TWO MOUNT FRIENDS HONORED WITH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Henry “Hank” Bowman made a $30,000 gift to the College in November to establish the Carla Wright Bowman Memorial Scholarship for an outstanding student majoring in science. The endowed scholarship honors his wife Carla (pictured above, far right) who was a student at the Mount in 1952 and 1953. Carla, who went on to be a science teacher and chair of the math and science departments at Mission College in Sylmar, died in 1993, the morning after she and Hank celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

If you would also like to make a difference in the life of a deserving Mount student by establishing an endowed scholarship, please contact Joseph M. Zanetta, vice president for institutional advancement, Mount St. Mary’s College, 10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007-2598. Call (213) 477-2766, fax (213) 477-2763 or e-mail jzanetta@msmc.la.edu.

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Bryan Doherty, Jr. and Jacqueline Powers Doud, president.

Carla Bowman teaching at Mission College.

The Helen Claire Doherty Endowed Scholarship was funded by the estate of the late Helen Claire Doherty. Bryan Doherty, Jr., administrator of his aunt’s estate, is pictured above with President Jacqueline Powers Doud in November after he presented her with a check for $220,000. It was nearly 20 years to the day that Helen Doherty took her brother Bryan Doherty, Sr.’s advice and designated in her will that the residue of her estate be used to establish a scholarship. Helen’s sister-in-law, Mercedes Mahoney Doherty, was a graduate of the class of 1946, and over the years, Helen heard about the excellent education she received.

Two new endowed scholarships honoring individuals will provide financial assistance to worthy Mount students in the years ahead. One was provided through a bequest and the other by an outright gift—two different ways of making a difference for deserving students who are pursuing their educational goals.

The Helen Claire Doherty Endowed Scholarship was funded by the estate of the late Helen Claire Doherty. Bryan Doherty, Jr., administrator of his aunt’s estate, is pictured above with President Jacqueline Powers Doud in November after he presented her with a check for $220,000. It was nearly 20 years to the day that Helen Doherty took her brother Bryan Doherty, Sr.’s advice and designated in her will that the residue of her estate be used to establish a scholarship. Helen’s sister-in-law, Mercedes Mahoney Doherty, was a graduate of the class of 1946, and over the years, Helen heard about the excellent education she received.

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Overcoming the Quantitative Fear Factor

By Arcelia Gonzalez ‘01

“My junior year was a real struggle, especially the fall semester, but I determined to do well. I had two killer courses (biochemistry and physics) and was doing research for the first time. These two courses were particularly difficult because they involve quantitative answers to problems, and my math skills had been one of my main obstacles during general chemistry. Again, I spent a lot of time with Dr. Stemp, working on biochemistry labs and homework problems before his 8 a.m. class. With my hectic schedule, there was almost no downtime during the semester. I was being pulled in all directions, trying to meet obligations with my clubs, classes, job, and family.

When the spring semester of my junior year began, I came back with renewed determination. I battled through physics and kicked into high gear in research lab, working day and night with my partner, Mary Staney ’00, to put together a top-notch poster for the American Chemical Society Meeting in San Francisco that March. By this time I was really involved in lab and wanted to experience a summer research program. Dr. Stemp was delighted and encouraged me to apply at various institutions. After months of anticipation, I was accepted to the University of California, San Francisco, and the California Institute of Technology.

I decided to attend Caltech’s Minority Undergraduate Research Fellows Program, in Dr. Stemp’s lab on their campus. Aside from the many rigorous hours that were put into lab, I also had to study for the DAT (Dental Admissions Test), often putting in 12-hour days. But once again, Dr. Stemp didn’t let me down. He not only taught me the techniques that were needed to perform my research, but also took the time to help me prepare for my DAT. Every morning we would set aside time for us to go over questions in chemistry and organic chemistry. His help was a great support that inspired a tremendous amount of confidence in me.

I now wait to hear from several dental schools. So far, I have been accepted to Marquette University and still hope for the best. I feel that I have come a long way as a student at the Mount, but not without the help of my parents and people like Dr. Stemp, Ms. Chubbic, and Arcelia Gonzalez. After starting out as a frightened freshman, the Mount’s nurturing environment and instructors have transformed me into a confident and solid science student who is ready to begin the next step in her life.

Arcelia Gonzalez ’01 overcomes her fear of math and science with the help of Associate Professor of Chemistry Eric Stemp.

Ann Meyers Drysdale to Speak at Commencement

Retired Los Angeles Laker and 2002 National Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Ann Meyers Drysdale will speak at Commencement May 14 at the Shrine Auditorium. Drysdale has served as a sports analyst for several networks, including ESPN, CBS, NBC, and Fox, and as a commentator for SportsChannel, Prime Ticket, SportsTime, and Sportsvision. After an illustrious college and professional athletic career, she was inducted into the UCLA Hall of Fame, National Basketball Hall of Fame, Women’s Sports Hall of Fame, and the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame. Drysdale has three children, one of whom is named for her late husband, Hall of Fame pitcher Don Drysdale.
J. Robert Vaughan and daughter, Sister Kieran Vaughan '94, after receiving his honorary degree.

In Memory of J. Robert Vaughan

J. Robert Vaughan, former trustee of Mount St. Mary’s College since the 1960s when two of his three daughters, Sisters Kieran ‘94 and Judy ‘98, were educated here. He served as a member of the College’s Board of Trustees from 1979 to 1983 and became the first trustee emeritus. He was also a member of the Regents Council and the Mount Associates. His expertise and guidance were instrumental in strengthening the College. In 1997 the College awarded him the degree of doctor of humane letters, honoris causa, for his dedication to the Mount’s mission to educate students from all walks of life and cultural traditions, and for his inspiring leadership as a trustee and regent.

