

WINTER 2011

MADONNA | NOW

The Magazine of Madonna University



M
MADONNA
UNIVERSITY

Cover Story

RENEWING OUR BRAND

The M with the flame gets a new look

PAY IT FORWARD

Lessons in giving

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Diamond Jubilee

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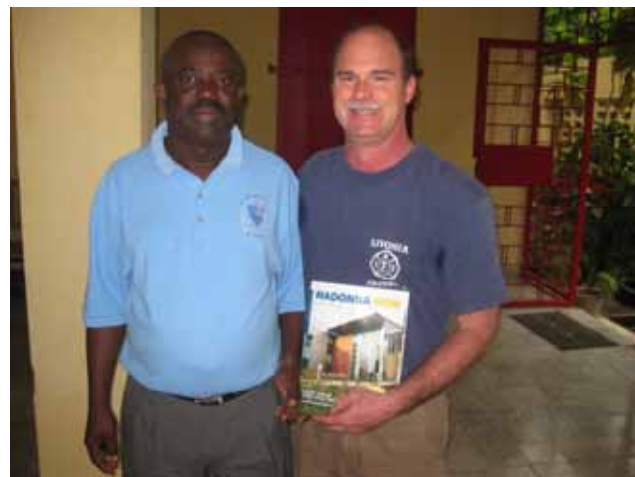
Individuals age 70 ½ or older may now make tax-free transfers up to \$100,000 from an IRA to Madonna University for the 2011 tax year, as part of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.

Gifts for this tax year may be made until December 31, 2011. The benefit to you, the donor, is these gifts fulfill some or all of the required minimum distribution without increasing taxable income.

For more information and a sample letter for your IRA custodian, please call Dean Adkins at 888-487-0800, ext. 3

WHERE'S MADONNA NOW?

In Haiti with alumni volunteer Paul DeNapoli '84 & '93



DeNapoli with Rev. Jean Lesly Dorcely at the minister's home in the Village of Gommier, Haiti. DeNapoli spent nine days there building a bath house at the Jeremie Methodist Church, six miles west of Gommier; the only flush toilets in the village.

Where will you take MADONNA NOW? On your summer vacation? To a celebrity sighting?

**Send your high-resolution images to ksanborn@madonna.edu
Safe and happy travels to all!**



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On the Cover:

Ian Kain, a member of one of Madonna's newest student clubs — roller hockey — sports the renewed Madonna logo on his jersey.

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

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Living the Spirit of Christmas

by Alan Piñon

Not long before Christmas, Robin Zelek kept herself up at night crying because she couldn't afford to get her young sons anything for Christmas. "It was heart breaking to think about, but we were so far behind on bills, giving our boys a Christmas was out of the question," Zelek said.

She and her husband Brian had a tough year. They lost a baby due to a miscarriage. Brian was laid off from his job. And when Robin was again pregnant, she was put on bed rest in the fourth month and had to stop working.

"Brian was trying to find work and taking side jobs wherever he could find them. I was waiting on food stamps so I could feed my family. I found myself at a church, standing in line, crying, begging for food. A situation I never thought I would find myself in," Zelek said.

While Brian eventually found work and the baby was born healthy, there just wasn't enough money to get presents for baby Gabriel, or his two-year-old brother, Kaiden.

With faith, Robin signed up for the Adopt-A-Family program. The students, faculty and staff at Madonna selected 40 families from the program and donated gifts and other necessities to them for Christmas.

The University community came through for my family, which I will be eternally grateful for. Before we were sponsored, I cried at night wondering if Kaiden would realize he wasn't going to get a Christmas this year. Now I cry because I am so thankful to all the people who helped make my little boys' Christmas.

Ann Bower Jr., an instructor at Madonna University adopted a Westland family: a single mother with children ages 2, 10 and 15.

The mother lost her full-time job, returned to school and has been making a living by working part-time and collecting unemployment benefits.

"It's been a hard year on all of us, and I just want my kids to have something for Christmas, something to put a smile on their faces," the mother said. "They have been through so much already."

The family's situation hit home for Bowers who once was a single parent, jobless, and working to get through school. "In fact, we were homeless and lived in our car for several months," Bowers said. "I hope to give her the incentive to graduate and continue her education. I did it, so anyone can," she said.

Now, an instructor with a Ph.D., Bowers hoped to bring a happy Christmas to her adopted family. She purchased and delivered a Christmas tree and decorations to the family along with new coats and boots for all the kids. And on Christmas Eve, Bowers delivered many more gifts.

"For the three-year-old girl, we bought Dora PJs and slippers, a baby doll that talks, a My Little Pony and a talking Dora. My sister got a basketball hoop for them. We got mitts and baseballs for the 10- and 15- year-old boys. They needed family games so they now they have Uno, Skip-Bo, Monopoly, Scrabble, and Wheel-of-Fortune. All four got their own blanket/throw too.

Mom received a special basket of bath items and other "feel good" relaxing goodies. She also got some kitchen things that she needed," Bowers said.

Instead of buying gifts for one another, the Bowers family spent that money on gifts for their adopted family.

"There is a deep culture of love, respect and giving here at Madonna University," said Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, Madonna's president. "The community at Madonna responded to the request for help with an enormous showing of generosity and I am proud to see so many people living up to the values and tradition this school is built upon." •



▲ Robin Zelek and baby Gabriel stopped by Madonna to say thank you for the generosity and caring that was shown to her family at Christmas.

More Madonna Christmas Traditions

Making Christmas bright for those less fortunate has long been a tradition at Madonna. Other annual Christmas activities that celebrate the reason

for the season on campus, include: Deo Gratias, the donor recognition event (see pg. 5); the lighted Nativity; the President's Christmas gathering; and the annual tree lighting ceremony which includes lighting the candle on the Advent wreath, and the joyful voices of student carolers leading everyone in song. At last year's tree lighting, Sr. Rose Marie led a group of fellow Felician Sisters in a Polish Christmas carol. L-R: Sr. Presentine, Sr. Virginis, and Sr. Honoria. Professor Andrew Domzalski looks on.



MADONNA | MOMENTS

Polish Night Draws Record Crowd

The annual Scholarship Dinner and Auction *Be Polish for a Night* at Laurel Manor Banquet Center attracted some 422 guests, double the attendance of previous years. The event, to benefit student scholarships, tallied \$62,500 before expenses. Special thanks to event sponsors: Goldcorp, Inc.; Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone LLC, Richard Walawender; Felician Sisters of North America; Doc's Sports Retreat; Drs. F. Robert and Mariya Suchyta; DAK Solutions, Denise Kulas '83 & '89, CBS/CW 50 Television, Dee Lenard; Tony & Lorraine Ozog; Mary Bagazinski; Polish National Alliance; Catholic Vantage Financial Federal Credit Union, and Sodexo. The planning committee, co-chaired by Eleanor and Bob Bielenda and Joann and Wally Ozog, already has met to begin planning for next year.



