feature stories

7 Legend Retires...
But Legacy Remains

“Go Forth Unafraid”
14

Mount Traditions and Msgr. Phillips.

2001 Commencement Exercises.

End of the Year Institutions.

Emilio Rodríguez.

Denny Doyle.


News from Around the Globe and Reunion Class Photos.

The Mount
Mount St. Mary’s College & Seminary

mount response 2

Mount Traditions and Msgr. Phillips.

college news 3

2001 Commencement Exercises.

seminary news 8

End of the Year Institutions.

mount faculty 10

Emilio Rodríguez.

alumni profile 11

Denny Doyle.

advancement news 22


alumni weekend 24


class notes 30

News from Around the Globe and Reunion Class Photos.
Dear Mount Magazine

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the latest edition of Mount Magazine. I was transported back to my days at this wonderful institution, and the photos truly captured the essence of the Mount.

Imagine my surprise when I stumbled upon the mention of my book, Loudoun County: Blending Tradition with Innovation! I had no idea that it would be featured in your magazine and want to extend my sincerest gratitude.

I have enjoyed a successful career as a freelance writer and have expanded into public relations and magazine writing as well. It was the encouragement and commitment of my teachers at the Mount and the infectious "can do" spirit of the students, faculty and administration that helped me to pursue my dream of becoming a writer.

Each time I travel from my home in Leesburg, Virginia to visit relatives, I pass the Mount and reminisce about the good old days. Now my 8 1/2-year-old son has his sights set on the Mount.

Julie Roarty Johnson C'83

In regards to your issue of Spring 2001, in which you listed the "Mount Traditions," where did you get that information? Or do you only research the newly graduated? Where is " Fitzgerald's," which Mounties from my time—68 to 72—are most familiar? As for "The Palms," are Mounties from my time—see dates above—will tell you it was off limits to Mounties, except for us from the Seminary, due, I suppose, to our "Higher Calling." What about "The O'H House?" You missed all the local places, where the "real Mount Traditions" are to be found! It's very nice to have all these articles, but a bit of research for those of us who remember the "Old Mount" is truly in order. Thank you for your time.

Rev. Richard V. Tartaglia, S.J.

I was just reading the latest Magazine issue and wanted to echo the comments of one of the letter writers. Denny Doyle writes that it was "the best Mount publication." I thought it was the best yet of Mount Magazine. The writing was very good and the visual presentation was great. I have not gotten past the Kate Stahl article (which is wonderful and will be given to our prospects in our search this year), but the entire magazine looks very impressive. The layout and photography just grab one's attention and the focusing on traditions at the college is a smart one. So please pass on my kudos to those responsible for this fine work! GREAT JOB DONE!

Trudy Conway
Philosophy Department Chair

It has taken me a long time to send my congratulations on a great job you did with Mount Magazine. The college has never had anything like it and it is so needed. We all see and envy the products of Fordham and other schools and wondered if the day would ever come that the Mount could do as well. You've done it, and I, for one, am pleased and sorry I didn't say so before this. Rereading it again recently, I was reminded of how well you reached out to the different Mount communities, which are, after all, just one.

When any school addresses things just to the alumni, for example, or just the student body, it misses the chance to feed the curiosities inherent in other aspects of the community. You did a fine job of blending, and I compliment you.

Phil McDonnell C'43

Library Ghost was the Real Thing (Appearing in the Frederick News Post, June 27, 2001)

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for writing the article about Msgr. Phillips' retirement ("Monsignor says farewell to Mount," June 22).

I am one of about 20 family members to have attended the Mount. The Mount is a special and loved place for my family and many others because of people like Msgr. Phillips. I am sad to hear of his departure from the Mount, although I'm sure not as sad as Msgr. Phillips is.

I also have a humorous anecdote about Msgr. Phillips. My sister Jennifer graduated from the Mount a few years ago. One night while she was studying in the Mount library, Msgr. Phillips walked by. My sister did not think much of it at the time, but as she was walking out of the library that night she noticed the picture of Msgr. Phillips on the wall.

She immediately ran back to her dorm to call my dad, explaining that she had just seen the ghost of Msgr. Phillips in the library. After he finished laughing, my dad explained to her that while Msgr. Phillips was very old, he was not yet dead and that had actually been the real Msgr. Phillips who had walked by.

My sister was embarrassed. She knew the Monsignor as a Mount legend, but did not know that he was still alive and roaming the halls of the College.

Joe Dowd, C'92

This spring faculty, staff, administration and 3 Mount students were busy preparing for the end of another academic year. With Honors Convocation, honorary degrees, awards and finally Commencement, the Mount was an exciting place to be. Mount St. Mary's celebrated its 1936th commencement on Sunday, May 20. Knott Arena was standing room only for this joyous event, which was the culmination of years of hard work and dedication for 393 individuals and their families, associate dean for academic services, Stan Werne conferred a total of 300 undergraduate degrees: 108 bachelor of arts and 192 bachelor of science. For the first time the Mount's Accelerated Studies program saw 10 adult learners walk across the stage to receive their degrees.

The Mount also conferred 79 graduate-level degrees: 21 master of divinity; seven master of business and 14 master of education.

