A Golden Celebration
The 50th Anniversary of the Mount's Nursing Program
Marguerite Boster has juggled her passion for nursing and nursing education with her family’s needs since she earned her B.S. degree. When vocational or practical nurses began to supplement degree nurses during the nursing shortage that followed World War II, Marguerite taught obstetrical and gynecological nursing. She also trained students in pediatric nursing during the 1953 polio outbreak—before the Salk vaccine successfully eradicated the disease. Later, students learned psychiatric nursing from her at the Veterans Hospital in Westwood.

While raising her family, Marguerite volunteered for Red Cross inoculation programs and earned a master’s degree. Prior to her husband Bob’s retirement, when the couple began to travel more, they started thinking about how they could personally affect the future of nursing.

“I think quality nursing education is vital. Right now California is the state with the lowest number of schools turning out nurses,” says Marguerite Boster when explaining why she and her husband established the Robert D. Boster, Jr., and Marguerite S. Boster Charitable Remainder Trust currently valued at $225,000.

The couple will continue to receive a seven percent monthly income stream from the trust funds, as well as tax benefits, for the remainder of their lives. Their financial strategy includes the future addition of a retirement plan to the trust principal, which one day will fund a professorship in nursing at the College, helping it maintain its 50-year tradition of graduating outstanding nursing professionals. Marguerite and Bob’s charitable gift planning has ensured the continuation of Marguerite’s passion for high quality nursing education as well as the receipt of personal financial benefits. You might say it’s a healthy, wealthy, and wise decision on their part.

If you would like to join Marguerite and Bob Boster in making a difference in the Mount’s future via a charitable gift planning opportunity, please contact:
E. Marita Sheeran, director of major and planned gifts
Mount St. Mary’s College, 10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007-2598
Call (213) 477-2740, fax (213) 477-2763, or e-mail msheeran@msmc.la.edu
ON THE COVER: 1950s nursing students in academic procession  
PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNT ST. MARY’S PHOTO ARCHIVES
The Good News

I am happy to share with you much good news at Mount St. Mary’s College. Recent studies indicate that Americans have grown more reflective over the last few months and are taking more time to realize and appreciate the blessings in their daily lives. Working on both of our campuses has given me an opportunity to see how much the Mount community has to be thankful for, and the milestones we celebrate in 2002:

- The 50th anniversary of the graduation of the inaugural class in nursing. Mount St. Mary’s College was the first institution to establish a baccalaureate degree program in nursing in Southern California (see story on page 12).
- The 40th anniversary of the Doheny Campus, which welcomed 220 students to the associate in arts program in 1962. Today our centrally located, vibrant campus offers associate and graduate degrees, education credentials, and health care and religious studies programs to more than 750 students.
- The 30th anniversary of the original associate in arts degree program in nursing (ADN) and the 10th anniversary of the current ADN program established by Sister Anne Joachim Moore, CSJ, in 1992. This program meets the needs of adults returning to college who are unable to attend during the traditional daytime hours or who are going into nursing as a second career.
- The 10th anniversary of the Weekend College, which began with 90 students and had an all-time high enrollment of 330 students this spring.

It gives me great pleasure to announce our first doctorate program with a doctor in physical therapy degree, which will begin this fall. Taught on our Doheny Campus, this three-year program, accredited by CAPTE, will enable our graduates to become skilled practitioners of the highest quality (see story on page 11).

We already are feeling a positive impact from two major grants awarded to the College last year. Through our Title V grant, “Improving Access and Success for Hispanic Students,” 40 first-year students have been paired with faculty and peer mentors, and 12 faculty members have recently completed an online course on gaining a deeper understanding of the Latina culture (see story on page 8). This grant has also afforded 12 faculty members the opportunity to enhance at least one of their courses by employing new technology. A generous gift from the Tenet Healthcare Corporation for scholarships for nursing students will help us to continue to prepare the finest nursing professionals in the nation (see story on page 11).

Our Campus Diversity Initiative sponsored by the James W. Irvine Foundation continues to provide an impetus for examining pedagogy among our faculty, offering peer-mentor support to some of our students of color, emphasizing quantitative literacy across the curriculum, and increasing the ethnic diversity of our faculty and staff.

