Cover Story
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Franciscan Center for Science & Media

BEYOND THE POND
Alumni News & Stories

STUDENTS INTERPRET SUCCESS
Sign Language Studies
Pacing the Path of the Madonna

Leave your mark on Madonna’s campus or honor someone special – a favorite teacher, student, parent, or friend – with a brick paver.

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Monday, September 14, 2009
Fox Creek Golf Course
36000 Seven Mile Road • Livonia, MI
with special guest Red Wings Alumnus
John Ogrodnick

Get our head in the game...
Golf with a Madonna Scholar!

Learn more about the University you’re supporting by selecting scholar-am foursome on the registration card (you’ll supply three golfer names and we’ll add a Madonna scholar as the fourth, i.e., dean, professor, board member, administrator, coach or student athlete). Choose this option and we’ll take two strokes off your score!

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McManus
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Madonna University Kresge Hall
Guest Speaker: Stephen Lowisz,
Quadtelligence President & CEO

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FOR THIS INFORMATIVE, FREE LECTURE

A Letter from the President
Building a better tomorrow

Students Interpret Success
Madonna’s unique sign language program

Caps & Gowns
Graduation highlights

Leading the Way
Campaign update

Labs, Camera, Action!
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On the Cover (left to right):
Ornela Deda, pre-nursing
Gustavo Martin, nursing/pre-med
Ted Pittman ’06 (music management); broadcast and cinema arts

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

Madonna’s mission receives its spirit from these Franciscan Values:
• Respect for the dignity of each person
• Peace and justice
• Relevance for creation
• Education for truth and service

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The Madonna Now is published by the Office of University Advancement

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On October 15, 2009, Archbishop Allen Vigneron will bless and dedicate the new Franciscan Center, our Science and Media building, in the presence of supporters, alumni, faculty and students. Just two years ago, over 500 friends gathered at the groundbreaking event led by Adam Cardinal Maida assisted by Monsignor John Kaiza. Today this LEED-certified building stands as a testament to the Franciscan values that we espouse. It reflects the cooperative efforts of our architects from SmithGroup, builders from Clark Construction and all of their subcontractors, and our owners’ representative Charles Bisel who with vice president Leonard Wilhelm and physical plant director Craig Flickinger strategized in a project which beautifully symbolizes a tremendous future for our University.

In 1937, Madonna University was established in the Felician Motherhouse of Livonia as Presentation Junior College for Felician Sisters preparing to teach in the parochial school system throughout Michigan and several other states. By 1947, this Catholic college expanded to baccalaureate status and outgrew its allotted space. Therefore, two buildings specially designed as the University Center and Academic Building were completed in 1964. Other additions and acquisitions now house, on some 50 acres, more than 4,200 undergraduate and graduate students, including some 200 international students from over 30 countries.

As we reflect on this newest structure, we are reminded of our donors, especially the Felician Sisters, who have provided generously for this campus gem. We are particularly grateful to Dr. Walter Knysz Jr., D.D.S., who served as chairman for the first two years of the Leading the Way Campaign and who hosted various gatherings to attract new friends to the University. Just recently, the Kresge Foundation approved a $1.5 million challenge grant towards the new edifice. Its realization is dependent on raising $3.25 million by December 2009, and so we will be contacting every alumna/us to pledge toward the success of this campaign. Under the leadership of Andrea Nodge, advancement vice president, and her staff we are confident that this goal will be accomplished.

In conclusion, I wish to thank each of you for your many contributions to the outstanding growth and development of Madonna University. In my eight years as president, I have witnessed wonderfully creative ideas, painful sacrifices, focused efforts, harmonious cooperation, serious concentration and superb results, as together at Madonna we have worked to "build, in faith, a better tomorrow."

Sincerely,

Sister Rose Marie, President

Franciscan Center Sneak Peek Photo Tour

The finishing touches are being made to the new building this summer, so that classes can be held there this fall. Please enjoy this photo tour of the 60,000 square-foot, high-tech, sustainable building. Note that there are still naming opportunities available.

Lecture Hall – $250,000
Lecture Hall seats – $5,000
Student Gathering Area – $250,000
Interior benches – $3,000
Drinking fountain – $3,000
Science Labs – $100,000
Research Labs – $50,000
Laboratory & media equipment – $1,000 and under
T.V. Studio – $500,000
Media Center – $1,000,000
Video editing suites – $10,000

Clockwise from top: Science Lab, Comerica Staircase, Lecture Hall, Student Gathering Area and the Franciscan Center Studios.

“...together at Madonna we have worked to build, in faith, a better tomorrow.”

A Letter from the President
They brought very different backgrounds to the Sign Language Studies (SLS) program, but they graduated this spring with the same credentials and passion for excellence. Robin Fraser began her studies with no prior exposure to American Sign Language (ASL) or Deaf culture. For Sara Madden, whose parents are Deaf, ASL was a second language. “Majoring in SLS was a natural path for me,” she said.

The two became fast friends attending classes and practicing their ASL skills together. “You really get to know everyone in the program, because you’re in the same classes and involved in the same activities. It’s like a second family,” said Madden who was an active member of the SLS Club and its many activities within the Deaf community.

“As the only University in Michigan to offer a sign language baccalaureate program, it is appropriate for Madonna to play a leadership role in this ever-changing industry.”

“They’re extraordinary, and we’re extremely proud of them,” said Dan McDougall, SLS department chair and 1986 graduate of the program, as he presented Madden and Fraser the Ernest I. Nolan Award for Excellence in the Humanities. “They excelled in the program and earned their state interpreter certification well before graduation — an accomplishment that takes many students 2-3 years of post-graduation preparation to achieve.”

Proud to be honored for their academic success, Fraser and Madden are even more thrilled to join the Madonna staff as interpreters for a variety of classes. “Interpreting for science and technical classes is a wonderful way for me to build my skills,” said Fraser, whose ultimate goal is to be a medical interpreter. “Having successfully passed the state test, Robin and I could choose to work in a number of other environments,” said McDougall. “When our graduates return to our halls as professional interpreters it benefits everyone: the interpreters benefit from the supportive working environment at Madonna University, and our Deaf students know they will have a top-notch learning experience.”

Since 1975, the internationally-known SLS program at Madonna has provided students the rigorous curriculum and vast experience necessary not only to prepare to pass the required state and national interpreter certification tests, but also to be leaders in the community. With a state-of-the-art laboratory, and faculty members with diverse backgrounds, students are immersed in the language as well as in the Deaf culture.

According to McDougall, Michigan law requires that by 2012, all nationally-certified ASL interpreters must have a bachelor’s degree. “As the only University in Michigan to offer a sign language baccalaureate program, it is appropriate for Madonna to play a leadership role in this ever-changing industry,” said McDougall.

