feature stories

Mounties Study Abroad

Center for Intercultural Development

Welcoming the Stranger

mount departments

mount response 2
Mount Marriages Wrap-Up.

college news 3
Mount Pride, McKenna Lecture, and Sisters of St. Francis Award.

seminary news 10
Msgr. Roeltgen, Cardinal Hickey, Hispanic Ministry.

mount faculty 13
Meet Tim Wolfe.

alumni profile 15
Luis Grillo.

mount sports 17
Kenyan Tradition, NEC Honors.

advancement news 30
“Igniting the Spark” Celebration.

class notes 32
News from Around the Globe.
Dear Mount Magazine

I would appreciate it if you would convey to the staff of the Mount Magazine my congratulations on the most recent issue. It is a fine tribute to the Mount’s office of communications.

I read with sorrow the news that illness has forced the forthcoming retirement of George Houston. He has done a fine job and will be missed.

Ellen and I have moved into a retirement residence in Redwood City, CA. While we will be traveling less in the future, I hope that I may be able to visit Emmitsburg at some future date.

I was very moved by the ranking given the Mount in the recent U.S. News & World Report feature on the impressive record at which it graduates athletes.

Larry McDonnell, C’37

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"Mount Marriages"

We received so many responses to our “Mount Marriages” request, that we couldn’t possibly print them all. The following are two additional articles that did not print in our Winter ‘02 issue:

Kathleen (Flavin), C’92 and Dan Smith, C’91

My father, Joseph Robert Scheerer, graduated from the Mount in the 60s. My mother, Mary Angela (Zappacosta) Scheerer, graduated from St. Joe’s in 1969. They were married in St. Mary’s in Hagerstown in November 1970.

They were introduced by Joe’s brother, Michael Scheerer, a Frostburg grad with a Master’s degree from the Mount (and who worked at the Mount and St. Joe’s in the late 60s and 70s) and his wife (girlfriend at the time), Kathy (Moran) Scheerer, also a 1969 Joe’s grad who was a hometown friend of my mother’s.

My husband, James Ryan Thomas (’90), and I (’96) are both Mount grads and were married at Immaculate Conception Chapel on October 24, 1998. Our marriage was celebrated by my father’s and uncle’s close friend, Mgr. Dennis Tindell - a Mount grad.

Hope this is what you are looking for. It is great to have such traditional connections at a time when it is hard to maintain a community. We have been out of school for five years and have attended several weddings of our classmates at the Mount chapel.

Mary Frances (Scheerer) Thomas

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Margaret Carey Murphy Burke: First Lady of the Mount

According to her letters, Margaret was employed by Mrs. Dubois as a sort of superintendent of the institution. Fr. Dubois agreed to provide education for her three sons and to have two of her three daughters educated by Mrs. Seton.

Margaret’s position at the Mount was not entirely clear. In a letter to her brother, dated May 22, 1810, she says “I am here at present very comfortably and reasonably established and have the entire management of all but the school. My word passes as law, Mr. D. is entirely biased (sic) by my judgment & all the insignificance of the establishment must behave to me in the most respectful manner…. For this year Mr. D. allows me 70 dollars with a solemn promise of doubling it next year if at the winding up of the year he finds his income here will allow it…”

Margaret, for a short two years at the very beginning of this institution, was clearly an important part of the establishment. How it was that she was entirely omitted from any history is a matter of debate. But here she was, and indeed, clearly the first lady “administrator” of Mount St. Mary’s.

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Sources: Mount St. Mary’s College and Seminary Archives: Copies of letters from the collection of Matthew Carey, courtesy of Prof. Kerby Miller. MSM Archives: Account Ledgers and Class Records, 1809-1817. MSM Archives: Student Cards, 1809-1817.

By Fr. Daniel C. Nasham, College Historian

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Mount Magazine
Mount Receives a $50,000 Grant From the Lilly Endowment

Mount St. Mary's has a rich history of academic excellence combined with a deep-rooted spirituality. The Mount's active campus ministry program provides spiritual and theological direction to undergraduate students and seminarians. College life offers students the opportunity to engage in thought-provoking conversation and debate. Outstanding interests and career paths are recognized and defined. Faculty and administration are intricately involved in the exploration of career paths, therefore it is essential that they are knowledgeable in all vocational aspects, including paths for priesthood and careers in lay ministry.

Based on this tradition of excellence and its commitment to graduating men and women, Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary has recently been awarded a $50,000 planning grant from the Lilly Endowment. The Programs for Theological Exploration of Vocation grant proposal invited all accredited, four-year, church-related, liberal arts colleges and universities to apply for a planning grant to be used to "create or expand opportunities for students, as well as faculty and administrators, to examine how faith commitments relate to vocational choices, to create opportunities for the consideration of ministry as a possible vocation, and to maintain an institutional environment that fosters such exploration." The Endowment received more than 300 proposals and awarded 50 grants.

The Mount's proposal was based on three broad goals for the exploration of vocation, with 12 specific objectives. The goals are: to expand the foundational vocational exploration on campus, increase lay ministry programs, and address religious vocation exploration. The grant funding will be used to accomplish and expand these objectives while preparing the implementation of the grant. The Mount's proposal will be used to expand what the Mount already does in our curriculum, add to our current activities to help students prepare for lay ministry, as well as provide opportunities for students to discern vocations to the priesthood and religious life," commented Mount President George R. Werne, dean of academic services and project director, who will use the next six months to coordinate three planning retreats for students, faculty, and administration. Each will be a day of reflection on the purpose of vocation throughout our lives and an opportunity to expand on the goals of the proposal.

A five-member team will be delegated to visit other institutions that have successfully implemented theological exploration of vocation programs. These visits will be instrumental in assisting the Mount's long-range plans of establishing additional vocational programs on campus.

Mount St. Mary's will also send a three-member team to the National Vocation Directors Council providing the opportunity to meet with peer institutions that have successfully promoted their vocation programs, as well as gain ideas for promoting future campus ministry programs.

To ensure that the Mount is successful in this endeavor, Dr. Werne and the implementation grant committee members will meet monthly with a consultant, drawing on his/her valuable insights and experience on theological exploration of vocation. "The programs that we would like to develop more completely will strengthen and expand what the Mount already does in our curriculum, add to our current activities to help students prepare for lay ministry, as well as provide opportunities for students to discern vocations to the priesthood and religious life," commented Mount President George R. Werne, dean of academic services and project director, who will use the next six months to coordinate three planning retreats for students, faculty, and administration. Each will be a day of reflection on the purpose of vocation throughout our lives and an opportunity to expand on the goals of the proposal.

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2002 Pride of the Mount Recipients

he Mount community has anticipated 2002 for more than five years. The year 2002 marks the closing of the Connections Campaign and the completion of the long-awaited McGowan Center. This year, the Pride of the Mount Awards are being presented to five distinguished men who have served and exemplified a serious commitment to this program or to the community during the last few years. These men were considered to be "individuals who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to Mount St. Mary's over the years through personal generosity of their resources, time and talent. Award winners respect the very best of American philanthropy and embody the very spirit of the Mount." The recipients were announced on April 20, at the grand opening of Patriot Hall in the McGowan Center. These men include faculty member Dr. Peter Dorsey, and alumni Dennis Doyle, C'63, Thomas O'Hara, C'64, Peter O'Malley, C'66, and John Walsh, C'58.

