

WINTER 2010

MADONNA | NOW

The Magazine of Madonna University

Cover Story

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER

Walking the Talk

JOB CHEER

Employment Resource

BUILDING BLESSING

Dedicating the Franciscan Center

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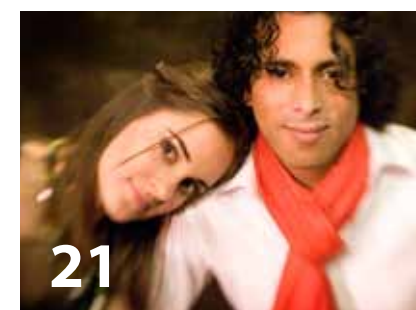
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Graduates wearing their spirit and department tassels, will receive special recognition during the Commencement 2010 ceremony.

To make your gift, contact
Amy Perry, alumni relations officer,
at 734-432-5762 or
e-mail aperry@madonna.edu



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On the Cover:

The feet of Madonna athletes (front to back) Amber Rafko, Anna-Marie Gatt, Katie Kozlowski, Trevor McClain (volleyball manager) and Donny Holland.

The mission of Madonna University, a Catholic and Franciscan institution of higher learning, is to instill in its students Christian humanistic values, intellectual inquiry, a respect for diversity, and a commitment to serving others through a liberal arts education, integrated with career preparation and based on the truths and principles recognized within a Catholic tradition.

Madonna's mission receives its spirit from these Franciscan Values:

- Respect for the dignity of each person
- Peace and justice
- Reverence for creation
- Education for truth and service

CHAMPIONS

OF CHARACTER

WALKING THE TALK

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) named Madonna University to the list of 231 colleges and universities honored as Champions of Character institutions for the 2008-09 school year. This represents an increase of 31 institutions over last year.

The mission of Champions of Character is to restore character values and raise a generation of students who understand and demonstrate, in everyday decisions, integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. The NAIA and member institutions use the Champions of Character program to instill an understanding of character values in sport, and provide student-athletes, coaches and parents the training to help them know and do the right things, inside and outside the sports setting. The program is dedicated to the principle that character is a choice and that being a champion is not just about winning, but making good decisions consistently in daily life.

Members of the '08-'09 Lady Crusaders basketball team demonstrated the character of champions when they played a special exhibition game against the Monroe Eagles Special Olympians. "This was a great opportunity for our student-athletes to give back to the community," said head coach Carl Graves. "All of our players were excited about this event and it fit right in with the NAIA's Champions of Character program that we try to embrace department-wide."

After the game, forward Sheryl Jager said, "I am very lucky and blessed to have the opportunity to play college ball. Helping someone who doesn't have that opportunity is rewarding."

Throughout Madonna's athletics program, student-athletes "walk the talk," i.e., softball players made fleece blankets for children at Children's Hospital, and went bowling with some Special Olympic athletes while at Nationals in Georgia. The volleyball team held a volleyball clinic for children involved in Special Olympics, and hosted a *Dig for the Cure* tournament to raise funds for breast cancer.

To be considered a Champions of Character institution, schools must complete a form which is later reviewed by a team directed by NAIA Vice President of Champions of Character Rob Haworth. These schools incorporate the five core values in the campus community and educate student-athletes, coaches, parents and fans on specific standards and expectations.

"The character demonstrated by Madonna coaches and student-athletes is the best indicator that the program is working."

"I congratulate these fine institutions and thank the administrators, coaches and student-athletes for playing a role in advancing character-driven intercollegiate athletics," said Haworth.

Madonna Athletic Director Bryan Rizzo said the goal of the Champions of Character program is to build character through sport. "The character demonstrated by Madonna coaches and student-athletes is the best indicator that the program is working," said Rizzo. Our values are reflected not only in how we play the game, but in how we act outside of athletic competition." •



Top: The women's basketball team and the Monroe Eagles Special Olympians.

Middle: Softball players Amanda Straub, Ashley Shay and Cat Sidor.

Bottom: Volleyball players Anna Gatt, Megan Fricke and Lubovj Tihomirova coach young Special Olympians.

STUDENT SUCCESS



Blogging the PAH-fest Hollywood Experience

Some 16 broadcast and cinema arts students traveled to California with instructors Dan and Sue Boyd, for the third annual Project Accessible Hollywood (PAH-fest), which Madonna University co-sponsored with festival creator and filmmaker Christopher Coppola.

Drawing from experience gained during PAH-fest Motown festivals, Madonna students coached Hollywood participants in script writing, filming, producing and editing. "Without the support of Madonna University, PAH-fest Hollywood would not have taken place this year," said Coppola. "I am very grateful for the hard work and leadership our Madonna team provided."

Journalism student Matthew Reed joined the Hollywood adventure, acting as photographer, reporter and public relations coordinator. "Reed was a wonderful addition to our PAH-fest team, we plan to include more students of other majors in the future," said Sue Boyd.

Reed shared festival highlights in a blog, which can be found at www.myspace.com/pahnation.



MU Community Raises \$5,000 for Haitians

Members of the Society of Future Teachers (SFT) at Madonna University collected \$210.35 in "Change for Haiti." The group gathered spare change from students and staff to help those devastated by the Haiti earthquake. Pictured here with Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, are SFT members Dawn Kersten, and Carolyn Verla, publicity officer. The President informed the future teachers that the University community's combined contribution to the Haitian people totaled \$5,000.



Student Creates Religious Art

Student and artist Marius Sidau displayed his creations and collections of Christian iconic artwork during a fall exhibit in the Madonna Gallery. "Religious icons are windows into heaven, connecting the physical and spiritual worlds," Sidau said. "It was wonderful to share with the community my perception of these sacred images of faith."

Born and raised in Romania, the 30-year-old sociology senior developed an interest in art as a child, molding clay figurines in his grandmother's bread oven. Sidau created his first icon of Jesus Christ at the age of eight. Sidau's style of Byzantine iconography was inspired by the Christian imagery that surrounded him growing up in Eastern Europe, and by his travels to monasteries in Romania, Italy and Ukraine.



Called to Nursing

There were many success stories among the 65 nursing students who graduated in December. One in particular was that of former Ford factory worker Greg Kaminski. He moved from New Jersey to earn his degree and take advantage of Ford's educational package. He received his nursing pin from wife Tanya '06, who is a nurse at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield. He became a father his first semester at Madonna, and his second child arrived during his last semester. In January, Greg joined his wife in Madonna's nursing master's program.

Student athlete awards went to nursing grads Whitney Fuelling, volleyball, and Lauren Hess, soccer. They are among only a few athletes who have played all four years, while keeping up with the demands of a rigorous nursing program. Heather Longshaw was awarded the O'Neill Award for Humanistic Nursing, and Caitlin Keffenberger received the writing award. Dean Teresa Thompson presented the Nursing Leadership Award to Lisa McBride.