To that end, members of the SLS department and others at Madonna hosted the Michigan Deaf Health Fair, as well as a video teleconference discussion of the state’s new interpreter law and certification process, involving some 200 students from four locations throughout the state.

Advanced technology and global communication have given way to more career options for SLS graduates. The Michigan Department of Labor has indicated the state is experiencing a severe shortage of certified interpreters, which is expected to continue for at least 20 years. The greatest need lies in the rural north. In response to the growing demand, Madonna will begin offering its SLS program at the University Center in Gaylord, Mich., this fall. Northern Michigan students will begin the cohort program with community college courses, and complete the degree requirements with interactive television classes taught from Livonia.

Another program enhancement this fall will separate the current concentrations within the SLS degree into two majors: Interpreting and Deaf Community Studies. The latter will prepare students for work as teachers, social workers, psychologists, audiologists, or other supportive roles within the Deaf community.

McDougall is extremely passionate about the SLS program and making it available to more people. “We are in the perfect position to help the state address the interpreter shortage. The beauty of our SLS program and of American Sign Language is that each student can interpret success in their own unique way.” •

“ASL is a special language that is entirely performance-based, there is no written form,” said McDougall, who once interpreted alongside Steve Wonder. Here are a few of the situations that provide Madonna students an opportunity to perform and perfect their ASL skills:

• In the lab, each student compiles a CD portfolio of their interpreting experiences.

• Silent Suppers hosted by the SLS Club. “The suppers are a fun way to work on your signing, while getting used to the sign styles of others,” said Kate Eichorn, SLS Club president.

• Community events such as the Michigan Deaf Health Fair.

• Music videos and interviews. Working with the broadcast and cinema arts department, SLS students are videotaped signing popular music, or interviewing Deaf community members.

• In the lab, each student compiles a CD portfolio of their interpreting experiences.

Recent SLS graduates Sara Madden (left) and Robin Fraser (right) are thrilled to join the Madonna staff as interpreters for a variety of classes.
SUMMER 2009

Spring Fling Delivers Friends and Funds
A record crowd at the Spring Fling dinner-dance and silent auction helped to raise some $55,000 for student scholarships. “To address current economic and fundraising challenges, Spring Fling 2009 Chairperson Jo Oblowy and the planning committee created an affordable and entertaining evening,” said Madonna University President Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa.

Previously a formal affair, this year’s Spring Fling was a casual event where guests enjoyed salads, sandwiches and ballpark fare, as well as dancing to Steve King & the Dittilies. Madonna student volunteers helped make the fundraiser a success by selling raffle tickets, greeting guests and assisting at the auction item pick-up, “I received a scholarship through the University, so this is a perfect way to give back,” said education major Emilia Kozak.

University Makes Honor Roll
For the third year in a row, Madonna University has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The esteemed list gives federal recognition to colleges and universities that support innovative and effective community service and service-learning programs.

“We are extremely proud,” said Kevin West, director of service-learning at Madonna. “Being included in the Honor Roll reaffirms Madonna’s mission of service to others.”

Additional recognition for outstanding community service was given by the Michigan Campus Compact to three Madonna students. Criminal justice major Keith Messisco received the Commitment to Service Award. Parneet Nehal, management information systems major, and Antonette Foster, allied health and administration major, were both recognized with the Heart and Soul Award.

Bowlers Spare Dollars for Scholars
Some 52 Madonna friends, alumni, faculty and staff donated funny shoes to raise funds for Graduate School Scholarships. They bowled — some high, some low. They bid — at the silent auction. They bought — raffle tickets. Best of all, they brought in $3,113.

Sister Celebrates Jubilee
Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz ’67, vice president for student services, recently celebrated her 50-year jubilee with more than 100 jubilarians at a special mass May 27 at St. John’s Center. Archbishop Allen Vigneron told the group of religious, “I think of all those whom you have served, all those to whom you have brought the love of Christ. Not only do I thank God, I thank you.”

Pictured with Sr. Nancy are class of ’67 Madonna alumnas Lorraine McGhee, Barbara McGinnis, Patricia Susalla, Millie Bardoni, Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa ’66, and Arlene Rama. Sister Nancy has been elected to the administration of the new Our Lady of Hope (North American) province of the Felician Sisters based in North Sewickley, Pa. The new province will become official Nov. 21, 2009.

Lyric Theatre Performs Into the Woods
The classic fairy tale characters of Stephen Sondheim’s popular musical, Into the Woods, came alive during the Lyric Theatre’s winter performance. Based on the book by James Lapine, the story is one of fantasy and adventure, with a comedic twist. Madonna students, faculty, staff and music graduates, along with area middle school students and community members, made up the 28-member cast of singers, actors and stagehands.

The cast included Lisa Ondrus as Granny, Brittany Matthews as Little Red Ridinghood and Errin Brooks ’08 as the Wolf.

Nursing Grads Honored
At the Spring Nursing Recognition and Awards ceremony, Melissa Johns, president of the Madonna nursing student association (pictured here with Dean Teresa Thompson), received the Julienne Hoff Nursing Leadership award. She also earned the writing award for her moving story about how she dealt with a patient’s death. Doug Kenney received the O’Neill Award for Humanistic Nursing, while Linda Macera-DiClemente accepted the award for nursing excellence. Of the 60 nursing graduates who received their nursing pins, 10 were men.

Crusaders Give Back
Everyone was a winner as the No. 13-ranked Madonna University softball team took time out of its preparations for the 2009 NAIA National Championship in May to give back as part of the NAIA’s Champions of Character program with a morning of bowling with Special Olympic athletes from the Decatur, Ala., area.

Some of the athletes were paired with Andrew, a young man originally from Inkster, Mich. “It was an all-around great experience and we would love to do it again,” said all WHAC first baseman and NAIA All-American Scholar Athlete Cat Sidor. “I think it made Andrew feel special as well because he knew where Livonia was.”

Tedi Johnston (L) and Kelly Lesko flex their muscles with a Special Olympian.

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New Certificates Target Displaced Workers

Madonna's fall course schedule includes classes for three new certificate programs in film music scoring, visual communication and design, and technical translation. Each Certificate of Completion requires only 14–16 semester hours and may be earned for college credit, or as professional development at a discounted tuition rate.

"The certificates are ideal for displaced workers or anyone looking to increase their job credentials," said Ernest Nolan, vice president for academic administration.

A certificate in film music scoring will provide students with the knowledge and experience to compose, notate and score music for film, video and commercials. In collaboration with the broadcast and cinema arts department, students will develop their technical skills on digital audio equipment while scoring scenes for various film projects.

Geared for business and public relations professionals, copy writers, editors, designers and the self-employed, the visual communication and design certificate begins with basic courses in graphic design and computer art. Students elect the remainder of their certificate courses based on individual career or academic needs, choosing from classes in graphic, Web and advertising design; public relations and technical writing; Photoshop; photography and more.

