MADONNA UNIVERSITY

State of the University

Presentation at Faculty Meeting
August 28, 2006

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt

For 70 years, Madonna University has been tremendously blessed. Guided by its mission and values, our University community has worked diligently to develop academic and support programs, which have resulted in growing enrollments, a positive reputation, and significant outreach in the community. Some 21,000 MU graduates live and provide services in just about every State in the nation and 68 countries throughout the world.

Our notable contributions in the field of higher education, however, are just the beginning. University education continues to move forward challenging us in so many ways: the for-profits are making tremendous gains in enrollments around the country; community colleges are drawing increased attention for their cost-effective delivery; and public universities are attracting huge grants and gifts, and sponsoring billion dollar campaigns, all in our near neighborhood.

Madonna University Accomplishments

Nevertheless, our accomplishments are worthy of reflection and emulation in the coming years. This past year, students, faculty and staff have received State and local recognition. To name a few, our student nurses received seven out of the eight key State awards at the annual convention. Our alumna Jane Nickert, '94 and '04, nurse consultant for the Michigan Department of Community Health, received the Lillian Wald award for her passionate work to prevent lead poisoning among children.

Our Teacher Education program was listed in the Detroit News with a passing rate of over 90 percent for students attempting for the first time the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification, well ahead of several public and private colleges in Michigan.

Finally, our own Chris Benson, Director of the Office of the First Year Experience, received the Michigan Campus Compact Award for her influence and engagement of students involved in service learning projects. In the field of athletics, awards continue to roll in including best covers on our media guides, that is first place in two categories, in baseball and volleyball. The teams have also earned five conference championships, two regional championships and the final four for one sport, volleyball, all in this past year; and just two weeks ago, we received notification that Greg Haeger, our baseball coach, was selected as the Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association NAIA Region VIII.

Enrollment Growth

In the area of enrollment growth, the figures have been very positive: In the last five years, comparing Fall 2000 with Fall 2005, our student body has grown by 15 percent while the full time equivalent count has increased by 18 percent. Graduate enrollment has done particularly well with an increase of 45 percent headcount and a 58 percent increase in full time equivalency. This news is

particularly gratifying as we celebrate 25 years of service to graduate students. A Graduate Studies Dean's Endowed Scholarship has been established by Dr. Edith Raleigh to attract support for this important area.

Enrollment Feeder Cities, States and Countries

The top five feeder cities of our students are Livonia with 687; Detroit - 429; Westland - 293; Canton - 273; and Plymouth - 197. International students hailed from 43 countries, slightly down from the previous year when 47 countries were represented. The top five represented countries are: China with 91 students, Republic of Korea (South Korea) - 44; Poland - 29; Albania - 10; and United Arab Emirates - 10. Countries with three or more students attending are: Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, India, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mexico, Taiwan, and Ukraine.

During this past year, the majority of our student body or 79 percent came from southeastern Michigan; 14 percent were out-state or out of state; 8 percent were international students; and 75 percent were women. Our residence hall housed about 100 students on average during the last academic year.

Distance Learning

In the area of distance learning, we are also achieving history making figures: The total number of credits generated through on-line courses has increased by a substantial 43 percent as compared to just one year ago, while the percentage of on-line credit hours increased from 7.8 percent of total credit hours two years ago to 10.9 percent of credit hours generated during this past academic year. As might be imagined, the largest group of students took at least one distance learning class during the winter term: 1537 students.

Alumni

Let us briefly review where our 21,000 alumni have migrated. Although the majority, 17,167 continue to live in Michigan, over 2700 have moved out of state, either for career opportunities or retirement as evidenced by substantial numbers in the warmer climates. In fact, alumni of MU live in every state of the Union and in Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. The top ten states in which our students reside are:

Michigan	17, 167	Ohio	210	Arizona	144
Florida	458	Texas	156	Georgia	117
California	248	Illinois	145	N. Carolina	101
				Virginia	93

Our international alumni body has also grown to well over one thousand graduates living in 68 different countries on every continent except Antartica. Countries which have six graduates or over are:

Taiwan	616	Japan	13	India	10
China	419	Korea	13	Lebanon	6
Canada	103	Philippines	13	Nigeria	6
Poland	28	Albania	12	Qatar	6

One of our six graduates in Lebanon, Father Walid Moussa, a priest of the Maronite rite, serves as president of Notre Dame University in Louaize.

Physical Plant Improvements

In the area of physical plant projects, we are pleased to report on the following projects: the University Center terrace has been rebuilt, Kresge Hall has been substantially renovated, new bleachers have been installed in the gym and the first phase of planning the new Science and Media building is complete. The "design development" segment is already underway in order to meet a groundbreaking deadline of next Fall with a completion date for the entire building projected for February 2009. Concurrently, parking lots and roofs are regularly maintained or replaced as necessary.