Alice McDermott, Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa

Alice McDermott, award-winning author and 2001 commencement speaker, received the honorary Mount degree of doctor of humane letters. McDermott is the author of four novels, the latest of which, Charming Billy, won the National Book Award and was a New York Times bestseller. Several of her other books have also garnered a number of honors including two nominations for the Pulitzer Prize. McDermott's writing appears in many popular magazines such as the New Yorker, Redbook, Ms. and Commonweal.

Joe Dowd, C'92
Reverend David W. Shaum
Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa

Rev. David W. Shaum, a graduate of both the college and the seminary and a member of the Mount faculty for nearly half a century, was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters. Fr. Shaum has always considered his priestly and his teaching vocations as primary, but he has never hesitated to serve his beloved Mount as an administrator—as secretary of the college council, treasurer of the college, chair of both the fine arts and the education departments and dean of academic affairs. An accomplished music director, Fr. Shaum’s performers have made recordings, appeared on radio and television, and entertained President Dwight David Eisenhower, Senator Robert Kennedy, and Pope John Paul II, among countless others.

M. Christopher Williams
Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa

It is a Mount tradition every year at commencement to honor an outstanding high school teacher for his or her role in shaping the lives of Mount students. This year, M. Christopher Williams, a history teacher at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md., was nominated by several former students to receive the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters. Williams was honored not only for being a quality teacher and mentor, but also for his commitment to serving others which has taken him to all corners of the globe in volunteer humanitarian efforts.
Brother and Sister Graduate Together

Amanda from Wyomissing School in Reading, in 1986, and Josh Ditsky from Holy Name High School in English for Amanda. The family connection runs even deeper at the Mount. Not only did they graduate together, but Josh also served as Amanda’s admissions counselor. In fact, he even read her application! Although Josh swears he didn’t try to influence his sister’s college decision, she eventually settled upon the Mount and quickly made an impact. During her freshman and sophomore years she was one of the main driving forces behind the college starting an equestrian team. She excelled academically, becoming a member of the Honors program, participated in Mount theatre and cheerleading, and studied abroad two semesters, one in London, one in Florence. Her plans for the future include an apprenticeship with the Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia, whose board president, Jack Graham, is also a Mount alum, graduating in the class of 1957.

Senior Barbeque

On Friday, May 18, the national alumni association sponsored the annual Senior BBQ. The event, traditionally held at President Houston’s residence, was moved to the SUB in the wake of a unfavorable weather. This didn’t deter attendance, and seniors were welcomed by President Houston, national alumni association President Dr. Frank Merolla, campus administrators and faculty. Many seniors had just returned from Beach Week, but made time for the event, showing off their tabs and recalling the week’s adventures.

Legend Retires...But Legacy Remains

Frederick. Amanda’s impending graduation was a motivating factor in his rushing to complete his requirements in seven years, he says. “It was exciting (to graduate) together. She sat just two or three rows ahead of me.”

The family connection runs even deeper at the Mount. Not only did they graduate together, but Josh also served as Amanda’s admissions counselor. In fact, he even read her application! Although Josh swears he didn’t try to influence his sister’s college decision, she eventually settled upon the Mount and quickly made an impact. During her freshman and sophomore years she was one of the main driving forces behind the college starting an equestrian team. She excelled academically, becoming a member of the Honors program, participated in Mount theatre and cheerleading, and studied abroad two semesters, one in London, one in Florence. Her plans for the future include an apprenticeship with the Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia, whose board president, Jack Graham, is also a Mount alum, graduating in the class of 1957.

**Legend Retires...But Legacy Remains**

Msgr. Phillips was born February 23, 1907 in Washington, D.C., which was then within the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Both parents died shortly after “Hughie’s” birth, leaving him an orphan. Many times Msgr. prayed that he could attend Mount St. Mary’s Elementary School and “find a home.” In 1921 his prayers were answered when he enrolled in the 7th grade at the old elementary school at the Mount. High school, college and seminary followed and in 1935 he was ordained. Msgr. “Hughie,” as he was affectionately known across campus, served the Mount community in a number of ways, leading to his role as college president from 1967-1971. In his many lead-
On May 12, the Most Reverend Daniel Hart, Bishop of Norwich, ordained four seminarians from the class of third theology to the diaconate.

Newly ordained deacon Joseph Peek is vested with the stole and dalmatic by his brother, Fr. Kevin Peek, S’98.

On May 11, the Most Reverend Daniel Hart, Bishop of Norwich, instituted the seminarians in the class of second theology into the ministry of acolyte. Acolytes assist priests and deacons in carrying out their ministry, and as special ministers they give holy communion to the faithful at the liturgy and to the sick. Below Bishop Hart presents the chalice to seminarian John Caulfield of the Archdiocese of Washington, newly instituted acolyte, as he says: “Take this vessel with wine for the celebration of the eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and his Church.”

On April 27, the Most Reverend Vincent DePaul Breen, Bishop of Metuchen, instituted the seminarians in the class of first theology into the ministry of lector. Lectors proclaim the word of God in the liturgical assembly, instruct children and adults in the faith, and prepare them to receive the sacraments worthily.