Peter Dorsey joined the Mount faculty in the fall of 1987 as a graduate from St. Joseph's University and with a Ph.D. in American literature from the University of Pennsylvania. Since then, Dorsey has been a professor committed to his students and colleagues. Not long after he was welcomed into the community, he became an associate professor of English and the coordinator of the American Experience Program. Because of his devotion to the faculty and his students, he was elected as the vice president of the faculty council (1998-99) and was selected as a member of the Commission on College Student Life to improve every aspect of life on campus, including academics, spirituality, and social life.

Along with his enthusiasm for life as a professor, he also has proven his passion for scholarship and writing. Dorsey has been the recipient of grants and fellowships for his books, Sacred Estrangement: The Rhetoric of Conversion in Antebellum America. Damascus Doyle graduated from the Mount in 1963. His education continued as he received professional credits from Johns Hopkins University, the University of Virginia, and the University of New Hampshire. This community is very thankful of Doyle's commitment for Mount St. Mary's. He plays a significant role in many of the organizations in the community. Doyle is a dedicated member of the President's Council, the President of the National Alumni Association, and the former chairman of the Mount Annual Fund Campaign.

Not only has Doyle helped this cause as a member of the Baltimore Area Connections Campaign Committee, but he also chaired the most outstanding event of 2001: The Baltimore/Washington Coach Jim Phelan Testimonial Dinner. Doyle's love and commitment for the Mount is also reflected in his devotion to Baltimore. He is committed to various causes in the county, including: the Maryland Mortgage Bankers Association, the Neighborhood Housing Services of Maryland, the Interfaith Housing Corporation, and Notre Dame Preparatory School.

Dennis Doyle retired as the president of a Baltimore Insurance and Financial Services company and is currently the president of...
Second Annual McKenna Lecture in Business and Professional Ethics

On March 19, the Mount hosted its Second Annual McKenna Lecture in Business and Professional Ethics at the Ceresville Mansion in Frederick. This year’s lecture featured William D. Novelli, newly appointed executive director of the American Association of Retired Persons. Novelli comes from a very diverse background of employment, working in both the public and private sectors. He began his professional career marketing for a packaged goods company, but eventually moved to the other side of the business arena, advertising for such non-profit organizations as the Peace Corps and VISTA. He then co-founded one of the largest public relations firms in the world, Porter-Novelli. Upon his retirement from the firm in 1990, Novelli moved into the public service sector, acting as executive vice president for CARE and initiating the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

Speaking to a dinner room filled to capacity with Mount MBA students and Frederick area business professionals, Novelli addressed his hold and enthusiastic plan for the future of the AARP. Included in this was a discussion on how the “Baby Boomer” generation will impact the organization in the near future and how it can better represent its 35 million members in policy making and advocacy.

“Bill Novelli was the ideal person to speak on business ethics,” commented Dr. Kirk Davidson, chair of the Mount’s department of business, accounting, and economics. “As CEO of the country’s largest and most powerful lobbying group, the AARP, he and his organization are influencing how business transactions will be shaped over the next several decades, including the ethical dimension of those transactions.”

Established and funded by Matthew McKenna, senior vice president and treasurer of PepsiCo and exiting member of the Mount’s Board of Trustees, the lecture series stands to complement the Mount’s highly acclaimed undergraduate business and master of business programs. Its main focus is geared toward the issues and challenges of ethics within the corporate environment. The series was funded and underwritten so that all proceeds go directly to benefit Mount students from Frederick County. Last year’s inaugural lecture featured J. Michael Kelly, chief financial officer of America Online.

“The Mount is grateful to the Frederick community for its enthusiastic interest in the McKenna Lecture Series in Business and Professional Ethics,” commented Pam Zusi, executive director of development. “Thanks to their generous support, the Mount has been able to offer more than $22,000 in scholarships to Frederick County students attending the Mount, as well as provide a forum to present and discuss ethical challenging questions that impact the corporate environment.”

Future Mount MBA students and business professionals will undoubtedly benefit from this series, as it not only offers financial aid, but firmly supports and enhances the overall goals of the MBA program.
Weller Receives Sisters of St. Francis Award

Throughout its history, the Mount has been blessed with a very talented faculty, staff, and administration. Whenever possible, the Mount recognizes and commends the efforts of its staff and awards those who especially exemplify the college’s mission. John R. “Jack” Weller is one of these employees. On March 21, during a college ecumenical ceremony in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, President George Houston conferred the Sisters of St. Francis Award on him. A reception followed where members of the Mount community were able to personally congratulate Weller on his accomplishment.

The award, established in 1997 and named after the last employee to be a member of the Mount community, “honors a Mount employee who embodies the mission of the Mount, both at work as an example to other employees and at home.” Nominees should also be “guiding and motivating employees - and at home.”

Weller joined the Mount physical plant department in 1982 when he was hired as the college bus driver. For 11 years, he drove Mount students to and from sporting events and other college sponsored activities. This allowed him to establish many friendships with the students and he soon became a well-known face around campus. He was even known to drive ill students to doctor’s appointments or to the hospital.

In 1993, Weller joined the ground services department in the Mount physical plant. Since then, he has become an even more visible member of the community and is well known for his caring greeting, warm smile, and signature hat. In addition to working for grounds services, Jack is also the chair of the Staff Affairs Committee and a member of the Mount Council. Known for his leadership, he was appointed by President Houston to a special task force on institutional financial issues shortly after the president’s arrival in 1994. When reflecting on his time at the Mount, Weller explains that he is the lucky one; having great colleagues to work with and loving the relationships he forms with students. He was taken completely by surprise when President Houston called him into his office and told him he was the recipient of the award. Reflecting on this, Weller explained that he thought he was being called in to the president’s office to discuss an issue facing the Mount Council or an upcoming event. “I am truly flattered that the college and the Mount considered me worthy of receiving this award,” commented Weller. “The fact that the college would publicly reward someone for working for them is very humbling and I hope I can continue to meet the high standards of this award.”

Alumni Leaders Celebrate Scholarship Success

The Alumni Leaders held their annual winter meeting in Bradley Hall on February 23. The National Alumni Council (elected alumni officials) and chapter leaders gathered in their respective committees to discuss the Alumni Scholarship, Reunion Weekend, and the DuBois and Brute Medals. Committee leaders and chapter representatives also presented reports and updates to the assembled leadership. The meeting’s afternoon session featured two guest speakers, Dr. Teresa Rupp (associate professor of history) and Dr. David Rehm (associate professor of philosophy) who discussed the Mount’s academic program and Freshman Seminar.

The meeting also took on a celebratory theme, as it was announced that the Rev. Carl J. Fives Alumni Scholarship has now surpassed its fundraising goal. After completing the National Alumni Association’s initial pledge of $75,000 in two and a half years, the alumni leaders recently increased their pledge to $150,000. By the end of 2001, the leaders reported that expectations had been exceeded, with the Alumni Scholarship enjoying more than $150,000 in revenues.

Five Alumni Scholarship grants will be disbursed this year, totaling $17,000. Five Mount undergraduate students will receive $3,000 each, and one seminarian will receive $2,000. Funds raised for the Alumni Scholarship come from three primary sources: the Mount MBNA credit card, Reunion Golf Tournament and the sale of alumni merchandise. As of December 30, 2001, the alumni endowment total was $339,354.