The technical translation certificate combines linguistic training and an intensive study of terminology procedures and techniques in one of three areas: automotive, biotech or instructional video. Technical terminology will be taught in English and one of three target languages: Spanish, German or Japanese.

First Doctorate Commences with First Cohort

Nursing professionals from across Michigan and Ohio began classes in Madonna’s pioneer doctoral program — the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) — this spring. The 36 semester-hour post-master’s program prepares nurses to aid the nation’s ailing health system by developing new and innovative clinical nursing roles, as well as by filling vacancies in teaching and administration of patient care services.

“We are thrilled with the 21 students who make up our inaugural DNP class,” said Nancy O’Connor, Ph.D., R.N., chair of Madonna University's graduate nursing program. “These highly-seasoned nursing professionals seek to advance to the highest level of nursing practice as leaders, innovators, trail-blazers and applied researchers.”

The curriculum covers epidemiology, leadership and organizational change, global health issues, ethics, management concepts, and clinical work with at-risk populations. In addition, students will have opportunities to learn from industry leaders. This summer, Jeanette Klemczak, Michigan’s chief nurse executive, will address the group. She also will attend the students’ oral presentations of their health policy change projects.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing, in 2004, established the DNP as the required level of preparation for advanced nursing practice by 2015. O’Connor said those who pursue the degree before then will be in high demand.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing, in 2004, established the DNP as the required level of preparation for advanced nursing practice by 2015. O’Connor said those who pursue the degree before then will be in high demand. Madonna will welcome a new cohort each year. Applications are being accepted for the May 2010 group.

Grad Program Gets Leadership Update

This fall the Graduate School will offer an updated liberal studies master’s — the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies and Leadership (MA-LSL). The program will develop students’ leadership skills in communication, critical thinking, and problem solving. This master’s is unique because students can develop a personal area of focus; disciplinary or thematic, which makes it an attractive master’s degree for students of many disciplines, from education, and business to sport management. The MA-LSL program prepares students to adapt to complex and evolving organizations and to be effective/ethical participants in the community.

1 Alice Powell, Rochester Hills, Master of Arts in Teaching Early Childhood. 2 Fatima Halkic, accepts Ali Kaafarani's proposal. 3 Board Chairman Michael Obloy and Madonna President Sr. Ruth Marie Kaajane, confer an honorary doctorate of humanities on Edward M. Parks, CPA, of Birmingham, Mich. A trustee on the Thompson Foundation board, Parks is a generous supporter of Madonna’s Southwest Detroit Women’s Educational Empowerment Project (SWEET). “My wife and I were both personally inspired after visiting the Center and meeting the wonderful staff and students,” said Parks, who has awarded grants to help students purchase textbooks. 4 The Distinguished Alumnus Award was given to Michael Harbut, M.D., MDH, FCCP. An internationally-known expert in the diagnosis and treatment of environmental and workplace diseases, the 1978 Madonna grad serves the Detroit-area medical community in many capacities. Dr. Harbut is co-director for the National Center for Vermiculite and Asbestos-related Cancers at Karmanos Cancer Institute, while maintaining an active clinical practice and teaching service for medical students and professionals. As a healthcare advocate, Harbut has addressed congressional members and was invited to speak at the White House about asbestos. He has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine, along with numerous other prestigious publications. Harbut co-authored the world’s largest study of respiratory health in asbestos-exposed ironworkers and has received an abundance of awards.

As if graduating wasn’t exciting enough, Ali Kaafarani dropped to one knee as nursing graduate Fatima Halkic left the stage, and asked her to marry him. The shocked grad said yes. •
Professor Brings Civil War Letters to Life

Some 50 letters written by Civil War nurse Helen Marie “Nellie” Green Noye have been transcribed by Ellen Oliver Smith, Madonna forensic science director. A history buff, Smith displayed her collection of Civil War memorabilia at Madonna. Included were items Nellie would have used while tending to injured soldiers; scalpels, a feeding cup and a 1766 bleeding bowl reproduction.

“Transcribing these letters was like reading a novel,” said Smith. “Nellie was a very articulate writer who had a sense of the historic value of her work and the war.” The letters, along with Smith’s research on Nellie, her family and soldier-patients, reveal the agonies of war. “Some of Nellie’s patients came to her from war prisons. Many of her letters described the patients’ horrific conditions, helping us to better understand what they went through,” explained Smith. She even uncovered a love story between Nellie and a patient, ultimately her husband — strictly forbidden at the time.

Smith presented her research at the Michigan Academy for Sciences, Arts and Letters last spring. She will tell Nellie’s story, dressed in early 1900’s attire. Music professor Dave Wagner has transcribed and recorded the letters, using a script and score technique that mimics the look and feel of the original documents.

Professor’s CD Honored at Detroit Music Awards

Music professor Dave Wagner’s latest recording of organ and trumpet music was honored at the Detroit Music Awards in April. Let the Trumpet Sound was chosen as Outstanding Classical Recording and Outstanding Small Ensemble Recording.

With Wagner’s debut recording, the CD features performances by musicians of orchestras throughout the country, as well as by Grammy Award-winning jazz trumpeter Arturo Sandoval. “We recorded the disc in layers as each musician came to Detroit to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra,” said Wagner. He describes the logistics surrounding the making of the CD in International Musician, the official publication of the American Federation of Musicians.

Dean Appointed to State Board

On March 31, Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Teresa Thompson, Ph.D., R.N. and dean of the College of Nursing and Health, to the 23-member Michigan Board of Nursing. Thompson will represent registered nurses with master’s degrees who are engaged in nursing education in a baccalaureate or higher program. Her term on the board ends June 30, 2011.

“It is an honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve on the Michigan Board of Nursing,” Thompson said. “I appreciate the encouragement and support provided by the Madonna community throughout the appointment process.”

Swift Earns Excellence Award

Jonathan Swift, director of international studies, and host of the PBS show Dining Out with Jonathan Swift, recently received his seventh Philo Farnsworth National Television Award for professional excellence in community programming. The award honors companies or individuals who have significantly affected the state of television and broadcast engineering over a long period of time. Named for the inventor of electronic television, the award is given by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

“With my career in television, I have been a part of the history of the medium. It is an honor to receive the Philo Farnsworth Award,” Swift said.

Doctorate Inspires Mentoring Program

Connie Tingson-Gatuz, director of Madonna’s TRIO program that assists first generation, low-income and disabled students, earned her doctoral degree in higher education administration this spring from Michigan State University.

Tingson-Gatuz’s doctoral dissertation addressed the positive effects mentoring has on leadership development of minority populations. Inspired by her research, Tingson-Gatuz initiated a peer mentoring program for Madonna students in 2006. She brought together a group of TRIO students who assisted their peers academically, and provided encouragement and moral support.