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1. PRCU Polish Tetry Dancers danced their little hearts out. 2. Members of the Zakopane Folk Ensemble with event co-chairs Eleanor and Bob Bielenda, Joann and Wally Ozog, and Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa. 3. Sharon and Mark Arminio from WWJ-TV/CW50 donated tickets for the Pistons, Mama Mia and Les Misérables to the silent auction. They also donated Keith Urban tickets that sold in a live auction after dinner. 4. Canton artist Lionel Radofski, age 92, created this bejeweled image of Our Lady of Czestochowa. 5. Sr. Virginis Musielewicz sang a little ditty with Big Daddy Lackowski. 6. WDIV News Anchor Roger Weber served as emcee for the event, and Father Gary Michalik gave the invocation. 7. Members of the Polish National Alliance. 8. Brenda Walawender, wife of Board Member Richard Walawender, with Andrea Nodge, vice president for advancement.



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A Warm Reception in Florida

In February, Madonna Board Member Dr. Walter Knysz and his wife Janet, hosted a lovely reception for alumni and friends at their home in Jupiter Island, Florida. 1. Dr. Walt Knysz (far right) chats with Mimi Larkin, '71, and John and Elizabeth Stevens. 2. Sister Rose Marie showed a slide show about Madonna and talked with the guests. 3. Sister reminisced with George and Judi Schwartz, whose son graduated from Madonna.

A Bowling Night Out

Below: Loyal Madonna friends and benefactors, Urban and Maryane Hubert, hosted a bowling fundraiser at the Detroit Athletic Club Feb. 25. They're pictured here with the winners of the Baker format event Jackie Boner and Shirley Walmsley, and second place bowlers Laurie Kowalski, Madonna HR, her husband Dave and father-in-law Bob Kowalski.



Above: Jo Marie Nardi, Joan Nardi and Elizabeth Pluto had fun cheering for the bowlers.

Celebrating Diversity

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., Madonna University's Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and the city of Livonia's Human Relations Commission sponsored a panel discussion featuring Madonna students from Brazil, China, Ghana and Latvia.

Father Owusu Sekyere had this to say about global diversity, "We are different, but we can come together. We can do something together and do something good for humanity."



photo by Bill Bresler, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Left: Madonna students Anastasija Baranovska, Reneta DeGodoy, Mengfei Niu and Father Owusu Sekyere were panelists for the discussion.



Above: Student Wu Ping Chieh writes student's names in Chinese during International Education Celebration week.



Madonna students Amy Riffenberg, Caitlin Graham and Catherine Phillips joined with other area college students to participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Caring. They helped area non-profits by painting and cleaning up, some served food to the homeless, and others made blankets or mittens.



SWEEPING INTO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

by Alan Piñon

Faculty and students in the SWEEP program have moved to a new location that offers a better working environment, as well as an expanded offering of majors. SWEEP (Southwest Detroit Women’s Educational Empowerment Program) primarily caters to adult women – retraining them to enter the work force with skills that are pertinent to today’s job market. A majority of the students who enter SWEEP do so part-time, because they often work other jobs, while raising a family.

Previously in Detroit’s Corktown, SWEEP relocated to its new home in a completely renovated 101-year-old, historic building on Michigan Avenue, near the border of Detroit and East Dearborn. Madonna shares the space with other non-profits, most notably, Southwest Solutions, a leading provider of human services and affordable housing in the city.

“We don’t actually have much more space in terms of actual classrooms, but we have space that better suits our teaching and learning needs, and the technology infrastructure is better than ever,” said Jim Novak, Madonna’s dean for outreach and distance learning.

The computer labs and the classrooms at the new building have been improved upon with upgrades that allow for a better link to the main campus in Livonia. There also is more parking that is well lighted, so the students feel that they have a safer environment to attend class.

“Our new home gives us better tools to reach our lofty goals.”

Novak says the key to SWEEP today, is to link the new space and new academic programs to new students pursuing those programs. Starting fall semester 2011, in addition to Child Development, SWEEP will alter the health care management and computer technology majors. SWEEP also will offer a certificate in community leadership, and provide pathways for students, with numerous college credits, to complete their bachelor’s degree.

“Our students want to move ahead in their work lives through higher education. We provide an education that gives emphasis to understanding the complex nature of doing business in a diverse world. We want to develop the writing and thinking skills needed for personal and professional growth, and our new home gives us better tools to reach our lofty goals,” Novak said. •



◀ *The newly renovated SWEEP facility, a 101-year-old building on Michigan Avenue in Detroit.*



Top: Karyn Shelton of Ferndale listens to her instructor during a Saturday afternoon class at the new SWEEP building.

Middle: Bianca Cancel of Detroit, left, and Camelle Bell of Detroit work in the new computer lab at SWEEP.

Bottom: Jim Novak, dean, outreach and distance learning for Madonna University.

Business is Booming!

Marketing Students' Research Attracts Police Attention

Last fall, a team of Madonna graduate students embarked on a marketing project that has sparked some interest in the public safety arena.

Through their research, the students studied the balance between safety and comfort of bullet proof vests for police officers. The assignment involved determining how a product is marketed, how it could be marketed better, how the current marketing plan could be improved, and how various suppliers have established brand recognition and familiarity for the product in the field.

"Our group consisted of four police officers from three different local police departments whose positions ranged from a chief to patrolman, so our knowledge, concerns, and opinions varied," said graduate student Michael Kennedy, Canton police officer.

Kennedy said they chose the topic because most police officers wear bullet resistant vests which are constantly changing. In addition, each police department has a unique bargaining unit contract which may dictate what type of vest is purchased, how often it is purchased, and where the burden of cost lies.

The group drew several conclusions from the survey. First, they determined that input needs to be received from those who wear the vests, not necessarily those who purchase them. Second, police officers value the comfort and wear-ability over the vest's stopping power or thickness. Ultimately, officers wear the vests for 8 to 12 hours a day, and most would sacrifice thickness or stopping power for flexibility and added comfort.

"I believe this survey would be beneficial to many police departments as a way of "skimming the surface" and seeing the viewpoints of those most affected by the vests," said Kennedy. "There are numerous factors that come into play when selecting a vest manufacturer and a vest type and it is important to have the right people making those decisions or at least having input."

The students shared the results of their findings with three local police agencies and the Farmington Public Safety Department asked to be allowed to review the team's research project and its findings.

"These graduate students did a stellar job of identifying the issues involved and getting feedback from those most at risk," said Dr. Betty Jean Hebel, professor at Madonna, they recognize the value of valid research in making decisions in an organization."