Vaughan also served as president of the Tom and Valley Knudsen Foundation, and on the board of directors of numerous philanthropic, religious, and civic organizations, including the Fritz B. Burns Foundation, Los Angeles Beautiful, Independent Colleges of Southern California, and Daniel Freeman Hospital.

**Mount Student Named Gates Millennium Scholar**

Jazlyn Zapanta, a freshman social science major, has been named a Gates Millennium Scholar from among 62,000 nominated individuals. She will receive funds for the cost of tuition, fees, books, and living expenses for the 2000-2001 academic year. The Gates Millennium Scholars initiative, funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was created in September 1999 and is aimed at increasing the number of low-income, high-achieving African American students who attend college. The goal is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for thousands of outstanding students to reach their full potential.

The initiative is administered by the United Negro College Fund in partnership with the American Indian College Fund, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, and the Organization of Chinese Americans who represent the Asian Pacific American community.

**The Gift of Giving**

Every year since 1982, Warren Ackerman (a.k.a. Santa Claus) has visited the Child Development Center at the Mount’s Doheny Campus and given gifts to the children. Last year was no exception, as he stopped by in mid-December and gave each of the more than 70 children some thing he always has: an apple, an orange, a candy cane, cookies, and a toy. The tradition began when Ackerman’s daughter Laurie ‘84 was a student at the Mount. “My mom and dad went to an open house at the Doheny Mansion,” she recalls, “and in class the next week. Sr. Imelda D’Agostito ‘85 said, ‘I took one look at your dad and knew he would be the perfect Santa Claus. It’s his greatest holiday gift. He gets such a thrill when he gets that phone call each year. I am so proud of him and happy to share my own personal Santa Claus.”

Gaston’s Market donates the perishable items and 83-year-old Ackerman provides the toys. The children’s faces light up when they sit beside him and he gives them the dolls and trucks. “When you see the faces of the children, you see the real face of Christmas,” Santa-Ackerman says with a hearty smile. “There is no greater gift.”

**Making of the Cathedral Series Concludes in April**

The unique four-session program The Making of the Cathedral, focusing on the impact of the new Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, will conclude April 28 at the Mount.

The theme for the session is Religious Place and Urbanism and will address questions such as: How does a cathedral effectively take its place in the urban and economic environment of a city? Is the Cathedral of Los Angeles in the right place? Session leaders will be Nathan Cherry, MAUD, AIA, RTKL Associates; Susan M. Georgi, MSBA, past president, California Redevelopment Association, community development director, Bank of America, and Kathleen H. Head, MBA, MAUP, principal, Keyser Marston Associates, Inc.

Under the direction of Alexis Navarro, RM, director of the College’s Graduate Religious Studies Program, the first three sessions were a great success. Admission is $15 for the final session and reservations are recommended. For further information, contact the Graduate Program in Religious Studies at Mount St. Mary’s College, (213) 477-2640, or at grsst@msmc.la.edu.

**In the Classroom**

By Margaux de Leon ’01

“S urvivor” doesn’t have it, “The Mole” doesn’t either, and “Temptation Island” doesn’t even come close. Reality, history, drama, and scandal only in Political Science 138—International Law. A combination of history and political science, this course introduces students to international law by examining its history and development. More importantly, students then apply what they have learned by participating in trial simulations. This semester, one of these will be the infamous Nuremberg trial.

As the benchmark for judging international crimes, the Nuremberg trial brought high-ranking Nazis to justice at the end of World War II. It was the first trial in history to prosecute criminals on the grounds of wartime atrocities, offenses against humanity, and crimes against peace. The trial began on Nov. 20, 1945, and lasted two years. At its conclusion, the International Military Tribunal (IMT) with judges from 11 nations, convicted all 21 defendants.

Douglas Becker, lecturer, history/political science, has been researching war crime trials for his doctoral dissertation, and specifically chose Nuremberg because of its magnitude and importance to international law. He decided that conducting trial simulations as part of the course would be an ideal tool of experiential learning. He states, “Doing is better than watching,” then goes further by quoting the Chinese proverb, “I read, I forget; I watch, I forget; I do, I remember.” He expects the course to provide students with the same experience they would receive by participating in Mock Trial, an organization that routinely studies and recreates trials. “The majority of the students enrolled in the course are political science and prelaw majors, and this may be their only opportunity for participating in comparative jurisprudence, understanding the rules of the court. This type of simulation will be valuable preparation for them if they plan to continue in law school,” he continues.

Nicole Williams ’01, a pre-law major, signed up for the class because she was “interested in learning about where international law came from and the forces behind its creation.” She states, “I also want to know where it’s going and how it’s going to evolve, so that I’ll have an indication about how international law might affect my life.”

In the coming weeks, Williams and her 24 classmates will be assigned roles as a Nazi defendant, an IMT prosecutor, or an IMT judge when they recreate the Nuremberg trial in the Campus Center on the Chalon Campus. Court session begins April 25, 2001.

**Applause**

The College Art Association (CAA) has selected Irene Cotchelle, faculty, art, to be chair of its professional practices committee. She will serve as chair until Aug. 2002.