History Professor Featured in Film

Professor Roger Crownover was interviewed, in Madonna’s library, for the documentary Voices of a Never Ending Dawn, which will air on PBS this summer. The two-hour film depicts the story of the World War I Polar Bears — a group of 5,500 soldiers, mostly from Michigan — aptly named for their ability to survive and battle the sub-zero temperatures of Russia.

Crownover, who researched the Polar Bears for his master’s and doctorate thesis, as well as a history textbook he authored, provides his expertise and stories throughout the documentary. History graduate student Phil Naud portrays both American and Russian soldiers in the film.

President Named to National Board

Sister Rose Marie Kujawa has been named to the board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, for a three-year term. She will represent independent colleges and universities in Ill., Ind., Mich., and Wis. She currently serves as president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan.
Decoding the Past

Current Madonna master’s student Cristie Golson deciphered a Civil War letter, found in the library archives of Pennsylvania’s Lehigh University, for her senior seminar project as a Madonna undergraduate student (she earned a dual degree in math and history in 2008.) While researching the letter, Golson found the Lehigh researchers’ theories, as to the letter’s origin and date, were flawed. Her deciphering enabled the completion of Lehigh’s computer decoding program for Stager Ciphers — a method of Civil War communication that was considered secure from decryption.

“At Madonna, my instructors instilled in me a desire to problem-solve,” said Golson, who recently presented her work at Stoney Brook University in New York and at the Michigan Academy of Science Conferences. “The letter had been left un-deciphered for so many years that I considered it a problem in need of solving.” Once she completes her master’s degree, Golson hopes to become a Madonna University professor.

Student-leader Receives Scholarship

Jessica Lare, dietetics major and president of Madonna’s Nutrition Network, was awarded a Michigan Dietetic Association (MDA) Institute Scholarship at the MDA convention in Grand Rapids in May. Lare received one of only nine MDA scholarships distributed to deserving Michigan students. Awards are based on GPA, work experience in dietetics, community service and leadership.

Lare is the Madonna student council liaison to the American Dietetic Association, and is co-chair for the Southeastern Michigan Dietetic Association. She also works as a personal nutrition assistant for St. Joseph Hospital Food Service. She plans to begin her master’s degree this fall.

Students Volunteer for Spring Break

Madonna students spent their spring break at the University of Southern Mississippi, clearing brush, bramble, dead trees and debris left from Hurricane Katrina. The 16 Alternative Spring Break participants created a half-mile nature trail for USM’s Gulf Coast Research Lab, which develops culture and stocking programs for recreational finfish species, including bass.

“I never imagined that creating nature trails would have such an impact,” said Cari Delamielleure, journalism/PR and sociology major. “Not only are the trails a nice addition to the Lab, they also provide a way to engage the community in environmental education and recreation.”

To provide assistance to an outside community in need, an Alternative Spring Break trip is offered each year through Madonna’s Office of Service-Learning. Next year, students will return to the Gulf Coast Research Lab to continue their trail work and engage in species identification and invasive species removal within the area marshland.

Holistic Nursing

Fifty-two Madonna nursing students explored a holistic approach to nursing care during a visit to the Valade Healing Arts Center, at St. John Hospital, in Detroit. Center founder and director, Mary Natschke, R.N., gave a captivating presentation about holistic healing practices including music, energy, aromatherapy, massage, reflexology, meditation, prayer and guided imagery.

This was the second trip to the Center this year for Madonna’s nursing program. “Our program emphasizes a holistic approach to patient care,” said Kathy Neuman, adjunct nursing faculty member. “This is an inspirational resource that exists within the context of a major Catholic medical center.”

Students Excel in Lansing

Master’s students Carole Bauer and Melanie Keiffer joined some 60 graduate students from 15 Michigan colleges and universities at the Capitol Building in Lansing for Michigan Graduate Education Day. The event focused on the impact graduate education will have on employment opportunities in the state, and on the quality of life.

Bauer and Keiffer, both students of Madonna’s adult primary nurse practitioner program, displayed their graduate research and discussed with legislators top issues in state health care.

“As a graduate student and experienced nurse, this was a great opportunity to show the importance of graduate education in nursing,” said Bauer. “The experience brought to light the powerful role one person can play when becoming politically active.”

Excellence Rewarded

Recipients of the 2009 Ernest I. Nolan Award for excellence in the arts and humanities, L-R: Catherine Bolster, master of arts teaching English to speakers of other languages; Margherita Gonzalez-Perotta, Spanish; Brenda Rupp, fine art; Christina Derry, graphic design; Christopher Leach, pastoral ministry.

Recipients of the John Paul II Campus Ministry Award for the ‘08-’09 academic year are L-R: Brianna Jurek, Guido Din, Scott Wasilewski, Clare Michalik. The awards were presented at the May Crowning Mass. Each student was selected by Campus Ministry for their leadership and volunteer efforts in support of Campus Ministry at Madonna University.

Business Student Takes Top Honors

Stuart Arends, dean of the school of business, hosted the honors convocation in May. Business faculty members presented awards to students in their respective disciplines. Arends presents Cody Pickren with the Meta and Bernard Landuyt Award for Outstanding Achievement, the School’s highest honor.
Leaders Strategize to Ensure Kresge Challenge Grant Success

Madonna University’s leadership combined forces recently. The enthusiastic and innovative discourse which took place March 5, 2009, between the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board, was a pivotal step for Madonna University as it moves forward to meet the Kresge Challenge.

“With The Kresge Foundation’s promise to grant Madonna University $1.5 million, contingent on us raising $3.25 million by January 1, 2010, we needed to get together and align our strategies to make sure everyone was working hand-in-hand,” said Andrea Nodge, vice president for university advancement.

The group, made up of approximately 30 board members, trustees and advancement staff, quickly set about the tasks of sharing information and developing solicitation plans. At the meeting and subsequently, a number of leaders stepped forward and volunteered to approach prospective donors to gain support for the University’s new Science and Media building.

“Madonna University is very fortunate to have caring leaders who are concerned about its future,” added Nodge. “Soliciting funds in this economy is not easy, but the board members believe in our mission and are passionate about meeting the Kresge Challenge. They have assured us they will stay focused until we make it.”

Alumni, Parents and Friends Answer the Call

We’re proud to report the Annual Fund initiatives implemented this year are beginning to see generous returns from the alumni, parents and friends of Madonna University.

These important gifts that support the operations of the University also count as a portion of our Kresge Challenge Grant goal. While the progress we’ve made (see below) is encouraging, our efforts must be ongoing to secure Madonna University’s future.

Our Lenten phonathon generated more than $40,000 in multi-year pledges. Phone calls were made to 1,000 individuals and gifts of $13,325 already have been realized. Calls will continue, so please join us in our efforts by answering our call and pledging your support.