Senior Film Project Debut

Broadcast and Cinema Arts seniors premiered their capstone film project, *Man in the Mirror*. Written and directed by student Christopher Nickin (above), the film is based on the true story of a young man mourning the recent loss of his father while coping with his mother's addictions, as well as his own. Seniors in the program produced and crewed the hour-long film under the direction of Chuck Derry, professor, and Christopher Coppola, adjunct professor. Madonna's Music Department provided the original score.

Clearinghouse Opens to Help Job Seekers

Madonna University and Ford Motor Co. have worked together to create a Web site and campus office to assist displaced workers, the unemployed or any other job seekers in their efforts to find work.

Representatives from Ford Motor Co. and Madonna University officially opened JobCHEER January 26, 2010. JobCHEER — www.jobcheer.org — is short for Job Clearing House for Education and Employment Resources, which can be accessed from any computer. Job seekers also can come into the JobCHEER office located in the Maertens Building on the northeast corner of Schoolcraft and Levan Roads.

A \$15,000 grant from the Ford Motor Company Fund provided for creation of the Web site as well as the JobCHEER office, according to Ernest Nolan, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Madonna. In the JobCHEER office the unemployed can use computers to access the Web site and search for jobs.

"The university has been looking at ways to assist displaced workers or the underemployed," Nolan said. "In order to meet the needs of students and others, we're bringing all the services under one roof. As a clearinghouse, JobCHEER will connect them to appropriate resources as they come up."

Besides details about its own programs, the site has links to a number of other sites that offer information, including listings of job openings in various fields. Madonna's career services staff provides free workshops each month to help job seekers hone their resume-writing skills or improve their job-search strategies.

Nolan said one of the advantages of the site is that those who use it will not only be able to see what kinds of jobs are out there, but also learn what those jobs require in the way of degrees or other credentials.

"The program's goal is to get people back to work," said Joan Stephens, director of continuing education and professional studies.

"You can go to the Web site and access 10 different search engines," Stephens said. The Web site not only aggregates job search engines, it also offers information on continuing education classes so that people can take classes for certification in pharmacy tech or medical billing and coding; two fields of employment growth.

Students taking continuing education classes jumped from 432 in 2007-08 to 624 for the 2008-09 school year. •



Assisting with the JobCHEER ribbon cutting are L-R Joan Stephens, director of Continuing Education; Andrea Nodge, vice president for Advancement; Mike Schmidt, Ford Motor Company Fund director; Kurt Wissman, JobCHEER assistant; Connie Tingson-Gatuz, vice president for Student Affairs; Ernie Nolan, provost and vice president for academic administration; Lisa Comben, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations.



JobCHEER assistant Kurt Wissman helps Colleen Rutenbar of Farmington Hills navigate the JobCHEER Web site to find available jobs in health care. Rutenbar attended a job-search strategies workshop put on by Madonna Career Services staff.

MAJORS & MINORS



Art Class is a Stroke of Calm

For more than 20 years, Ralph Glenn, art professor, has been teaching an oriental brushwork class that combines tranquility and learning. Glenn teaches students how to use the Chinese and Japanese brush, which is constructed differently than a western brush. "Many of these students haven't done this before, yet they do so nicely," said Glenn.

The six-week course meets only on Saturday mornings. Students grind an ink stick into water, and beginning strokes are made on newsprint — an easier surface.

Eventually, they graduate to the finer rice or elm papers.

For some students the class is considered art therapy because they're painting natural subjects and learning to use the oriental brushes. Glenn also plays oriental music for inspiration. He teaches as much technique as he does cultural tradition.

New Health Care Degree Programs

In an effort to keep our health services offerings relevant to the industry, faculty from the School of Business and the College of Science and Mathematics collaborated to phase out the Allied Health major and create a new Health Care Management degree program. The program is more business-related not clinical, and includes such courses as health care finance and health care law. The major was launched winter semester 2010 and classes are taught through the School of Business.

At the master's level, the School of Business has proposed a new Master of Science in Health Services Administration degree program that also focuses on the business aspects of health services, rather than the clinical side. The Dean of the School of Business hopes to have approval for the program in the spring, so that classes can begin fall semester 2010.

Education Earns Continued Accreditation

Last fall, the College of Education received continuing accreditation at the initial and advanced preparation levels from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The NCATE establishes high-quality teacher preparation through the process of professional accreditation of schools, colleges and departments of education, with the goal of improving education for all P-12 students.

"Thanks to the hard work of Dean Karen Obsniuk and the entire College of Education faculty and staff, we had wonderful feedback from our accreditation team," said Rick Benedict, chair of teacher education. "With this accreditation, Madonna University can continue to produce competent, compassionate educators."

Hospitality Management Available at Orchard Lake

In an effort to address the emerging importance of the hotel, restaurant and tourism industry in the Oakland County area, the School of Business will offer a 3+1 degree program in hospitality management at the Orchard Lake Center (OLC), beginning this fall. Delivered in accelerated 10-week semesters, the program is comprehensive, convenient and flexible for Oakland Community College and other transfer students.

Madonna's hospitality management curriculum provides students with employable skills in all aspects of the industry. Through the program's required minor in business administration, hospitality management majors learn ways to control the cost of food, labor, equipment and operations. In addition to classroom work, each student completes an internship.

To earn a bachelor's degree in hospitality management students must complete 120 semester hours, the last 30 of which must be completed through Madonna. Courses offered at the OLC meet these requirements.



Sign Language Studies Offers Two Majors

There now are two distinct Sign Language Studies (SLS) majors: Sign Language Interpreting Studies and Deaf Community Studies. SLS chair, Dan McDougall has also proposed a Deaf Studies minor for those Interpreting Studies majors who want to take all possible department courses. The minor has been approved, and will include 25 semester hours of specialty courses in Deaf Community Studies. All changes to start fall semester 2010.

MADONNA | HAPPENINGS

Expert Expounds on St. Francis

Medieval Church Historian Bill Cook, Ph.D., engaged the Madonna community in a discussion of St. Francis, during the annual Franciscan Symposium, held in October. Cook spoke about the similarities of society in St. Francis' time and today, while emphasizing the role of Franciscan traditions and values in the study of liberal arts.

"Dr. Cook's presentation was captivating," commented Sr. Nancy Marie Jamroz, former vice president for student services. "Not only was I impressed with the breadth of his knowledge, but also his passion for the teachings of St. Francis. His ideas of incorporating material on St. Francis into various areas of study were very creative and thought-provoking."

Cook, a University of New York professor, has written several books about St. Francis, and owns an apartment in Assisi, where he presents seminars to college professors.