Members of the first theology class pray during the liturgy in which they were instituted as lectors. They are (right to left): John Paul Ezereonyido (Archdiocese of Atlanta), Anthony Ramos (Diocese of Fargo), Louis Bianco (Archdiocese of Baltimore), and Dwight Baker (Diocese of Rockford).
Dr. Emilio Rodriguez
A Journey of Learning

“God I love this stuff,” explained Dr. Emilio Rodriguez, associate professor of government and international studies, when asked about his 11 years as a Mount professor. “I feel that I have found a true home and community of fellow travelers on that journey of learning.”

On April 29, Rodriguez’s love for teaching was rewarded by grateful students and faculty when he was presented with the John W. Richards Award for excellence in teaching. The award, presented annually at the Honors Convocation and named in memory of former faculty member John Richards, recognizes professors that are the “true embodiment of the Mount.” Students submit essays to a selection committee nominating the faculty member who best fits the award’s criteria. This year, students explained their nominee as a “passionate, devoted teacher who inspires students to not only learn, but to apply all of what they’re learning.”

Dr. Emilio Rodriguez is certainly that. His humbleness in accepting the award is a confirmation of his character. When asked how he felt when he received the honor, Rodriguez explained that he “was deeply moved by [the student’s] recognition and the recognition granted by others in the selection process. It was an affirmation that our focus on forming strong relationships with students is a reality that we might not always give papers back on time, is still valid in the 21st century.”

Rodriguez has come a long way since his arrival on the mountain in 1990. From his promotion to associate professor in 1995 to his diagnosis treatment and subsequent transplant operations in 1998-99, Rodriguez has always remained grateful for the support offered by the Mount community. However, his message has always remained the same. “Learning should be fun. It should occur both inside the classroom and outside those cinder block walls.”

Learning is not the only journey that Rodriguez has embarked on. He is currently teaching abroad in Costa Rica for the summer, with a small group of Mount students and faculty. In addition to this, Rodriguez has served for the past seven years as the faculty moderator for the college delegation to the Annual Mid-Atlantic European Union Simulation. Known by students and alumni as “Driguez,” he is committed to forming strong relationships with his students in both the academic world and outside of the classroom. He has even been known to open his home to students. “He is a wonderful man who cares about his students,” reflects Mary Saynak, C’01, “I have learned a lot from him and I thank him for his unique and interesting approaches to teaching.”

But Rodriguez feels he is the lucky one. “I have become a better teacher because of the students with whom I work...I have found their curiosity and energy to be invigorating.” Those who have been privileged enough to know or work with Rodriguez all agree he was an ideal recipient of the Richards Award. His devotion to his students and colleagues, and to the mission of the Mount, exceeds the parameters of his job description.

Denny Doyle, C’63
National Alumni Association President

On April 29, the Mount's Board of Trustees elected Dennis M. Doyle, of Timonium, MD has been named the 2001 National Alumni President. Doyle succeeds Dr. Frank Merolla, fellow classmate from the class of 1963, as president. No stranger to the Mount community, Doyle’s new post as president is the pinnacle in a series of volunteer efforts for our community. Throughout the years he has served the Mount community in various faculties including: chairman of the Annual Fund Campaign from 1999-2001, chairman of the 2001 Baltimore/Washington Coach Jim Phelan Testimonial Dinner, member of the Baltimore Area “Connections” Campaign committee, and a member of the Baltimore Area College Class of 1963 Scholarship Committee.

After graduating from the Mount, he received professional credits at Johns Hopkins University, University of Virginia and University of New Hampshire. He spent 20 years in the financial services industry including sales, marketing and operational responsibilities. In 1990 he retired as president and CEO of a Baltimore-based insurance and financial services company. He is currently a member of the Stewart-Loecke-Doyle Group, a real estate team marketing properties in the Baltimore area for O’Connor Piper Flynn ERA and president of Blakefield Associates LLC., a real estate investment company.

Doyle is also active and loyal within his community serving on several civic associations including: Maryland Mortgage Bankers Association—director, Neighborhood Housing Services of Maryland—board chairman, Interfaith Housing Corporation—board chairman, Towson Golf and Country Club—board president and Notre Dame Preparatory School—trustee. As part of his new responsibilities, Doyle will sit on the Mount's Board of Trustees as an ex officio member.
Books touch our hearts and minds for very different, and personal, reasons. Sometimes we can relate to the dilemmas and feelings of the protagonist in a novel because the environment or situations are familiar to our own. Other times, the very “differences” of the world between the pages gives us delight by allowing us to take a vacation from reality. Even reading for a specific cause – to learn a new skill or to delve into another time in history – can illuminate and enrich us like no other pastime. In all reading, there is the potential for a unique sense of satisfaction that can’t come to us through any other vehicle.

In case you haven’t found that perfect summer read yet, we asked readers of Mount Magazine (staff and alumni) to share what they’ve read and enjoyed the most in the last year. What follows is their “recommended reading list,” and we hope you enjoy their input. Then go find a comfy chair and a few hours of peace and read a book – for the sheer pleasure of it.

As Alice McDermott pointed out for the Mount’s class of 2001, “books are a luxury and we should search in our reading for that ‘pleasure sensation’ – the spine-tingling enjoyment of literature. When you think about reading, it’s just for the sheer pleasure of it. There is no time like summer for spending some quality time with a good book.”
When I told my literary agent that I would be speaking to you today, she advised me that every commencement address should consist of only three words, “Go forth, unafraid.” No doubt this is very good advice, both for you and for me, but I am the mother of teenagers, and the opportunity to speak to this many people who are compelled at least to pretend to listen is far too good for me to pass up with just three words.