In March, I had the great pleasure of signing a memorandum of understanding with President James Kossler of Pasadena City College to kick off a new pre-professional teacher preparation program. You can read more details about this innovative program on page 6.

We have reactivated our Regents Council, which includes several alums who bring fresh, new ideas to this group, which works so diligently to promote the interests of the College and support its fundraising efforts.

While alumnae gifts to the College are larger this year, we lag behind our peer colleges in the percentage of those who give. To those who gave, I extend our thanks for helping us advance the mission of this great institution. The chart on this page indicates where we are in our fundraising efforts this academic year.

I wish you and your families a very wonderful and safe summer. I look forward to bringing you more good news in future issues.

Most Sincerely,

Jacqueline Powers Doud
President

Development Summary Report AS OF MAY 20, 2002

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My curiosity about my Native American heritage began to grow in the summer of 2000 when I attended a powwow with my mother. Then I was fortunate to have a Native American literature class through Weekend College where Wanda Teays, chair of the philosophy department, introduced me to wonderful authors like Sherman Alexie. I also enrolled in a prison literature class with Ellen Campbell, lecturer, Weekend College, which made me even more aware of the injustices that Native Americans have suffered. After my experiences in the Weekend College, I knew I wanted to get more involved and help the Native American community any way I could.

Last fall, I took the opportunity to find an organization where I could help make the greatest difference. I chose The Helping Hands of Wounded Knee. On November 11, fellow volunteer of the organization Pat Perkins and I first corresponded and by the end of the month my first shipment of six boxes of donations was on its way. I chose this organization because of the great need within the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Families there live in overcrowded, substandard conditions—no insulation, with some sleeping on dirt floors. Many do not have running water, stoves, refrigerators, heating, or plumbing. In January 1997 there was a minus 60°F wind chill and then-President Clinton declared it a disaster area. Rapid City, the closest town, is about two hours away and the nearest gas station is over 20 minutes away. Living in Los Angeles, this is hard to comprehend. When most people need something, they just hop in their car and pick it up. In Wounded Knee, families have to plan, budget for gas, and pray that the roads are passable in order to get desperately needed supplies.

After learning about conditions in Pine Ridge and corresponding with Pat, I knew that with a little networking I could help her help the community. My first move was to e-mail all my friends and ask for donations to help cover the shipping costs. I thought that many people would be willing to donate if it was made simple, and I was right. Many of my Weekend College friends and professors were most gracious and helped make my efforts a tremendous success. I compiled nearly 20 boxes of warm clothes and Christmas presents to send. I also had the honor of putting together stockings for the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade classes at Our Lady of Lourdes School, a reservation school supported entirely by donations. Additionally, I have begun to sponsor an eight-year-old girl on the reservation. I truly believe that for every child that has a happy day, the reservation’s future will be brighter.

Currently, I send approximately eight boxes of donations a month to the reservation. To my delight, I traveled to Wounded Knee in May for a week to see how I could be of greater help by assisting in grant writing or anything that was needed. I have always believed that one person can make a difference. Providing a warm coat or clothing for one child makes for one less child who is cold and suffering. Providing school supplies for one child allows one more child to focus energy on studies, rather than suffer the shame of not having even the basics for school. It is inspirational to me that amid the challenges that face the Lakota people, they struggle to retain their culture, traditions, and language. It makes me very proud that I can help my community here in Los Angeles bring blessings and joy to the Lakota Sioux community in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Indeed, being part of The Helping Hands Project of Wounded Knee has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

Moore is a former Weekend College student.
Mount Partners with Getty Museum to Create New Approach to Viewing Art

When she was planning the syllabus for her art course Renaissance Through Romanticism, Art History Instructor Irina Costache considered ways to make the class more meaningful for her 22 students. She could use the traditional methods, lecturing in a dark classroom, showing slides of significant works, and assigning readings in a textbook. But Costache wanted the art “to come alive” and be a vibrant part of students’ lives. Then she had an inspiration: what if she could show examples of this rich, significant 450-year period in art by showing her students representative works in the galleries at the J. Paul Getty Museum?

A call to Elliott Kai-Kee, education specialist for college audiences in the education department at the Getty, was answered with great enthusiasm. For the first time in the history of the College and the J. Paul Getty Museum, the two designed a course, which in addition to traditional lectures on the Chalon Campus, included five three-hour sessions at the Getty where students listened to private lectures in the galleries about specific works as well as explanations about the selection of art, display techniques, and museum management.