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Cardinal Hickey Honored

His Eminence, James Cardinal Hickey, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, was honored with a citation by the Mount's Board of Trustees, as he joined the seminary community for Mass on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter on February 22. President George R. Houston, Jr., Fr. Kevin C. Rhoades, seminary rector, and Daniel F. Curtin, chairman of the newly formed Rector's Council, presented Cardinal Hickey with the citation, which expressed the Mount's deep gratitude to the Cardinal for all his support and guidance of the seminary, from his days as vocation director of the Diocese of Saginaw, through his service as Archbishop of Washington.

A Farewell to Monsignor Roeltgen

I had a beautiful experience this past Saturday, one that I think I will always remember. I went to visit Monsignor Roeltgen at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington. Though near death, Monsignor's eyes sparkled with life. He was perfectly alert and we spoke for 15–20 minutes. As he clasped my hand, Monsignor spoke of his love for the priesthood and for the Mount. He thanked God for the blessings of his priestly life and described his life as filled with so many joys. Most especially he spoke of the joy he had serving at Mount St. Mary's. He spoke of the wonderful spirit of the Mount, a spirit he was confident would not be extinguished by the clergy scandals so prominent in the news.

Monsignor and I shared and discussed our faith in the resurrection. I noticed how strong his faith was as we talked about the Lord and His love and mercy. He expressed his readiness to pass from this life to the Lord. He even joked about his recent change of assignment. He was supposed to have moved to a new parochial assignment at Annunciation parish that very day but said that the Lord had changed his assignment. We spoke of this “new assignment” and I asked Monsignor to remember us in prayer at his new assignment.

I asked Monsignor if he would give me a message for our seminarians and he simply said to me: “the Holy Eucharist,” the “Blessed Mother,” and the “priesthood.” He did not have to explain any further, as I knew exactly what he meant. I could see in his eyes and in the joyful expression on his face the love and devotion he felt for the Eucharist, the Blessed Mother, and the priesthood.

I thanked Monsignor in a personal way for his example to me and for all his support. I thanked him for his faithful ministry through the years, especially at the Mount. I thanked him for his priestly witness to so many of our alumni whom he helped form in the seminary. This meeting of farewell ended tearfully, yet joyfully, as I knelt by Monsignor’s bed for his blessing and as I prayed over him a prayer of commendation to the Lord.

Monsignor Ken Roeltgen was one of the most gracious men I have ever met. His priestly life and ministry was a blessing to me and countless others. He had a beautiful spirit he was confident would not be extinguished by the clergy scandals so prominent in the news.

Monsignor to remember us in prayer at his new assignment.

Hispanic Ministry Certificate

Mount St. Mary’s Seminary remains focused on meeting the changing needs of the Catholic population in the United States. One way we achieve this goal is by preparing for priesthood men well suited for ministry in dioceses that often have burgeoning Hispanic Catholic populations, with growth rates as high as 80 percent. A byproduct of this reality within the Church is the creation and implementation of the Mount’s Hispanic Ministry Certificate Program. Last spring, nine seminarians enrolled in the program, which integrates language and cultural studies, pastoral field education, and liturgical experience. It is an initiative whose time certainly has come. “I receive many requests each year from parishes, schools, and other Catholic institutions throughout this region for seminarians with training in Hispanic ministry,” noted Fr. Salvatore Lamendola, who coordinates all pastoral field education assignments and teaches within the program. “There has been a steady increase in the number of Hispanic ministry placements, and it’s a reflection of developing pastoral necessities within the surrounding dioceses. I always look for ways to increase opportunities in this area of field education.”

The field placements are a key component of the certificate program, which is designed to prepare seminarians of non-Hispanic origin for ministry within many diverse communities as effective preachers, teachers, celebrants, counselors, and confessors. Sr. Onellys Villegas, MHSH, teaches a pastoral theory course within the program, which emphasizes the relationship between faith and Hispanic culture, as well as contributions of Hispanic Catholics to the new evangelization.

An obvious fundamental component to the program is the Hispanic Ministry Certificate Program. Last spring, nine seminarians enrolled in the program, which integrates language and cultural studies, pastoral field education, and liturgical experience. It is an initiative whose time certainly has come. “I receive many requests each year from parishes, schools, and other Catholic institutions throughout this region for seminarians with training in Hispanic ministry,” noted Fr. Salvatore Lamendola, who coordinates all pastoral field education assignments and teaches within the program. “There has been a steady increase in the number of Hispanic ministry placements, and it’s a reflection of developing pastoral necessities within the surrounding dioceses. I always look for ways to increase opportunities in this area of field education.”

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Mount Seminarians Installed as Lectors

William Co, Diocese of Portia; David Craig Denton, Jr., Diocese of Fulle River; Darin John Didier, Diocese of Forger; James Raymond de And, Diocese offor of; Andrew John Heintz, Diocese of Arlingto; Emanuel Bachmann Bernta, Archdiocese of Hartfor; Kyle Thomas Ingle, Archdiocese of Washington; Robert Eoudard Lacy, Diocese of Sioux Falle; Anwar, Diocese of St., Diocese of Bridgeport; Matthew Warrington Nolan, Archdiocese of Washington, Alfred Ubaha Okunja, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; Richard Albert O'Donnell, Diocese of Burlington; Edgar Otero-Ruiz, Archdiocese of Atlanta; John Wilton Rodaba- Castaneda, Diocese of Bridgeport; James Katrina Seuer, Diocese of Sioux Falle, Stephen Daniel Solar, Diocese of Oglalaborg; Peter Thaddeus Pineda Sumblam, Diocese of Ficho; Paul Gerard Wardenkis, Diocese of Ficho; Thomas Matthew Woods, Archdiocese of Washington; Robert Dwight Wollnber, Diocese of Sioux Falle.

Alphabetically: Juan Alberto Alben, Diocese of Metalcen; Michael Francis Angadura, Diocese of Portia; Jeffrey Wilber Countr, Diocese of Bridgeport; Anthony Merril a full-time seminary faculty member who teaches these courses. “Being able to converse in Spanish adds greatly to the ministry of the priest in the United States, and also seems to add much to the vitality of the seminary itself, especially as the student body diversifies.” Additional elements of the certicate program include courses in Latin American Church History. Regularly scheduled liturgies celebrated in Spanish offer deacons the opportunity to preach in Spanish and expose the wider seminary community to the richness of the culture. The seminary Spanish choir sings at the Spanish liturgies.

Another exciting development is the establishment by the Mount of an intensive, cultural immersion program that combines language training in Spanish with exposure to Mexican culture, history, liturgy, and prayer. “The time in Mexico is an incredible opportunity to get the whole picture of Hispanic ministry, and complement the academic work,” said Dr. Merril, who will supervise the summer program.

By John L. Laxorga, Pre-Theology, Archdiocese of Hartford

The Most Reverend Fabian W. Bruskewitz, Bishop of Lincoln, installed 23 Mount seminarians from 15 different dioceses into the ministry of lector on April 19th during Mass in the Mount chapel of the Immaculate Conception. Seminarians at Mount Saint Mary’s normally receive this ministry at the end of their first year of theology.