Plans for Business Programs in Haiti

Madonna University is developing educational programs to offer to citizens in Haiti, in order to develop educated leaders prepared to devote their energies and skills to rebuilding the infrastructure and communities of the country. The University plans to partner with the Felician Sisters of North America, Our Lady of Hope province, and Haititec, a post-secondary institution focused on two-year or shorter programs, to deliver associate (beginning fall 2011) and, ultimately bachelor's degrees in business administration with an emphasis on community leadership and urban planning. The degree programs would be presented via a distance learning format that Madonna has successfully implemented in China and Dubai for more than ten years.

"Our hope is to recruit 30 qualified students per year," said Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, University president. "We must prepare orientation materials for faculty, and entry-level tests for first semester. In addition, we need to assess the technological needs."

To better understand what technology the program requires, John Fosselman, chief information technology officer at Madonna, along with other University staff are preparing a trip to Haiti this spring.

"This visit will give us a real look at what technology they are working with and how we can help supplement or improve on that technology to give this program the infrastructure necessary for success," Fosselman said.

The program was designed to rely heavily on already developed curriculum, and faculty skilled in distance learning methodologies. Madonna has secured 25 computers to take to Haiti. The Felician Sisters of North America have agreed to cover partial costs of the two on-site personnel, as well as the office and classroom space, transportation, and initial internet services and software for five years.



Sr. Rose Marie visited a Haititec classroom during her 2010 trip.

Help a Student, Help Yourself

New Charitable Gift Annuity Program

Madonna University, in partnership with Comerica Bank and the Comerica Legacy Foundation, has established a Charitable Gift Annuity Program. "This is one of the most simple and affordable ways to make a gift to the University," said Dean Adkins, director of gift planning. "Your gift annuity supports Madonna, and in turn, you receive income for life." (see the chart for income examples.)

Those purchasing gift annuities can designate what they want it to support, e.g., a particular program, college, scholarships or building project.

To launch Madonna's Charitable Gift Annuity program, Adkins needs \$250,000 in annuities. "I am contacting about 80 of our most devoted donors, to give them an opportunity to be in on the ground floor, to be pioneers of sorts," Adkins said.

Because of the program's many benefits, Adkins is confident Madonna will reach the \$250,000 mark rather quickly. "You can invest as little as \$25,000, and in addition to receiving income for life, you will receive an immediate tax deduction," explained Adkins. "And it doesn't matter where you reside, be it Florida, Michigan, Arizona or California, these gift annuities can be created from any state. You simply have to be at least 65 years old to participate." Madonna also will issue deferred gift annuities which have a higher rate of income than other annuities depending on your age. Deferred gift annuities have an immediate tax deduction and can be an effective means of affixing future income needs.

Madonna has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Comerica Bank, whose level of expertise and unmatched program benefits, made them the perfect partner. Comerica Bank will provide annuitants quarterly statements that outline the performance of their annuity, as well as how the entire program is doing for Madonna. Another convenience of the program will include direct deposit of all payments to the annuitants' account of choice. However, if an annuitant prefers, a check will be issued.

To receive a free confidential proposal, or to be a pioneer in the Charitable Gift Annuity Program at Madonna, call Dean Adkins at 888-487-0800 ext. 3. •

GIFT ANNUITY ANNUAL INCOME EXAMPLES

Age	Gift Amount	Yearly Income
65 years	\$25,000	\$1,375
70 years	\$25,000	\$1,450
75 years	\$25,000	\$1,600
80 years	\$25,000	\$1,800
85 years	\$25,000	\$2,025

Age	Gift Amount	Yearly Income
65 years	\$100,000	\$5,500
70 years	\$100,000	\$5,800
75 years	\$100,000	\$6,400
80 years	\$100,000	\$7,200
85 years	\$100,000	\$8,100



The We Can Win Student Campaign raised \$13,510. The student organizations and athletic teams whose members sold raffle tickets at \$10 each, will received 85 percent of the funds raised. Everyone who purchased a ticket received a wrist band shaped like the new Madonna M with the flame. The winning tickets were drawn during the Feb. 16 basketball games at Madonna. The first place prize of a 42" flat-screen tv, donated by Mike George was won by Paul Borg of Northville; the \$300 second place prize went to Lena Farhat of Dearborn; and the third place iPod nano, donated by Andrea Nodge, went to Greg Bois of Flushing. •





REBUILDING OUR BRAND

by Karen Sanborn

Madonna University has undergone a brand renewal process to more clearly define, through its logo and symbol, the character and strength of the University's identity. "As a Catholic university, Madonna is very proud of its rich tradition and values of St. Francis," said Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, president. "These values have created a university community that is welcoming, inclusive, open minded and therefore very diverse, and our renewed logo reflects those characteristics."

The University taskforce charged with freshening up the logo wanted it to represent the following attributes of a Madonna education: student focused; a sense of family; scholarly, caring faculty; motivated students; academic excellence; values-based.

The taskforce recommended the following updates to the University logo: retain the flame which is reflective of the spiritual nature of a Madonna education, i.e., the flame of knowledge (The flame also represents wisdom from above, which is the Latin motto on the University's seal: Sapientia Desursum.); remove the box from around the M to indicate that Madonna University is inclusive and open to all; use a traditional typeface to demonstrate the University's faithful traditions and long-standing reputation for academic excellence.

Taking into account the taskforce's suggestions, the logo was redesigned by Phoenix Design Works, based in New York City. The company's focus is branding and logo identity development. Phoenix has developed the brand and logo identity for over 200 of America's best known colleges and universities.

In keeping with the University's commitment to sustainability and preserving natural resources, the logo will be used immediately in advertising, on the Web site and other external materials, however letterhead and business cards will sport the old logo until supplies are depleted. Beautiful new signage, on buildings and across campus, reflects the new logo. Such historic items as the Commencement Mace and Chain of Office, and the Chalice used for University Liturgies, will retain the original logo.

At the same time the logo was being renewed, the Crusader mascot was given a new look, explained Sr. Rose Marie. "St. Francis, the University's patron saint, was a crusader for peace and justice; one of our core values. Madonna students also are Crusaders for knowledge, peace and justice, while our student athletes enthusiastically crusade for victory and fair competition."

The shield of the Crusader mascot now bears the M with the flame to provide continuity with the University logo and seal. "I like to think of the Crusader with shield as a defender of our Franciscan values," Sister Rose Marie said. •

INSPIRATION FOR THE LOGO, MASCOT AND MARK



The primary symbol or mark, the first initial of Madonna, is a tribute to Mary the Mother of God, the patroness of Madonna University, and the inspiration for St. Francis of Assisi, whose values we espouse.



