conducive to get them soon into the state and employment by which they are to live” (Sullivan, 2012, p. 299). Here Catherine is eager to develop the women's confidence in their own capacity to care for and support themselves, just as Maria College seeks to graduate students who mature beyond dependence on the College for the decisions that in the future they must inevitably make on their own.

When I think of Catherine's great care to train the women sheltered in the House of Mercy so they would have useful, employable skills and the confidence to exercise these skills to their own benefit, I think of the very important skills Maria College offers through its associate degrees and certificate programs—for example, in occupational therapy, bereavement, gerontology, management, paralegal

services, and practical nursing. All these programs provide knowledge and training in sophisticated, modern alternatives to the domestic services for which Catherine hoped to prepare the women sheltered in the House of Mercy.

THINK OF THE 200-300 POOR BAREFOOT GIRLS WHO WERE WELCOMED AND EDUCATED IN THE POOR SCHOOL OF THE HOUSE OF MERCY IN DUBLIN

In Catherine's day, there was no formal education available to poor girls whose families could not afford to pay the tuition required in the boarding schools for rich young girls. The faculty and staff of Maria College know how crucially necessary a sound and full education is to all the young girls and women of today. We have only to look at the appalling situations in many African and Asian countries, and listen to the brave and prophetic young Pakistani Malala Yousafzai to realize the personal and social benefits that derive from the full education of girls and women.

Catherine McAuley was well aware of this need. As she wrote
(*Cont'd on p. 40*)



Pilgrimage to Baggot Street

Sr. Victoria Battell and Dr. Anne Jung on the steps of Catherine's House on Baggot Street in Dublin, Ireland. They were participating in the International Mercy Leadership Program in September 2016.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION *(main window)*

The Dominican monastery was dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of Mary, who is patroness of the USA. Mary is shown in prayer to the Blessed Trinity, which is represented in the three images above her. She is shown treading underfoot evil, symbolized by the serpent. Like Mary, may we also seek God in study and prayer, and reject whatever is contrary to his goodness and truth.



ST ROSE OF LIMA

Born in Peru in 1586, St. Rose is the first canonized saint of the Western Hemisphere, and since 1671 she has been patroness of South America. She grew herbs and prepared medicines for the poor. The little infirmary she opened led to social services for the city of Lima.

Meet the Dominicans!

Until 1970, Marian Hall was the chapel of a monastery of cloistered Dominican nuns. Although these nuns left the building in the 1970s, the Dominican presence remains through the stained glass windows of five Dominican saints. As the Dominicans celebrated their 800th anniversary in 2017, we asked Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP, an English Dominican friar studying in Washington, D.C., to come up and introduce us to these saints. Hence he showed that their lives and example remain inspirational for our college today.



ST THOMAS AQUINAS

One of the Church's greatest theologians, St. Thomas was confident of the goodness of human nature as humans are endowed with reason and intellect. Our reasoning minds help us understand the truths of the Faith as revealed by Christ, for there is a deep harmony between faith and reason.



ST ALBERT THE GREAT

The mentor of St. Thomas, Albert is patron saint of scientists. "The whole world," he said, "is theology" because the world is logical, reasonable, and capable of scientific investigation. The world thus reflects its Creator whom St. John refers to as the divine Logos, i.e., the Word of God who orders all things according to God's wisdom.



ST CATHERINE OF SIENA


This 14th-century saint is patroness of Europe and one of the first women doctors, i.e., Teachers of the Church. She labored for the unity and reform of the Church at a difficult time in history, and she stands for the mystical tradition of the Dominican Order.



ST AGNES OF MONTEPULCIANO

This is the only saint to have been a cloistered Dominican nun like the sisters who once worshipped here daily. St. Catherine revered St. Agnes as a model of humility, and she once wrote, "There is no humility without charity," that is, love for God, which we gain through prayer, and indeed, genuine study, which is the quest for Truth.

Descriptions of saints provided by
Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP



COMMENCEMENT 2017

Families and friends filled the Empire State Plaza Convention Center on May 21, 2017, to celebrate the Class of 2017 at Maria's 55th commencement. Albany Bishop Emeritus Howard J. Hubbard, DD, conferred degrees and certificates and performed a rite of comissioning. James A. Clark, Jr. received posthumously the Catherine McAuley Service of Distinction award.