For their final assignment, the students were asked to design a game to teach art history to others, and they presented their projects in the museum’s conference rooms to the class.

Many in the class were education majors who created games to teach elementary students, while others crafted activities appropriate for adults learners. Inspired by their “eyes on” experiences, the projects reflected television game show techniques, interactive computer matches, board and card games, and activity workbook competitions.

Noting that this was an experimental class, Kai-Kee told the students, “We really didn’t know what to expect when we started this, but your projects are really clever. Your knowledge shows that you really learned about art.”

Ari Easley ’02 created a model of an interactive international campus Web site dedicated to college students that would translate information about art into several languages at the touch of a button. On behalf of the class, she thanked Kai-Kee and the Getty staff. “We had to arrange our schedules to come here on Friday afternoons, but we were eager to do it,” she said. “I will always look at museums in a different way.”

Proudest of all was Costache who was beaming throughout the project presentations. “To be able to turn what you learn in a classroom into a real-life project that benefits and teaches others is the best example of what education is meant to be,” she told her students.
Applause

Eleanor Siebert, chair/professor, physical sciences and mathematics, has a short recollection published in the book We Are Not Afraid, by Homer Hickam (author of October Sky), which focuses on Appalachian philosophy and values pertinent to these times of uncertainty in our nation.

Michael Cooper, instructor, sociology, has been named the supervising deputy probation officer for the San Gabriel Valley Regional Placement Unit in the L.A. County Probation System.

Julia Chang, assistant professor, physical therapy, was selected to be a member of Strathmore’s Who’s Who for 2002-2003. Her paper, “Two-dimensional gel analysis of secreted proteins induced by interleukin-1beta in rat astrocytes,” was published in the November 2001 issue of the Journal of Neurochemistry International.


Mary Ann Bonino, College professor-at-large and founding/artistic director of the Da Camera Society, has been appointed chair of the 2004 National Conference of Chamber Music America. This opportunity to shape a national dialogue on the future of chamber music will commence this year when Bonino assumes the role of vice chair of the 2003 national conference.

Katherine Whitman, assistant professor, business administration, had her article, “China to Break Water Sector’s Traditional Dependency,” published in the October 2001 issue of Water and Wastewater International.

Wanda Teays, chair, philosophy, had the second edition of her textbook, Second Thoughts: Critical Thinking for a Diverse Society, published this spring.

Delores Stevens, lecturer, music, released new professional recordings which include a DVD of Brahms Quintet, a CD of Ned Rorem’s music, one of Maria Newman’s concertos, and Hindemith’s bassoon sonata.

Reminiscing About the OTA Program

Founder of the Health Options Program in Education (HOPE) program, Sister Anne Joachim Moore, CSJ, reflects on the closure of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program in this letter to director Holly Wills.

Dear Holly Wills:

How pleased I am to have received your kind and most welcome suggestion that I send a note to share in your community observance of the closing of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program. Thank you!

How I wish I were with you. So fondly do I reminisce about my wonderful experience at Mount St. Mary’s—most fondly of my experience on the Doheny Campus, and now, nostalgically of the occupational therapy program. Even with changes, inevitable over a period of years for a lively developing endeavor, my devotion to the campus, and today, in a mighty surge of fond memories, to the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, I send you my fondest good wishes.

The MSMC Occupational Therapy Assistant Program did not just spring up full-blown. Indeed at first it took some doing to convince the professional association of its value, prepared and controlled by the professional occupational therapy faculty members. My joy (and occasional stress) at working with the California professional occupational therapy community stays with me still. Changes in all health care fields these past 20 some years remind us of the need to be acutely aware and responsive to such changing needs. With that in mind I commend your vision in this move out of the program, after two decades or more of splendid service to the profession and to the community. There were enough bumps and challenges along the way to make the whole venture lively, challenging, exciting and very rewarding.

So, with entirely up-beat, joyful hearts let us welcome our fond, warm memories and rejoice in our experience and recollection of the important contribution of Mount St. Mary’s and its faculty to the Los Angeles area, the professional field, and the splendid groups of students who registered and completed the program, and now enhance the entire field of health care.

Thank you for inviting me—God bless you entirely.