The new Alumni Spirit Tassel, a beautiful keepsake for the Class of 2009, has raised more than $1,800. The tassels now are available to all alumni at www.alumni.madonna.edu — simply make a donation in the amount of your class year. Whether you graduated recently or you’re celebrating your 50th anniversary, this commemorative tassel will be a beautiful reminder of your educational journey at Madonna.

Our direct mail, online giving, individual gift solicitations and other initiatives have raised an additional $367,000, exceeding our expected goal of $250,000. Although this is exciting news, we will continue to work beyond our goal to help donors leverage the power of their gifts to meet the Kresge Challenge.

Now more than ever, your gift to the Annual Fund can make a difference at Madonna. Give online 24/7 at www.madonna.edu — click on Support Madonna and then Annual Fund. For more information, call Carole Booms, director of alumni relations and annual giving, at 734-432-5811. www.alumni.madonna.edu

Lions Club Support Tops Half-Million Mark

Representatives from twenty-six Lions Clubs gathered at Madonna University in April for the Annual Lions Club Dinner (more than double the clubs from past years.) This year’s dinner marked the 30th anniversary of the Lions Club and Madonna University working together in service to the Deaf and Hearing Impaired. A special patch commemorating the partnership was presented to each Club at the dinner.

During its 30th Year for the Deaf, the Lions are focused on raising funds to install Assistive Listening Technology in the lecture hall of Madonna’s new Science and Media Building. To-date, the Lions have raised $22,100 of their $30,000 goal; $10,980 of which was generated at this year’s dinner.

Since 1979, Lions, Lionesses and Leo (youth) Clubs have donated more than a half-million dollars toward an endowed scholarship fund at Madonna. A Madonna University Lions Club was chartered last fall.

www.madonna.edu

Leaders Name New Building

The Felician Sisters of the Livonia Province have been far and away the highest donor to the Leading the Way campaign for the new science and media building, meriting the Sisters the opportunity to name the building. At the May Foundation Board meeting, Provincial Minister Sister Mary Renetta Rumpz, CSSF, on behalf of the provincial administration, announced that Franciscan Center was the chosen name for the building. She explained that it is an apt name because the new LEED-certified structure is an architectural demonstration of our Franciscan values.

Trustees and Foundation Board members develop fundraising strategies.

Sister Mary Renetta Rumpz talks with Foundation Board Chair Dr. Walter Knysz Jr. about the newly named Franciscan Center.

Alumni Spirit Tassel

2008-2009 Annual Fund Chairs

Nancy ‘61 and Tom Enright

30 Years of Serving the Deaf

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Foundation Board News
Mary A. Lyons Brought Joy to Education

Mary A. Lyons, a treasured member of the Madonna community, personified the University’s mission, finding great joy in education and service to others. A graduate of Alliance College, Walsh Institute and Wayne State University, Mary devoted her life to education. She served for 27 years on the Detroit Board of Education and taught at primary, secondary and adult levels, while raising two sons. She was passionate about Polish language and culture as well as the performing arts. In addition to Madonna University, she provided support to De La Salle Collegiate and Orchard Lake Schools. Mary also participated in the development of educational programming for Detroit Public Television.

After her husband William A. Lyons passed away in 1991, Mary began her second career, assuming the role of president of Lyons Tool & Engineering Inc., the company her husband founded. She used her leadership skills, wisdom and talents to continue its successful operation. For her achievements in business, Mary received an honorary doctorate of business administration from Madonna University in 1996.

Mary demonstrated her love for Madonna by attending many of the auctions and Christmas donor events, including the 2008 Gala in October and the Deo Gratias in December. A longtime member of the University leadership conferred honorary doctorates upon the couple. Last fall, the two graciously chaired the Gala to raise funds for the Science and Media Building. “What a wonderful event, and a classy way to introduce our guests to all the great things happening at Madonna,” both agreed. “I love how everyone involved with Madonna is genuinely committed to the students and the community,” added Helen. “It’s like a big family. It’s the little touches that mean so much — the mass of remembrance in the fall, and the loaves of bread at Christmas — everything done with love and care.”

The Daouds, so loving and giving, are treasured members of the Madonna family. In recognition of their Kresge gift, the Science and Media Building’s West Garden will be named after the Daouds, and they will be listed in Cardinals Square. Jim O’Neill, psychology professor, also feels strongly about helping the University achieve the Kresge challenge grant. “This is a great opportunity to make the most out of your donation,” he said.

To support the Kresge challenge effort, O’Neill increased his donation to the University. “During these difficult economic times, I have had to prioritize my giving, and investing in Madonna’s success is a priority for me,” he said. Jim and his wife Angie, ‘98 BS, have donated to the new building, psychology department, annual golf outing and spring auction. In recognition of their Kresge Challenge gift, the Science and Media Building’s West Garden will be named after the O’Neills. Their names also will be listed in Cardinals Square and as members of the President’s Cabinet – Lumen Level for the next five years.

Daouds Show Love for Madonna

Tarik and Helen Daoud fell in love with Madonna University for the same reason – the Felician Sisters. No strangers to hard work, the Daouds were immediately impressed by the Sisters’ hands-on leadership style at the University. “They are so dedicated to the students, and they do a wonderful job of delivering a quality education at affordable tuition rates,” said Tarik. Foundation Board vice chair and owner of Long Family Auto Center in Warren, a tireless advocate for education, Tarik has served on the University’s board of directors for two terms (1996-2002, 2003-2009), and the couple has generously supported Madonna with gifts for scholarships, and classrooms in the main academic building. Now as a Foundation Board member, Tarik works diligently to raise funds for the science and media building, and the Kresge Challenge Grant.

President’s Cabinet – Loyalty level

President’s Cabinet – Loyalty level, have supported the new building, residence hall renovations, scholarships, Campus Ministry, athletics, and the annual golf outing and spring auction fundraisers.

“I support Madonna because I am a firm believer in the University’s mission,” said Donohue. “On a daily basis, I see the value of the service-based education and personal support our students receive. In recognition of their contribution to the Kresge Challenge, the announcement booth in the new Media Center will be named after the Donohues, and they will be listed in Cardinals Square.

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In 2002, to recognize the Daouds devotion to Madonna, the University leadership conferred honorary doctorates upon the couple. Last fall, the two graciously chaired the Gala to raise funds for the Science and Media Building. “What a wonderful event, and a classy way to introduce our guests to all the great things happening at Madonna,” both agreed. “I love how everyone involved with Madonna is genuinely committed to the students and the community,” added Helen. “It’s like a big family. It’s the little touches that mean so much — the mass of remembrance in the fall, and the loaves of bread at Christmas — everything done with love and care.”