The Church requires that candidates for ordination receive the ministrum of lector and acolyte and exercise them for a suitable period of time before their ordination in order to be better disposed for the future service of the word and of the altar. At the Mount, the ministry of acolyte is received at the end of the second year of theology. The ministry of the lector primarily involves the function of reading the word of God in the liturgical assembly. The newly installed lectors are expected to “meditate assiduously on sacred Scripture” so that they “may more ﬁttingly and perfectly fulﬁll their functions.” At the end of the homily, Bishop Bruskewitz, quoting from the instructions in the ritual, reminded the seminarians to meditate on God’s word constantly, “so that each day you will have a deeper love of the Scriptures, and in all you say and do show forth to the world our Saviour, Jesus Christ.”

Dr. Timothy Wolfe Walking a Mile in Another’s Shoes

As this issue of Mount Magazine demonstrates, ethnic and cultural diversity at the Mount exists on all levels and far exceeds the perimeters of the classroom. However, our campus diversity is not limited to just ethnicity and culture. Our students, staff, and faculty come from all walks of life and add to the Mount community, our unique personali- ties, experiences, percep- tions, and opinions. Dr. Tim Wolfe certainly stands out as a member of the faculty whose life has been driven by diversi- ty, so much so that it inspired his career.

“If you open your eyes, heart, and mind, you can cer- tainly get a feel for what it is like to be in any other person’s shoes,” reﬂected Dr. Wolfe, as he pondered his life work as a sociologist and crimin- al justice scholar. It is these sentiments that drove a trou- bled adolescent to become a highly respected Mount faculty member, mentor, and friend to many members of the Mount community. As fate would demonstrate, it was sev- eral entanglements with the law and a strong-armed sen- tence from a local judge that would set Wolfe’s destiny in motion.

After appearing in court sev- eral times for minor offenses, the local justice was so tired of seeing the adolescent Wolfe in his courtroom, he offered him an ultimatum: either enlist in the U.S. Army or serve out a sentence including jail time.

Wolfe chose the Army, a choice that would inevitably change his life in more ways than he ever imagined, as he not only rose to the rank of Sergeant, he inescapably found his calling in life: to explore the ﬁeld of juvenile delinquency. Furthermore, he met and fell in love with his future wife Doria, a woman who would help steer his life in a success- ful and happy direction.

Wolfe became particularly interested in juvenile drug dealers after taking a part-time job at a local detention center in Rounoke, Va., to offer vari- ety to the routine Army life. His primary responsibility was to counsel the troubled youth and offer guidance and sup- port when needed. Wolfe became a natural at working with these adolescents as, in a sense, he was once in their shoes. The detainees came to know and trust him and he became more of a mentor than a case worker. The success and achievements of those he counseled inﬂuenced and inspired Wolfe to further his criminal justice interests to the Master’s Degree level. In 1994, he was awarded an M.S. in Sociology from Virginia Tech and was eventually awarded a Ph.D. in Sociology. Wolfe further explained, “We are called to help those in need much like Christ administered to the poor and underprivi- leged with a message of mercy and love.”

Mount Magazine 12

mount faculty

Mount Magazine 13

Walking a Mile in Another’s Shoes

Placing himself in another’s shoes, Wolfe took Wolfe one step fur- ther during his doctoral research, as he teamed with a childhood friend familiar with the Washington D.C. drug scene to further his research on juvenile drug dealers. Every summer, the team would enter the public housing projects and gather ﬁrsthand, the opin- ions and motivations of the troubled youth. It took several trips for the juvenile dealers to come to trust the pair, but after a few games of basketball and casual conversation, the
Within a few weeks, he was truly found his calling in life in his new role as Doctorate. Wolfe's swift confirmation of Wolfe's potential as a leader was immediately evident. He was the driving force behind the construction of a safe place for children of the community. Known to many children of Emmitsburg as a father of four boys, and a high school teacher, Wolfe has certainly been one of the Mount's all-time leading scorers with 1,387 points and a 17.5 points per game average over his three-year career. "I was so crushed I left the arena and started walking back to the hotel. After a mile or two I realized that I was walking down some really dark country roads in Statesboro, Ga. It really wasn't the place for me to be alone. I called a cab then." Statesboro was the worst loss of his career," said Phelan. "I think he spent the next month on the beach at the Gulf of Mexico."

It would be three weeks in Clearwater, Florida. Instead of flying back to Baltimore with Carter and three others, he also formed the Mount's first class of minority students – a fact that didn't bother Grillo as much as the lack of something else. "No social life," said Grillo. "I was in culture shock. I was at an all-boys school and that first year when the lights went out and I couldn't see anything the only thing running through my mind was that this was not Washington D.C."

He would adjust and become one of the Mount's all-time leading scorers with 1,387 points and a 17.5 points per game average over his three-year career. "Low was a superstition," said Grillo's head coach, Jim Phelan. "He was so quick and explosive that he could take the ball to the basket on anyone. He was also a great defensive player all over the court and he forced a number of turnovers that he turned into points."

Perhaps the one basket that Grillo will never forget is the one that he never had the opportunity to score. Statesboro, Georgia will go down as the place where Grillo's life would change forever. The Mount was facing Stetson College in the NCAA Southeast Regional and trailed the entire game until taking a one-point lead with 15 seconds left in the contest. With the clock ticking, Bob Sutter would steal the ball and a streaking Grillo would race past him ready for the unopposed fast break lay-up.

The pass would never come. Sutter just held the ball," said Phelan. "He had a couple of players to pass it to but for whatever reason he never did." Sutter was fouled and went to the free throw line. He missed the shot and Stetson would win the game at the buzzer. Grillo was crushed. "Coach Phelan looked like he was having a heart attack," said Grillo. "I was so crushed I left the arena and started walking back to the hotel. After a mile or two I realized that I was walking down some really dark country roads in Statesboro, Ga. It really wasn't the place for me to be alone. I called a cab then."

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A Kenyan Tradition
Still Running at the Mount

The Mount St. Mary’s track team has had its share of success over the years. With 100 All-Americans, 28 National Champions, 10 Olympians, and 10 NEC Team Championships, one may wonder where all this talent comes from. After taking a closer look at these statistics the origin of the talent becomes clearer but still puzzling. Thirty-three of the All-Americans, 12 of the National Champions and half of the Olympians are all natives of Kenya.

A steady stream of Kenyan runners has flowed to the Mount since 1985. Actually, the first Kenyan to hit campus was not a runner but a future United Nations Security Council president, Njaguna Mahugu, who graduated in 1970 and went on to become the Kenyan Ambassador at the UN.

Kenyan running began with the Cheruiyot brothers, Kip and Charles, twins from Kabarnet, Kenya. This was not their first visit to the United States as they were already competitors in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, Calif. In just their first year here, they were both named to the NCAA II Cross Country All-America team. That was just the beginning of the brothers’ collegiate success. They went on to rack up a total of nine National Championships, 17 All-America titles, and eight school records.

In 1988, the NBA moved their headquarters from a two-man to a three-man officiating crew. The NBA was bouncing around Grillo’s name. By that fall his was no longer the Mount’s first Assistant Athletic Director but a full-fledged NBA referee.

He’s been there ever since. But his heart is never far from the Mount. He was back on campus this past spring to welcome the latest class of inductees into the Mount Hall of Fame, an honor bestowed on him in 1988.

“I’m wedded to the Mount.” said Grillo. “The Mount has been a wonderful place for me. As a student it forced me to grow and be ready for it. Since we opened the doors to elite Division I meets, other schools can’t approach.”