Of course, I am well aware of the irony of my standing before you at this moment. I am a writer of novels addressing you today when surely you must count among your many causes for self-satisfaction the fact that you have completed your last required reading list. I am a hawker of books when the Mount St. Mary’s brochure itself says, “At the Mount, we teach students that a true education is much more than what’s contained in the pages of a book.” I am a professional storyteller, a creator of made-up dilemmas and made-up solutions, while the first line of your soon-to-be alma mater’s mission statement calls Mount St. Mary’s “an institution of higher education dedicated to liberal learning in the pursuit of truth.”

So in the interest of full disclosure, let me make it clear that I stand before you on this, your day of days, as a novelist, a pusher of books, a professional liar, to make one more case, before you go forth unafraid on your life’s great adventure, for required reading, for books, for the passionate pursuit of truth through literature.

No doubt you have heard this pitch before. Perhaps you had one of those mothers who read Proust to you while you were still en utero, or a father who stocked your nursery shelves with the classics, hoping you’d absorb A Tale of Two Cities by osmosis before your first birthday. Surely many of you remember learning as a child the disappointing heft and shape of a brightly wrapped birthday present that was, unfortunately, a book, or your first encounter with an aggressive librarian, or a reading-obsessed aunt, or a platitudinous teacher who could not say enough about the educational powers, the career-building and mind opening and life-skill enhancing powers—even the health benefits—of great literature.

My guess is that you never really believed it. Certainly, you didn’t believe it as you waded through the duller bits of Treasure Island or Pride and Prejudice, as you scratched your head over Faulkner or Shakespeare or Kafka, or scratched the assignment over Borges or Beckett or Finnegans Wake—career building, mind opening, life skill enhancing—this?

My guess is that even the most avid readers among you, the English majors, the followers of Oprah and the New York Times book review, would have to admit that when your last required reading list hit the recycle bin, you lost your most practical and compelling reason to read.
I have ever read."

The scariest book.

Frank DeLuca, vice president of institutional advancement

wrote, where executives would never want to tamper; it flows south from ranches of isolation and the busy grief’s, Raw towns that we believe and die in; it survives. A way of happening, a mouth.

Imagine you will a world in which, during the next 10 years, not a single person reads a single 19th century English novel. Not a single person, not a single novel—the library shelves on which they are contained remain undisturbed, the single copy of each in every bookstore does not have to be restocked. Amazon receives no orders, college courses featuring 19th century English novels go under-enrolled and so are quickly dropped from the curriculum by bottom-line-savvy administrators. High school reading lists remain, for the most part, comfortably unchanged—students can always rent the video of Manifold Park, or Oliver.

Imagining the world at the end of these 10 years and no doubt you will find that it looks much the same as the world today. In other words, if not a single person reads a single 19th century English novel over the next 10 years, it won't make any difference. More pertinent still, if, you don't read a single 19th century English novel over the next 10 years, over the next lifetime, it will make no difference.

Poetry, literature, makes nothing happen.

W.H. Auden said it about poetry, but it's true of literature in general, novels in particular as well. "Poetry? Auden said "makes nothing happen."

...it survives in the valley of its saying,

Bag of Bones by Stephen King

By far Stephen King's most gripping and unforgettable novel—a tale of grief and lost love's enduring bonds, of haunting secrets of the past, and of an innocent son reads a single 19th century English novel over the next 10 years, it won't make any difference. More pertinent still, if, you don't read a single 19th century English novel over the next 10 years, over the next lifetime, it will make no difference.

Poetry, literature, makes nothing happen.

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...it survives in the valley of its saying,
of recognizing the inner weave, the per-
sistent meaningfulness, the precision and
order of a poem or a play or a novel.
Life is chaos, of course, full of the arbi-
trary, the accidental. Literature imposes
order—it may be a recognizable order, it
may be an order we have to struggle to
discover, but it is there, always, in great
literature, never in life. A house that
stumbles in the first act of a play portends
the death of its rider in the third. A rain
paddle described in the first paragraph
leaves an after image in the mind's eye
that becomes, 200 pages later, a man's sa-
vation. A gesture, a half-spoken phrase, a
light reflected in a window, a light
across a bay, a child cutting pictures out
to be a writer or anyone who professes to be a writer.

We're all familiar with the biological
value of the pleasure response—the way
nature lures us into eating well and seek-
ing shelter and propagating the species by
making it pleasing for us to do so—but
isn't it possible that these moments of
seemingly less-directed pleasure have
their larger intentions as well, that the
pleasure art provides, that literature pro-
vides, is indeed part of some grander
scheme of nature. Or, better yet, some
grander scheme of our Creator.