The flame emanating from the M symbolizes the Holy Spirit, the source of all knowledge. It signifies that a liberal arts education is the aim of Madonna University, whose motto is Sapientia Desursum (Wisdom from Above).

The Garamond font, a Roman typeface, was chosen for its classic look and readability. It implies tradition and a collegial spirit, demonstrative of our commitment to the intellectual, spiritual and personal growth of all students. Considered an eco-friendly font, in terms of ink usage, it reflects Madonna's environmental consciousness.



Saint Francis, the University's patron saint, played a historic role in the Fifth Crusade of 1219, acting as a champion for peace and justice. So too, are we, as members of the University community, called to be champions of peace. We live out the definition of the word crusade as we enthusiastically commit ourselves to our Franciscan values.



The shield, a secondary symbol or mark, bears the M with the flame to provide continuity with the University logo and seal, and to represent how we are called to protect our Franciscan values.

The Madonna University logo, originally adopted in 1980, was renewed in 2010.



▲ Al White, Head Softball Coach

White Selected for Hall of Fame

Head Softball Coach Al White will be inducted into The Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) National Hall of Fame.

Selected for his stellar pitching career in modified softball, White is only the third player to be selected in the Modified Pitch category. His induction takes place in November 2011 in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"I thought it was an honor just to be nominated," said White. "When you're playing you don't think about stuff like that, you just think about playing because you love the game. To be elected is the ultimate. I played with some great guys, outstanding ball players."

White was selected to the ASA All-America first team five times (1975, '77, '83, '85, '89) and was named the ASA Most Valuable Player in '85. He was inducted into the Detroit ASA Hall of Fame in 1998, and led several teams to state and national titles during his pitching career.

"Al White was one of the finest fast pitch softball pitchers in the Metro Detroit area for over twenty years," added Bob Lawson, umpire-in-chief of the MDASA. He was revered by his teammates and respected by opponents nationally. Al was a fierce competitor, but he was always a gentleman on and off the field.

White has been the head coach at Madonna since 1999 and has amassed 409 career wins — the most in conference history — and has been named the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) Coach of the Year four times (2004, '08, '09, '10).

Madonna Named Five Star Award Winner

When it comes to advancing character-driven intercollegiate athletics, Madonna University makes the grade, according to the 2009-10 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Champions of Character Scorecard.

To receive the award the Crusaders scored 60 or more points on the scorecard. Points were tallied in each of five categories: character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character promotion. Schools also earned points for exceptional student-athlete grade point averages and for no ejections during competition throughout the academic year.

"It is rewarding to see NAIA colleges, universities and conferences taking a leadership role in the NAIA's mission to advance character-driven athletics," said Jim Carr, NAIA president and CEO.

Madonna Athletes Score National and League Honors

Listed below, by team, are the Madonna athletes who earned recognition by the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC), as well as those who made the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Scholar-Athlete Team by carrying at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average as a junior or senior.



Women's Cross Country

Senior nursing majors Inta Grinvalds, Kari Saarela and Sarah Sherwood, along with junior sign language major Cassie Yarnall were named to the 306-member NAIA Scholar-Athlete squad.

Sherwood also earned her third straight trip to the NAIA National Championship and her third time All-WHAC first team honors.

Women's Soccer

The Crusaders' lone selection to the All-WHAC first team was freshman Amanda Ferrick.

Making the All-WHAC second team was the dynamic duo of Katie Kozlowski senior defender and Brittany Warner junior goalie.

Two more members of Madonna's defense made the All-WHAC third team: junior Chelsea Shrewsbury and sophomore Lauryn Dostillio.

Senior Sarah Rokuski earned a spot on the WHAC Champions of Character team as the student-athlete who best displays the NAIA's Five Core Values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship. First-year Head Coach Jeff Hodgson was selected by his peers as the Coach of Character.

Six Crusaders were named to the Academic All-WHAC team: Juniors Diana Brda, Chelsea Gregg, and Nicole Rodriguez, along with Kozlowski, Warner, and Rokuski. Juniors and seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher are eligible for this honor.

Chosen for the NAIA 446-member scholar-athlete team were Rokuski, Brda, Warner and Rodriguez.

Men's Soccer

Named to the All-WHAC second team was the trio of senior midfielder/defender Ogbemudia Iyoha, sophomore defender Franco Giorgi and freshman striker Mustapha Olorunnimbe. These second team selections started all 14 matches this season.

Senior midfielder Jacob Rosiek and sophomore goalie Parker Laabs were selected for the All-WHAC third team, while junior midfielder Masato Morioka made the WHAC Champions of Character team.



Women's Golf

Michelle Hall overcame a seven shot deficit in the final league event of the season to claim WHAC individual medalist honors by a single stroke. She is the first Madonna women's golfer to claim the crown and earn a place at the 2011 NAIA National Championships in May 2011. Hall also was selected to the All-WHAC first team for the second straight season.

Selected to the All-WHAC honorable mention squad were senior Sara Simnitch and junior Chelsea Bathurst.

Simnitch was also named to the Academic All-WHAC team along with fellow senior Caitlin Steele who was selected to the league's Champions of Character team for the second time.

Volleyball

A total of seven Madonna volleyball players were named to the various WHAC teams, led by WHAC Freshman and Setter of the Year Evia Prieditis.

Named to the All-WHAC first team were senior Liz Dempsey, and juniors Karie Altman and Amanda Koszela.

Freshman Miranda Sechler joined Prieditis on the all-freshmen team.

Altman, Dempsey, Koszela, and senior Anna Gatt were named to the Academic All-WHAC team. Rounding out the Crusader award winners was junior Megan Fricke who was selected to the WHAC's Champions of Character Team.

Altman, and Koszela were among the 387 students nation-wide on the NAIA scholar-athlete team.

Altman also was selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America and ESPN to the 2010 ESPN Academic All-America Volleyball Team. A biology major with a 3.98 grade point average, Altman was named to the College Division Third Team and was one of only two NAIA student-athletes selected among the 18 honorees nation-wide.



▲ Karie Altman, volleyball

◀ Michelle Hall, women's golf

Men's Golf

For the second year in a row, the Madonna University men's golf team captured the WHAC regular season championship.

Senior Austin Stillman tied for the individual medalist title with Andy Meyers of Siena Heights after the four event league slate and the two went to a playoff. Meyers defeated Stillman on the second extra hole.

With the win Madonna has now earned the right to host the 2011 WHAC Championship slated for April 29-30 at Fellows Creek Golf Course in Canton.



PAY IT FORWARD

Lessons in Giving

by Alan Piñon

When Delphine Reed of River Rouge enrolled in Sociology 4900, she expected to learn something about sociology, but she didn't expect to learn so much about herself.