Rono returned to the Mount with the gold and continued to aid in the team’s success. He helped lead the team to a national championship, a great conclusion to his career at the Mount. After his first year here, placing second in both the indoor and outdoor cross-country championships, in addition to being named All-America in the Indoor 800-meter, outdoor 800-meter, and cross-country.

“The Mount was like a second home to me. It’s hard to leave,” said Rono.

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Kiana Fobbs capped off her improbable basketball career at the Mount by earning the Northeast Conference Defensive Player of the Year award for the second consecutive season. The senior guard, who was a freshman walk-on and the Mount’s first freshman walk-on ever to start every game, was named NEC Defensive Player of the Year after averaging 3.87 steals per game, breaking the single-season record of 3.4 per game. She was named to the All-NEC second team and was a first-team Academic All-Northeast selection.

Fobbs was a walk-on as a freshman and became a valuable member of the Mount’s defense, earning a starting role in the second game of the season against Robert Morris. She went on to lead the Mount in steals for five consecutive seasons and was named to the All-NEC team in each of her five seasons with the Mount. She was also named to the All-Northeast Conference Academic team in every season and was a two-time Academic All-American.

The Mount women’s basketball team is no longer in existence, but Fobbs’ legacy lives on through her dedication to the Mount community and her impact on the program. She graduated with a degree in sports management and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in business administration. She is a role model for young women and a testament to the power of hard work and perseverance.

The other representatives of the women’s basketball team were: Myriam Bacoочue (Fairfax, Va.), Meghan McCaffrey (Hagerstown, Md.), and Melissa Dan (Norristown, Pa.).

The Mount women’s basketball program was dissolved after the 2019-20 season, but the legacy of athletes like Kiana Fobbs lives on. The Mount community will always honor her contributions to the program and the Mount community.

Fobbs: NEC Defensive Player of the Year
Taking Diversity to an International Level

Although the Mount prides itself on promoting diversity on campus, the scope of that diversity is not limited to its Emmitsburg home. For more than a decade, Mounts of all majors have participated in semester-long programs abroad in London, Dublin, and Florence. Under the strong leadership of faculty members such as Dr. Robert Ducharme of the department of English led the first semester abroad program to London in 1991 with much success. Since then, professors Bob Kalas, Sue Goldber, Mike Towle, and Sr. Patsy McDonald are among the many who have led groups on international excursions. In April, Dr. Steve Whitman of the department of history and several students concluded a semester study in Florence.

The study abroad program certainly complements the Mount’s acclaimed core curriculum, so much that students are often heard saying they wished they “had paid more attention in western civilization class!” The program is essentially “a transplanted Mount,” allowing students to study in another country while still accumulating credits toward a Mount degree. Multidisciplinary in nature, the program encourages students from all majors to participate and explore their own discipline in a foreign setting. However, there is a set curriculum of courses students study, which supports and enhances the overall goals of the program and its specific focus on cultural awareness and diversity. Focusing specifically on the life and culture of the region, these courses cover topics such as cooking, sports, local issues, the history of the church in the region. Also included in these courses is a survey of regional history. Additionally, students planning on traveling to Florence are required to study the Italian language prior to their departure.

The housing arrangements for the study abroad programs certainly augment the program’s goal of plunging students into the local culture. Whether it’s staying in family sponsored homes in Dublin, an apartment complex in Florence, or a choice of one of the two in London, Mount students are certainly made to feel physically part of the region’s culture. They are given the satisfaction of adapting to an unfamiliar environment while learning and appreciating another ethnicity.

Besides the social and cultural and language differences, diversity applies to the study abroad programs abroad in London, Dublin, and Florence. Among the destinations the group met every Wednesday for excursions. Kilkenny Castle, Galway, the Aran Islands, and sites containing the ruins of medieval abbey and churches such as Clonmacnois were among the destinations the Dublin group toured. They also attended several plays in Dublin.

While studying abroad in London, senior Rachel Gaes was presented with an extraordinary opportunity to experience a multicultural interchange. By sheer chance, she was jogging past a local church and noticed an advertisement for an eight-week course on contemporary Christianity and decided to enroll. “My group included young adults, ages 20-24, from South Vietnam, China, and the U.S., as well as native Londoners,” explained Gaes. “It is this aspect of my semester in London that I am most thankful for.” The group met every Wednesday for a talk led by a guest speaker followed by discussion and socialization. “I consider my semester in London to be, by far, the highlight of my career as a Mount student.”

Professors and classmates of the travelers undoubtedly recognize positive changes in the students upon their return. Most noticeably, travelers are often excited and very eager to show pictures of and discuss their experiences. “I’ve certainly seen significant changes in the student’s maturity, self-reliance, and overall appreciation for western art and culture,” commented Kalas. “Studying abroad is a wonderful experience that should be part of every college student’s life.”

With another semester already planned for the Spring of 2003 in London, and the possible future addition of a fourth destination, the foreign study program has certainly become an integral part of the Mount’s curriculum. The chance to study abroad within the context of the Mount’s curriculum is an opportunity that will continuously be offered to future students. For many, it is an experience like none other and a pinnacle moment of their college experience.
Different Paths. One Calling.

Four men from four diverse backgrounds … joined together by a calling to serve God. Four Mount St. Mary’s seminarians: Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ihemedu from Nigeria, Joel Noble Lopez of the Philippines; Rene Mauricio Purgarin-Zapata from Columbia, and Doan (Abraham) Dang Ha from Vietnam, have found a kinship in their home away from home.

For each, the journey to America was the product of a desire to escape from their home away from home.

For each, the journey to America was the product of a desire to escape from their home away from home. Their stories reflect adjustments made in customs and traditions.

For Joel, the journey to America was the product of a desire to escape from Vietnam, yet the consequence of a family being caught was too great to chance. At 14, Abraham and his 17-year-old brother adventurously escaped Vietnam in a small boat with 66 others and landed on the shores of the Philippine Islands – where they were placed in a refugee camp. “…very much like a jail,” recalls Abraham. For almost five years he lived at the camp, singing in the choir, attending school, and learning English. It was during this stay that Abraham’s life would change as a result of working with American missionary priests. Inspired by Christ, the unifying Savior, is present.”

Doan (Abraham) Dang Ha is a fourth-year theology seminarian, studying for the Diocese of Allentown, Pennsylvania. The 10th of 12 children, Ha was born in Vietnam, prior to the fall of Saigon. Miraculously, his parents and siblings survived the Vietnam War, but there were obstacles to overcome in their journey to freedom. For many years his parents sought a way for his family to escape from Vietnam, yet there is no culture better than another,” reflected Joel. "The American culture is unique because it embraces not only one culture, but many, different cultures from around the world.” Ha said. He then entered Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa., beginning his path toward the priesthood. Later, Abraham requested to be transferred to Mount St. Mary’s.

For Abraham, each challenge comes with an achievement to be appreciated. More than a decade after traveling to the United States, he still struggles with the English language – and fears he always will. But that does not stop his determination and resolve. He believes the Mount offers an opportunity for many cultures to come together. “I ask other seminarians to appreciate who I am and my culture and learn to appreciate who they are,” Abraham said.

“I believe there is unity in diversity.”