Lena Rivkin, lecturer, art, wrote an article, “Visual Thinking: Interpreting the Fine Art of Doddlng,” that was published in the Nov./Dec. journal of The American Handwriting Analysis Foundation.

Marcos McPeek Villatoro, Fletcher Jones Chair in Writing, did a reading at the eighth annual “Share Our Strength” reading conference Nov. 17 in Las Cruces, NM. His latest book, “Home Killings,” was published in March.

Frankie Lennon, lecturer, English, wrote three behavior change, group-based curricula targeting men and women of color for the Health Education Department of Minority AIDS Project, a Los Angeles non-profit organization.

The curricula are being used in programs funded by the Center for Disease Control.

Douglas Becker, lecturer, history/political science, presented “Creating, Sustaining and Fundraising for Your Model UN,” at the America West Model United Nations Symposium Nov. 19 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Chris M. Antons, director, institutional research and assessment, was elected as the Independent Colleges Representative to the California Association for Institutional Research for 2001.

Katy Murphy, assistant provost, has been honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the Admissions and Guidance Assembly of the Western Region of the College Board.
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The Mount Named Vice President for Administration and Finance

A
fter a nationwide search, Neil Yoneji was appointed vice president for administration and finance effective February 1, 2001. Yoneji served as interim vice president beginning in September 2000 and supervised the departments of auxiliary services, controller/business, human resources, and physical plant.

“During his tenure as interim vice president, Neil Yoneji distinguished himself as a person of high moral and professional character and effected a number of positive changes in the College’s finances and operations,” says President Jacqueline Powers Doud. “We are gratified to have someone with his level of achievement and experience join our team.”

Neil Yoneji

New Grants

The Fletcher Jones Foundation has awarded the Mount a grant of $250,000, which helped the College meet a challenge grant for science endowment by The W. M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles. (see story on page 16). The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles Province, have given $100,000 to the College to enhance the named Sisters of St. Joseph Endowed Scholarship Funds. The College to enhance the named Sisters of St. Joseph Endowed Scholarship Funds. Los Angeles Province, have given $100,000 to the College to enhance the named Sisters of St. Joseph Endowed Scholarship Funds.

A Salute to ubilarians

The Mount commemorates the following for their significant contributions to the College as they celebrate Jubilee years as Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet:

Sister M. Constance Fitzgerald 70 YEARS Sister M. Leonard 60 YEARS Sister Mary Louise Collette 50 YEARS Sister Margaret Anne Vonderheide 50 YEARS Sister Maura Jean Parsons 50 YEARS Sister Kathleen Mary McCarthy 50 YEARS Sister Anita Joseph Aragon 50 YEARS Sister Marie Bernadette Walsh 50 YEARS

8 bridges

Remembering the Past for the Sake of the Future

By Laura Zaragoza Guerrero

Triumph of the human spirit was eloquently conveyed in the Chalan Little Theatre the evening of March 5 as the Schidlof Quartet performed renditions of music created in the concentration camp in Terezin, Germany, in the 1940s.

Part of the Mind and Spirit series celebrating the 75th anniversary of the College and the inauguration of President Jacqueline Powers Doud, the performance and panel discussion, Terezin: Creating Meaning in the Face of Despair, served to promote awareness of and appreciation for the extraordinary music created by some of Europe’s most gifted artists who were incarcerated in the camp between 1941 and 1945.

A backdrop for a carefully constructed propaganda campaign by the Nazis, Terezin was designed as a village, complete with building facades, to give the impression that Jews had nothing to fear in Germany. To this end, Nazi authorities permitted a wide range of cultural activities in the camp where, despite inhumane living conditions, composers used art to find courage and hope to survive. In despair, despair does appear in the music written in the camp. It is music that celebrates life and looks it right in the face. Viktor Ullmann, composer and Terezin inmate, said: “By no means did we sit weeping on the banks of the waters of Babylon … our endeavor with respect to art was commensurate with our will to live.”

Sadly, once the camp served its purpose, it was closed down and most of the prisoners were shipped to death camps. Of the 140,000 people transported to Terezin, 33,000 died from starvation, lack of medical care, disease, or torture. Of the 87,000 people transported from Terezin to the Nazi death camps, five percent survived. Of the 15,000 children who passed through Terezin, only 13 survived.

The panel discussion was led by Nick Strimple, leading performer of Holocaust music. Fred Simonelli, chair and associate professor in the Music Department of History and Political Science, and Rabbi Mark Borenstein, rabbi emeritus of Bir’ah Tikvah Congregation in Los Angeles, spoke of the history of the concentration camp, Simonelli discussed the Catholic Church’s reaction to the plight of the Jews during the Nazi era, and Rabbi Borenstein offered a personal and religious perspective of the Holocaust.

The Schidlof Quartet mesmerized the audience with excerpts from the Bacek Brothers’ Terezin Ghetto Requiem; Viktor Ullmann’s String Quartet No. 3; Op. 46; and Mendelssohn’s Quartet in A Minor, Op. 13. Bartone Richard Lalli vocalized portions of these selections.

writers’ series features acclaimed novelist Cristina Garcia

“If I read poetry every day before writing for sheer pleasure, and for the inspiration I get from the juxtaposition of words,” revealed acclaimed novelist Cristina Garcia at the College’s Spring 2001 Writers’ Series presentation on March 7, part of the Mind and Spirit events celebrating the College’s 75th anniversary. After a question-and-answer session in the Chalon Campus Center—where she spoke to students, faculty, and staff about the writing process, characterization, symbolism, and the difficulties writers often face—Garcia read from her novels “Dreaming in Cuban” and “The Agro Sisters” to a standing-room-only audience in the Joe Studs-Batia Art Gallery.