5.18.2017
WHITE TEA

Graduation events started on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at the traditional Maria White Tea Ceremony to celebrate the three nursing program graduates—PNC (LPN), ADN (RN), and RN-BS programs—and welcome them into the nursing profession by Maria faculty. As part of the pinning and candle lighting ceremony, graduates recited the International Council of Nurses' Pledge.





5.21.2017

COMMENCEMENT



Maria College President Dr. Thomas Gamble in his address to graduates stated, "You, and often with the help of friends and family, have faced academic, personal, financial challenges, and yet you have persevered and shown strength and courage to succeed." He expressed how a Maria education embodies the Mercy mission and therefore goes beyond facts and skills to foster the respect and dignity of every human person.



ALUMNA PROFILE



Carol Tario Montepare '71: Maria degree + natural talent = Successful Healthcare Career

CAROLE'S PATH TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN HEALTHCARE follows an inspirational, unconventional journey. She has held leadership positions at CDPHP, Group Health Incorporated, Kaiser Permanente, and Community Health Plan (CHP), and currently is Vice President in Sales and Account Management at MVP Health Care.

"After high school, my mother wanted me to go to work, but I wanted a college education," she recalls. "Two friends were planning to attend Maria, so I thought it would be a good fit for me." Carole left college briefly to attend a larger, co-ed school but returned to the caring, supportive folds of Maria. "I didn't stay away long," she says. "I came back to Maria for its family-like atmosphere and the friendships, many of which are still part of my life today."

As a medical secretarial science major, Carole interned in a surgeon's office, where she discovered that organizing data and files was not for her. She enjoyed a faster pace and more meaningful personal interaction. Carole found both the day after graduating from Maria when she was hired by a local pediatrician.

For four years, Carole was indispensable, building trust with patients as she managed the office and, even, took charge while the doctor was on vacation. The experience ignited a passion to work in healthcare, and she began taking nursing classes at night.

But life would take her in a different direction. Carole and her husband moved to

Williamstown, Massachusetts, and started a family. While raising two sons, she became a top sales achiever at Mary Kay Cosmetics. Then, when she least expected it, a door to the health-care industry opened.

A friend (former CHP CEO John Baackes) worked at CHP, and "somehow he persuaded me that being a full-time mother and working full time for a health center in Vermont selling health plans to employers would be good for me." She accepted the job, and her star rose quickly. Carole expanded territories, grew CHP's market share and client base, and developed a first-of-its-kind sales training program.

Nurturing talent comes naturally to Carole. She is very proud of representatives who, under her managerial guidance, have moved up the ranks to take on bigger responsibilities and roles in the organization. She is genuinely interested in others' success and is most proud of being a role model to her sons. "I demonstrated the importance of balancing work and personal responsibilities," Carole says. "Now that they are grown with their own families and careers, I am very pleased to see this torch was passed."

Her advice to students and graduates just starting out? "Do not let others define you. Follow your passions, think strategically, and get yourself known through networking. Find a mentor who will help you believe in yourself, and take the time to connect with people on an old-fashioned, personal basis by using a phone or writing a note. Never, never drop the ball."

GIVING BACK

A Future Worth Investing In



Helen Adams-Keane

By this point in the magazine, among the stories of student success and the 60th anniversary, one thing should be clear—Maria College is undergoing an exciting phase of growth and development. From academic expansion to campus growth and strategic planning, there is an energy at the College as Maria charts a course toward a bright future. It's a great time to be involved. We can see what the vision for the College is, and the opportunities are here today to be a part of that future.

THOSE OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN VARIED,

but all of them pave the way for the current and next generations of Maria students to get an outstanding education. The recent addition of the McAuley Residence to the College will allow for much-needed physical space for Maria's growing healthcare programs. New named scholarships, like the Andrea Lewis Siek Nursing Scholarships (see page 35), the Robin Burkhardt Scholarship, and the Gail J. Blacklock Scholarship, for Occupational Therapy Assistants (started by Prof. Scott Homer '95), are helping Maria students with demonstrated financial needs. These endowed scholarships will exist in perpetuity and were made with generous gifts, making them a long-term investment in the future of Maria College.