Recently, my son was relating a discus-
sion he'd had in his sophomore English
class regarding who actually wrote
Shakespeare's plays. Was it Shakespeare
himself, that middle class and mostly
uneducated actor, or some smarter noble-
man who only borrowed Shakespeare's
name, or perhaps some consortium of
playwrights and actors and smart noble-
men. “Who do you think Shakespeare
was?” he asked me, and because it was a
school night and there was still homework to be
done and clothes to fold and a 3-year-old to get into bed, I
responded, without much thought. I
said, “I think he was an angel.”
I knew by my son's sudden silence that
I had actually gotten his attention. “Are

The Harry Potter
Series by J.K. Rowling
Rowling draws readers in with her strong sense of humor, character and place. These books combine
suspense with humor and wisdom. This series was
awesome…great lessons to be learned about friend-
ship.

Kelli Maze, production coordinator

“I don’t know how I didn’t
discover this enchanting
autobiography before.”

“A bit of fantasy
so real that even
adults think maybe
it could happen on
some levels.”

“A Painted House” by John Grisham

In a very un-Grisham-like manner, the author explores the trials and
tribulations of a family trying to make a living farming cotton in
Arkansas in the 50s. The book played to my ancestral farming roots
and to my current struggles with small-scale agriculture at
Tranquility Farm in Howard County. As the characters in A Painted
House bond together to make a success of the farm while pitted
against floods and nature, I am reminded of the constant threats to
my own growing season and the importance of being prepared for
the unexpected. The book is a metaphor for life, especially farm life,
and accents the special place of family.

Linda Martinak, assistant dean for continuing studies

“...life is full of valuable
moments that are mere
luxury and pleasure”

Walt Tit’l Next Year
by Doris Kearns Goodwin

When I received this book as a Christmas gift, I tore
through its pages with gleeful delight. Goodwin paints
an evocative and nostalgic picture of small-town life. of
growing up Catholic, and of forming the roots of a love for the American
pastime that has made her a fan for life.

The title is the mantra of the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1950s, but
it could be echoed hopefully now by fans of the Boston Red Sox
and the Chicago Cubs—or anyone who looks to the future for
health, to be warm and dry, to love some-
one; but others, no less valuable, offer no
benefit at all—it is a luxury and a pleasure
to take the time to study the face of a
child, or the details of a sunset, to listen to
the rhythm of the ocean, to have a long
conversation with an old friend.

On Writing: A Memoir
of the Craft by Stephen King

King reminded me of why I wanted to become a writer
and what skills it takes to be successful. Both memoir
and advice this is a must-read for anyone who seeks to
be a writer or anyone who professes to be a writer.

Nancy Gregg Posa, associate director of marketing and
public relations

“I don’t know how I didn’t
discover this enchanting
autobiography before.”

“This book gave
me focus again for
my own writing.”

This book touched me the
most of any I read this
year.”
“You should read literature because it is so pleasant to feel that tell-tale tingle in your spine”

If there is one refrain, one prayer, one cry to heaven that sounds across the entire history of humankind, across continents and cultures and civilizations and creeds, it is our persistent and perpetual cry for meaning – the meaning of our brief time here on earth, the meaning of our suffering and our sorrow, our joy, our love for one another, our lives and our deaths. Across the history of humankind, it is a prayer that has not gone unanswered, and it should be a source of great pleasure for us, a source as well of wonder and gratitude and awe, that the answer to our cry has come to us, and continues to come to us, not in platitudes and truisms and easy-to-follow directives, but in the complex, diverse, ever-expanding, ever-enduring beauty and truth of Shakespeare’s plays and Yeats’s poetry and Chobov’s stories and Woolf’s novels, and in all the great plays and poetry and stories and novels that have been written and continue to be written. It should be a source of our unending delight that the reply to our cry for meaning, which is so often voiced through art, or music, or literature, returns to us in kind… That the pleasure we feel when truth comes to us through literature proves beyond all doubt that we have been blessed by our Creator with the need for truth, just as surely as we have been provided by nature with the need for sustenance and shelter and offspring.

As Christians we believe in the written account of a single man’s life that has changed forever the fate of the world and of each individual soul. We recognize the truth of this story, the way it orders the chaos, the way the logic of its inner weave binds us forever to our belief in the value of each individual life because the story itself depends so entirely on the value of one individual life, of Christ’s life. We believe in this as God’s greatest gift to us. It is my opinion that the literature of the world is a variation on this theme. The literature of the world confirms the value of the individual, of each specific life, not only because it gives value to each character in a story, but because it assumes the value of each reader for whom the story has been written, of each mind the story will encounter through the ages. Literature confirms our worth because it assumes our mutual need for the communion of minds – the writer’s mind and the reader’s mind – it assumes the life of the spirit, the inner life, and it assumes our God given desire for truth.

So, here’s the pitch: You should read literature because it is a gift from the divine. If you are serious? he asked. It was only then I realized that I probably was. When we stop worrying about what literature can do for us – and you can now stop worrying if it will be on the test—when we recognize that the reading of literature is a luxury and a pleasure, then we can begin to understand that it is also a gift.

**Papal Sin: Structures of Deceit** by Garry Wills

In *Papal Sin* Wills writes an assured, acutely insightful—and occasionally stinging—critique of the Catholic Church and its hierarchy from the 19th century to the present.

George R. Houston, Jr., president

**The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity & the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary** by Simon Winchester

This non-fiction book was about how the Oxford English Dictionary emerged out of the scholarly heresies of Professor James Murray and an American expatriate and Civil War veteran, Dr. William Minor. Minor was a murderer and certified lunatic!