The Writers’ Series is hosted by Marcus McPeek Vitton, Fletcher Jones Endowed Chair in Writing, and Jody Baral, chair of the Art Department. In his introduction of Garcia, Vitton said, “She says a great deal in a few words; her words are local, but her voice is heard worldwide.”

Born in Cuba, raised in New York, and now a Los Angeles resident, Garcia attended Barnard College and the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. She was a Guggenheim Fellow, a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University, and the recipient of a Whiting Writers Award. She became a political journalist, most notably as Time Magazine’s bureau chief covering Miami, Florida, and the Caribbean. The story of a Cuban woman and her separate responses to the revolution, was nominated for a National Book Award and has been widely translated.

For English major Amanda Prince ’02, editor of the Mount’s literary magazine, meeting Garcia was an enlightening experience. “It is encouraging to know that a writer of her caliber has daily struggles and that we all share the same mentality about writing,” she said.

Vitton, a sophomore English major, realized that Garcia’s writing works for a different reason. “As a ‘hypothetical person’ she is encouraging to me; going back to your roots can be awkward but fulfilling, and reading about someone else’s experience is inspiring,” she said.

Two New Worthy Funds Established

The College has established the David L. Missey ’77 Memorial Fund to honor the memory of the former director of the Graphics Department. Missey had just earned his master’s degree in counseling psychology from the Mount in May 2000 when he was diagnosed with cancer. He died in November 2000. A gift to the College is being planned in his name.

The Sister Margaret Rose Cafferty ’57 Fund, in honor of the well-loved sister who died suddenly in January 2000, has been created and is being used for student health needs on the Doheny Campus.

Gifts to the Missey or Cafferty funds may be sent to the following addresses: please identify the fund by name in your correspondence:

Institutional Advancement, Mount St. Mary’s College, 10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007.
The Mount Takes Part in E-Fair
The traditional job fair, where company representatives set-up booths on college campuses to recruit students, is a thing of the past. Replaced by the e-fair, this newest trend in employee recruitment takes place in cyberspace—and Mount St. Mary’s has joined the bandwagon.

The Mount and five other schools organized the event in which 250 companies set up a virtual booth by posting job openings online. Registered students are able to view job descriptions and submit resumes 24 hours a day.

In addition to offering full-time job opportunities to students, the fair includes part-time positions and internships. Student registration began in March and the e-fair will be accessible on the Internet through May 4.

The other five schools participating in the event include Whittier College, Biola University, Chapman University, the University of Redlands, and Woodbury University. For more information, call (562) 908-0955.

Mount Hosts Mayor Riordan’s Neighborhood Convention 2001
The Mount hosted Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan’s Neighborhood Convention 2001 at the Doheny Campus on Saturday, February 24. The event provided a forum for Angelenos to exchange ideas and address concerns regarding neighborhood improvement and involved more than 100 students and volunteers from the College. KNBC-TV’s Christopher Nance emceed the plenary session.

The key to our success as a city is to keep working together to revitalize our neighborhoods. Separately we are diverse communities but together we make up the vibrant, cultured mosaic that is Los Angeles,” Mayor Riordan said.

President Jacqueline Powers Doud said in introducing the mayor, “It is fitting that we convene this event at the Mount—a place where service to the community has been central to our mission since the College’s founding 75 years ago. This event helps ensure that local action in our neighborhoods translates into a more robust and unified city called Los Angeles.”

The event featured lively opening ceremonies with a Mardi Gras theme, complete with a zydeco band. President Doud appeared on the local TV news that evening dancing with Mayor Riordan.

ASB President Margarita Rivas ’03 led the pledge of allegiance and children from the Mount’s Child Development Center sang songs to the mayor to open the session. The Neighborhood Convention was made possible, in part, by the support of MSMC, McDonald’s Corporation, and Playa Vista Corporation.

Fritz B. Burns Foundation Awards $1.5 Million to MSMC
The Fritz B. Burns Foundation announced in December it will award $1.5 million to the Mount to endow the Fritz B. Burns Professorship in Education in the College’s Department of Education.

“We are pleased to recognize the value Mount St. Mary’s College adds to our community through its programs in education,” says Joseph E. Rawlinson, president, and W.K. Skinner, executive vice president of the Fritz B. Burns Foundation.

“This professorship will enhance the College’s ability to prepare teachers and educational leaders during this time of critical need throughout the region, the state, and the nation.”

Jacqueline Powers Doud, president, says, “A study unveiled before a State Assembly committee recently pointed to the critical shortage of teachers in California’s public schools, specifically the Los Angeles Unified School District, where over one-quarter of its teachers are currently without a credential. This grant will be invaluable in furthering the mission of ensuring that the region’s classrooms—both public and Catholic—are occupied by highly qualified teachers.”

The Fritz B. Burns Foundation, which funds a host of educational projects and institutions in the region, was created in honor of legendary real estate developer Fritz B. Burns, who was responsible for much of the development of greater Los Angeles, particularly Panorama City and Westchester. The foundation was a major donor to the Mount’s $12.5 million Sister Magdalen Coughlin Learning Complex, which was dedicated in 1998 and includes the Fritz B. Burns Health Education Building.

$2000 per year for every mathematics course taken after the ninth grade.