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This fall, Madonna's growing science and media programs will move into the new Franciscan Center — the University's first free-standing structure to be built in 40 years. The 60,000-square-foot, sustainable building is certified for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®). Decked out with the latest digital media technologies, and state-of-the-art science laboratories, the facility will enhance students’ hands-on educational experiences. The $20 million, architectural beauty also features classrooms, offices, a spacious lecture hall, a café and student gathering area.

Forensic science, one of Madonna’s newer majors, has witnessed an increase in the number of seniors choosing to complete lab projects. “The abundance of popular science and crime investigation television shows has sparked interest in laboratory research,” said Ellen Oliver Smith, director of Madonna’s forensic science program.

Since it began in 2003, forensic science has grown to an average of 60 students a year. Designed with help from regional crime lab supervisors, the program features an intense study of the biological and physical sciences to prepare graduates for employment as forensic technicians. Students research such topics as arson, decomposition and age estimation. “We look forward to showing off the labs as we seek accreditation by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences,” Smith said.

The clinical imaging and clinical laboratory science programs also have become increasingly popular at Madonna. “These fields will experience a continued need for trained professionals due to baby boomer retirements and expanded use of medical lab tests, CAT scans, x-rays and MRI’s,” said James Wendt, director of Allied Health programs. The clinical imaging associate degree prepares students for technical positions in radiography, nuclear medicine technology, radiation therapy and sonography, at hospitals, laboratories and veterinary offices. The program includes two years of academic study, followed by 18 months of clinical training. Wendt indicated that many students, who earn the clinical imaging associate degree, return to boost their credentials by earning a bachelor’s degree in clinical laboratory science.

The digital media mix
Although media classes are not general education requirements, students majoring in Sign Language Studies, journalism, music, sport management, and other areas, do collaborate with broadcast and cinema arts (BCA) students on various class projects (see sidebar on pg. 5). “The BCA program is exploding within the University, as the industry takes off in Michigan,” said Kathleen O’Dowd, dean of arts and humanities. “It is very exciting to see students, who are pursuing different majors, combine their talents.” Madonna’s broadcast and cinema arts program has come a long way since the first courses in TV production 35 years ago. Always evolving with the industry, today’s curriculum covers broadcast and film production, digital editing and other new media.

Ted Biermann, dean of science and mathematics, believes the new laboratories will engage more students in instruction and opportunities for advanced research and exploration. The Center’s spacious state-of-the-art laboratories will facilitate a greater volume of student research and exploration. The Center’s three research labs,” said Biermann enthusiastically. He noted that Madonna will maintain smaller lab classes to foster more personal, comprehensive instruction and opportunities for advanced research and exploration. The Center’s spacious state-of-the-art laboratories will facilitate a greater volume of student research and exploration.

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Ted Biermann, Dean
College of Science & Mathematics

“Science of the Times
Students in every major will utilize the Franciscan Center because Madonna’s general education requirements include a biological and a physical science class, one of which must have a lab component.

The University offers 37 science degree programs that stimulate curiosity and encourage critical thinking through a combination of classroom study and laboratory exercises. A senior seminar project, researched in the library or a laboratory is required for each science major. “We will be able to conduct more undergraduate, faculty and student research projects in the building’s three research labs,” said Biermann enthusiastically. He noted that Madonna will maintain smaller lab classes to foster more personal, comprehensive instruction and opportunities for advanced research and exploration. The Center’s spacious state-of-the-art laboratories will facilitate a greater volume of student projects. Safety features such as centralized hoods and vacuums, as well as air control and chemical disposal equipment, allow for a wider-range of experiments.

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The abundance of popular science and crime investigation television shows has sparked interest in laboratory research.”
“What a boost this new facility will be for student productions like Madonna Magazine,” said Chuck Derry, BCA program director. Started in 1985, the show airs weekly on the Catholic Television Network of Detroit, and national Open Student Television Network. Students produce 15 episodes a semester. To-date, 700 shows have been produced.

“This is a great facility where students can turn their creative ideas into professional productions,” said Pat Derry, director of technology resources. “It’s labs, cameras, action in the Franciscan Center where Madonna faculty and students will lead the way in the real-world of media. Interns have worked for area news and radio stations, production houses, corporate video and internships builds students’ resumés and turns them into well-rounded media professionals,” said Chuck. “It is excellent preparation for the many career options available to graduates of our program.”

“Madonna faculty and students will lead the way in high-definition digital technology in the Franciscan Center of the media portion of the building was designed for students to turn their creative ideas into professional productions,” said Pat Derry, director of technology resources. As writers, directors, producers, videographers, editors and actors, students will have access to a new studio/sound stage, control room, radio studio and announce booth, six edit suites, 16 individual media work stations, cinematography equipment, and visual effects software. A green screen offers students the capability to create the latest special effects.

“Madonna Magazine,” said Chuck Derry, BCA program director. Started in 1985, the show airs weekly on the Catholic Television Network of Detroit, and national Open Student Television Network. Students produce 15 episodes a semester. To-date, 700 shows have been produced. By the time each student completes the three TV production courses, they will have 45 programs to their credit. A capstone film project rounds out their students’ movie-making experience. A required internship gives them a taste of the real-world of media. Interns have worked for area news and radio stations, production houses, corporate video departments, and for the media departments of the Detroit Red Wings and Tigers. “The combination of class projects and internships builds students’ resumes and turns them into well-rounded media professionals,” said Chuck. “It is excellent preparation for the many career options available to graduates of our program.”

Phyllis Mink ’63 (social studies) has many fond memories of her Madonna days. “The Felician Sisters taught me the essential skills you need to be a teacher which was so helpful when I began my career,” said Mink, whose favorite subject was science. She taught elementary school in the Van Dyke School District for 40 years and is active in the Clinton Township Historical Society. She and her husband Roger have three children and eight grandchildren.

Jerry Walker ’90 (criminal justice) was named president of the Transportation Improvement Association, a non-profit traffic safety organization that serves Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties. “My Madonna undergraduate experience shaped my perspective on life in the business world,” he said. “Beginning with my first position following graduation, I have been blessed to work for companies that provided a variety of opportunities to learn and grow.”

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John Kurnick ’86 (marketing) has accepted a three-year term on the Board of Directors of Leadership Louisville (Kentucky), a development and civic affairs organization. Kurnick is vice president of Global Talent Management at YUM! Brands.

“Attending Madonna and working with the high caliber of professors has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my life,” she said.
Connie Lilley ’97 (journalism/public relations) is director of sustainable products and initiatives for Core Products Group Inc. in Livonia. Lilley manages the launch of energy-saving software that helps businesses reduce energy usage and co2 emissions. A member of the United States Building Council, she also is co-founder of the National Green Team and writer/producer of its newsletter. A Clarkson resident, Lilley has been married for 26 years and has two children.