Library Features Made in Michigan Events

During the *Made in Michigan* Library series, area authors, photographers and historians shared their local knowledge of both land and lake, and inspired creativity and hometown pride within area residents.

Tony Panepucci, privy historian, displayed an array of "flushed finds," — including antique bottles, china, pipes, dentures, combs, guns and toys — all uncovered while excavating old outhouses throughout Michigan. "Old outhouses prove to be valuable dig sites, providing a wealth of cultural information," Panepucci said.

"Fascinating presentation," said Livonia resident Marty Johnson. "He has inspired me to start digging in my own backyard; you never know what you might find!"

Area "boat nerds" learned about the magnificent ships and freighters found on Michigan's waterways today and in years past during a visit with the creator of the *Know Your Ships*, Roger LeLievre. The annual publication is considered the bible of Great Lakes shipping.

Author Mary Desjarlais and photographer Bill Rauhauer provided a unique look into the city of Detroit past and present while discussing their collaborative books *Detroit Revisited* and *Beauty on the Streets of Detroit*.



Well Being Day a Big Success

The nursing department's annual Well Being Day drew a large crowd of students, faculty, staff and community members, who lined up for flu vaccinations, massages, blood pressure screenings, BMI measurements and more.

"We administered 145 flu vaccinations throughout the day," said Sr. Victoria Indyk, nursing faculty member.

Some 66 nursing students set up eye-catching displays and provided information about swine flu prevention, healthy eating, smoking cessation, osteoporosis, diabetes, weight loss, alternative therapies and the effects of stress.

"This is a great way to raise awareness about preventative care," said nursing senior Amy Guttenberger. "It is especially important on a college campus, where stress is high, and eating habits aren't always the healthiest. We provide a friendly, open environment, where our peers can ask questions they may be too embarrassed to ask their doctor."



McManus Lecture Focuses on Recruiting Americans to Work

The guest speaker for the fall 2009 McManus Business Lecture, now in its 21st year, was Steve Lowisz, president and chief executive officer of the largest U.S. recruitment research firm, Qualigence Inc. He shared tips to help the unemployed find jobs and get hired. He also offered ways for the "underemployed" to advance to higher-level positions.

"Steve Lowisz's unique entrepreneurial philosophy fit well with the McManus Business Lecture Series," said Stuart Arends, dean of Madonna's School of Business. "His message can benefit many professionals and entrepreneurs in Michigan."

According to Lowisz, a 2008 survey by CareerXroads showed that companies fill most positions by referrals, followed by the company's Web site. He noted that use of job boards, such as Monster or Career Builder continues to decline. "The method that is growing is the referrals — the networking," said Lowisz. He urged everyone to network online and to befriend a recruiter, not just to ask for a job, but also to stay informed about what's going on in the industry.

FRANCISCAN CENTER

for Science and Media

Dedicating a Cathedral of Learning

The Gathering Area of the Franciscan Center for Science and Media was filled to overflowing October 15, when students, faculty, staff, board members, alumni, donors, and community leaders attended the blessing and dedication of the beautiful, sustainable building. Guests occupied chairs that ringed the second floor balcony, while many others spilled into the Lecture Hall to watch the event as it was fed live there and on the Madonna Web site.

People gathered to the sweet sounds of student harpist Charles Walker. A celebratory atmosphere was established with the songs performed so joyously by the Madonna Chorale, under the direction of David Wagner, Ph.D., music professor, accomplished organist and national promoter of classical music. Their beautifully blended voices reached to the rafters and lifted the spirits of those present for the historic occasion.

The Knights of Columbus Honor Guard led the opening procession, as well as the building walk-through as Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron blessed the classrooms, labs, offices and studios. During the blessing, the crowd was treated to a video *A Greener U* that outlined the stages of the building's construction and its many green and sustainable features. Produced by Suzanne Boyd, television studio manager, the video can be viewed at www.madonna.edu.

Through tears of joy Madonna President Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, Ph.D., expressed her gratitude to all those who made the building possible. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being part of this milestone for Madonna University," she said. "This gorgeous facility will enrich our campus and the community not only today, but for many years to come. Within these walls, students will study, experiment, create, and edit, while honing their skills as future leaders."

Madonna University Board Chairman Michael Obloy presented Felician Sisters Provincial Minister Sr. Renetta Rumpz and Sr. Rose Marie with a plaque that honors the Felician Sisters' leadership of and selfless contributions to Madonna and the Franciscan Center.

Cardinals Adam Maida and Edmund Szoka were honored when Foundation Board Chairman Walter Knysz Jr., D.D.S., unveiled the renderings of Cardinals Square — a lovely garden plaza to be created outside the east entrance of the Franciscan Center. This outdoor gathering space, which pays homage to Madonna's rich Polish heritage, and to these devoted men of God, will be dedicated June 1, 2010. Together, the Cardinals extended their blessings on the new building.

Resolutions of achievement were presented to Sr. Rose Marie by State Representative John Walsh, State Senator Glenn Anderson, and Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox.

In closing, Sr. Rose Marie added her own prayer to those of the Archbishop and the Cardinals, "God bless all who will enjoy this magnificent cathedral of learning." •

"This gorgeous facility will enrich our campus and the community not only today, but for many years to come."

October 15, 2009
Livonia, MI

Photo by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers



◀ Sr. Rose Marie expresses her gratitude to all who helped Madonna achieve the Franciscan Center.

► There wasn't an empty seat for this historic event.

▼ Cardinal Edmund Szoka; Cardinal Adam Maida; Sr. Mary Renetta Rumpz, Felician Sisters former Corporate Board President; Michael Obloy, Board of Trustees Chairman; Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron; Walter Knysz Jr., D.D.S., Foundation Board Chairman 2007-2009.





◀ *David Wagner, Ph.D., directs the Madonna Chorale, as Music Department Chair Linette Popoff Parks, accompanies them.*



▶ *Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron descends the Comerica staircase as he completes the blessing of the Franciscan Center.*



◀ *Sr. Mary Renetta Rumpz, former President of the Felician Sisters Corporate Board, and Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, Madonna University President unveil the Franciscan Center plaque as Michael Obloy, Chairman of the board looks on.*

▼ *Madonna student Sarah Ciolek tells the crowd how important the Franciscan Center is to students, and to their quality education.*



▲ *Walter Knysz Jr., D.D.S., former Foundation Board Chairman, congratulates Cardinal Edmund Szoka after revealing to him and to Cardinal Adam Maida, the artist's rendering of Cardinals Square; a garden plaza east of the Franciscan Center, that will be dedicated in their honor June 1.*



▲ *State Representative John Walsh, and Senator Glenn Anderson present Sr. Rose Marie with a resolution that commends the University community for its commitment to sustainability.*



▲ *Cardinal Adam Maida shares his enthusiasm for the new building and for all of the good work taking place at Madonna.*

▶ *Plaques throughout the building recognize the generous donors who named particular rooms or features in the Franciscan Center. Joan '60 and David Pachota, who named the second floor seminar room, and Nancy '61 and Tom Enright stopped for a photo by the Enright's plaque in the East Lounge.*





Au revoir Sister Nancy!

