



Alumni President - Bart Haag

Letter from the President

As time passes and memories fade, the Marycrest community gradually becomes smaller and smaller. The mission of the Alumni Association is to keep the Spirit of Marycrest alive. This summer marks the 6th anniversary of the conclusion of higher education at the Marycrest Campus. With each year that goes by, hard feelings about the closing of the school pass and the good times are recalled. Recently, I had the opportunity to spend time with an Alum who was in my incoming freshman class. Even though he transferred to another school where he ultimately earned his degree, we talked for hours about the good times we enjoyed and the friends we made while at Marycrest. He recalled stories that I hadn't heard in years and about classmates that I had all but forgotten. This is an example of the Spirit of Marycrest that the Alumni Association strives to keep alive.

Spring is upon us – finally – and it's time to look forward to an exciting 2008 year for the Marycrest Alumni Association. The Board continues to focus its efforts on increasing participation in the board as well as our distribution and contacts database. We are also excited to announce the addition of the First Annual Marycrest Homecoming Adult Volleyball Open. Building on the success of our previous homecoming events, we look forward to this additional event to provide a new activity for the younger members of our alumni community. This event will be held on the campus at the former Activities Center, now known as "Beyond the Baseline." - contact information and entry instructions will be available on the Marycrest Alumni web site at www.marycrestalumni.com

Thanks,

Bart Haag - Class of 2002

Wilkerson named 2007 Marycrest Spirit Award Winner

Cliff Wilkerson was summoned back to the Marycrest campus last fall – as he had been countless times over the years.

But this time, there was no broken heater or plumbing problem for him to fix. Rather, the now 96-year-old Wilkerson was honored at Homecoming 2007 as the recipient of the Marycrest Spirit Award.

Wilkerson was 54 when he first joined the Marycrest College staff in 1964. When it closed 38 years later in 2002, he still was there. "There aren't many spots on this campus I'm not familiar with," he said when he accepted the award. "They had to sell the place to get rid of me."

But even the campus' new owner, developer Chris Ales, called on Wilkerson's decades of experience as they renovated the former college into the Marycrest Senior Housing complex.

About 50 people were on hand as Wilkerson accepted the award during Homecoming festivities at Petersen Mansion. He was joined by his daughter, Barb Moore, her husband and friends.

If you know of a alum, faculty member, or staff member who deserves to be recognized, consider nominating them for the Marycrest Spirit Award. Contact any alumni board member. A new award will be announced at Homecoming 2008.



Bart Haag, President of Marycrest Alumni Board presenting the Spirit of Marycrest Award to Cliff Wilkerson

Board Member Bios

Name: Janet Rossmiller - Miller

Marycrest connection: I graduated in 1999 with a double B.A. major in Computer Graphics and Art.

Alumni board involvement: Board member since 2002.

Professional experience: Currently work as a Quality Assurance Web Content Analyst for Deere & Company

Family: Husband, Dave, Children, Angie, Brenton and Nate, one grandchild Clayton.

Favorite Marycrest memory: Traveling and studying abroad, student newspaper going digital, photography, the students, the awards, scholarships, and most of all the Sisters.

Contact info: janet@sycamorecreekdesign.com or millerjanet@johndeere.com

Name: Genevieve (Gabby) Kennedy Rafferty

Marycrest connection: I was a member of the first freshman class at Marycrest in 1939. I graduated in 1942 with an English major, minor in Latin.

Alumni board involvement: I have been on the board twice-once in 1947 and now since 1997. I was board president in 2001-2002.

Family: I am a widow. I have 7 children, ages 63 to 48; 8 grandchildren; and 3 great grandchildren.

I stay involved with the Alumni board because: The Sisters of the Humility of Mary are my heroes! I saw their courage and sacrifices when Marycrest was young, and I saw their dignity when it was forced to close.

Favorite Marycrest memory: The first day when I was a "stranger in a strange land," one of the few girls not from the Tri-Cities, I was amazed at the warmth and kindness of my fellow "freshies."

Contact info: (309) 786-8372. Note: No I do not have a computer-just a stubborn old lady!

Name: Carla Meeke

Marycrest connection: I graduated in 1998 with a B.A. in Multimedia.

Alumni board involvement: Board member since 2002.

Professional experience: Substitute teaching several years.

Family: Husband, Gary; sons Dallas and Beau; granddaughter Madilyn.

Favorite Marycrest memory: Going to school in The Netherlands for four months, what a great experience!