If one doubts the importance of mathematics in everyday life, consider that starting salaries go up by 30% for majors in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. Its principles and techniques, along with computers, have become part of almost all areas of work, and its logic is used in thinking about almost everything.”

Of the 4.6 million U.S. citizens currently employed in science and engineering, only 39 percent are women. Most of these, however, are in the life sciences and psychology. Only four percent are employed in engineering, the same as in physics—the most mathematical of the sciences. The prestigious Fields Medal for mathematics—considered comparable to the Nobel Prize—has never been awarded to a woman. The American Mathematical Society, founded in 1889, didn’t have a woman president until 1983.

In terms of role models and stereotyping, while white males represent about 40 percent of the population, they represent nearly 80 percent of the scientists portrayed on prime-time television. Women and minorities, on the other hand, are represented at a ratio of about half their percentage of the population.

A’s Tobias, writes, “Mathematics is no longer just an entry-level prerequisite for engineering, the physical sciences, or statistics. Its principles and techniques, along with computers, have become part of almost all areas of work, and its logic is used in thinking about almost everything.”

Tobias points a finger at social and institutional barriers as the causes of women falling behind men in these fields. Young girls internalize the lowered expectations of their parents and teachers, and they become self-fulfilling prophecies—because girls are led to believe they can’t succeed, they don’t. Overcoming these and a variety of other barriers women students face has been at the core of the Mount’s mission since its founding. The stories that follow—as well as that of student Acelia Gonzalez ‘01 in the M.Y. Turn section on page two—point to the Mount’s success in fulfilling its commitment to fostering excellence and achievement by women in math and science.
Eleanor D. Siebert, chair and professor of physical sciences and mathematics at the Mount, has what it takes to develop intellectual and professional competence in her students. Just ask the Society for College Science Teachers (SCST) and the Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company which selected her as the 2001 Outstanding Undergraduate Science Teaching Award winner.

In addition to being honored at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in March, Siebert received a grant and will present the Marie Gardener Lecture at the 2002 SCST/NSTA National Convention in San Diego, California.

What's her secret? "I have been a member of the faculty at the Mount for more than 25 years, and my mission in teaching is largely mirrored by the mission statement of the College," explains Eleanor D. Siebert, chair and professor of physical sciences and mathematics at the Mount. "The College has a special focus on 'the education of women for participation and leadership in our society' and a commitment to the view that professional life is one of service, and my philosophy of teaching is to empower students to reach these goals.'"

Siebert is gifted with the ability to develop enthusiasm for the study of science and mathematics in her students, while also providing them with the encouragement and support needed to succeed in these difficult courses.

Her students agree. "With a background in industry and now academia, Professor Siebert is a great resource for the unique fuses these two areas to allow chemistry to be a subject that is approachable and fascinating to science and non-science students," says chemistry major Beatriz de Guia '01. According to Donna Daigdigan '98, Siebert's guidance and mentoring helped her get to where she is now, in her third year of the doctorate program at the USC School of Pharmacy. "I feel very honored to have had Dr. Siebert as my mentor and professor and I cannot stress enough the impact that she has had in my life, as well as in the lives of the many students that she has taught," she says.

Siebert's goal with all students in her science courses is to provide them with an understanding of the world, so that they will come to the point of wanting to know more. "Specific strategies that I use in teaching can be based around five 'e-words,'" she says, "enthusiasm, engagement, expectations, encouragement, and Eleanor."

She explains each word as follows: "Students feel there must be something worth knowing if I am enthusiastic about my subject. Unless students engage in the learning process, science will never be an integral part of their lives, so I try to engage them at all levels. I also have high expectations of my students and I believe that with appropriate learning resources they will be able to tackle problems in creative ways. Additionally, encouragement offers students the support they need to meet high expectations. Lastly, this strategy points to the awesome responsibility that is mine in instilling students to maximize potential in whatever field they choose to enter and help them gain what is in many cases a different way of looking at the world."

Siebert's teaching emphasizes a time when the Mount St. Mary's is placing renewed emphasis on the teaching of science, an area of longstanding strength at the College. President Jacqueline Powers Doud says of the recognition: "We are bursting with pride upon learning that Eleanor Siebert is being formally recognized and honored for her many years of extraordinary service to undergraduate students, particularly women, and to the science profession. A distinguished chemist and faculty member, she values teaching as a high calling and is credited with an enormous contribution for her leadership and publications in the field of science education." Siebert's many contributions to the College include serving as chair this year of the steering committee for reaccreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

She explains, "Research is an approach to problem solving that requires a special and almost contradictory combination of qualities: individual initiative, yet teamwork; imagination, yet caution; openness to new ideas, yet skepticism; perseverance, yet an ability to conclude and purpose, yet flexibility to consider new questions that may arise. These are ideal qualities for a teacher and for students. I believe that, by the habits of mind honed by engaging in research, make me a better teacher—and the students who engage in research are better empowered to be life-long learners."

A Model Teacher and Her Teaching Model

BY LAURA ZARAGOZA GUERRERO

Professor Eleanor Siebert's enthusiasm and encouragement are key to her teaching success.
Kristina Dam ’96

When she was a student at the Mount, Kristina Dam ’96 was selected for a summer research project at the Inhalation Toxicology Research Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she participated in studies examining the toxicity of manufacturing byproducts. That experience convinced Dam, a biochemistry major, to pursue more advanced research in toxicology.