The Madonna community bid farewell to Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz, vice president for student services who, after 22 years of service, left Madonna University to serve on the leadership team for Our Lady of Hope; the new North American province of the Felician Sisters (see pg. 24).

Tears were shed and laughter was contagious as students, faculty, staff and friends gathered to honor Sister Nancy with stories, fond memories and gifts. "Sister Nancy always gave a full smile and feeling of welcome to everyone she encountered," said Bryan Rizzo, athletic director, who helped facilitate the send-off.

Representatives of Kappa Gamma Pi, SWEEP, International Students and TRIO each paid tribute to Sister Nancy's dedication and support to their programs. "My mentor and campus coordinator for Kappa has been Sr. Nancy," said Pat Baumgarten, president of Kappa Gamma Pi. "Her warmth, sense of humor, and ability to see the best in everyone, while remaining realistic about human nature, makes her an invaluable resource, role model and valued friend."

▲ Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa and Bryan Rizzo, athletic director, present the guest of honor with the engraved sign that now marks the Sr. Nancy Marie Jamroz Butterfly Garden — located just outside of the Franciscan Center's main entrance — it will be a lovely reminder of Sr. Nancy and her love of butterflies.



Benson Named Outstanding Advocate

Associate Dean of Advising and the First-Year Experience, Chris Benson, was chosen one of ten Outstanding First-Year Student Advocates in the nation, by the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition.

Benson's input was crucial in establishing the Office of the First-Year Experience, which houses a series of interrelated strategies for first-year students.

Benson's dedication to creating compelling and engaging programs for students, coupled with her strong grounding in the research literature of first-year programs, learning communities, and student retention make her a valuable institutional resource and inspiration to her colleagues.

As champion of a targeted program for students transitioning from high school to college, Benson significantly improved the quality of the student experience at Madonna University. She demonstrates that authentic change can be achieved with good ideas, planning, diplomacy, and the will to improve.

Mathematics Professor Earns Doctorate

Susan Toma, half-time faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation, earning her doctoral degree in applied mathematical sciences.

Toma's dissertation outlined various mathematical equations and models to maximize business productivity in virtually any industry. "The knowledge I have gained can be used to strengthen our curriculum with advanced mathematics courses that will apply to students of various majors, including science, nursing, education and business," said Toma.

Toma and her brother Sarmad Istephan earned their undergraduate degrees at Madonna, where their father, Asaad Istephan, Ph.D., is a full-time faculty member in Madonna's Physical and Applied Science Department.



Dubuis Honored for Living the Values

The first annual Franciscan Values Award was presented to Dina DuBuis, registrar. The award honors full and part-time staff members who embody the University's mission and values.

DuBuis has served students in the Registrar's Office for four years. As chairperson for the Franciscan Values Task Force, she developed several University events, including the Franciscan Rock Fest, symposium, pet blessing, and numerous book discussions. Each was designed to engage students, faculty, staff and community members in the values of St. Francis.

"I am honored," said Dubuis. "In my position, I am fortunate to be able to interact with people from all corners of the institution. I hope to spread the message of Madonna's mission and values by treating those I encounter with kindness and compassion."

Faculty Right-on at Writing Conference

Writing Center faculty Frances FitzGerald, Jeri Dolch and Ann Russell; Librarian Carol Vandenberg; ESL faculty member Marian Gonsior; and Writing Center student-tutor John Allasio hit the mark with their presentations at the Michigan Writing Centers Association's (MWCA) 15th Annual Ideas Exchange.

FitzGerald, Dolch, Vandenberg and Allasio shared the underpinnings and success of Madonna's annual Halloween Read-Off and 24-hour Write-a-thon. Gonsior presented a session on approaches to encouraging class participation of ESL students. Russell, Writing Center director and MWCA president, spoke on the correlation between assessable writing centers and community literacy.



Esper Honored for Service-Learning

Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) awarded Kathy Esper, associate professor of the College of Nursing and Health, the Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award — the highest MCC bestows on faculty and staff in Michigan.

Colleague Maureen Leen nominated Esper for the award, which recognized her influence on and engagement of students in community service or service-learning through modeling, influencing or instruction.

Esper has worked diligently to ensure all nursing students in their last term have service experiences that help them assess patients after acute-care episodes. She assisted in writing a course objective to standardize these experiences in the curriculum. Esper is a role model, and champion of service in her professional and personal life.

◀ Kathy Esper with Kevin West, director of service learning.

Religious Communication Association Elects IDS Director as VP

Kathleen Edelmayer, Ph.D, Interdisciplinary Studies director and English and Communication Arts professor, was elected as the Second Vice President of the Religious Communication Association (RCA); a nonsectarian academic society focused on public religious communication.

Prior to the election, which took place at the RCA annual conference in Chicago, Edelmayer chaired a pre-conference session: *Negotiating Stability and Change in the Catholic Church*. She also participated as a panelist in two other discussions.



Math Prof Talks Problem Solving

At the Detroit Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual fall math conference, held at Lamphere High School in November 2009, Marvin Weingarden made a presentation titled, *Problem Solving, Patterns and Motivating Activities*.

WE MADE IT!

KRESGE CHALLENGE SUCCESS



Thanks to the hard work and generosity of the entire University community, alumni, donors and friends, Madonna University has successfully met the Kresge Challenge Grant issued in December 2008, by The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Mich. In order to receive the \$1.5 million challenge grant — to support construction of the Franciscan Center — Madonna had to raise \$3.25 million by January 1, 2010.

During tough economic times, Madonna's advancement team worked diligently and creatively to secure gifts, small and large, toward the challenge grant. Many long-time benefactors, members of the Board of Directors, as well as Foundation Board members helped secure gifts and find new ways to raise funds. For example, a grant from the McGregor Fund provided for equipment to enhance the new building's science labs (see pg. 17). With an emphasis on planned giving, donors — who may not have been able to give because of current financial constraints — were offered an opportunity to make a future gift that would count for the Kresge Challenge. It was just such a gift, made by an anonymous donor in early December, that ensured the University met its goal.

Known for funding transformative projects, The Kresge Foundation historically has supported education and environmentally-sustainable construction practices. Madonna's \$20 million Franciscan Center was Phase I of the \$50 million Leading the Way Capital Campaign launched in 2006.