Frank DeLuca, vice president of institutional advancement

**A powerful, thought-provoking read**

“A professor, a lunatic, a murderer…this is not a plot from a Mount performance.”

Laura Boesler, assistant director of financial aid

**“A Prayer for Owen Meany”** by John Irving

This wonderful novel takes the reader through the lives of two best friends. It reminds us of how to be a kid. The adventures these characters go through are both comic and dramatic at the same time.

Mount Magazine, 2006

“A powerful, thought-provoking read”

“Look for those spine tingling moments…find them, cherish them, they are gifts, they are answered prayers”

Laura Boesler, assistant director of financial aid
Flags Fly Honoring Alumni

While passing Bradley Hall, did you ever wonder what the flags flying on the flagpole with the dates on them signify? What makes those two years so special? The answer is simple. The flags represent the two reunion classes who “captured the flag” with outstanding donations to the Mount Annual Fund during their reunion year. One represents the largest contribution made, while the other signifies the highest participation rate.

“The tradition of ‘capturing the flag’ began five years ago with this year’s competition being among the fiercest,” commented Mount Board Chair and Connections Campaign Chair John Wahl. “Class agents worked diligently throughout the weeks leading up to Alumni Reunion Weekend attempting to increase their class’ standing, and alumni continued to make contributions even today! Our Annual Fund continues to be a critical element in strengthening the Mount for the new millennium and keeping us in the top tier of liberal arts colleges in the Northeast.”

$27,085 was this year’s gift. Congratulations to the class of 1996 for securing this significant contribution. In addition in honor of their 35th reunion, the class presented the Mount with $36,059 designated for the construction of the new McGowan Student Center, which will be the hub of campus. The classes of 1976 and 1996 were also acknowledged for exceeding their dollar goal!

Not only did the class of 1956 win the “loudest in attendance award” at the banquet, but they will also see their flag waving above campus in the coming year. The class boasted a nearly 51% participation rate, the highest of any reunion class. This surpassed their original goal of 50%, and secured their flag on the pole. Others classes recognized for exceeding participation goals were classes of 1956, 1961, 1991 and 1996. Several classes were honored during reunion weekend for founding or increasing their scholarship funds. One class that shines is the class of 1951. In 1996, at their 45th reunion, they established a scholarship fund. One year later it totaled $27,000. Today, under the leadership of Harry Quinn, John Green, Gene Bogutto and Art Cody, the class of 1951 scholarship totals over $116,000. Also honored on the occasion of their 40th reunion was the class of 1963 whom raised over $100,000 for a scholarship to be awarded annually. The award will be given to students who have demonstrated service to the Church and community, active leadership in high school or church activities, and strong academic achievement. This year’s recipient is Lauren Elizabeth O’Brien, daughter of Tim, C’77, and Michelle O’Brien.

As another fiscal year draws to a close, it is quite evident that the Mount Annual Fund continues on a path of success. Over the past few years, it has grown from $500,00 to over $1.2 million this year. Among the many other doors financial support opens, the Annual Fund provides for faculty support, library resources, and athletic equipment. As we welcome a new freshman class to campus in the fall, we will be reminded that many of the young men and women would not have been able to attend the Mount, without a scholarship from the Annual Fund, a scholarship that you helped make possible.

Baltimore Washington Phelan Event

A fter the tremendous success of the “Jim Phelan in Philadelphia” last fall, the effort to honor the coaching legend through an endowed chair is coming to the Baltimore/Washington area September 29, 2003. The black-tie optional event will pay homage to Jim Phelan through celebrity guests, fan and friend testimonials and a celebration of basketball.

The tribute will take place at the Marriott Inner Harbor in Baltimore. Some of those attending include Gary Williams, head coach of the University of Maryland final-four team; Clarence “Big House” Gaines, one of the few legends in college basketball to have coached more games than Jim Phelan.

The James Phelan Chair is one of the few named coaching positions in NCAA athletics. Created to honor the man, the coach and the athletic tradition of the Mount, the chair will secure increased funding for future basketball coaches at the Mount while it enhances the prestige and visibility of Mount sports.

Businesses and individuals can support the chair through sponsorship of the event at various levels: Corporate Underwriter ($10,000), Corporate Sponsor ($5,000), and Friends ($1,000). A limited number of individual tickets are also available for $150 each. Contact the office of institutional advancement for more information at 301-447-5361.

About the fundraising for the Chair

In order to fully fund the coaching chair, the Mount must raise $1 million. All gifts will be placed in permanent endowment fund, and the earnings from the fund will be used to support the basketball coaching position. The lead gift for the chair came from a former basketball manager -- $100,000. Donors who make commitment of $10,000 will receive a Jim Phelan statuette. Gifts of cash, securities, and credit cards can be used to fulfill the pledge, which can be paid off over five years. Contact the office of institutional advancement, 301-447-5361, to make a pledge or for more information.

Above: Bronze “hustie” statue presented to Phelan at the Philadelphia event.