Joe Sturgill ’99 (nursing) received the Excellence in Hospice Nursing Award from the Michigan Hospice Nursing Association. Inspired by the care he received following a childhood trauma that nearly took his life, Sturgill became a nurse. His wife Katie also is an alumna; they have three children.

2000s

John-Mark Branch ’01 (criminal justice) will join athletes from police and fire agencies around the world to compete in the 2009 World Police and Fire Games. Branch, a 10-year veteran of the University of Michigan Police Department, will compete in the eight-phase Toughest Competitor Alive event. He competed in the 2003 games in Spain and the 2007 games in Australia.

Lizzie Raickovich ’04 (journalism/public relations) was hired as a marketing and public relations associate for Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital, where she creates internal and external communications materials.

Kelly Holka ’06 (nursing) received the prestigious DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses March 19, 2009. Holka works at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. Because the award is so esteemed, several Madonna nursing faculty members joined Holka for the presentation. “Madonna University did an exceptional job in preparing me for my nursing career,” said Holka. “They taught me how to provide caring, compassionate nursing care that goes beyond the standards and involves the patient as well as the family and community.”

Dammiona Cromedy ’08 (social work) was honored at the Michigan Works! Alumni Celebration for achieving gainful employment through the Michigan Works! Agency. A former machine operator for an area supplier, Cromedy lost her job in 2005. With the help of the Michigan Works! Agency, Cromedy found a job in Detroit, where she provides child and family therapy and performs psychiatric assessments. “The theoretical foundation and practical experience I gained at Madonna helped ease my transition from student to clinician,” said Holton.

Micky Golden Moore ’09 (master’s in clinical psychology) works as a children’s outpatient therapist for Development Centers, in Detroit, where she provides child and family therapy and performs psychiatric assessments. “The theoretical foundation and practical experience I gained at Madonna helped ease my transition from student to clinician,” said Holton.

Valerie Phillips-Keys ’09 (child development) is a graduate of Madonna’s Southwest Detroit Women’s Educational Empowerment Project (SWEET). “I am so happy that SWEET provided me with the opportunity to return to school. The professors and the staff are outstanding in preparing us to succeed,” said Phillips-Keys. The divorced mother of three began taking classes at SWEET after being laid off. She parlayed her degree into a job as a pre-school teacher at the Vista Nuevas Head Start Center in Detroit. She plans to pursue her master’s degree in educational leadership and become a pre-school center director.

Ellen Taylor ’09 (dietetics) works in the dietetics office of the new Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital. The staff there specializes in offering patients “healthy, healing food,” which means locally produced and organic whenever possible. Taylor assists patients with meal choices based on their recommended diets. In the fall of 2010, the Novi resident plans to apply for a dietetic internship, which is required to qualify for the national registration examination.

Christy Derry ’09 (broadcast and cinema arts) is now director of marketing and public relations at the Michigan Movie Magazine. The monthly magazine covers all aspects of the state’s booming film industry, including casting calls, up-and-coming talent and local film projects.

The alumna’s documentary about the Dexter Cider Mill, produced during her senior year, took first place at the Broadcast Club and Wayne State University film festivals, and was awarded an Emmy by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Michigan Student Chapter. This is the third year in a row that Madonna students have won an Emmy.


Send your alumni news to Amy Perry at aperry@madonna.edu
On the second floor of the Academic Building, above Kresge Hall, is nestled the Madonna University Library, with its rows of bookshelves, Fascinating cultural displays, private meeting rooms and group study areas. Home to approximately 100,000 books, over 100 online databases, references, wireless internet, audio visual materials, and copy machines, the Library contains a wealth of resources for research and study.

“We live here,” joked Matt Austin, pre-nursing student. Austin and fellow students Gustavo Martin, pre-med, and Kris D’Amore, pre-nursing, study in the library almost daily. “The wireless internet is a great resource to gather information for assignments,” adds Martin.

Madonna Library resources are available to community members too. They may check out books through the donation-based Friends of Madonna Library membership program. Alumni Benefit Card holders also are able to check out materials. “I grew very fond of the Library while earning bachelor’s degrees in Sign Language Studies and gerontology,” said Patricia Grover ’91, who visits often for her graduate studies and professional projects.

The peaceful, friendly setting, make the Madonna Library an inviting place to be. “Our knowledgeable and helpful staff is what sets us apart from larger public or university libraries,” said librarian Mike Cummings. “There always is a librarian here to assist visitors.”

Gerontology student Wanda Dent calls the library her home away from home. “I prefer Madonna’s library because of the personal attention the librarians provide.” Through database workshops offered year-round, students learn how to refine their research topics, and to formulate search strategies for using the Library’s online resources.

The library has to offer.

Students work while enjoying all the resources the library has to offer.
SPORTS SHORTS

CRUSADERS MAKE HISTORY IN SPRING 2009

Softball Tallies Most Successful Season Ever
The 2009 Madonna University softball team recorded a season for the ages as the Crusaders posted the most wins in program history while appearing in the NAIA National Tournament for just the second time. Madonna captured both the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships and finished the year ranked 15 in the NAIA Coaches’ Poll, the highest ranking in school history.

The Crusaders ended the season 53-11, setting a school record for wins. Second team All-American Jess Irwin was tabbed as the WHAC Pitcher of the Year for the second straight season, after setting both the Madonna single-season and career marks for strike outs and wins. Irwin became just the fourth pitcher in NAIA history to pass the 400 strike-out mark with 423, moving her career total to 698. She also posted 33 wins, improving her career total to 57. The sophomore right-hander threw four no-hitters this season, and a perfect game against Cornerstone April 11.

Joining Irwin on the All-WHAC first team were senior Tedi Johnston along with juniors Brittney Scero (an honorable mention All-America selection as well) and Cat Sidor and sophomore Ashley Shay. Senior Mary Kate Setta and junior Rachael Kethe joined Sidor on the Academic All-WHAC team. Sidor also made the NAIA All-American Scholar Athlete team. Head Coach Al White was named the WHAC Coach of the Year for the second straight season.

Carrico and Wydryck Selected to Represent United States on Foreign Tour
Madonna University women’s basketball players Christie Carrico and Tabatha Wydryck were chosen to represent the United States as part of a foreign tour that started Monday June 1.

The duo travelled to Europe as part of a team from USA Athletes International, a non-profit organization dedicated to giving amateur athletes and coaches the opportunity to participate in international Olympic-style sporting events throughout the world, while building their educational and cultural knowledge of the world through the experience.

During their tour of Austria and Italy, Carrico and Wydryck were part of an eight-player team that faced off with local sides in friendly contests while being immersed in the culture of the region.