Contact info: cm2047@netscape.com

Homecoming 2008 Activities

The Marycrest Alumni Board invites all alumni and friends of Marycrest to join in the Homecoming 2008 festivities.

As always, Homecoming will be the first weekend in October, with events planned for Saturday and Sunday, October 4th and 5th.

Saturday

Our main Homecoming event, an open house on the Marycrest Senior Housing campus, will be Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Petersen Mansion. At 1:30 the Spirit of Marycrest Award will be given. All the friends of Marycrest are invited for an afternoon of strolling down memory lane. We hope you'll join us for refreshments, tours of the Senior Housing facilities and plenty of good conversation. A volleyball tournament is being planned, email Bart Haag at Bart;haag@yahoo.com for more information.

Sunday

We close the weekend with Mass at Petersen Commons Activity Room on campus. Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. It will be followed by the Alumni Association's annual meeting. Then, afterwards, there will be a buffet brunch at 11:00 a.m. at the Outing Club Davenport. Call Gabby Rafferty, C'42, to RSVP @ 309-786-8372.



Left to Right: Maidena Navrati., Benita Moore, Tara Moffit, Linda VanHese, and Evenstar VanHese.

CHM Community Goes Green

The Mission Statement of the Sisters of Humility includes the congregation's commitment "to work for justice within the human family and to care for the earth itself." A major step for this part of their mission was the Sisters' co-sponsorship of the Earth Charter Summit, last year, at the Putnam Museum.

The CHM publication reported: "Over 200 people gathered at the Putnam Museum in Davenport on Oct. 13, 2007, for the first-ever Quad-City Earth Charter Summit sponsored by the Sisters of Humility of Mary. From the morning speakers -- Lucy Slinger, FSPA, and Betty Daugherty, FSPA -- participants learned about the four principles of the Earth Charter and how the environment has an impact on community relations, non-violence and social justice. They emphasized the disproportionate ways in which the poor are negatively affected by the earth's deterioration."

Another commitment is to the local poor and homeless. When leadership at John Lewis Community Services decided to drop the food service at John Lewis Coffee Shop in Davenport, the Sisters stepped in to see that the service continued. After several months of renovation and preparation, the service reopened as Café on Vine. Since the re-opening on Nov. 18, 2007, Café on Vine has served an average of 100 meals a day for a total of 12,000 meals to date. Director Sister Bea Snyder, '71 BA, added that they are anticipating larger numbers this spring and summer when children are no longer in school. Sister Marilyn Schierbrock, '66 BA, operates a related enterprise—a food pantry across the street from Café on Vine.

If any one would like to make a financial contribution, please make checks out to:

Café on Vine
PO Box 3375
Davenport, Iowa 52808

Sister Bea said that volunteers are welcome. If interested, you may call her at 563-650-2034.

CHM Associates Program

Do you share our dream to work toward economic, social and political justice, and continued spiritual growth? The CHM Associate Program invites people of all denominations, genders and races to come and be a part of our ministry. The program was developed to answer the call of many seeking a deeper, spiritual existence without becoming fully-vowed members. The linkage with the Humility Sisters offers a support system, a way to experience other perspectives, a nudge to keep growing...a spiritual resource. For more information call 563-323-9466 or visit chmiowa.org.

Quad City Earth Charter Summit - Generating Hope and Energy - River Center, Davenport, Iowa

On October 11th The Sisters of Humility will present the Quad City Earth Charter Summit to be held at the River Center in Downtown Davenport. Call Lisa at 563-336-8404 for more information or visit www.qcearthcharter.org. 2008 has been named the United Nations' Year of Planet Earth. A perfect time to emphasize the Earth Charter's role in healing the planet. Join us for a day of exploring facts and possibilities. Walk away with hope for the future and energy to make a difference.

Class Notes

News

Lori (Gonner) Byerly, '89, and her husband Todd are continuing to serve as Lutheran-sponsored missionaries in Africa and have been for several years. They are based in Tanzania with the ELCT Missionaries.

Genevieve "Gabby" Rafferty, '42, received the Key to the City from the City of Rock Island, Ill., in 2007. Rafferty, a Marycrest Alumni Board member, became a CHM Associate.

Maureen McGrain, '87, is the new regional development manager of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago.

Melissa (Lynch) Haberkamp, '98, married Alan Haberkamp on December 1, 2007. They live in Chicago, IL.

Maidena Navratil, '77, of Rock Island, is enrolled in the Master Naturalist program through the University of Illinois Extension Service. A new member of the Marycrest Alumni Board, Navratil also spends her free time volunteering at the Niabi Zoo in the Quad-Cities.