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June 1-3, 2001

The threat of rain didn’t keep Mounties from attending this year’s alumni reunion weekend. After an early evening deluge, the skies finally cleared up Friday night, leading way to a beautiful sunny day for the festival on Saturday. Alumni of all ages gathered with family and friends to reminisce, swap stories and see all the changes on the Mount’s campus. A changing of the guard occurred at the annual Saturday night alumni banquet as Dr. Frank Merolla, C’63, stepped down after two terms as national alumni association president (see article on p. 27) and Denny Doyle, C’63, assumed the role (see article on p. 11). The annual banquet and awards ceremony, followed by a Sunday morning alumni Mass, marked the close of another memorable reunion weekend.

Honorary Alumni

- (L-R): Dr. Frank Merolla, Sister Ann Bernadette McCaffery OSF and President George Houston.

At left (L-R): John Walsh, C’58, chairman of the Board of Trustees, Jennifer Walsh Scanlon, C’91, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Frank DeLuca.

Class of 1936 (L-R): Emmitt Jake Norris, Dr. Bill Muse and Bill Sullivan.

Mount St. Mary’s would like to extend its sincerest appreciation to Dr. Frank Merolla who has just completed his four year term (June 1997 - June 2001) as national alumni president. Dr. Merolla’s list of accomplishments is long and very impressive. Some of the achievements of his tenure include awarding alumni chapter status to Atlanta and Boston, renaming the alumni scholarships to the Rev. Carl J. Fives Alumni Scholarship, presenting resolutions conferring honorary alumni association memberships, revising the alumni constitution, doubling the association’s “Connections” campaign pledge from $75,000 to $150,000, transferring the Alumni Master Card Program to MBNA America and assisting in the construction of an alumni web page. A new honor, the Bishop James E. Walsh Award, was presented for the first time during Dr. Merolla’s term and a dialogue was opened with the officers of the St. Joseph College alumni association. Dr. Merolla also reached out to the younger members of the Mount family by promoting the Philadelphia Boat House Row Party as a regional event for young alumni and by corresponding with the senior class officers.

Perhaps the most significant achievement that occurred under Dr. Merolla’s watch was the increase in alumni chapter activity and attendance, including an increase in community service events in response to Dr. Merolla’s challenge that each alumni chapter schedule at least one event per year for community service. From 1997 - 2001, there were 125 chapter/regional events with attendance of approximately 7,500. Dr. Merolla was very visible in these flurry of activities, appearing at 75 out of 125 chapter/regional events in his four years. Dr. Merolla also promoted greater initiative for other officers, inviting the vice presidents and key administrators to make presentations at leader’s meetings.

The Mount community is greatly indebted to Dr. Merolla for his tremendous service over the years. Prior to serving as national alumni president, Dr. Merolla held the positions of national alumni vice president, president and founder of the Lower Hudson Alumni Chapter and chairman of the national alumni achievement committee, the Alumni’s public relations committee and the alumni scholarship committee. The Mount is also thankful for Dr. Merolla and his wife, Mary Beth, generosity in donating to the Mount’s Annual Fund over the years. In short, Dr. Merolla has played a large role in helping Mount St. Mary’s to continue its long tradition of academic excellence and service to the Church and to society.

Dr. Merolla, we salute you and we wish you the best.

Thank You,
Frank Merolla

Mount St. Mary’s Class of 1981 Huggie.
The class of 1981 celebrated their 20th reunion in appropriate summer style. Shown below: the commemorative huggie.

(L-R): Dr. Frank Merolla, Mrs. Ruth Richards, wife of the late Dr. John Richards, professor emeritus of chemistry, and President George Houston.

Rob Pendergast, C’93, and daughter Catherine Bayley. (Mother is Michelle Saito, C’93.)
25th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament

All proceeds from the annual golf tournament benefit the Rev. Carl J. Fives Alumni Scholarship program. Since 1989, more than $45,000 has been raised.

(See p. 28 for this year’s recipients!)

The Mount’s annual alumni golf tournament recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. First held in 1977 at Carroll Valley Golf Course, tournament players have witnessed their share of once-in-a-lifetime moments! From late President Dr. John J. “Doc” Dillon’s first drive, to the holes in one of Bill McDevitt, ’68, and Phil Dolan, ’80, this tournament is a long-standing tradition held in conjunction with the Mount’s annual alumni reunion weekend.

The event location has changed twice (from Carroll Valley Golf Course 1976-1990 to Mountain View Golf Course 1991-present) as did the format (from calkwow to scramble), but the nature of the game has endured. Competition, camaraderie and the excitement of being named winner bring approximately 70 Mount golfers together each year.

A Flight
First Place
Tom “Woody” Stoner, C’62
Bob Phelan, C’90
Jim Phelan
Bernie Yannetti, C’81
Second Place
Steve Gostovich, C’92
Dan Smith, C’91
Rob Pendergist, C’93
Scott Thompson

B Flight
First Place (pictured L-R)
Frank Ciurlino, C’81
Dave Conaghan, C’81
Dennis Dempsey, C’81
Lee Rutland, C’80
Second Place
Ken Chodnicki, C’82

Closest to the Pin
Par 3 Hole #12 – Mike Casey, C’76
Par 4 Hole #5 – Dave Ache

B Flight
First Place
Frank Ciurlino, C’81
Dave Conaghan, C’81
Dennis Dempsey, C’81
Lee Rutland, C’80
Second Place
Ken Chodnicki, C’82

C Flight
First Place
George Gelles, C’64
Steve Rockwood
Steve Falke
John Kviatkowski
Second Place
Hugh Farrell, C’73
Mike McCullum, C’73
Chris Glass, C’88
Bob Glass, C’83

Service Awards:
1989- Phil McGlade;
1990- Frank Merolla;
1991- Alex Belmonte;
1992- George Gelles;
1993- Steve Rockwood;
1994- Dan Hallinan;
2001- Woody Stoner;
2002- Barnes and Noble

All proceeds from the annual golf tournament benefit the Rev. Carl J. Fives Alumni Scholarship program. Since 1989, more than $45,000 has been raised.