Budget and Finances/Stewardship

To support these and the entire academic enterprise, the University budget has increased from $24 million in fiscal '01 to the year which just closed, fiscal year '06, at $33.6 million. This represents a 40 percent increase. The endowment as of June 30, 2006 is $29.8 million, and like so many other portfolios took a deep dip in the first years of this century, but has since rebounded and continues to grow. Benefits at our University have continuously been supported, increasing from 22.6 percent of salaries in fiscal year '01 to 31.2 percent in '06. Similarly, generous growth has occurred in student financial assistance: Considering all sources, the dollar amount in the past five years leaped from $14.5 million to $27.3 million, representing an 88 percent pattern of growth.

Comprehensive Campaign

A huge challenge which parallels the expanded budget, the new building and renovation projects, as well as new scholarships, professorships and endowed chairs, is the Comprehensive Campaign which is in the preliminary and silent stages of the cycle. The Board of Trustees just this past July has approved an increase from the original $25 million goal to that of $50 million. This is a tremendous leap for us which will require the enthusiastic support of all of our constituents and those yet to be developed. We are, however, convinced that the outcomes will be well worth the tremendous planning effort which is now and will be invested in this Campaign.

Fidelity to Mission

I believe these and other successes are attributable to our fidelity to our mission, including the Franciscan component. However, for most of us, the Franciscan charism, history and values remain something of a mystery. This past summer, thirteen staff members and administrators traveled to St. Bonaventure University for a Franciscan symposium sponsored by the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities. It was inspiring and educational. Upon our return, an implementation meeting was held and thus was born the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Franciscan Values. The response for additional membership on the part of faculty members has been outstanding. We look forward to recommendations from the Task Force on how we can infuse Franciscan values throughout the campus, in class content when appropriate, in discussions about policies and, of course, in interactions among ourselves and in the larger community.

Our theme for the academic year: "One World, Many Voices: Peace, Justice and Respect for Each Human Person" is laden with opportunities for us to grow in our understanding of our role as learners and teachers, collaborators and coaches, and thinkers and planners, and should provide another opportunity to influence our students in the Franciscan framework.

Goals

With a foundation that is constantly strengthened and broadened, we are hopeful that we are ready to face substantial challenges. In this context, our proposed goals for the coming five years as a student-centered institution are:

1. Increase enrollments in the following areas:
   - more day-time student attendance, at least 10 percent;
   - more male students, 5 percent per year
   - more diverse student body, 1 percent per year
   - more students per class; eliminate classes which are under enrolled;
   - more students in the residence hall; goal: 200 students
2. Raise faculty and staff salaries beyond higher education averages and the consumer price index; engender a real dedication to a strong work ethic; improve diversity among faculty and staff; raise employee morale.
3. Improve student satisfaction and student centeredness, and increase graduation rates.
4. Raise the standard of cleanliness in and around our offices and buildings.
5. Strengthen assessment processes throughout the University; augment access to technology and institutional research.
6. Shepherd the building program into completion, commissioning, occupancy and usage
7. Conduct a successful Comprehensive Campaign; create a culture of philanthropy on campus
8. Steward our resources responsibly; balance our budget, and produce strong financial results
9. Revisit and renew the campus master plan in view of new knowledge
10. Complete the NCA/HLC self study process culminating in a successful renewal of accreditation

These represent just an outline of our goals. We will request additional input from you at the full campus gathering scheduled for October 13, 2006 (formerly conducted during the week before Labor Day).

Community Conversations

In the meantime, we are planning one-hour "Community Conversations" which I am asking that each of you attend in preparation for the Fall Gathering on October 13 and for the accomplishment of the goals listed previously. One of the questions which we can pursue is: *What are the greatest challenges facing Madonna University in the next three years?* You will receive a sheet with a choice of five dates. Please consider this a very serious responsibility so that together everyone's opinions and input can influence the future of Madonna University.

A Word of Thanks

These comments would not be complete without a word of appreciation for your great dedication of energies and talents to this special form of education. By all vital measurements we are a stronger University than we were just five years ago, and yet we have maintained our reputation as a caring community, part of our heritage which has developed over many years at Madonna University. To hear students say, time and again, "I just love it here," is a real tribute to your creativity and understanding of the joy of learning and teaching. My one regret is that I could not incorporate so many more of your achievements, but we hope to highlight them in future publications and presentations.

Let me conclude by saying: Together we can excel, and excel we must, for mediocrity is the food of fools. Although our talents vary from individual to individual, commingled for the good of this academic community, we can make first-class strides in the continued transformation of Madonna University. Thank you.

Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, CSSF
President, Madonna University