Former Marycrest Coach Kevin O'Neill served as interim head coach while Arizona basketball coach Lute Olson has been on personal leave. O'Neill first served on Olson's staff in Arizona from 1986 to 1989.

Nicole (Petsas) Petsas-Blodgett, '02, has passed her comprehensive exams on her way to getting her doctorate in Nursing at the University of Iowa.

Elsbeth (Schmal) Noel, a Marycrest alum, celebrated her 80th birthday Nov. 24.

Connie Lannan, '84, is engaged to Craig Brown. No date has been set yet. Lannan is employed at ARA in Moline, IL.

Leonel Alexander Pesce, son of **Lacey (Kreitzman) Pesce, '92**, and her husband Ariel, was born on March 18, 2008.

Kathy Longlett, '92, and her husband Darrell were featured in a Quad City Times story in February about anniversaries on leap years. They have had 11 anniversaries in 44 years of marriage. They live in Bettendorf.

Deaths - In Memory

Peter Hartung, father of **Suzanne Hartung, '68**, died March 2, 2008. He had served as an administrative consultant at Marycrest. He was 88.

Ellen (Fitzgerald) Godeke of Muscatine, Iowa, died Feb. 29, 2008. She was 94.

Don DeWitt father-in-law of **Jennifer (Waddell) DeWitt, '87**, died Feb. 7, 2008. He had been a resident at Marycrest Senior Housing for the past two years. He was 82.

Mary Czerwinski, grandmother of **Lynne Schiffke, '81**, died December 3, 2007.

Cheryl (Holmquist) Sommer died Nov. 19. She was 59.

Linda R. Jensen of Bettendorf, died Nov. 16, 2007. She was 54.

Mary Jeanne (Winnike) Gray died Sept. 27, 2007. She was 84.

Sr. Mae Murphy, CHM, died May 12, 2007. She was 91.

Margaret Bender, grandmother of **Jennifer (Waddell) DeWitt, '87**, died Oct. 6, 2007. She was 99.

Sister Rebecca "Becky" Dobbels, '78, died November 25, 2007. She was 51.

Sister Eileen Roseberry, '45, died January 12, 2008. She was 96.

Sister Frances Comito, '49, died in 2007. She was 87.

Jimmy (Jim) Teller, former Marycrest staff and husband of **Sarah Albrecht '82**, died March 1, 2008. He was 52. His in-laws include Betty and Maurice Albrecht. Betty worked in Financial Aid at Marycrest.

Quentin McCoy, brother of **Genevieve "Gabby" Rafferty, '42**, died on March 13, 2008. He was 78.

Don Denhart, former Education Department Chairman, died March 31, 2008. He was 86.

Help Us Keep The Marycrest Family Connected!

It's been six years now since the Marycrest we all knew closed its doors. But students, faculty and staff are remaining connected by the Marycrest Alumni Association, which lives on, thanks to a devoted volunteer board that just is not ready to let the Marycrest spirit die.

Since the college closed its doors in 2002, the Marycrest Alumni Association has maintained an unending presence with a Web site, its newsletter and most importantly, we have yet to miss a Homecoming. We'll be back again this year, Oct. 4-5 on the crest of the hill. But with no staff or resources to lean on, we need the help of all who consider themselves the Marycrest family.

We need alums to keep in touch with the Board, to share your milestones with us, join us for Homecoming and help us keep the Marycrest family connected. And with an all volunteer board, we also need your financial support. With your contributions, the board hopes to return to producing a regular newsletter. We also need funding to help maintain our Web site and to host Homecoming to keep drawing alums together. So whether you can give of your time to assist us in a project or offer a financial gift, your help is appreciated greatly.

Membership to the association includes all graduates of Marycrest, but also all honorary alums, former students, faculty, staff, administration and friends of Marycrest. There is no financial requirement to be a member of the Alumni Association. However, to help us defray costs, we are asking each member to send a yearly donation of \$15. Larger gifts also will help us expand our efforts and will earn you a special designation among donors. Other gifts are:

- Memorial, In memory of... \$ _____
- Sustaining Member, \$25-\$49
- Marycrest Spirit, \$50-\$99
- Patron, \$100-\$249
- The Crest Gift, \$250 and up

Gifts of any level will be appreciated. To donate to the Alumni Association, make checks payable to the Marycrest Alumni Association and send to Bob Merchie, Marycrest treasurer, 2410 40th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201.

Thanks in advance for helping us keep the Marycrest family together.



Marycrest Alumni Association

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