In the final report submitted to The Kresge Foundation, Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa noted how the Franciscan Center had become a focal point for the University, attracting students, faculty and visitors. She acknowledged that the sustainable structure also had won *Corp! Magazine's* Going Green Award, and was being considered for several others. She expressed her humble gratitude to The Kresge Foundation staff and board for the transformational challenge grant in support of the Franciscan Center. •

▲ At a victory celebration, Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, president, thanks the faculty and staff for their role in achieving the Kresge Challenge Grant.

◀ Karen Sanborn, director of marketing, paints the news on the window of the West Colonnade Lounge.



MCGREGOR FOUNDATION SUPPORTS SCIENCE EDUCATION

The University received a \$250,000, two-year grant from the McGregor Fund to support the Transforming Science Education program. The College of Science and Mathematics will use the grant dollars to bring in science teaching consultants, offer faculty development services, conduct faculty-student research, develop support services for at-risk students, and redesign science courses to make them relevant for non-specialists.

With the opening of the Franciscan Center for Science and Media, Madonna University reached a critical juncture for improving the quality and effectiveness of science. The McGregor Fund grant will help Madonna faculty establish many of the hallmarks of best practice in science education, and achieve the academic goal of restoring science to a place of honor among the liberal arts.



▲ L-R: Michael Obloy, Board chairman; Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, Madonna president; Andrea Nodge, vice president for advancement; Dave Campbell, McGregor Fund president; Judge Michael Talbot, Madonna trustee; Ernest Nolan, provost and vice president for academic administration.

UNIVERSITY LEADERS

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BEYOND THE POND

ALUMNI NEWS AND STORIES

Alumni News & Networking is a click away! Visit www.madonna.edu and click on Alumni & Friends to subscribe to the monthly E-News and stay informed about upcoming continuing education courses, special events, career services and the alumni tuition benefit, or to take part in social networking opportunities on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.



1950s

Gloria (Laginess) Scheuer '56 (sociology) retired from teaching in the Romulus, Riverview and New Boston

School Districts after 53 years. The first "farmer" student at Madonna, Scheuer used her experience caring for animals on the family farm in New Boston, to care for sick animals on campus. After graduation, Scheuer studied in Paris and in Hungary, during the Hungarian Revolution. She returned to Michigan and earned degrees from Michigan State and Wayne State. "I learned more about working with people and social graces at Madonna, than at any other university," said Scheuer. For the past eight years, she has served in the Peace Corps, living on farms and in migrant camps in northern Michigan; and on Indian reservations in Canada. She teaches during the day and works in the fields until nightfall.

Richard, also a private pilot, enjoy boating, fishing and spending time between their Michigan and Florida homes. "I received an excellent education at Madonna and enjoyed living on campus in the 60's," said Gray.

1970s

Elizabeth (Maxwell) Lee '70 (medical technology) was the first and only student to graduate in the 4/1 Medical Tech program. She attended Madonna



for four years, taking classes at night and completing a 16-month internship. "Sr. Mary Dennis helped me immensely in becoming a successful student,"

said Lee. "She was hard, but fair, and she guided and pushed me to always do better." Lee is a retired compliance officer from the Naval Hospital in Charleston, SC.

Bernadette (Tomasik) Sugrue '75 (fine arts) has been named superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit. Sugrue served as associate superintendent since 1998, overseeing the areas of professional



development, policy and curriculum, special education, educational administration, and programming for urban elementary schools. Prior to joining Central Services, she taught at St. Frances Cabrini Elementary School for 16 years. She served as principal, there, from 1990 until 1998.

Edward Glomb '76 (criminal justice) was elected to the Board of Directors of the Airport Law Enforcement Agencies Network (ALEAN). ALEAN's mission is to promote an information-sharing network for the benefit of airport law enforcement officers and agencies throughout the world. Glomb is police



chief at Detroit Metropolitan and Willow Run Airports and serves on the Board of Directors for Southeast Michigan Chiefs of Police.

1980s

Thelma Roundtree-Tabor '80 (nursing) is one of five 2009 winners of the Cheerio's Sisters Saving Hearts Award sponsored by General Mills. The award is given to those who have made strides in the fight against heart disease, particularly in the African American



community. Roundtree-Tabor is a coronary health improvement project (CHIP) instructor in Las Vegas, providing education on nutrition and healthy lifestyle changes in vulnerable populations. She donated her \$5,000 prize to the Southern Nevada Black Nurses Association.

Tom Swoboda '80 (criminal justice) will be retiring as deputy chief from the Park Ridge, Ill. Police Department, where he served for 29 years. Swoboda was among the first four male students to live on Madonna's campus. After graduation, he was one of the first full-time public safety officers at the University. "Madonna gave me the experience and opportunity to land a great job, I truly enjoyed my time there and was thankful for the wonderful education I received," said Swoboda, who resides in Park Ridge, with his wife, Linda, and their 13 children.

Pat Baumgarten '81 (nursing) was elected national president of Kappa Gamma Pi (KGP), the National Catholic College Graduate Honor Society, whose 44,000 members are dedicated to faith and service. She has served as Detroit Chapter



president intermittently for 15 years and co-chaired the 1987 and 2003 national conventions. Baumgarten has been a part of KGP for 28 years. Her entire nursing career has been at Providence Hospital, working in Med-Surg, ICU, CCU and the ER, Home Care and Radiology. "Madonna provided me with a quality education driven by dedicated nursing instructors and supported by a solid religious base," Baumgarten said.

1990s

Jennifer (Marquette) Knoph '95 (English) was named varsity girls basketball coach at Livonia Stevenson High School, where she currently teaches English. While earning her Madonna degree, she played on the softball team.

"I really enjoyed my time at Madonna, I am so thankful for the wonderful education I received," said Knoph.

Barb Medvec '96 (master's nursing administration), Oakwood Healthcare, Inc. Senior Vice President and Chief



Nursing Officer, was selected by Operation ABLE of Michigan to receive the 2009 Most ABLE Award. One of ten honorees, Medvec was honored for her

accomplishments on the job and in the community. Guided by the philosophy that ability is ageless, Operation ABLE of Michigan is a leader in helping mid-career people obtain work and remain employable. At the award luncheon, Medvec received a Certificate of Distinguished Service. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Rho chapter) and Michigan Organization of Nurse Executives.

Derrick Inman '97 (criminal justice) works as a welfare fraud investigator for the State of Michigan Office of Inspector General (OIG), in Pontiac. The OIG provides investigation and advisory services to ensure appropriate and efficient use of available public resources. Inman handles cases throughout southeast Detroit and the surrounding suburbs.