"I was greatly reminded that the purpose for which you give of yourself, your time, or your money must never be simply methodical or because it's required for a grade. *Pay it Forward* took root in my heart, and I was driven by passion and not mere performance," Reed said.

Funded by a grant, the *Pay it Forward* lesson in philanthropy was integrated into the curriculum of four courses at Madonna during the fall 2010 semester: sociology, health care, marketing, and broadcasting and cinema arts. The students awarded grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,500 to nine area non-profit organizations, for a total of \$18,000.

"I quickly discovered that philanthropy was more than just the giving of funds . . . the uniqueness of this experience for me was to be unemployed, and yet have the privilege to participate in the decision making process and physically award the checks representative of the grant funds. It's more than I could have imagined," Reed said.

◀ *Zain, 3, hangs in a harness that attaches to a ceiling mounted track system that allows him to move his legs and move about the play area at Penrickton Center for Blind Children. Zain is blind and has cerebral palsy. The harness allows him a freedom of movement that is hard to attain any other way. Donated money from the Pay It Forward program at Madonna University will be used to purchase new harnesses, which the center needs to keep children like Zain up and moving.*



Reed's class wrote a request for proposals and developed an actual mini-grant application. They contacted several organizations that responded to the request and invited them to apply for the grant. The online course did not require direct service, but a few students, including Reed, completed site visits to the organizations.

"I had the privilege of speaking with each of the initial representatives of our three chosen nonprofits. Each was eager to investigate the possibility of doing whatever it took to qualify by our deadline. They were also very grateful that our class had chosen to help address some of their needs," Reed said.

The sociology class donated money to Penrickton Center for Blind Children in Taylor, Safe House Center in Ann Arbor, and the Michigan Human Society.

Getting a chance to work with real organizations was a key element to the program's success, said Betty Jean Hebel, marketing professor at Madonna. "Students are more engaged when they are applying newly learned concepts to situations in the real world," she said. "In this particular instance, the students were also engaged by their compassion for those being served. This was a winning combination."

Hebel taught the principles of marketing class, which decided to focus on businesses that benefited the autistic community. The class

▲ *Roger Grein, the inspiration and support for Pay it Forward, has courageously pushed the limits of cerebral palsy to help others succeed, and to thoroughly enjoy life. He shared his touching success story with students and nonprofit representatives at Madonna's Pay it Forward Celebration.*



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*Honorary degree recipient

was divided into four student teams, and each team identified an organization and asked if they could do a marketing plan for some facet of the organization's effort to serve the autistic community.

The students built alliances with their community organizations, and applied their newly-acquired marketing skills to create a marketing plan that focused on their nonprofits area of Autism. The marketing plans were presented by each of the student teams to their client organization and fellow classmates. Three judges evaluated the marketing plans and determined the winners, which, in turn determined which organizations received grants. The marketing class awarded funds to Jack's Place for Autism in Southfield, and the Autism Collaborative Center at Eastern Michigan University.

Teamwork was a common theme throughout the various classes. The broadcast and cinema arts class formed three teams that created a six minute feature video about a different pre-selected nonprofit. After the stories were shot and edited, they were distributed to the other *Pay it Forward* classes, where they used the video to determine the most deserving group. The other classes also voted on the best video produced.

"It was an interesting experience. I think the class had an adventure they will think about for years to come," said Chuck Derry, director of the broadcast and cinema arts major. His class made gifts to the Steve Barman Show, Ladybug Studios, and Whitdel Arts; all part of the Contemporary Art Institute in Detroit.

The fourth class, a health services administration course, developed interview questions and visited several small organizations to assess health coverage needs. The students learned about the challenges facing small organizations, particularly providing insurance for their own employees. The class donated money to Crossroads of Michigan in Detroit.

Funding for *Pay it Forward* is made possible through The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)/Learn and Serve America Higher Education. The *Pay it Forward* grant program was inspired and supported by Roger Grein, an active philanthropist in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area. Grein's passion for helping college students understand the importance of philanthropy, and the power they have to strengthen the fabric of the community by giving back, has led to sixteen colleges and universities embracing his philanthropy education model. •

Top: Madonna University professor Gerald Charbonneau, center, and Madonna student Delphine Reed, right, present a check to Jamahl Scott, Volunteer Programs Manager from the Michigan Humane Society.

Middle: Professor Betty Jean Hebel, right, presents a check to representatives from the Autism Collaborative Center.

Bottom: Janet Ames of Penrickton Center for Blind Children accepts a check from Charbonneau and Reed.



STUDENT | SUCCESS

Music Therapy Touches a Chord Deep Within

Kathy Neuman, adjunct assistant professor, has been a clinical instructor in psychiatric and mental health nursing at Madonna since 1994. Below is a story she shared that she says “embodies the spirit and philosophy of Madonna.”

We are having our clinical experience in an acute care inpatient psychiatric unit in the metropolitan Detroit area. One of my students is a most talented musician, a vocalist, composer, and guitarist. Since I believe that psychiatric nursing is the therapeutic use of self, I was very excited when Matt Austin shared his background with our group on the first orientation day, and I immediately asked him to consider bringing his guitar to the unit.

Yesterday was the day. The unit was in a bit of turmoil that day, with some patients who were experiencing a great deal of anger and frustration with life in general. And there was one elderly man, I’ll call him Johnnie (that is not his real name), who had been on the unit for three weeks. He had been brought to the hospital by the police after he’d been found wandering, confused, and barefoot in the snow. His history revealed that he had schizophrenia, was homeless, and had had over 20 psychiatric hospitalizations. He rarely got out of bed, mainly for meals and medications, and even then he rarely spoke. He had no visitors. His face revealed no emotion. When he was told that a student was bringing his guitar to the unit the next day, he mentioned that he had once played the guitar, and brought up the upcoming “concert” four times that day.

The next morning, Matt brought his guitar to the unit. At 9 a.m. I awakened Johnnie and told him that the concert was about to begin. He jumped out of bed and followed me down the hall. He was disheveled, his long, gray hair to his shoulders, bald on the top, a bit odoriferous, clad in a hospital gown. He sat next to me with that same impassive expression on his face, but he was concentrating intently as Matt played and sang.

The room came alive to Matt’s music. Patients who had been feeling angry, frustrated, and withdrawn were smiling, singing along, and tapping their feet to the beat, applauding enthusiastically after each song. There was an incredibly positive and therapeutic feel to the entire unit. Staff gathered at the door, then went to bring other staff. Withdrawn patients drifted in. Nursing staff went about their tasks smiling and humming.

After a time, Johnnie unexpectedly spoke up and asked if he could play Matt’s guitar. All eyes were on him. I wondered if I should intervene and tell him no. I wondered what Matt would do. I even began imagining what could possibly happen to the guitar, or to the patient’s self-esteem. Matt didn’t miss a beat. He immediately stood up, gave his permission, and handed his guitar over to Johnnie.