As outlined in the strategic plan, student success is a main priority of the College and central to the Maria mission. The establishment of the Frank E. O'Brien, Jr. Student Support Center has created a hub on campus for the students who are seeking tutoring, encouragement, and pastoral care (see page 14). We are immensely grateful to all who helped make it a reality.

On a similar note, it is a point of pride that 83 percent of the faculty and staff donated last year to the "Maria Cares" employee giving campaign, which to date has helped provide crucial assistance to many students facing unforeseen hardships. While the average college has about a 40 percent participation rate for faculty and staff, our numbers show just how much the people here care about the students and want to see them succeed.

A renewed effort to bring more alumni back to campus has been successful. Alumni gatherings

and reunion celebrations are helping to build enthusiasm through reconnections with classmates and tours of the campus. Alumni newsletters, a new alumni directory, and other communications are helping to build the community of Maria alumni, which has a vital role to play in the future of the College, above and beyond philanthropy. Maria's alumni network is also contributing to our growing reputation as a school of excellence, enhancing the value of a Maria degree.

Our annual fund, the Maria Fund, is growing as more alumni and friends see the value in helping the next generation of Maria graduates. Donations fund the resources, opportunities, and scholarship aid that keep tuition achievable and Maria College one of the most affordable private colleges in the country.

While Maria College looks back on 60 years of success, there is much to take into the future. The Maria family of alumni, friends, faculty, and staff are working together to build on the opportunities that exist today to make the College stronger tomorrow. We thank you for your support and look forward to your continued involvement!

Find out more about Alumni news at
mariacollege.edu/alumni-giving

or contact
Helen Adams-Keane
(518) 861-2596
hadams-keane@mariacollege.edu



Jacqueline Cramer receives the
Andrea Lewis Siek Scholarship
Certificate from Richard Siek

A Lifetime of Care and Compassion

Richard Siek continues his wife's legacy with the Andrea Lewis Siek Endowed Nursing Scholarships

RICHARD SIEK REMEMBERS WHEN HE FIRST MET HIS WIFE ANDREA—they were working at Samaritan Hospital in Troy, Andrea as registered nurse in charge of the surgical floor and Rich as a janitor, and one thing he quickly noticed about her was the extra care she took with her patients.

Whether on the nursing floor or in her personal life, Andrea's compassion was always present. "She wanted to become a nurse to help people—her whole life she helped people, even after she retired from nursing," he said. "She always enjoyed the people, and strived to help, and in my book she succeeded tremendously."

Andrea Siek was a 1969 graduate of St. Peter's School of Nursing. She worked at Samaritan Hospital from the time of her graduation until 1977. After a long illness, Andrea passed away in 2017, but not before touching the lives of her friends, family, colleagues, and even strangers.

After Andrea's death, it was important for Rich to memorialize his wife, so he established the scholarships. The Andrea Lewis Siek Endowed Scholarships at Maria College will be offered to train future generations of nurses. Rich chose to endow the fund at Maria College because of its outstanding reputation and because it is the successor to St. Peter's School of Nursing, where Andrea attended. Because they are endowed scholarships, they will go on in perpetuity. Rich explained that thanks to Andrea's smart saving and investing, he is able to do this to carry on her legacy. "My wife

took care of all the finances, and we lived simply," he said. "I still live simply, and I don't want to change my lifestyle. I'd rather use this money to help people the way she always enjoyed helping people in her life."

Dr. Thomas Gamble, Maria College President, stated, "We are humbled and deeply appreciative that Rich has chosen Maria College to help honor Andrea's legacy through these scholarships. Andrea's incredible work ethic and compassion for others will live on through deserving students who will benefit from his generosity."

The inaugural recipient of the scholarship is Jacqueline Cramer, from Guilderland, NY. Jacqueline will be graduating from the RN program this May and is looking forward to carrying on the family nursing legacy as both her grandmother and mother were nurses in the region. Jacqueline said, "This scholarship has allowed me to focus on my studies and has given me the opportunity to build a foundation for my future career as a nurse. I am thankful to Mr. Siek for establishing the scholarship and so honored to be the first recipient."

"Who knows the snowball effect—the students helped by this, like Jacqueline, will go on to be excellent nurses who will save lives, and that good ripples out into the future," Rich said. "I think Andrea is guiding me in all of this—she would have been so pleased to meet Jacqueline—they share the same passion."