She enrolled at Duke University in North Carolina where she was awarded an Environmental Protection Agency Science to Achieve Results (EPA STAR) fellowship, which supported her graduate studies. Within four years, she earned a doctorate degree in pharmacology and toxicology.

Dam focused on the effects of pesticides on the developing brains of young animals (which serve as models for children) in an attempt to help regulatory agencies make informed decisions on establishing safety guidelines for children’s exposures. “I realized that safety testing generally views children as ‘small adults.’ Clearly they are not, and that is why we need to examine specific events that are unique to younger animals and determine how these toxins adversely affect them,” she says.

For her doctoral thesis, “The Developmental Neurotoxicity of the Pesticide Chlorpyrifos, Mechanisms and its Consequences,” she explored the use of an insecticide commonly used at home and in agriculture to eliminate termites, roaches, and other pests. Her research confirmed that there were indeed biochemical and behavioral changes that took place in the developing young upon exposure to this pesticide. So significant were her findings that they were published in four scientific publications, and contributed to the EPA’s phasing out of chlorpyrifos for home use.

Dam is currently a research scientist at the University of Washington in the Department of Environmental Health and is involved with the Child Health Center where she is setting up a laboratory to look at behavioral effects of pesticide exposure on young animals. Eventually, she hopes to work for a pharmaceutical firm involved in the safety testing of new medications.

She looks back with gratitude to her education at the Mount. “The College gave me a good scientific basis to go on to develop more advanced skills,” she says.

Mary Steryo ’00

Mary Steryo ’00 was a biological science major with a pre-med emphasis at the Mount. When contemplating graduate programs during her senior year, a friend told her about the Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) of Applied Life Sciences, the seventh and newest of the Claremont Colleges. Established in 1997 by The W.M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles, KGI enrolled its first class in August 2000, comprised of 28 of the most highly qualified students in the world. Steryo is among them. Currently in her second semester, she is pleased to be a part of the inaugural class with its all-new approach to emerging discoveries in the biosciences.

“Our classes cover diverse topics that I never thought I’d have the opportunity to study,” says Steryo. “We are being trained as generalists in the emerging fields of applied life sciences, so all 28 of us (from 11 states and six countries) take the same courses together. We can be in a finance, or project management course one day, and a pharmaceutical development or engineering course the next day.”

Looking ahead to when she earns a master of bioscience degree (MBS), Steryo is considering the area of bioinformatics, which would involve using the human genome to create medications for specific health problems, or working as a project manager for a pharmaceutical company managing clinical trials.

She attributes her preparedness for this program to her undergraduate research opportunities with Eric Stemp, associate professor, Chemistry. “My science education at the Mount was very stable and focused,” she says.
The Right Chemistry for Successful Research

By Laura Zaragoza Guerrero

You don’t have to be a scientist to understand the importance of DNA. From deciphering a person’s genetic makeup to unraveling clues to a crime, DNA has become a major component in scientific breakthroughs. At the Mount, Associate Professor of Chemistry Eric Stemp is leading the way in DNA research—and his students are catching his contagious enthusiasm for the science.

“We are currently studying oxidative damage to DNA, which is one of the main causes of cancer and other molecular diseases, such as Parkinson’s disease,” explains Stemp. Oxidative damage occurs thousands of times a day in each of the body’s cells when free radicals attack our DNA, but we are able to counteract that damage by taking vitamins C and E. “The overall goal of the research is to investigate the events that occur when DNA becomes damaged, so that we can better understand the beginning of diseases,” he continues.

In addition to conducting research at the Mount, Stemp recruits Mount students to conduct summer research at Caltech where he continues to work with his postdoctoral advisor, renowned scientist Jacqueline Barton, with protein-to-DNA electron transfer. When asked about how well Mount students have executed this research, Stemp exudes overwhelming pride. “They have done an outstanding job,” he exclaims. “It is challenging work, from both an intellectual and technical standpoint, but they have proven to be very capable. I couldn’t have asked for better students; they’ve been very dedicated, very responsible, and a lot of fun to work with.”

Students also have much to benefit from the research. “One of the best things about this project is that it is multidisciplinary, bridging the fields of molecular biology, biochemistry, physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and organic chemistry,” explains Stemp. “The research is as diverse as the students who carry it out, and this helps them to be versatile as scientists.”

According to Stemp, a new student starts out by reading articles and selections from textbooks, then watches older students perform experiments. There are also weekly group seminars where one group member gives a 20- to 30-minute presentation on research or related topics. After a semester, the student usually has a reasonably good grasp of the project. “The end result is a student who is confident in her ability to function as a scientist. We also try to publish our results regularly, and a journal article is an excellent addition to a grad or med school application,” he says.

Acknowledging that many incoming Mount students have a fear of math and science, Stemp comments, “In general, I think the Mount does an excellent job in training students in the sciences, despite their math and science anxieties. At local and national conferences, our students match up quite well with students from other schools. The one area where we could improve is developing their quantitative skills more, and that is one of President Doud’s goals for us as an institution.”

An example of Stemp’s success in training his students in the sciences lies in how one of his projects received funding. “My first research project at the Mount involved green fluorescent protein, a molecule used to visualize structures within the cell,” he explains. He submitted two external grant proposals for this project in 1996, but neither was funded. However, the Mount provided him with a professional development grant, which enabled him to get the project off the ground. “One of my students, Kim Nguyen ’01, a biochemistry major who came to the Mount with no lab experience, played an important role in getting $250,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for our research,” he recalls. “She performed the initial experiments that showed the hypothesis was sound, and these data were included in the grant proposal. The fact that a freshman conducted these experiments was critical in convincing the grant reviewers that our project was feasible at a small school,” he proudly explains. In addition to the NSF grant, Stemp received a $35,000 Cottrell College Science Award from Research Corporation, a nonprofit organization that supports chemistry and physics research at undergraduate institutions.