▲ Matt Austin, rock ‘n’ roll nursing student

What happened next can only be described as a miracle. As Johnnie began to play and sing, mouths fell open, eyes filled with tears, and the spirit circulated through the room. He probably hadn’t touched a guitar in many years; much less used his voice, but what came from him awed us all. What talent and heart-filled emotion! He touched us all in a profound way, and as he stood to a standing ovation, he smiled from ear-to-ear, his eyes sparkling, and his impassive face filled with joy. What an incredible life lesson we all received; staff and patients, students and faculty. Johnnie was no longer a “homeless chronic schizophrenic.” He was a human being! And not only was he a human being- he was filled with emotion and love and ability! We were all changed on a very deep level that day, and we’ll never be the same, not one of us.

About Matt Austin.

This was not a required part of Matt’s clinical experience. He poured an enormous amount of time and effort and love into putting this therapeutic endeavor together. He knows the healing power of music. He carefully and effectively chose the selections so they would be both therapeutic and fun; without my help! And he was amazing. In my 17 years of teaching, I have never seen a group that was more therapeutic. And Matt’s comments to patients in between selections blew me away. It wasn’t just his music that was so healing — it was the compassionate and loving heart from which it sprang that touched people so very deeply.

Student Athletes Score Big On Collective GPA

Madonna athletes shatter the all-brawn-no-brains stereotype of college athletes. They not only hold themselves to higher standards in athletic competition, but also in the classroom. Last semester the combined team grade point average for all sports was 3.2. Women’s basketball led the way with a 3.73 cumulative GPA which included three 4.0s, and nine of the 13 players achieving a 3.7 or higher.

“I am very proud of the academic success all our athletes have achieved this semester. A 3.2 cumulative GPA in over 2,300 semester hours of classes is very impressive. It shows the strong academic commitment we believe in and emphasize at Madonna,” said Bryan Rizzo, athletic director.

In the same way winning on the court or field takes team effort, so does achieving success in class.

“There is definitely a culture on the team that supports getting good grades,” said Rachel Melcher of Sterling Heights, a pre-med student and basketball player at Madonna. “We all want to get good grades for ourselves, but we also want to get good grades for our teammates and coaches. We win and lose as a team...we want to succeed academically as a team.”

“As student athletes, we understand that academics come first and that we have to earn the opportunity to play basketball at Madonna,” she said.

Much of the inspiration on the women’s basketball team comes directly from the top. Head Coach Carl Graves talks frequently



▲ Rachel Melcher and Katie Martin are both 4.0 students and basketball players

about the importance of school work, said biology major and basketball player Katie Martin of Riverview.

“Coach Graves stresses that school always comes before athletics, so it is not unusual for him to ask our team before practice if we have a major exam or project in the next few days. He’s always looking out for us and emphasizing the importance of good grades,” Martin said.

Melcher and Martin earned a 4.0 GPA last semester. To do so while staying competitive on the court meant sacrifice and execution, but mainly it came down to good time management.

“It’s not uncommon for me to study on the bus rides to and from games or even have a teammate quiz me during warm-ups,” Martin said.

Competing to Cover the Oscars

Two teams of student journalists from Madonna University were among ten teams selected to compete for a chance to report live from the red carpet at the 83rd Academy Awards in Hollywood. Madonna was the only Michigan university represented in the top ten.

The nation-wide video submission contest is sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and mtvU, MTV’s 24-hour college network. Based on the quality and originality of the videos submitted, judges selected ten teams as semifinalists, three of which were chosen to compete in Hollywood for the grand prize of covering the Oscars.



▲ Chuck Derry, Walid Jaward and Idamarie Tedesco



▲ Adam Woloszyk, Chuck Derry and Sara Simnitch.

"This is a pretty awesome honor for Madonna's Broadcast and Cinema Arts program," said Chuck Derry director of broadcast and cinema arts at Madonna University. "Both these teams have worked very hard on their submissions, so it's great to see their work recognized," he said.

Each two-person team included a videographer and an anchor. Madonna's team were Idamarie Tedesco of Clinton Township, anchor, and Walid Jaward of Dearborn;

and Sara Simnitch of Swartz Creek, anchor, and Adam Woloszyk of Plymouth.

"The process of scripting, shooting, editing, and most of all waiting to hear back from mtvU, was extremely rewarding," said Tedesco. "It's an amazing feeling to see your vision being created. It is the biggest honor and privilege to represent Madonna University, as well as the entire Detroit Community."

"Being a small school, compared to the big campuses in the state, I am so proud to represent Madonna University in this contest," said Woloszyk.

Derry said Madonna's enrollment is smaller than most of the schools represented in the contest. Our teams may have had a disadvantage in terms of numbers of possible voters, but "certainly not in the quality of their work," he said.

On Feb. 5, the Madonna teams learned they would not be competing in Hollywood.

"We are so proud of both these team, just being selected into the top 10 was a huge achievement and acknowledgment of their hard work," he said.

PEOPLE | PRAISES



Chamber Honors Madonna

Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, Madonna president, accepts the Livonia Chamber of Commerce Community Enhancement award from Chamber President Dan West. Madonna was selected because of its \$20 million investment in and construction of the LEED Gold Franciscan Center.

"There is no better place than Livonia for us to call home," Sr. Rose Marie said. "While Madonna is a private university, our mission is public service for the good of our entire community."



A Shining Star on Campus

Miss Michigan High, Brenna Lynn, a home-schooled student who is dual enrolled at Madonna introduced herself to Sr. Rose Marie when she was on campus taking photos for her portfolio.



An Inspiration

Father Ron DesRosiers, religion professor, was one of five Detroit-area men featured in the photojournalism book *Men Who Inspire*.



Sr. M. Lauriana Gruszczynski, CSSF

Sister Lauriana, who dedicated more than 40 years of her life to serving Madonna, passed away Feb. 7, 2011 at Blessed Mary Angela Care Center. She was a religious Sister for 72 years.

Born near Gaylord, to Joseph and Josephine (Burzynski) Gruszczynski, Sr. Lauriana was baptized Dorothy Marie. She was accepted into the Felician Sisters Congregation Sept. 7, 1939, and made her Final Profession in 1947.

She earned her bachelor's degree at Madonna, and her master's and doctoral degrees from Fordham University in New York. Sr. Lauriana completed her post doctoral studies in teacher education at Teachers College of Columbia University. She taught primary and secondary grades in Saginaw and Detroit. She also served on the Archdiocesan Board of Catholic Education and as the Archdiocesan Reading Coordinator.