(See p. 28 for this year’s recipients!)
On Thursday, May 10, the Central Pa. Chapter held an after work social at the Gingerbread Man Riverside, in Wormleysburg, Pa. On hand to join the alumni were President George Houston, Dr. Frank Merolla (national alumni president), Phil McClade (director of alumni relations), and Annie Sluck (assistant director of alumni relations).

**1950s**

Dr. Terrence J. Thomas, C’55, retired from his surgical practice in February 2001. He and his wife, Joan, are now working as volunteers for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, Va.

Frank J. Hogan, C’57, was a 2001 American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Award of Merit winner. Hogan, a cement consultant based in Delmar, NY, was given the award for his service in developing test methods and performance standards, and directing research studies in his field. The Award of Merit is the highest ASTM honor given to an individual for committee work.

**1960s**

The Reverend W. Gregg Elliott, C’60, was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Miami, Ok., in June.

Jack Bransfield, C’63, is serving as president and chief executive officer of Rodyn Savings Bank in Rochester, N.Y.

R. Donald Leedy, C’66, has been appointed a member of the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees. Leedy currently serves as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pa. His volunteer activities include serving as past president and board member of Community Nursing Services, board member of Memorial Health Alliance Hospital System, and member of a United Way panel that evaluates agencies requesting funding. Leedy and his wife, Martha, reside in Moorestown, Pa.

**1970s**

Dr. Michael J. McGovern, C’70, has been named division chair and administrative professor in developing test methods and performance standards, and directing research studies in his field. The Award of Merit is the highest ASTM honor given to an individual for committee work.

**1980s**

Mike Berens, C’82, and his wife, Patrice, welcomed a daughter, Emma Grace on May 26, 2001. Tamara Bream, C’85, has been promoted to chief financial officer at HB Associates, an executive search and management consulting firm in Villanova, Pa. For the past three years, Bream held the position of controller for HB Associates and provided advisory services to the firm’s clients. Prior to working at HB Associates, Bream was assistant controller at Comcast Cellular Communications and controller of Pennsylvania Aviation from 1992-1996.

Eric Campbell, C’85, was featured as a guest lecturer at the Civil War Heritage Days celebration in Gettysburg, Pa. His lecture, “A Grand Terrible Drama: The Civil War Experiences of Charles Wellington Reed,” was featured during the July 3 festivities marking the 138th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Mark Damato, C’89, has been accepted into the International Executive MBA program at the McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University.

Jim Rowe, C’81, recently resigned from his position as boys’ basketball coach at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg, Pa. He leaves Bishop McDevitt with a record of 276-155, and a team that won District 3-AAA championships in 1986 and 1989. Rowe cited health and family commitments in his decision to resign as coach. During his years at the Mount, Rowe was a member of the 1981 men’s basketball team, playing in the NCAA Division II finals in Springfield, Ma. Rowe is also a member of the Mount Hall of Fame.

Jim Sullivan, C’82, and his wife, Kathleen, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Katherine Helen, on May 14, 2001. In August, 2000, Jennifer Helm Malfitano, C’83, and her husband, Vinnie, travelled to China to bring home their new daughter, Rose Qingfeng Helm Malfitano, then 9 months old. Rose was welcomed by her siblings—Rolle, Emily, and Hannah. Jennifer is a professor at Delaware County Community College, and resides in Wenonah, N.J with her family.
The national October 2-3/Priest Reunion:

Prior to this appointment, (OED) in Frederick, Md. of Economic Development the Frederick County Office been appointed director of Economic Development, and several issues that are critical to Frederick County’s development, including attracting new companies and supporting the county’s threatened agriculture.

The Reverend John Kemper, S’83, a priest from the Diocese of Harrisburg, was recently named vice president for administrative affairs at Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Tx. He was ordained a priest in 1983, and served as an assistant pastor at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill, Pa.

Patrick AllRocco, C’83, was recently named partner at Republican Advertising in New York City. Patrick resides in Convent Station, NJ, with his wife, Abigail, and son, Patrick.

Marie Keegín, MBA’86, has been appointed director of the Frederick County Office of Economic Development (OED) in Frederick, Md. Prior to this appointment, Keegín served as the suburban Maryland regional manager for the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, and director of the Frederick County Job Training Agency.

In her new capacity at the OED, Keegín will be faced with several issues that are critical to Frederick County’s development, including attracting new companies and supporting the county’s threatened agricultural industry.

The tournament is planned for next year featuring the reunion classes that end in 2 and 7. All Mount constituents, guests and this year’s participants are welcome.

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class reunions

1986 class

1991 class

1996 class