How is Stemp able to prepare his students so well? “He is dedicated and will work with you as long as it takes to help you understand,” explains Alexis Luers ’02, a biochemistry major who chose to attend Mount St. Mary’s after meeting Stemp while visiting the campus. Kristina Kurbanyan ’02, also a biochemistry major, explains how Stemp helped her overcome her anxiety with lab. “I had never taken a lab course in high school and had a lot of anxiety about it, but Professor Stemp gave me direction and even offered me the opportunity to do research at Caltech one summer, which boosted my confidence level.”

Eunice Rivas ’02 feels that Stemp gave her the opportunity to prove to herself that she has what it takes to be a biology major, and she claims that he is the best professor she has ever had. “He motivates his students and keeps believing in them, even when they don’t believe in themselves,” she says. “As far as he’s concerned, no star is too far for anyone to reach. He is the kind of instructor that makes people want to attend small colleges.”

Stemp’s students agree that he has motivated them to tackle difficult courses with his sheer enthusiasm for science and dedication to teaching. Their respect, admiration, and affection have garnished him three major teaching awards during his tenure at the Mount. He was selected Outstanding Faculty of the Year twice, in 1996-97 and in 1997-98. He was also selected as the Institute for Student Academic Enrichment (ISAE) Faculty of the Year for the Chalon Campus in 1998-99. “This award was especially meaningful to me because it came from students who had to overcome a lot just to go to college,” he says. “It makes me feel like I am making a difference, and that’s really what we are about at the Mount—one making a difference.”
The Mount  Spring 2001

College Meets Keck Challenge

In 1999, The W.M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles awarded a grant of $700,000 to the College to purchase equipment and to provide an endowment to strengthen biological and physical science programs. The initial $400,000 was designated for the purchase of computer hardware and software, molecular biology equipment for teaching labs, and faculty development activities for redesigning the biological and physical science programs. The remaining $300,000 was allocated for a matching grant that would provide an endowment for maintenance and upkeep of the new equipment, and would be received when the College raised $600,000. A luminae and friends of the College supported the challenge with enthusiasm. Their gifts, combined with a generous grant of $250,000 from the Fletcher Jones Foundation, completed the science endowment in December 2000, providing a fund of $980,000 to keep the science laboratories and programs up to date.

Meanwhile, great changes took place in the science departments when the new equipment was installed. Workstations in the teaching and research laboratories, molecular research and teaching equipment, computers with access to scientific information and databases such as those maintained by the National Institutes of Health were added. More than 85 new multi-media and CD-ROM presentations containing the latest information on scientific issues were also produced.

Additionally, the Keck grant enabled the physical and biological sciences faculty to receive in-service training on the new technology, attend conferences and seminars on the latest research, give presentations on computer technology in the classroom at national conferences, and use available resources more efficiently.

Students have embraced the state-of-the-art equipment because it gives them more opportunities to learn material interactively. "The College opened my eyes to the field of biomedical research," says sophomore Janis Santos. "Our new lab is designed so that each person can participate in problem solving. Having participated in a research group has made me a better student overall. I really feel that I am moving forward and preparing myself for graduate school." ☁

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Class Notes

16 The Moun t Spring 2001

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Enjoying the Golden Grill Heritage Society Christmas luncheon in the Doheny Mansion are (seated left to right) Viola Corbett, Erika Orth Owens ’50, and Regina Cavalli ’57. (standing left to right) Jane Zentara, vice president for institutional advancement, Pat Elder Gath ’87, Kerby Gath, and Nila Patterson.

Linda Cox Stellern is retiring after 35 years of teaching. She is still teaching a third grade transition class in Pasadena. She enjoys being in stage shows with the Shakespeare League.

Carol Kroll Babbitt completes 30 years as an industrial hygienist for the Department of Defense this year.

Jodi Monroe Light visited Tehran, Shiraz, and Isfahan in Iran. Highlights of the trip included talking with the women and visiting the ancient capital of Persopolis, as well as seeing artifacts from the 5th millennium B.C.

Kathleen Hermann Hilty is in her 10th year teaching fourth grade in San Gabriel. She and her husband enjoy golf getaways.

Rosemary Strane Mancano traveled to Italy last April where their daughter was working on a master’s degree in the Mediterranean.

Kitty Carter is now a full-time support provider for beginning teachers in the Antioch Unified School District. This past year she went on a mission trip to an orphanage in the Philippines.

Mary Kessler La Croix’s son has graduated from the California Maritime Academy as a marine engineer. She is now in her 10th year at the Redding Medical Center Laboratory.

Pam Huldebrandt Lipton visited Australia last year and spent two weeks in Sydney enjoying the Olympics.

Toni Propst is an independent healthcare consultant specializing in clinical resource management and case management.

Carole Ann Heick (’62) has returned to substitute teaching in Bay Village, OH.

Joan Wright DeFreese is the only discharge planner in the county jail system in Portland, OR. She says it is “a challenging and very interesting clientele and environment.”

Barbara Rice Waterkotte will travel to Europe this year as the nurse for approximately 200 high school orchestra students as part of the Arizona Ambassadors of Music, performing in six countries in 17 days.