Joel Noble Lopez

A third-year theology student studying for the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois, Joel Noble Lopez’s native land of the Philippines is considered the center of Catholicism in Asia – where shopping malls host Sunday Mass … where each day, at 3 p.m., the Divine Mercy Prayer is broadcast across the nation. Joel was raised in a typical middle-class household. His parents, along with his brother and sister, would recite the Rosary each night before bed. Throughout his childhood, his spirit of service and commitment to God and his people grew through various church related functions. Upon graduation from high school and seeking a way to repay God for all his goodness, Lopez realized the ultimate payment would be to offer himself totally to God – and enter the seminary in the Philippines.

Three years later, Joel left to hold a traditional job. Armed with a teaching certificate and following his completion of the Civil Service Professional Examination, he worked for three years with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) interpreting psychological tests, administering pre-departure orientations to natives going abroad for employment, and interviewing candidates. Soon after, Joel came to the United States to visit with his parents. His intent was to return to the Philippines and, eventually, to the seminary, but he learned of the need for a Filipino priest in the Rockford Diocese. After thoughtful prayer and reflection, Joel decided to remain in the United States. “This clearly showed me that sometimes our own will and plan does not correspond with God’s,” Joel said. “We really need to pray hard so we can listen to God better and know His divine will, so that we will have the courage to say, ‘Yes Lord, may your will be done in my life.’ ”

Joel says being here is a dream come true. “I came to the United States not to impose my culture on anyone, for I believe strongly that there is no culture better than another,” reflected Joel. “Every culture is a gift to one another. The skin colors and ethnic backgrounds of the people are living and concrete examples of the universality of the Catholic Church.”

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The Church will always be united.”

Doan Dang Ha

Mount Magazine 23
Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ihemedu is in his first year at the Mount seminary, studying theology for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut. He considers himself to be “tri-cultural,” being raised the majority of his life in his native country of Nigeria, followed by a period of time in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and now the United States.

Raised Catholic, he attended Mass daily with his parents and siblings. Emmanuel says that he was called to this lifestyle, “It is a message that permeates my soul, to the souls of men who choose to give their lives to God.”

After spending several years in a seminary in Nigeria, he expressed an interest to his spiritual director to live in a community environment. His request was accepted and Emmanuel was sent to live with the Marians of the Immaculate Conception in Argentina. It was during this year-long period that he found himself questioning his reasons for committing his life to God. He left the community and lived life outside of the seminary for two years – teaching business, English and Spanish in Buenos Aires, Argentina and spending a lot of time in reflection. Alone in a country where his culture was barely represented, he realized that the missing element was his family from Nigeria, but they are my family.”

That was six years ago. Emmanuel initially came to the Mount campus as a senior in college. At first he felt isolated, not quite a college student … nor yet a member of the seminary. In time things improved and he found the Mount campus to be a friendly and welcoming place. Emmanuel credits the seminary for fostering an environment where each nationality is represented and included. Monthly dinners highlighting foreign cultures unite the community environment. His spiritual director to live in a seminary in Nigeria, he represented especially for him and one other man, he admits the: “Holy Spirit helped me pass!”

During this period, Rene felt frustrated that he couldn’t pray the Lord’s Prayer when he attended Mass. But in time, he learned the language and within eight months established a home in Atlanta. Faced with a choice of seminars to attend, he joined the vocations director from Atlanta on a trip to the Mount. He recalls the visit vividly because it was the first time he had seen snow. “It felt like home when I came here,” reflects Rene. With a lot of help and guidance from Fr. Rhoades, who Rene calls “a good, holy man,” he began his studies.

By the end of his assignment, children were requesting his class and they were indeed learning. At the Mount, programs have been established for the increasing interest in Hispanic Ministry, and more and more Anglo seminarians are attending Hispanic Masses – placing the shoe on the other foot. “I realize there are people everywhere who need me, not just the Hispanic community,” stated Rene. “This country needs more faith. It’s exciting to be a part of it.”

Two years after initiating the process, Rene entered the seminary in Columbia. It was also during this time that he met a priest from Atlanta who explained the shortage of Hispanic priests in America and asked if he would be interested. After prayer and reflection he decided: “to come to the United States because God called.” Rene arrived in Tampa, Florida, not knowing a word of English – and his host family knew no Spanish. For eight months he attended an ESL (English as a second language) program at the University of Tampa. Initially, he struggled with his new language, but after a few weeks in a class created especially for him and one other man, he admits the: “Holy Spirit helped me pass!”

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During his first assignment as a CCD teacher in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, he quickly learned that the children could not understand him. He met with the parents, who equally could not understand his English, and told them: “Be holy and they will learn to be patient with me.”

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The celebration of campus diversity and cultural awareness is certainly not a difficult task at the Mount. As the visage of the Mount continuously becomes more diverse with each incoming class, much pride and satisfaction is taken in all ethnic and cultural groups on our campus. This diversity is surely celebrated, and without a doubt, an indispensable contributor to the uniqueness and beauty of the Mount.

Perhaps the heart of the Mount’s diversity, the Center for Intercultural Development (CID), was created to present students with an entirely different way of viewing diversity. The center’s mission is clear: to promote, foster, affirm, and support the diversity of the Mount. An entirely redesigned version of the former office of multicultural affairs, the center celebrates and embraces the ethnicities and cultures of all students, not just those of minority descent, and definitively represents the college’s commitment to diversity. The CID reflects the multiple identities of the students of the Mount, their races, genders, nationalities and sexual orientations. Oftentimes, centers for multicultural affairs offers support and promotion of minority races, but leave the majority feeling as if they have no culture. The CID strives to break down this stigma and truly reflect what diversity is all about by providing programs that foster an appreciation for and sharing of all cultures, while recognizing and advocating the cultures of our international and U.S. minority students.

Additionally, the center offers a multitude of resources to our U.S. minority and international students, so much so, the retention rate of minority students has notably increased since the center’s founding in 1999. Furthermore, there has been a considerable increase in minorities assuming leadership roles. Currently, more than one-third of the Mount’s residence life staff are of minority descent. Indispensable, these increases can also be directly attributed to the support and guidance offered by the center.

Opening students’ eyes to campus diversity can often be a difficult task and is a challenge from small college campuses to the floors of the United States Congress. The CID believes that early education is the key. Incoming freshman now participate in a mandatory intercultural development workshop during their orientation at which issues involving campus diversity are discussed.

Furthermore, the center boasts a diverse group of volunteer peer educators that help to foster diversity outside the classroom and into the surrounding communities. The program is so successful, the center for intercultural development and the wellness center received a joint $10,000 grant for the exposition of diversity through community service. The group travels to Frederick every other Sunday to assist the Frederick Family First Program in its endeavor to support and empower single minority parents and underprivileged children.

The ultimate goal of this program is to assist these families in their efforts to better their economic and personal development. The peer educators pride themselves on their work and influence over the program. They assist in the formation of self-esteem workshops, provide childcare, and have implemented child and teen support programs. “The Mount peer educators have been wonderful to our families and a tremendous help to our program,” commented Rosalind Munyiri-Wilson of the Frederick Families First Program. “The collaboration between the Mount and our program has been wonderful—our children and teens have truly bonded with the peer educators and look forward to seeing and interacting with them.” Munyiri-Wilson further explained that the program actually lost numbers when the peer educators were not present for a time last year due to scheduling conflicts. “We sorely missed the students and were overjoyed when they returned,” explained Munyiri-Wilson.