CLASS NOTES

1970

Fran Nantista shares, "After 25 years working for a group of physicians, I left in 1995 to open my own NYS-registered daycare in my home. After caring for 47 children in these many years, I finally retired in December 2016. My spare room is now my paper-crafting studio, and I am busy designing and making such great things."

1972

Rena L. (Feinman) Aggen retired in 1999 as nursing coordinator for NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. She has been a member of the NYS Board for Nursing since 1997, serving 10 years as an active member and 9 years as an extended member.

Barbara Unser-Ochampaugh is vice president of the New York State Paranes-thesia Nurses Association and a certified paranesthesia nurse.

Kathleen Ellen (O'Rourke) Vito was promoted to full professor in the Graduate Nursing Program at Felician University, where she teaches online. She is a grandmother of three.

1973

Kathleen Schongar recently retired after 44 years in early childhood and special education—most of that time at St. Catherine's Center for Children as a teacher assistant and, later, master teacher in the special education program. She also worked full time at the Marillac Homeless Family Shelter, where she was a child care specialist. She shares, "currently I enjoy working a few shifts a month at the shelter. Maria College instilled in us the importance of education and the value of service to others. Those values were always in my mind in the classroom and when working with homeless families."

1974

Jane Marsh retired from nursing and spent six months in Eastern Europe teaching English.

1979

Gail (Hamilton) Scott has retired from the Community Hospice. Since graduation, she received national credentials in hospice and palliative care.

1980

Maria C. Englert-Rodden graduated in 1995 from The Sage Colleges with a degree in family practice.

1981

Lynn Kall (Brown) Horn reports that she is enjoying being a lactation consultant.

1982

Leslie Ann (Douglas) Lastra was the 2011 recipient of the Florence Nightingale Award for Nursing Excellence. She has been happily married 34 years, has three adult children, loves to travel, sew and cross-country ski.

1983

Howard Flier turned 75 and reports that he is learning how to use the computer.

1984

Ericka Helmer has been married for 20 years, has four children, and teaches in the BSN program at Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin.

1985

Nancy A. (Marconi) DeNofio reports that she is married and has a 25 year-old son who graduated from SUNY Oneonta in 2014. She loves cooking, gardening, and her two furry "kids" (dogs), Daniel and Chip.

Catherine S. (Cole) Huber is "enjoying reaping the benefits of nursing for the last 37 years—from LPN to Maria RN! Excellent preparation for my masters." She is currently growing the LPN program at Mildred Elley.



Stephanie Hisgen '97



Diane Ream '99

1988

Karen L. Frasier retired from full-time employment and is working 2-3 days a week.

1989

Jacqueline Tremont would love to hear from classmates and is very happy being a nurse.

1995

Elizabeth Bledsoe reports that it was Maria that gave her the confidence to achieve a master's degree and become an independent NP.

1996

Mark Wahl is celebrating his fifth work anniversary at Excelsior College as a full-time faculty program director. He says, "I owe Maria College a lot as this is where I started my second career as a nurse after retiring from the U.S. Navy."

1997

Stephanie Hisgen received her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Duke University, May 2017.

1999

Diane Ream graduated From Regis University in Denver, Colorado, with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in advanced leadership in health care specialization. She is an assistant professor at Denver School of Nursing, teaching nursing leadership and management courses as well as medical surgical nursing courses. She reports that while attending Maria College, her name was Norma Diane Ream, but she legally changed her name to Diane Ream in 2009.

2004

Amy Dickenson Ovitt is a clinical adjunct faculty member at Albany Medical Center.

Sandra Sankowski says, "The best decision I ever made for my nursing career was to pursue the LPN to RN degree at Maria."

2005

Elizabeth Schwarz completed her RN-BS at Maria College in 2012 and went on to earn her MS in nursing. She is a full-time member of the Maria College faculty and pursuing a DNP in educational leadership.

2009

Kimberly M. Morrison BSN '12 achieved a PCCN Certification and published evidenced-based research, "Morrison, K & Holt, K (2015) The Effectiveness of Clinically Indicated Replacement of Peripheral Intravenous Catheters: An Evidence review with implications for clinical practice. World-views on evidenced based nursing, 12 (4) 187-198. DOI 10.1111/wn.12102."