NEW! ALUMNI CENTER

Now located in suite 1210 of the main academic building, the Alumni Office is a resource for Madonna University alumni, students, parents and friends. Open 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and after hours by appointment, we look forward to having you come in to learn about:

Subscribing to the E-news

Updating your contact information

Special events and reunions

Alumni networking online and in person

Locating jobs listings and career assistance

Beyond the Pond alumni news

Using the Library and Computer Lab

Alumni window clings and café mugs

Alumni Spirit Tassels and commemorative bricks

Supporting the Annual Fund

Continuing Education mini-courses

Locating former friends and classmates

Connecting with alumni where you live (U.S. and abroad)

Volunteer opportunities

For assistance, or to get involved, visit us or call 734-432-5762.

www.alumni.madonna.edu

STAY CONNECTED. GET INVOLVED. GIVE BACK.

Joseph Liu '97 (business administration) and **Wanda Teng '97** (educational leadership) returned to Taiwan after graduation. Liu works as a recruiter in the Human Resources department of a U.S.-based company located in Hinchu Science Park. Teng works in special education and teaches piano in her spare time. She also teaches music to students with disabilities at Memorial Institute in Taiwan. Lui and Teng have two children, Jerry and Lynn who are very active in school and music.



and Camp Casey, a therapeutic horseback riding camp for kids with cancer. As a student, she wrote for the Madonna Herald, was the newspaper photographer, and a member of the cheer squad.



Rebecca Reed '07 (social work) is a clinical therapist with Team Mental Health in Southgate. She also works as a private trainer in the business, government and non-profit sectors. Through a consulting company she owns, Reed applies the foundation of micro and macro practice social work that she gained at Madonna. This year, Reed plans to teach at the college level. While at Madonna, this single mother worked full-time, and served as president of the honor society. She was the first student to obtain a macro practice fellowship with the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan. "The professors and staff inspired me to be a social worker, and regularly I strive to give back what they inspired in me," she said.

Julia (Tabares-Davalos) Hernandez '08 (psychology) is the project director of Supporting Educational Achievements for Minorities (SEAM), in the Developmental Disabilities Institute at Wayne State. The project received a \$210,000 grant from the Michigan Developmental



Disabilities Council of the Michigan Department of Community. SEAM supports and assists families in southwest Detroit to successfully navigate the special education system. Hernandez also conducts special education workshops in English and Spanish.

Darrel Quinn '08 (business administration) is a financial advisor and branch manager for Edward Jones Investments in Livonia, Mich. Quinn's time at Madonna was spent both in the classroom and on the soccer field. He proudly represented



Madonna men's athletics in the university's first national appearance in 2007. A member of the Delta Mu Delta Madonna Chapter (International Honor Society in Business) he received an honors certificate from the Business School. He currently serves on Madonna's Alumni Advisory Council.

LeVaughn Stevenson '08 (graphic design) works as a graphic designer for You Need to Succeed (YNTS); a New York-based promotional and educational business. After graduation, he worked as a retail manager in Raleigh, N.C., while doing freelance graphic design for the local NBC news affiliate, North Carolina Dept. of Corrections, Community Anchors Limited, and a number of churches and individuals throughout the country.



Stay Connected. Get Involved. Give Back.
www.alumni.madonna.edu
 Send your alumni news to
 Amy Perry at aperry@madonna.edu

2000s

Paula Dembrowski-Slone '00 (merchandise management) is a regional merchandise specialist at Carhartt, Inc. in Dearborn, MI, a family owned apparel company. Dembrowski provides brand awareness, merchandise training, consulting, and product placement and growth opportunities for their retail stores. As a student she played on the woman's volleyball team for four years.



"The education I received at Madonna provided me the opportunity to obtain a position in what I set out to do," said Dembrowski-Slone.

Jeannette Greco-Pawlowski '01 (English) and **'05** (public relations), a public school teacher, won the title of Mrs. Michigan United States 2009 and has made over 100 appearances around Michigan as spokesperson for many local charities, including Ronald McDonald House, Make-A-Wish Foundation



Music Bridges Cultures

A unique music video produced in the Franciscan Studios at Madonna University transcends all language barriers to inspire, entertain and tug the heartstrings of people from many cultures simultaneously. Featuring Tunisian-born singer/songwriter Ridha Ibrahim and Madonna University sign language student Kaitlyn Mann, *Kan Ya Makan* or *Once Upon a Time* premiered during Madonna's Diversity Week Celebration in February. The video received rave reviews from faculty, staff and students at the event and in a week had received some 1,600 hits at YouTube.com.

The impetus for *Kan Ya Makan* occurred when Ibrahim saw Madonna sign language students performing translations of their favorite songs. "I saw sign language as a way to reach out to the Deaf community with my music," said Ibrahim, who works to communicate with all cultures through his songs. "Working with Madonna's faculty and students was a great experience. Katie Mann did a beautiful job of artistically translating my words and melody into American Sign Language," he said.

The song is a love story that blends eastern and western melodies with Arabic lyrics. "Due to my lack of knowledge of Arabic, Ridha and I spent over thirty hours translating the song to English," said Mann, a Livonia resident. "This was an opportunity for me to

dig deeper than the simple word-for-word approach of transliteration. Ridha explained the song's deeper meanings and allegories," wrote Mann in her study guide for the project.

In an effort to match Ibrahim's musical poetry, Mann enlisted the talents of Dan McDougall, director of Madonna's Sign Language Studies program, to create a poetic American Sign Language interpretation of the song. "The creative nature of this project allowed Katie to explore concepts of ASL poetry taught in class, and



to stretch them to their limits with dance. The end result is not uniquely hearing, nor uniquely Deaf — it's somewhere in-between." Each moment of the *Kan Ya Makan* video contains symbols — words, signs, images — all chosen and combined purposefully.

Sue Boyd, Franciscan Studios manager at Madonna, produced the music video with assistance from Madonna faculty and students in the Broadcast and Cinema Arts program. There was more to the video than just music and sign. The crew invested 30 hours filming. Then Boyd logged another 200 hours editing — painstakingly matching up frames filled with two languages that she didn't know. "The result

is a video that throws open the door to music for members of the Deaf community," said Mann. •



Abraham Wins 900th Match

A story that started 23 years ago with a bag of volleyballs, a used net and enough players to field a team added another chapter in October, when Madonna University head volleyball coach Jerry Abraham (pictured left with Bryan Rizzo, athletic director) became just the second coach in NAIA history to win 900 matches.

With a .795 winning percentage, Abraham ranks among the best to coach the game at any level. During every timeout, after every practice and after every team gathering, his squad uses the same word to break their huddle - "WE". This single word communicates that together they are strong, divided they are weak, but ultimately win or lose, they are a family.

The only head coach in Madonna volleyball history has seen over 50 of his players honored as All-Americans while seeing his squad win 12 straight Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference titles since joining the league in 1997. Abraham was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2004.