Diane Morgan West and her husband have completed six years as full-time Rvers, and plan to continue. The past summer they volunteered in Yosemite for 10 weeks.

Deborah Lasseter is now a full-time support provider for beginning teachers in the Antioch Unified School District. She has served as an elementary school advisor and mentor to new teachers in various schools in the district.

Thos Von der Ahe Brown has taken her recently-widowed mother on a cruise around the world and on a cruise to the Mediterranean.

Kitty Carton and visiting the ancient capital of Shiraz, and Isfahan in Iran. Highlights of the trip included talking with the women and visiting the ancient capital of Persopolis, as well as seeing artifacts from the 5th millennium B.C.

Carolyn VanDuzer has retired from Italy, France, and Spain.

Mary Porter Stember after 37 and a half years of teaching. She is now living in Camp Verde.

Maryann Dobbs after 35 years of teaching. She is Mary K. Norton Butler and is now living in Camp Verde.

Robert S. Feller, Jr. has finished the 300-hour internships for the marriage and family therapist license and is starting a private practice in Salinas and Monterey. A second volume of his book will be published in March.

Mary Costa Pietrowski lives in Malibu, California. Her family owns a dairy farm, and she works part-time as a nursing instructor at the local adult school.

Adrienne Allman still lives in Flagstaff teaching in early childhood at Presidio Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills.

Louise Karch Raya enjoys her position as a college advisor at Lane High School. She and her husband plan to visit the Ivy League colleges during her husband’s sabbatical at spring.

Virginia Betts Phillips is working in two emergency rooms, one in Midwest and the other in Thousand Oaks. She is working with other Mount Sinai.

Adelie Zarate Sikoba is a sector and executive director at Holy Angel and she is also on the Red Cross disaster team.

Enjoying the Golden Grill Heritage Society Christmas luncheon in the Doheny Mansion are (seated left to right) Viola Corbett, Erika Orth Owens ’50, and Regina Cavalli ’57. (standing left to right) Joe Zentara, vice president for institutional advancement, Pat Elder Gath ’87, Kerby Gath, and Nila Patterson.
Two by Two
The Alumnae Association extends best wishes to the following alumnae and
their spouses.

98 Elizabeth Guerra Kelemen has been
tiled to a kaleidoscope theme center in Las
Vegas. She has passed the emergency
nurses certifications exam and is
obtaining her CEN certificate. She and
her husband spent the holidays in Italy
and France.

99 Sheryl Lynne Sailer is working in labor
and delivery full time at Queen of
Angels/Holy Family Medical Center.

00 Choo Lee is a production specialist II
with Genentech Regeneron Inc. She
plans to go to graduate school, is
honing her photography skills, and is
trying to rekindle her talent in playing
the flute.

Requiscant
This is to announce the repose of the
souls of:

86 Andrew David to Dawn CeiDillos
Harlow, 1st child
88 Larkie Aye (real to Stacey
Gunderson Kinvara, 1st child
90 Julian Vincent to Martha Ramirez, 1st child

Mount Leads the Way in Cancer Research
I was known as the first course of its kind in any college or university in the world in
the late 1940s. The Mount's Cancer Research Department was inaugurated in February
1948 with the mission of producing the most urgently needed workers of the time—
cancer research technicians.

Sponsored by the Frank H. Boyer Foundation for Cancer Research and under the
guidance of foundation director, Joseph A. Polla, the course trained students to become
technical assistants for doctors engaged in cancer research. Faculty teaching the course
included Sisters Gertrude Joseph Cook and M. Gerald Leahy of the Biological Sciences
Department, Sisters Mary Jo and Alice Marie of the Physical Sciences Department, and
Sister M. Marqueta Elard of the Home Economics Department.

So great was the demand and interest, that by September 1949 the course was
expanded into a full department to embrace all the different lines of attack on cancer.

And students would have no problem finding a job. “Even while they are taking the
course, all the girls who wish to work during summer vacations will find themselves greatly
in demand,” Polla was quoted as saying in a Los Angeles Examiner article in 1949.

Mount students conduct chemistry experiments in a Chalon lab in the 1940s.
April
Saturday, April 21 • 10 a.m.
Second Annual Youth Summit on Peace
Doheny Campus
Local youth and organizations will explore ways to prevent violence in their communities and promote peace.
To learn more about the program, visit the Mount's Web site at www.msmc.la.edu/urbanpartnership/ysop.htm.

Saturday, April 28 • 2 p.m.
Mary's Day
Chalon Campus

May
Friday, May 11 • Noon
Alumnae New Grad Luncheon
Chalon Campus

8 p.m.
Weekend College Awards and Graduate Reception
Chalon Campus

Saturday, May 12 • 1 p.m.
Laurel Day
Doheny Campus

7 p.m.
Graduate Hooding
Doheny Campus

Sunday, May 13 • 4 p.m.
Baccalaureate Mass
Mary Chapel

Monday, May 14 • 7 p.m.
Commencement
Shrine Auditorium

June
Friday-Sunday, June 22-24
Spa Weekend
Chalon Campus

Invigorate your mind, body, and spirit at this weekend event which promises to be fun, relaxing, and enjoyable. For more details, call Fitness Education, (310) 954-4347.

July
Saturday, July 14 • 9:30 a.m.
Los Angeles Central Public Library
Join the Alumnae Association in a docent-led tour of gardens, buildings, and the rare book collection. For registration information, call Alumnae Relations at (213) 477-2767.