2010

Leanne Blair writes, "Zachary Blair and I were the mother and son graduates of the Class of 2010. Zachary married in 2012 and has two beautiful daughters, Hadley Rose and McKenna Ashley. Our oldest son, Anthony, married in 2013 and has a beautiful daughter, Amelia Rose, and a handsome son, Oliver Tobias. This makes Dr. Blair and me the proudest Papa and Meme of the world's greatest gifts and blessings that God could bestow upon grandparents."

Michael Reis received the 2017 Clinical Excellence award from Berkshire Medical Center.

2011

Ryan Smyth completed her MBA in 2018 from Southern New Hampshire University.

Jessica Ward was married in September 2016 and is working in the Surgical & Neurosciences ICU at Albany Medical Center.

2012

Kristen Walton graduated with a family nurse practitioner master's degree at Sacred Heart University, where she was the valedictorian and received the Gold Medal of Excellence for the highest GPA in the program.



Kristen Walton '12

Jennifer Wygant '17

2013

Kellie DeGeorge currently works in the CCU at Albany Medical Center with a friend from Maria College's associate degree program.

2014

Michele Guy is working in pediatric primary care at Albany Medical Center.

Margaret Kershaw shares, "Since graduating from Maria College with my Certificate in Bereavement Studies, I have found part-time employment with our local newspaper, The Observer Dispatch, Utica, as an obituary clerk. I work closely with all the funeral homes and those individuals that place obituaries for family members. I love my job and the work that I do!"

2017

Jenifer Wygant completed the RN-BS program at Maria and is a PACU nurse at Albany Memorial and Samaritan Hospitals.



SUBMIT A NOTE

We would love to hear from you! Please specify your graduation year in your note and submit to alumni@mariamagazine.edu or Maria College, Maria Magazine, attn: Office of Development, 700 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208.

IN MEMORIAM

Janet Aulet '78, September 4, 2017

Ann Marie (Marsolais) Beatty '73, January 9, 2017

Nancy E. (Roche) Buckoff '85, May 20, 2017

Stephen DeLorenzo, faculty emeritus, August 30, 2017

Linda Ann (Delgaudio) Gorleski '01, March 14, 2016

Maryann Kelly '67, February 24, 2016

Barbara "Barb" Ann (Poselovich) Lewis '73, November 25, 2017

Johanna "JoJo" Lombardo-Ehmann '72, December 16, 2016

Marie (McGloine) LoPonto '75, October 27, 2017

Susan (Cook) Martz '77, March 2013

Esther McEvoy, MS, RN, faculty emerita, December 2, 2017

Martha L. Miller '91, April 13, 2017

Charles Nattell '73, April 3, 2017

Theresa Marie (Lubinski) Quinn '79, January 9, 2017

Mary Ellen (Porter) Seward '81, August 1, 2017.

Karen Jean (Pohl) Seyboth '99, August 17, 2017

Julie Helen (Vincent) Swift '91, November 5, 2016

Mary Annette Tudico '70, RSM, December 2, 2017

Hillary K. Urban '06, May 13, 2017

Jean (Odin) White '78, September 8, 2017

Class of 1967 50th Reunion

The Class of 1967, led by Nan Kennedy Walsh, gathered for dinner and reminiscing in Marian Hall on October 7, 2017. Maria Board Chair Sr. Gail Waring '63 was special guest, and classmate Ann Hughes Young provided fresh leis from her home state of Hawaii.



Front from left: Carol Clemente Calacone, Nan Kennedy Walsh, Gail Bonomo Allen, Sister Eleanor Guerin; Back row from left: Ann Hughes Young, Mary Ann Fox Brookman, Sister Gail Waring, Vicki Casatelli Santiago, Jane Quinn Monahan, Linda Roach Guthridge, Kathy Murphy Rowen



Above:
Reunion attendees, Carol Clemente Calacone, Ann Hughes Young, and Mary Ann Fox Brookman

Left:
Reunion organizer
Nan Kennedy Walsh

IN MEMORY

The Maria community mourns the loss of these friends, educators, and leaders.