Men's Soccer Honored

Junior Jacob Rosiek was MU's lone selection for All-WHAC first team, joined by second team picks Emilio Giorgi and Eric Kiebert, along with third team pick Moses Otieno. Seniors Isaac Saint John and Mark Pikula made the Academic All-WHAC team while Saint John was chosen for the Champions of Character team. Pikula also was named to the NAIA All-American Scholar Athlete team.

One of just two players to start all 15 season matches, Rosiek was second on the squad with four goals and three assists. Kiebert was right behind Rosiek with three goals. Otieno led MU in goals with five, while chipping in a team best five assists in his first season. Giorgi scored a pair of goals.

Putting the Student in Student-Athlete

For the Fall 2009 semester, Crusader student-athletes posted a combined grade point average of 3.12, for just under 2,200 credit hours.

"We are as proud of our athletes' academic accomplishments, as we are of their athletic achievements," commented Athletic Director Bryan Rizzo.

Of the 11 athletic teams, eight posted team GPAs above 3.0: women's basketball (3.56), women's cross country (3.62), men's cross country (3.42), men's golf (3.08), women's golf (3.05), women's soccer (3.40), softball (3.33) and volleyball (3.25)

Men's Golf Makes History

The men's golf team claimed its first-ever WHAC Championship by a single stroke over Cornerstone, to secure a trip to the National Championships May 18-21, at TPC at Deere Run, in Silvis, Illinois. MU posted a total stroke count of 2098 over the seven-event slate.

Junior Brett Quitiquit claimed the individual medalist championship and was tabbed to the All-WHAC first team with a 74.85 stroke average for the seven-event season. Joining Quitiquit on the first team was Jimmy Uelmen in his first season as a Crusader.

Senior Steve South was selected to the All-WHAC honorable mention team and fellow senior Justin Taurence was selected to both the WHAC Champions of Character and the Academic All-WHAC squads. Head coach Steve Mato was named Coach of the Year.



▲ First team picks Melasi (left) and Austin (right).

Women's Soccer Picks up National and Conference Honors

Lady soccer players named to the 2009 NAIA Women's Soccer All-American Scholar Athlete team include: seniors Jessica Austin, Lauren Hess and Jaclyn Ventimiglia, along with junior Sarah Rokuski, and redshirt sophomores Diana Brda, and Brittany Warner.

The team had eight individuals earn All-WHAC honors. First team picks were Austin and Lia Melasi.

Austin led Madonna in goals with 11 and two assists for 24 points. Melasi tallied a pair of goals and three assists for seven points. Hess made the second team and Rokuski made the third team and the Champions of Character team.

Madonna led the WHAC with a league high seven academic all-conference selections including Austin, Hess, Rokuski, Brda, Katie Kozlowski, Warner, and Ventimiglia. To be named academic all-conference a student-athlete must be a junior or senior academically and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher.

Volleyball Scholars Honored

Seniors Inta Grinvalds and Mary McGinnis were selected as All-Americans and All-American Scholar Athletes for the second year. The pair also was named to the All-WHAC first team along with junior Liz Dempsey. Sophomore Karie Altman was honorable mention and made the league's Champions of Character team, while junior Anna Gatt, Grinvalds and McGinnis made the Academic All-WHAC team.

To be selected as a Scholar Athlete, players must be nominated by their head coach, have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better, and be a junior or senior.

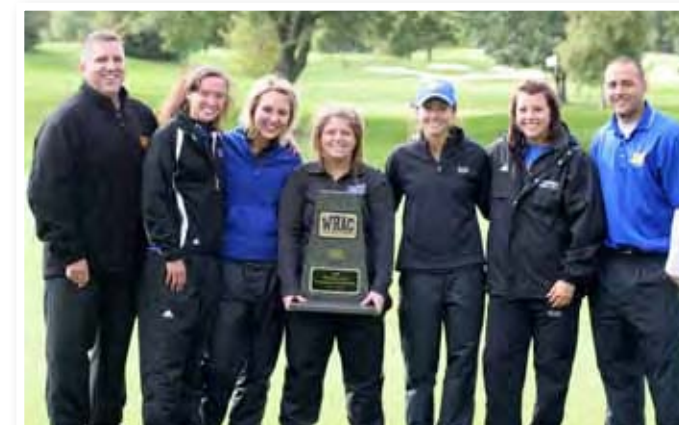
McGinnis led the loop in total kills (528) while ranking first in kills per set (3.7). She ended the season eighth in hitting percentage (.248 average). Her 1,633 career kills rank eighth all-time at MU in just three seasons.

Rafko Selected For Red Cross/NAIA Collegiate Leadership Program



The NAIA National Office selected freshman softball student-athlete Amber Rafko as one of 13 student-athletes to participate in the 2010-2011 Red Cross/NAIA Collegiate Leadership Program. The initiative, now in its fourth year, was created to inspire, motivate and create a new and diverse generation of American Red Cross volunteers and leaders by fostering the five core values of the NAIA

Champions of Character program. Rafko, the first Madonna athlete to be chosen, will attend two weeks of training at the Red Cross National Headquarters in Washington, D.C., June 7-18. For their efforts, students will receive scholarship support provided by the Red Cross and State Farm Insurance.



Women's Golf Takes WHAC Crown

The Madonna University women's golf team made program history, winning the squad's first ever WHAC Championship. Leading the entire match, they finished 26 shots ahead of Indiana Tech.

Crusaders automatically advance to the NAIA National Championship in Rapid City, South Dakota, May 25-28, 2010.

Junior Sara Simnitch led the way for MU by finishing fourth in the final event of the year, turning in an 81 the first day. Sophomore Chelsea Bathurst tied for 10th freshman Michelle Hall tied for 12th. Juniors Caitlin Steele and Mariel Meyers finished 15th and 24th respectively.

Hall and Simnitch were named to the All-WHAC first team, while Bathurst received an honorable mention. Simnitch and Steele were tabbed to the Academic All-WHAC team, while Steele was Madonna's representative for the WHAC's Champions of Character team. Head Coach Scott Marzolino was named the Coach of the Year.

Felician Sisters

United in One Mission, One Province



The Felician Sisters of North America, members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Felix of Cantalice, continue on a most remarkable journey in faith and service to God's people — a journey nearly two centuries in the making.

On November 21 of 2009, the Felician Sisters reached another milestone, with the establishment of a new North American province, Our Lady of Hope. In an historic installation ceremony, eight former provinces throughout the United States and Canada united into one — the culmination of a decade of planning. The new province will be headquartered in Beaver Falls, Penn.

Elections for the new provincial minister, vicar, and six council members took place in April 2009, following two days of meetings and prayer. Each of the eight, original North American provinces submitted a slate of nominees, and fifty-four sisters met in Plymouth, Michigan to make the final choice. Reverend Richard L. Conboy served as facilitator for the unprecedented voting process.