A professor of education at Madonna, she became academic dean during Sr. Mary Danatha Suchyta's presidency. She began her work in fundraising in 1975 and was instrumental in developing the endowment program. As vice president for institutional advancement she raised millions for academic programs and student services, including \$4.1 million for the new library. She retired in 2006.

She is remembered by many as a deeply prayerful person, whose leadership, dedication and energy touched the lives of countless students, faculty, staff and community members.



Sr. Mary Dennis Glonek, CSSF

Sr. Dennis, died Dec. 15 at Blessed Virgin Mary Central Convent. She was 85 and a religious sister for 66 years.

Born June 11, 1926, in Toledo, Ohio, to Alexander and Salome (Kaminski) Glonek, she entered the Felician Sisters congregation Aug. 18, 1940, and pronounced final vows in 1952.

Sr. Dennis earned a bachelor's degree from Madonna, a master's degree from Creighton University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry degree from the University of Notre Dame.

She served in Catholic education for 36 years. In 1962 she was appointed assistant professor of chemistry at Madonna. She later served as chemistry department chair, head of the Science and Mathematics department, and as dean of students and director of residents.

In 1988 Sr. Dennis was elected the 17th provincial minister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province in Livonia and in 1994 was re-elected for another six-year term.

Sr. Dennis received an honorary doctoral degree in education from Madonna in 1995.

MAJORS | & MINORS



Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Education is a new major in the College of Education at Madonna. Formerly a minor, the program was retooled to stay abreast of current knowledge in the field and to better meet the needs of teachers who wish to work with young children and their families. The Early Childhood major prepares teacher education students for the assessment for the ZS (Early Childhood and Special Education) endorsement, which will replace the current ZA (Early Childhood) endorsement as of July of 2012. This new certification will make Madonna graduates even more desirable and open the doors to additional employment opportunities.

BEYOND THE POND

ALUMNI NEWS AND STORIES

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1970s



Sister Mary Carolyn Ratkowski '70 (history) is principal of St. Michael School, in Livonia, which has received the prestigious "School of Distinction" award

by the Michigan Association Non-Public Schools (MANS). This award recognizes exemplary non-public schools that exceed standards through the accreditation process. St. Michael is the first elementary school in Southeast Michigan to receive this honor. Ratkowski serves on Madonna University's Board of Directors.



Dr. Cynthia Ratkowski '72 (biology) is a chiropractor, and has been in private practice for more than 22 years in Toledo, Ohio. She remains connected with her alma mater by

spending time with the Felician Sisters in the Central Convent and volunteering at University events. "I received a quality education at Madonna, and I am so grateful to the Felician Sisters and their dedication to my education," she said.



Barbara Freeland '77 (nursing and '90 master's nursing) earned a doctor of nursing practice degree from Oakland University

School of Nursing last December. Freeland works as a nurse practitioner with a focus on diabetes at Detroit Receiving Hospital. "No matter how many years I have been away from Madonna it is still a comforting feeling to walk through the doors. My investment in nursing education at Madonna has served me well," said Freeland.

Cheryl A. Furtak '79 (social science and religious studies) was named executive director for Macomb County Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit company that builds affordable housing in partnership with low-income families. Furtak also is executive director and co-owner of Sculptured Homes in Birmingham, Mich.

1980s

Richard F. Synowiec '83 (general business and '89 MBA) is senior director of clinical operations at Aastrom Biosciences, which specializes in treatments for critical cardiovascular diseases. Synowiec's team uses stem cell research from autologous cellular therapies in late-stage U.S. clinical trials for the treatment of critical limb ischemia and dilated cardiomyopathy.

Michael A. Faber '87 (gerontology) received the 2010 Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award. Presented by the

University of Michigan Geriatrics Center, the award recognizes outstanding service, dedication and commitment to excellence in geriatrics education in Michigan. Faber is founder and associate director of Older Learner Center, in Grand Rapids, Mich., which provides adults 45 and older with opportunities for life-long learning and enrichment.



Timothy Dunn '89 (computer science) was promoted to fire chief for the Canton Fire Department. Dunn will head the department

and its three main components: fire suppression, fire prevention and emergency medical services. Dunn, his wife Mary and two daughters live in Canton, Mich.

1990s

David Theisen '90 (history, '09 campus ministry) is director of Real Estate for Life, where he gives 80 percent of donated



referral fees from local agents to pro-life organizations. He has spent more than 20 years in domestic and international real estate. Currently enrolled in

Madonna's master's program in history, Theisen appreciates how the faculty and staff continuously work to improve curriculum delivery.

Paul Bunten '94 (criminal justice) has served as chief of police for the city of Saline, Mich., for the last 16 years. Bunten



began his career in 1965 with the Ann Arbor Police Department. "Going back to school later in life was the single most difficult thing I had to do, but everyone there [at Madonna] was so helpful,

that it made it a fun and rewarding experience," said Bunten. "They provided me an environment to succeed."

Dr. Anne (Somerton) Toth '95 (sign language studies) recently returned from a mission in Ethiopia with World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities



worldwide by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Toth spent two weeks visiting two villages and distributing books, blankets, toiletries, toys and shoes; donations from her hometown, Sarnia, Ontario.



Caroline (Clapper) Grech '96 (legal assistant) is an attorney for Secret Wardle, in Farmington Hills, Mich., whose specialty

is employment law. In the state and federal courts, Grech represents employer lawsuits for discrimination and harassment. "It was Madonna's wonderful instructors who encouraged me to continue my education to become a lawyer," Grech said.

Jane (McCraight) TenBroeck '96 (general science) has developed a technology academy at Haggerty Elementary School, Belleville, Mich., where she teaches full-time. There are two rooms: a technology lab, where K-5 students learn computer skills and software exercises, and a multimedia room that has photographic and video recording equipment, art classes, and



supplies. The multi-media room also provides students the opportunity to write scripts, film and produce movies. The students already have produced instructional videos that they shared with the students, faculty and staff.

2000s

Ibeta McClenny '00 (sign language studies '02 psychology) is owner of Hear 4 You, an interpreting, teaching, and private tutoring company for people who want to learn sign language. She hopes to use both Madonna degrees to start another business providing family counseling to deaf teens. McClenny lives with her husband and three sons in Savannah, Ga.



Anne Dysinger '03 (English, '07 master's liberal studies) is senior immigration paralegal at Baser Law, in Ann Arbor,

Mich. Dysinger supports the attorneys' case work for clients on immigration and nationality matters. "Madonna helped me to think outside the box, and I enjoyed my programs and the relaxed atmosphere," said Dysinger.