Baseball Scores Historic Season
The Madonna University baseball team wrapped up its most successful season in program history, with the team’s first-ever appearance in the NAIA National Tournament after winning the 2009 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season championship and ending the year with a 39-12 record. The Crusaders were WHAC champions for the fourth time in the last five years and were ranked as high as eighth in the NAIA National Coaches’ Poll this season. Madonna finished the season at No. 16 in the final ranking, earning an at-large bid to the national summit.

Senior right-handed pitcher Jeff Sonnenberg was named WHAC Pitcher of the Year while seniors Aaron Hacias, Ryan Morrow and Kevin Zerbo, along with sophomore Shawn Little were named to the All-WHAC first team. Junior Zach Flavin along with sophomores Matt Kay, Tarik Khasawneh and freshman Tom Hansen were tabbed to the All-WHAC honorable mention team. Head coach Greg Haeger was named the league’s Coach of the Year for the fourth time in the last five years. Flavin and Hacias also were named to the Academic All-WHAC team for their work in the classroom.

Carrico recently completed her Madonna career and ranks second all-time in rebounds. Wydryck, a rising junior, is a two-time All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference pick and was second on the Crusader squad this season in scoring, averaging 10.31 points per game.

“USA Athletes International contacted Coach (Carl) Graves and he put us in contact with them to get the ball rolling,” said Wydryck prior to her departure. “I’ve always wanted to go abroad and thought this would be a cool way to see other parts of the world. On top of that I get to play basketball. It just shows you how much basketball opens up opportunities for you. I also hope this broadens Madonna University’s presence in the world, since Christie and I are a quarter of the team.”

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Learning in Poland by Andrew Walawender

There are many different countries available where Madonna students can study abroad. Being 100 percent Polish, it was really a no-brainer for me where I would go. Prestigious Jagiellonian University, Poland’s oldest, offered a great summer study program, and the classes counted toward my business major. I chose the four-week program. Each program required one class in Polish. I spoke zero Polish, so I was placed at the beginner level. I also took the history of and geography of Poland classes which met three times a week. After an eight-hour flight from Detroit and a layover in Amsterdam, I finally arrived at the University. I really did not know what to expect when I arrived, but the program was impressively organized, and all the staff spoke English very well. This was a huge relief, as the language barrier had been a big concern for me. I received my itinerary for the summer session and was given my room key. Already I could tell that this was going to be the experience of a lifetime.

The dormitory rooms were actually suites divided between four students. We shared a bathroom and a balcony. The students were from various countries, but the majority of them were from the United States. My roommate was from Estonia, and our suite mates were from France, and Grosse Pointe, Michigan! As the summer session progressed, I met more than ten Michiganders. The staff and students made me feel welcome.

On the weekends, students went on guided tours of historical places throughout the country. These destinations included a scenic mountain range, medieval castles, and even Auschwitz, the Nazi concentration camp. The trip to Auschwitz made an impression on everyone. It made me appreciate where I live, and how members of my own family fought for their freedom and that of others.

The social aspect of my study abroad program was incredible. The university is located minutes away from Krakow, one of the most lively and student-friendly cities in Poland. The city is filled with dance clubs, live concerts, piano bars, jazz bars, and various restaurants with food that was just amazing. Shows were performed in the middle of the town square every night and there was never a dull moment.

After more than a month in Poland, I was very happy that I spent half the amount of money that I thought I would. The program included three meals a day in the cafeteria. We never had the same meal twice in a week, and almost every meal was excellent! My study abroad in Poland was one of the best learning experiences of my life! From meeting various types of people, to seeing historical sites like Auschwitz, I learned that the American way is not the only way to live. Looking back at the program, it really made me a better person. I think every college student should try to study abroad.

The former Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz.

This Warsaw street performer waits for a tip before striking a new pose.

Andrew’s cousins play at his Uncle’s farm in Gdańsk, Poland.

Why Madonna?

PATRICK MOORE ’03
Director | Sports Information

“I tell everyone that I have the best job in the world,” said Patrick Moore, sports information director (SID) at Madonna. “I get paid to work and write about sports, to see great athletes compete and go on to achieve their goals, and best of all, I get to work with people I consider friends.”

A 2003 graduate of Madonna’s journalism and PR program, Moore transferred from a larger school. “Professors know you by name at Madonna,” said Moore. “Classes were so small that professors knew if I wasn’t there. You don’t get the same personal attention at a big university.

Neal Haldane’s journalism classes really prepared me for the real world,” he added. Outside the classroom, Moore acquired more hands-on skills working with Madonna baseball coach Greg Haeger, and as a writer for the Madonna Herald. His senior year he served as the paper’s editor.

That’s why I came back here to work in 2007; because I knew the people.” When Matt Fancett (former SID) left, right before the Blue & Gold Awards and the start of the fall 2008 season, Moore found himself working 20-hour days, and living on energy drinks, McDonalds and Mt. Dew, to get everything done. “It’s all worth it when you see how happy the students are, and when you watch them succeed. That’s what it’s all about.” The mild-mannered, silver-penned SID is not looking for recognition. “If no one knows who I am, it’s a good thing. It means I have done my job right.”

KAREN ROSS
Dean | College of Social Sciences

“Free parking,” Karen Ross quipped, when asked “Why Madonna?”

The University’s longest serving dean (since 1991) and professor of gerontology went on to share her honest and deeper reasons for staying at Madonna for 30 years. “I care about the University, and it has allowed me to continue to be challenged and to develop personally as well as professionally.”

A physical education major, Ross’s first real job was at a senior center in Farmington Hills, where she learned to be a supervisor. When she first came to Madonna in 1979, she taught activity therapy courses to gerontology students, and she loved it.

She earned a master’s in adult education with a specialty in aging/gerontology, and an Ed.D. “I was here seven days a week.”

Today, she intentionally separates her personal and professional life, while enjoying the variety of people and responsibilities she manages. “The more years of life experience I have, the more important it is that I work and serve in an environment that aligns with my personal values,” said Ross, who believes trust and respect are important. “I have the perfect job,” said the dean who sees the glass half-full.

“My job is to advocate for and to empower the chairs of the College of Social Sciences, as well as the staff and faculty, to do the best job they can — using a nose-in, hands-off approach,” she said. The passionate leader enjoys identifying her staff’s strengths and creating a workload that utilizes them. “That way success is more likely at all levels. At Madonna, I find meaning and fulfillment in doing what I can to facilitate the success of others.”

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

Madonna University’s Franciscan Center Dedication

Madonna’s first stand-alone building in 40 years and Livonia’s first certified green building.

Thursday, October 15, 2009
4:30 p.m. Building dedication

Hosted by
Madonna University Board of Trustees
Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, CSSF, president
Most Reverend Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, celebrant
honored guests
His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida
His Eminence Edmund Cardinal Szoka

Get event updates, subscribe to the E-News or watch a simultaneous Webcast at www.madonna.edu

Please call 734-432-5589 for more information