Through their efforts of helping the underprivileged of Frederick County, the peer educators are not only exposed to ethnic diversity, but also the broad range of economic diversity in the surrounding community. “Being a volunteer peer educator has given me the opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life,” commented Louie-Anne Watkins, C’02, and a senior member of the group. “I have learned a lot about myself through helping the women of the Frederick Family First Program change their lives.”

The center is certainly all encompassing, as it is not limited to just students. Faculty, staff, administrators and alumni are all included in its endeavors. Minority alumni receive “The Mosaic Times,” a quarterly publication that discusses the achievements and events of the center.

The multitude of programs the center holds in a semester is astounding. From comedy shows to musical events, dances to cultural celebrations, the center always offers students fun and entertaining activities that showcase the diversity of our world. The center strives to celebrate a multitude of ethnic holidays throughout the duration of the year. Most of the programs take place in the Purcell Intercultural Center at which students can hang out with their classmates and enjoy a cup of coffee or borrow a movie from the extensive video library.

In January, the center hosted a grandiose celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with more than 100 Mount community members participating in the events. With “Martin Luther King for the New Millennium” as its guiding theme, the weeklong celebration incorporated lectures by distinguished members of the Mount faculty with performances of song, music, and poetry by Mount students, alums, and seminarians. The Center for Intercultural Development Embracing the Cultures of All Mount Students

Center for Intercultural Development

Abu the Musical Wizard conducted a flute making workshop in Purcell Library.

Mount Magazine
CID also welcomed visitors from off campus to offer their insights into the life of Dr. Miller. Among those invited to speak were local African American historians Lord Nkinnik, William Lee, and George Dredden as well as the renowned Artistic Director of the African American Drama Company of San Francisco, Phillip Walker. The week certainly left the students of the Mount enriched with appreciation and admiration for the life and work of one of our nation’s greatest advocates of diversity.

Diverse in its own right, the leadership of the center combines familiar faculty faces and a dedicated administrative team. Professor McNichol, assistant dean of students and director of intercultural development, has devoted her life’s mission to fostering an inspirational environment of diversity for students. A native of Jamaica, McNichol is well known on campus for her charismatic and sincere character. She is a friend to many Mount students due to her readiness at any time when they want to chat or even just hang out. Her dedication to campus diversity is clear, and she truly embodies the goals and ideals of the Mount’s mission. “Diversity is central to education,” reflected McNichol. “As an institution of higher learning, it is imperative that we continue to create opportunities for learning and interacting across communities of diverse cultural groups both in curricular programs and outside the classroom.”

Also included in the leadership of the center for intercultural development is Professor of Sociology and Department Chair, Marty Malone. Since his arrival at the Mount in 1985, Malone has been a strong advocate of campus diversity, urging faculty and administration to celebrate the Mount’s ethnic and cultural differences, both in the classroom and in co-curricular activities. He currently serves as the faculty director of curricular programs and research for the center and has conducted much research in the area of campus diversity including a Campus Climate Assessment. “Mount St. Mary’s College has a duty to educate students to live in a diverse world and the CID is part of the institutional framework making that happen,” reflected Malone. “By combining the academic and student life sides of the campus, we hope to increase our ability to make all of us—students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni—see diversity as a benefit, something to be developed and nurtured, as a valuable contribution to our education and working lives.”

The center is also very fortunate to have one of the Mount’s most diverse professors, Dr. Trudy Conway, professor of philosophy and department chair, serving as the international student advisor. Conway is certainly no stranger to diverse environments. Prior to joining the Mount faculty in 1979, she studied in Vienna as a Fulbright Scholar. As an international student advisor, Conway is dedicated to the future of diversity at the Mount: ethnicity represented and celebrated, ideas shared and taught and traditions solidified for future students of the Mount.

Conway established the Florence and London study abroad program. She is well known for her interaction and sincere appreciation and admiration for the Mount’s community of international students. As the Mount prepares for its bicentennial celebration, it is evident that cultural and ethnic diversity have taken their prominence places in what President Houston calls “this old house.” During my four years at the Mount, I’ve learned more about myself through being exposed to other cultures,” commented Senior Class President Maria Berberabe. “Not only has the Mount faculty educated me as a student, they’ve taught me to become more aware of the diversity that surrounds all of us.”

The Mount has certainly been blessed with a diverse populace, which continues to develop and evolve with each passing year. The center for intercultural development certainly stands as a testament to the future of diversity at the Mount: ethnicity represented and celebrated, ideas shared and taught and traditions solidified for future students of the Mount.

Conway has certainly set a precedent for the recent efforts of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in both the college and seminary. As the Mount prepares for its bicentennial celebration, the Mount is graced with students from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds and cultures. Likewise the Church as a whole has recently seen an immense rise in diversity within parishes. This growth can be noted from the pews of churches across the country, to the classrooms of colleges and seminaries such as the Mount. In an attempt to encourage the welcoming of this new population, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issued a statement in November 2000, entitled “Welcoming the Stranger Among Us.”

From the earliest Catholic settlements in the original thirteen colonies to the Western European emigration of the early twentieth century, the American Catholic Church has always reflected the demographics of the United States. More recently, the American Catholic Church has experienced a tremendous influx of groups from regions such as Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Pacific Islands, the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe, and the former nations of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. Many of these immigrants bring with them their own traditions and practices and seek parishes in which they can preserve these aspects of their culture right here in the United States. Yet, many fled parishes in favor of “old world” immigrant parishes. “We ought to be open to many languages,” comment his Eminence, William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, Chancellor of the Seminary, and ex officio member of the Mount’s Board of Trustees. “Last Thursday at the workshop in the Baltimore area, I was happy to see the major emphasis the Archdiocese is placing on presenting as we tried to work together to make sure we are welcoming community of faith.”

The Mount has certainly taken steps that strongly reflect the recommendations of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in both the college and seminary. Boasting its most diverse group of seminarians in its history, Mount St. Mary’s Seminary is striving to educate the priests of tomorrow who will serve God’s people in their dioceses by studying Spanish and taking courses in Hispanic culture. Likewise, the college certainly “welcomes the stranger” and has come a long way since graduating its first minority student, John Williams, in 1965. The extensive center for intercultural development not only celebrates the diversity of our campus, but offers U.S. minority and international students a place to feel at home and proud of their ethnicity. Inside the classroom, the Mount’s highly-acclaimed core curriculum par-}

### Welcoming the Stranger Among Us

As the Mount, St. Mary’s College and Seminary enter its bicentennial celebration which marks a turning point in the history of the Catholic Church in the United States, it is fitting that the Mount’s community of international students addresses this issue. “Welcoming the Stranger Among Us” addresses this issue, and the greatest challenge facing us is to our students and to the American Catholic Church.

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The evening began with Mass in the Immaculate Conception Chapel celebrated by the Most Rev. Harry J. Flynn, and concluded with a black-tie gala event recognizing leading campaign donors. Devoted alumni, faculty, administrators, and students participated in a ceremony that reflected how campaign contributions “ignited the spark” for a promising Mount future.

**Mount Magazine advancement news**

“Igniting the Spark” Celebration

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**patriothall**

Patriot Hall stands as one of the most striking tributes to the success of the Connections Campaign. The result of a generous gift from the Class of 1968, the hall boasts impressive moun- tain-side views, state-of-the-art audio/video technology, vaulted atrium and food court style dining. The combined seating of both college and seminary dining rooms tops around 800.