Esther K. McEvoy, MS, RN

December 6, 1928 – December 11, 2017

In 1968, Esther helped the Sisters of Mercy pass the torch and transition the St. Peter's Hospital School of Nursing to an associate degree in nursing program at Maria College, integrating nursing education with a liberal arts and sciences curriculum. Her tenure at Maria spanned 40 years, and she influenced generations of students throughout the Capital Region from her time at St. Peter's Hospital and Maria College. She retired as chairperson of the Maria Nursing Department in 2003 and remained teaching pharmacology until 2008. She is distinguished with professor emerita status. We remember her dedication, her ability to listen and always see the student as a person, her willingness to share her expertise with colleagues and students, and to help others keep in the forefront a vision for the nursing profession. Her transformational leadership ensured nursing graduates had the knowledge and skills to meet the demands of their profession, which directly helped patients to achieve better outcomes. She inspired others to a higher level of motivation, and her work ethic and love of nursing helped to develop a competent and compassionate nursing workforce in our region.

To memorialize Esther and her profound contributions to the Nursing Program at Maria, we will be launching a special fundraising effort to establish a scholarship in her name. The Esther McEvoy Nursing Scholarship will carry on Esther's legacy of providing support to nursing students at Maria College. Your gift of any amount will make a difference. Watch your mail for a special appeal.



Esther McEvoy, RN, dedicated her life to nursing education and helping others.



Stephen F. Delorenzo, MS

January 10, 1949 – August 30, 2017.

Steve earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology in 1970, an MS in biological science in 1972, and an MA in computer science in 1990 from the University at Albany. He served as Maria's Liberal Arts Department chair from 1997 until 1999, Computer Information Systems chair from 1997-2007, and director of Academic Computing from 2000 until his retirement in 2014 as professor emeritus. A 44-year employee, Steve taught biology, chemistry, and computer science and was affectionately known as "Mr. D" by his students. His passion for sciences was obvious, and he shared his office with a life-sized cardboard cutout of Albert Einstein. Steve loved to let students know that he was a fungi (fun guy)! But under his ever-present humor and entertaining presentations were a treasure trove of knowledge and love of transferring knowledge to practice. He patiently explained to students and co-workers alike how a chemical formula worked or how to access a new email feature. The community benefited from his compassion and dedication.

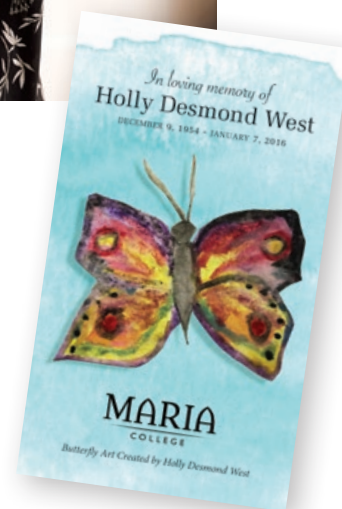
"Steve and Maria College walked hand in hand from the day Steve started here as a teacher at the young age of 21 right up to his retirement. His dedication never wavered." — Anne Devlin, Maria Deputy Chair of Liberal Arts



Holly Desmond West

December 9, 1954 – January 7, 2016

The Maria community remembered Holly on April 19, 2016, with a celebration of life service and the dedication of a garden bench in the Marian Hall Courtyard. She worked at Maria for 25 years and was the former department chair of the Early Childhood Education Department, then became associate professor in the bachelor's degree psychology program. She received a master's in education from the College of Saint Rose, and her lifelong passion was teaching. Her family established the Maria College Holly Desmond West Psychology Scholarship Fund.



"As an educator, I have always tried to create an atmosphere of risk-taking in my own classroom. I consistently attempt to empower my students to become active and involved learners." — Holly Desmond West

(Cont'd from p. 27)

in the chapter of the Mercy Rule “On the Schools”:

No work of charity can be more productive of good to society, or more conducive to the happiness of the poor than the careful instruction of women, since whatever be the station they are destined to fill, their example and advice will always possess influence, and where ever [such a] woman presides peace and good order are generally to be found (Sullivan, 2012, p. 297).

The full education and liberation of men and boys is also essential to human prosperity. So one can only applaud the 1971 decision of Maria College to open its doors to male students. Today the goal of serving the “good of society” and increasing the “happiness of the poor” needs all of us working together, male and female, as Maria College now demonstrates.