Each of the eight former provinces is represented by one sister on the new leadership team. Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz, former vice president for student services at Madonna, represents the Livonia province as one of six council members. The provincial minister is Sister Mary Christopher Moore (Coraopolis, Penn.), the vicar-elect is Sister Danat Marie Brysch (Rio Rancho, N.M.). The remaining five council seats are filled by Sister Constance Marie Tomyl (Enfield, Conn.), Sister Mary Geralyn Mroczkowski (Chicago, Ill.), Sister MaryAnne Olekszyk (Mississauga, Ontario, Canada), Sister Mary Jolene Jasinski (Buffalo, N.Y.) and Sister Judith Marie Blizzard (Lodi, N.J.).

Founded in nineteenth century Poland by Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska, the Congregation emulates her commitment to compassionate service, total availability, and concern for the salvation of all people. The Felician Franciscan Sisters history of compassionate and merciful service in North America, has spanned the past 135 years, and throughout the world for over 155 years.

Today, their mission is no less vital, their journey, no less dynamic. The need, today, is just as great, which is why the Felician Sisters of Our Lady of Hope province can be found throughout the continent working in schools, hospitals, parishes and other locations, as they minister in joyful service to the elderly, the infirm, the underprivileged, the poor and the underserved. They number approximately 900, almost half of the 2000-member congregation which has sisters in Europe, Africa and South America.

Rooted in prayer and centered in the Eucharist that energizes and guides them, the Felician Sisters are dedicated to the selfless service of God's people, and to the defense and support of the dignity of all human life.

Their journey continues. •



Photo by John Tree, Northstar Photography & Album Design

Felician Sisters Our Lady of Hope Province administration.

L to R: Sister Constance Marie Tomyl (Enfield, CT), Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz (Livonia, MI), Sister MaryAnne Olekszyk (Mississauga, Ontario Canada), Sister Mary Christopher Moore (Coraopolis, PA), Sister Mary Geralyn Mroczkowski (Chicago, IL), Sister Danat Marie Brysch (Rio Rancho, NM), Sister Judith Marie Blizzard (Lodi, NJ) and Sister Mary Jolene Jasinski (Buffalo, NY).

WHY | MADONNA?



MICHAEL & SHARON MELDRUM

Director | Office of Disability Resources

Professor | Sign Language Studies

"When my wife Sharon and I came here 34 years ago, we came because of Sr. Francilene and her foresight and desire to create a learning environment for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing," said Mike Meldrum, director of the office of disability resources at Madonna. "Sharon has been the only full-time faculty member in the Sign Language Studies program — ever. You might say, she's the heart and soul of the program."

Mike has broadened the scope of the disability resources program throughout the course of his career. Initially, he provided assistance to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students, developing a very good reputation for the program within the Deaf community.

Today, Mike provides support to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students, as well as students who have physical or learning disabilities. "I get to wear a bunch of hats," he said. "There is so much variety and so much contact with students — it keeps it fun." He works with Madonna athletes, arranges note taking and other services for students. He and his colleagues even produce Braille in the office.

As a former teacher of the Deaf, and as a Deaf person, Sharon loves seeing Madonna SLS graduates influencing the upcoming generation of Deaf persons. "I certainly feel blessed being able to work and create and share with my wonderful colleagues in the Sign Language Studies department," she said. The couple agreed that everyone at Madonna, especially the Felician Sisters, supports their work and the many students they assist. Mike added, "Madonna's intimate learning environment is conducive to more caring, sharing and understanding."

MICHAEL HARRIS

Executive Director | Paralyzed Veterans of America

"Madonna was very accommodating to people with disabilities," said Michael Harris a marine who served in Okinawa, Japan. He was paralyzed in an automobile accident in 1986, and started his Madonna education in 1991. Impressed with his instructors' willingness to work with him, he enjoyed the individual attention he received in small classes.

Although it took him seven years to complete his bachelor's, Harris credits his instructors and the staff in Student Services for "keeping the door open for me." He stuck with it, because he felt the support and encouragement of the entire Madonna community.

Harris is convinced that a Madonna degree can take you anywhere. "My degree is in accounting but I've never worked as an accountant. I am an advocate for people with disabilities."

Sr. Nancy was a huge supporter, and Mike Meldrum and others in the Office of Disabilities were very helpful. "Because of my wheelchair, I couldn't use a standard desk. Mike had a special table built just for me. I provided him with my schedule, and he made sure my table got moved to every class I had," Harris explained.

The people at Madonna made Harris' experience much easier and more personal. "It was a learning experience for everyone," said Harris who learned about giving back as he learned about accounting. Today he's not only an advocate for veterans, he's an ambassador for Madonna. "I encourage all veterans to take advantage of the GI Bill and to attend Madonna University for their degrees."

This feature page will appear at the end of each edition of the Madonna Now magazine. **Why Madonna** highlights students, faculty, staff members, alumni and benefactors, and the reasons they attend, work for, give to, volunteer at, and love Madonna University. If you know of someone who should appear on this page, please provide their contact information to Karen Sanborn at 734-432-5843 or ksanborn@madonna.edu.



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CALENDAR | OF EVENTS

We'd love to see you on campus! For more information about these events, check out the calendar located under QuickLinks at madonna.edu, or call the number listed here. A \$ indicates there is a fee for the event.

April

- 9-11 Lyric Theatre Performers in their **Spring Musical** \$, Kresge Hall, 734-432-5715
- 16 **Scholarship Celebration** \$, Laurel Manor, 6 p.m., 734-432-5602
- 17 **Chorale Concert** with Livonia Symphony Orchestra, 4 p.m. Ward Church, Northville 734-432-5708
- 25 High School **Master Class Concert** of Winners \$, 6 p.m., Kresge Hall & Organ Loft, 734-432-5717
- 29 **Graduation Mass**, 7 p.m., Felician Sisters Chapel, 734-432-5881

May

- 2 **Commencement**, 1:30 p.m., Compuware Arena, Plymouth, 734-432-5881
- 14 **Alumni Open House** and Network Night, 6:30 p.m., Alumni Office, 734-432-5741
- 21 Graduate School **Bowling for Scholars** \$, 5 p.m., Woodland Lanes, Livonia, 734-432-5667

June

- 1 **Cardinals Square Dedication** following 4 p.m. Mass, Felician Sisters Chapel
Dedication will take place at the Franciscan Center, 734-432-5589

September

- 17 **Scholar-Am Classic** \$, Western Golf & Country Club, 734-432-5589

October

- 3 **Alumni Mass**, 12 p.m., followed by the **Anniversary Brunch** \$, University Center, 734-432-5741