The “Igniting the Spark” celebration was the facility’s inaugural event with an anticipated dedication slated for fall of 2002.
classnotes

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Dr. Edward Palank, C’67, was featured in the January-February issue of The Physician Executive, in an article highlighting his unique career as a doctor and golf enthusiast. A cardiologist and golfer, Palank authored The Golf Doc, a book that got the opportunity to improve the health of the heart. Palank currently serves as president of Edward A. Palank, MD, Inc., as a cardiologist at Southwest Florida Heart Group in Naples, Fla., as a moderator on the Golf Channel, as a medical adviser for Golf Digest, as a teaching fellow and board member at Atlantic, and as a consultant to Medtronic-Physio Control.

Mike Schorn, C’68, was elected as vice president of the city council for the city of Reading, Pa. Council members selected Schorn for this position in January 2002.

Paul D’Amato, C’69, was elected to the New Jersey State Assembly for the Second District (Atlantic County) in November 2001. Prior to his service in the State Assembly, D’Amato was mayor of Little Havana, Fla., from 2000-02.

Roger Diehl, C’77, is employed as a premier agent at Prudential Financial, and recently completed studies to become a certified long term care specialist. He is now studying to become a registered investment advisor and chartered financial consultant. Diehl’s youngest son, Jason, graduated from the Mount in 2001.

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Peter (“Hugger”) Wilson, C’71, is currently serving as regional vice president for sales at Metropolitan Trucking, Inc., in Paterson, N.J. He also is the father of Wendy, C’00, and Laura, C’02.

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Jack Suchy, C’73, is serving as a police captain with the City of Norwalk, Conn., department of police service. He is the command in charge of a approximately 130 uniformed police officers. Jack led a group of 15 officers from Norwalk to New York City just hours after the September 11th tragedy. The group assisted the NYPD for 24 hours and received the “WTC” pin to wear on their uniforms as a thank you for their assistance. Jack and his wife, Liz, have two children, and reside in Wilton, Conn.

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Susan O’Malley, C’83, president of the Washington Wizards, is currently serving as a visiting course instructor at Georgetown University. O’Malley will share her expertise this semester in sports marketing. Her success in the sports business has been widely reported, and 2002 will mark her 13th season at the helm of the business operations of Washington Sports and Entertainment.

Katja Green Nabors, C’84, is attending the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She is pursuing a master’s program in sports management and has accepted into the doctorate program in athletic administration at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

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Several Mounties were in attendance at the baptism of Ilya Hart Kline, daughter of Amy Gregg Kline, C’79, and her husband, Fred. The Rev. Rick Hilgartner, C’90, performed the ceremony on the Feast of the Epiphany. In attendance were: Christine Tamberino Huber, (godmother), C’93, Susan Kline, (aunt), C’89, Edwin Gregg, (grandfather), C’68, and Mary Ellsworth, C’90, Amy & Fred also have a three-year-old daughter, Amelia Catherine.

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Christopher Heagy, C’96, was recently honored by the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association. Heagy received an award from the Association for his May 24, 2001, story “Seniors in Spring: Where We Celebrate the Duality of Life.”

(1-R): Marian Giori, C’85, Joe Giori, C’85, Jack Graham, C’53, Kara Nelso, C’91, Anna Stock, C’97, assistant director of alumni relations, Ellen Callahan, C’81, Harry Benjamin, C’84, Pat McGinn, C’89 and Kevin Foley, C’85.

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1982 Women's Basketball Team Returns:

On February 2, 2002, the National Alumni Association honored the 1982 Lady Mountaineer basketball team. Players, coaches and staff reunited to commemorate the 20th anniversary of their exciting and memorable trip to the NCAA Division II Women's Final Four Tournament in Springfield, Mass. A reception and dinner was held at the President Houston's residence to commemorate their return for the anniversary.

Nunzio (Nick) D'Alessio, C'01, is a Mount graduate and alumna scholar with a very promising future in academe. D'Alessio is presently at Yale University Divinity School, where he is completing his first year of studies in a two-year program in philosophical theology. His academic interests are largely interdisciplinarily focused, on the intersections of philosophy, theology, and music. His long-range goal is to earn a PhD and teach at the college/university level. D'Alessio's work is focused on the historical periods of the Middle Ages and the 19th and 20th centuries. His interest in musical history is centered in Britain, including the 16th and 17th centuries and early 20th centuries. He has studied with Ralph Vaughan Williams. Yale's program provides an environment where his interests and course work can dovetail. He has been able to combine his research in different areas to paint a broader cultural overview including geographical, musical, and historical elements. The education and interdisciplinary exposure that D'Alessio received at the Mount offered him unique guidance for the academic challenges ahead. He explained that as an undergradsate, he learned to "think in terms of broader questions; to see the whole without losing sight of the particulars." In his new course work, he attempts to offer answers to questions that continue to loom over scholars in the Western tradition: questions of identity, knowledge, the value of artistic expression, and the force of religious beliefs in culture. He feels that one of the greatest challenges he faces is that of being true to oneself and living up to beliefs and convictions, and notes that the most inspiring, challenging and also disturbing tales in human history are usually rooted in people's choices and actions. D'Alessio offered a quote from philosopher David Hume to express his view: "Be a philosopher, but amidst all your philosophy still be a person." To this quote, he added, "Subscribe whatever you will for 'philosophy,' and I still think old Hume's right."
Allyson Dennis, both C'98. Fr. Tom Mullelly, C'74, presided. Sarah and Todd now reside in Glyndon, Md.

Melissa DiVincenzo, C'98, has announced her engagement to Eric Hohman. Melissa recently received her JD from Dickinson School of Law, and is now employed at Morris, Nichols, Ansh & Tunnell in Wilmington, De. An October 2002 wedding is being planned.

Jimi Thoelen, C'98, announced his engagement to Tanya Santomarco. The wedding took place on April 13, 2002 at St. Gabriel’s Church in Saddle River, N.J.

Tyrone Williams, C'00, recently married Christopher Doll. The marriage took place in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, with Fr. Jerry Francik as celebrant. The couple honeymooned in Ireland and now reside in Thurmont, Md.

2000

Katie Hopkins C'01 and Michael Marino of Baltimore, Md. recently announced their engagement on January 13, 2002. The happy couple has set an April 26, 2003 wedding date.

Bishop Begley

The Most Reverend Michael J. Begley, Bishop of Charlotte, passed away on February 9 in High Point, NC, at the age of 92.

Bishop Begley was a graduate of both Mount St. Mary’s College and Seminary, receiving his degrees in 1930 and 1934, respectively.

Born March 12, 1909 in Martinsburg, W.Va., Bishop Begley was first ordained in the Diocese of Raleigh on May 26, 1934. He was appointed as first Bishop of Charlotte by Pope Paul VI in 1971 and ordained on January 12, 1972. He served as Bishop of Charlotte for 12 years, retiring in 1984. While in the Diocese of Raleigh, he served at St. Mary in Wilmington, Immaculate Conception in Carolina Beach and St. Therese in Wrightsville Beach. Begley was also superintendent of the Catholic Orphanage at Nazareth from 1952 to 1959. A funeral Mass was held at St. Gabriel’s Church in Charlotte on February 15, 2002, followed by burial at Belmont Abbey.

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Kate Stattel, C’01, is one of 24 secondary school teachers chosen for the NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers. The Institute is held at the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Md., and hosts teachers of Latin in middle and secondary schools.