As I reflect on the school in the House of Mercy on Baggot Street, I also want to commend Maria’s commitment to education in the liberal arts. Having served in the College of Liberal Arts at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for nearly 35 years, and as its dean for 10 of those years, I know well the essential value of liberal learning and critical thinking tools, no matter

in what form of “caring service” one eventually chooses to specialize.

Thus Maria College, through its educational programs and spirit, can be called a faithful modern version of the House of Mercy on Baggot Street, Dublin—even though its students do not generally come into its classrooms barefoot!

WHAT ABOUT THE VISITATION OF THE SICK AND THE DYING, THE THIRD CHARACTERISTIC SERVICE OF THE HOUSE OF MERCY ON BAGGOT STREET?

At Maria College the nursing and healthcare degrees and certificates, as well as the programs in psychology, bereavement, gerontology, and occupational therapy are sophisticated, modern extensions of the caring service of the sick and dying that was the daily goal of Catherine McAuley and the first Sisters of Mercy as they set out each morning and walked the back alleys of Dublin.

In her chapter of the Rule on the “Visitation of the Sick” (Sullivan, 2012, p. 297-99), Catherine says many things that also describe the “caring service” promoted in the nursing and healthcare emphases at

Maria College:

■ She speaks of comforting the sick and dying poor, as in them one can regard the person of Jesus Christ, who has said “...as long as you did it to one of these members of my family, you did it to me.”

■ She advocates “tenderness” and reminds us of Jesus Christ’s own “great tenderness for the sick.”

■ She recognizes the “unwearied patience and humility” that are needed in anyone who cares for the sick and dying.

■ Catherine urges tender sensitivity toward the fears and feelings of the dying. She says: “When recovery is hopeless, it must be made known with great caution and... by degrees, assuring [the dying] of the peace and joy they will [soon feel...].”

■ She recommends using “every practicable means to promote the cleanliness, ease and comfort of the patient,” as well as speaking “in an easy, soothing, impressive manner so as not to embarrass or fatigue the poor patient.”

■ And, finally, she urges reverence as one enters a patient’s home or hospital room, mindful that where “two or three are gathered in God’s name, God will be.”

One can, I believe, see the same merciful content of Catherine’s

chapter on the “Visitation of the Sick” in the catalog descriptions of the many nursing and healthcare programs and courses offered here at Maria.

So, once again, I see Maria College as a modern House of Mercy—which is an honored, even sacred, Mercy designation and distinction.

The works of mercy generously begun on Baggot Street, Dublin, in 1827 are now the inspiring inheritance and mission of all in our Mercy family, including all our co-workers and partners in ministry. The present *Constitutions* of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas says the following:

As Sisters of Mercy we sponsor institutions to address our enduring concerns and to witness to Christ’s mission. Within these institutions, we, together with our co-workers and those we serve, endeavor to model mercy and justice and to promote systemic change according to these ideals.

As the faculty and staff of Maria College go about their merciful work, I hope they will be able to hear Catherine McAuley say to them what she once said to the benefactors of a public bazaar held in support of the House of Mercy in Dublin. After the bazaar, Catherine placed the following “Thank You” notice in a Dublin daily newspaper:

If our all-bountiful Redeemer, who came on earth to teach the Works of Mercy by precept and example, has promised that a Cup of Water given in his name shall receive a reward, what may we not hope he will grant to those, who, by the effect of their example, and their influence in society, have provided for His afflicted people (Freeman’s Journal).

Much gratitude is owed to Maria College for the many Cups of Water it faithfully offers to its students, and through them, to all those their students will one day serve.

Sullivan, Mary C. *The Path of Mercy: The Life of Catherine McAuley*. Catholic University of America Press, 2012

Freeman’s Journal, April 10, 1834



Cheers to 60 Years!

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in honor of Maria's 60th Anniversary

We invite you to participate in this special campaign, beginning on our foundation anniversary date, April 25, 2018 and running until June 24, 2018. Your gift to the annual fund helps us provide more scholarship aid for deserving students as well as expanded resources that are critical to their success. Please donate today to support Maria and its mission of providing a high-quality education at a low cost to students from all walks of life. Your gift—of any amount—matters.

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