Dr. Dicky Chen Dai '04 (master's quality and project management) owns a number of retail pharmacy franchises in Shanghai, China that have earned a reputation for professional and quality pharmacy care. He purchased the pharmacies after

retiring in 2005 from Polaris Financial Group in Taiwan, where he had served as chairman of its securities as well as its mutual funds divisions; he currently serves on Polaris' Board of Directors and Board of Supervisors. Dai also spent the first 25 years of his business career as a reporter, editor and ultimately President of *China Times*, Taiwan's largest newspaper.

Ryan Copi '05 (business administration) is an attorney and assistant vice president in the Global Contracts Management Department at J.P. Morgan Treasury Services in Chicago. He also spends time working pro bono cases, and volunteering as a coach and judge at high school and collegiate debate tournaments.





Vince Gregory '06 (criminal justice) won the Oakland County Senate seat in the 2010 primary. After returning from the Vietnam

War, Gregory put his education on hold for his family, but never lost sight of his goal. He has spent most of his career in the political arena. He enjoys mentoring young kids about the political process, being involved and talking with people, and social networking.



Valerie Pettis-Moore '09 (gerontology) owns a non-medical home care agency, Faith Home Care, in West Bloomfield, Mich., which specializes in Alzheimer's

and Dementia care, pre/post dialysis, wound/trachea care and personal assistance such as light housekeeping. "Madonna gave me the hands-on experience to start my own business," said Pettis-Moore.

2010s



Ashish Rajkumar Bhatia '10 (accounting) was hired as an assistant accountant at Costco Group, UAE, a leading international shipping line in

Dubai. Bhatia chose Madonna University for his undergraduate education because he could obtain a fully-accredited American degree without leaving the United Arab Emirates. "With the flexibility of an online learning system and the onsite support sessions, I earned a world-class degree and received hands on practical work experience through an internship," said Bhatia.



Mala Ishwar Bhatia '10 (international business and economics) is human resources manager for Proctor and Gamble, in United

Arab Emirates. "I have been able to manage the human resources in the Middle East region because of the in-depth knowledge I gained from Madonna University," said Bhatia. "I am currently pursuing my MBA concentration in international business management."

ALUMNI CENTER

Welcome Alumni & Friends!

Take advantage of all Madonna University offers its alumni. Whether you want to stay connected by updating your contact info, purchase a spirit tassel or brick paver, or volunteer to help with a Madonna event, we'd love to see you. Next time you're in the area, drop in and learn about these and other alumni benefits:

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WHY | MADONNA?



JULIE HERNANDEZ Mexico | SWEEP Student

Julia Hernandez had been working in the disability advocacy field for more than a decade when she decided it was time to move forward with her career.

"I was overworked and under paid. I realized I needed a degree to be better able to advance in my career," said Hernandez.

"I started taking classes at Madonna in September of '99. I chose SWEEP (Southwest Detroit Women's Educational and Empowerment Program) because I had three children at home and a busy schedule. I knew I needed some extra help in order to be successful in my role as a student," she said. "My oldest son, Oscar, has multiple impairments and required much one-on-one care, my other two children were two and three, and the youngest was still being breastfed, therefore I needed to be close to her."

Hernandez said that the SWEEP staff members were instrumental to her success, as time and time again they were there to help her through classes and personal issues. "Since I did most of my education in Mexico I did not understand many of the steps and responsibilities I had to take as a student in the United States. Both [SWEEP] coordinators were available to assist me in that," Hernandez said.

"When I got pregnant with my youngest and fourth child I had a very difficult pregnancy that required I take a semester off and slow down in order to take care of myself, and continue later as a student. SWEEP was always there for me to help and support my needs."

Hernandez graduated from Madonna with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a mental health concentration. She works at SWEEP, filling in for a coordinator who is on maternity leave.



XUDONG SHANG & MELODY GE GAO China | International Students

For international students Xudong Shang and Melody Ge Gao, Madonna University is literally half a world away from their home in China. They came the great distance to study here because they felt this was the place they would be most accepted, comfortable, and able to learn.

Xudong Shang has been at Madonna for only a month, but already he has grown an appreciation for the people at the university.

"The students are very friendly. If I have some problems, I always can get help from other students. I made a lot of new friends from different countries and that makes me very happy. I will love this school over time," Shang said.

"I came to Madonna for several reasons. Madonna has a similar climate to my hometown, Shenyang. I also saw the beautiful campus and the facilities in some pictures and videos, I believed I could feel comfortable while living here. And my major is in environmental science, which is a good program here. Although Madonna is not a large school, I think that will also suit me fine. I like the small class sizes. It's like a big family. That's exactly what I'm looking for," he said.

Both Shang and Gao found the small classes appealing, which is one of the main reasons why they decided to attend Madonna.

"Madonna University has small classes, and they focus on communication between professor and student. I think it is good for students, especially international students," Gao said. "From the first day I came here, all the people, including professors, students, and staff members, impressed me very much ... they really helped me a lot. I'm so happy to live in this big family."

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.

START A MADONNA ALUMNI CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA

Alumni Chapters are groups based in specific geographic locations. The first step in forming a Chapter is deciding that you are willing to serve as a Chapter volunteer. Chapter volunteers organize local alumni and keep them connected to Madonna. Alumni Chapters hold social events such as cocktail parties, receptions for Madonna guest speakers, networking events, service activities, and outings to Madonna athletic events. The Alumni Office is ready to help you get involved. For information, call Carole Booms, director of alumni relations, at 800-852-4951 ext. 5811.

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

- 2 & 3 *Children of Eden*, Sat. 2 & 8 p.m., Sun. 4 p.m., Kresge Hall, \$, 734-432-5543
8 Sustainability Forum, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Franciscan Center, 734-432-5317
9 Deaf Rapper Sean Forbes, 7 p.m., Kresge Hall, \$, 734-432-5425
12 Author Richard Bak discusses two of his books, Library, 12 p.m., 734-432-5680
15 Lenten Youth Day, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Franciscan Center, 734-432-5317
18 Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel Tour, 1 p.m., 734-432-5839
28 Graduation Mass, 7 p.m., Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel, 734-432-5881

May

- 1 Commencement, 1:30 p.m., Compuware Arena, 734-432-5400
12 MU Insider Campus Tour, 5-7 p.m., Franciscan Center, 734-432-5317
20 Bowling for Scholars, 5-9 p.m., Woodland Lanes, \$, 734-432-5667

June

- 16 Transfer Night, 5-7 p.m., Franciscan Center, 734-432-5317

July

- 11-17 PAHfest Motown, Franciscan Center, 734-432-5578

September

- 16 Scholar-Am Golf Classic, 11:30 a.m., Western Golf & Country Club, Redford, \$, 734-432-5589
17 Alumni Day, University Center, \$, 734-432-5811

October

- 27 Diamond Jubilee, 6 p.m., The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth, \$, 734-432-5589