Anne Joachim Moore, CSJ
The Mount in the Media

Mount St. Mary's recently received the following media coverage:

**Los Angeles Times**—published a story by James Flanigan, Mount trustee and senior economics editor and business columnist at the Times, about the business sector providing financial support to charities and educational institutions, including MSMC (Dec.).

Also in the Times was a story about the Mount being one of 45 higher-learning institutions nationwide with significant Latino populations that competed to receive $19.1 million in grants over the next five years. Mount St. Mary's College received $1.8 million (Sept.).

The Times also published a music review about a recital by violinist Andrew Manze and harpsichordist Richard Egarr, which was part of the Da Camera Society's Chamber Music in Historic Sites series (Dec.).

Also in the Times was a story about Dolores (Dolly) Sloan, Mount English instructor, on her Salon Discussions "Jewish Women from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century." The article also discussed Sloan's upcoming book *A Sephardic Love Song Tales in Light Shadow* (Feb.).

**Hispanic Magazine**—quoted Carlos Chavez, instructor, business administration, in a story about keeping a job in times of downsizing. Chavez discussed how Hispanics are used to the business culture of their homeland and tend to become isolated in the workplace (Nov.).

**The Tidings**—published a story about Vivian Burgess '52, a parishioner of Transfiguration Church in Los Angeles, who was presented with the Cardinal's Award by Cardinal Roger Mahony in February for her many years of service to the local church. Burgess is a member of the Mount's inaugural nursing class (Sept.).

The Tidings also published a story about the Irvine Foundation donating $1 million to MSMC and quoted President Jacqueline Powers Doud on the school's commitment to education (Sept.).

Also in the Tidings was a story about Jamal and Bushra Nasser, MSMC employees, who talked to a panel of 150 students about arranged marriages and the Muslim faith during Muslim Awareness Week (Nov.).

**NurseWeek California**—quoted Sister Carol Purzycki, coordinator of the accelerated BSN program, in a story about first-career vs. second-career students. Sister Carol discussed how second-career students are more motivated to learn the skills because they're adult learners (Dec.).

Agreement With PCC Will Bring Future Teachers to the Mount

The Mount ushered in a new era of collaboration with local colleges when President Jacqueline Powers Doud and Pasadena City College President James Kossler signed a memorandum of understanding March 8, 2002, which kicked off a new pre-professional teacher preparation partnership between the colleges.

The new program will allow PCC students to earn their associate degree there, then transfer seamlessly to the Mount, where they can complete their baccalaureate degree with a multiple subject credential or preliminary education specialist credential.

Anne Wilcoxen, director of the MSMC Department of Education, told representatives at the ceremony at PCC, "We look forward to welcoming your students and rejoicing in their success."

President Kossler echoed her remarks when he said, "We have 30,000 students and one of the problems we often hear is they don't know what they want to do. We want to help them get from here to there and provide answers when they ask, 'What do I do next?'"

"When students come from PCC to the Mount," President Doud said, "they will have a very inclusive, diverse experience." She also credited Sr. Kieran Vaughan, CSJ '64, coordinator of the liberal studies major in the associate in arts program at the Doheny Campus, for her tireless efforts in implementing the program.
West Meets East

In China, we hear about America’s great multicultural ‘salad bowl’ and I feel fortunate to have experienced this salad for myself,” explained Wang Wenyu, professor of English at Nanjing University, in Nanjing, China, during her two-week visit to the College in February. Wang, or “Wendy,” her English name, is the first faculty visitor in the education department’s Bridging Cultures: U.S./China Connections Program.

Established in 2000 by Nancy Pine, associate professor and director of the elementary education program, the program provides Mount students with opportunities to become familiar with the historically rich and rapidly changing People’s Republic of China, adds publications to increase the College’s library resources, and provides independent study opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. “The Pacific Rim is a dynamic force in international affairs; this program provides Mount students with several ways to increase their knowledge about it,” says Pine.

Wang was awed by the beauty of the Mount’s two campuses and enjoyed being at an American college.

During her visit, Wang conversed with students, spoke in sociology, business, and education classes, attended undergraduate, graduate, and Weekend College classes, observed programs at the Child Development Center, visited the Institutional Advancement offices and the Center for Cultural Fluency, and saw many sites in Los Angeles. Residing in Yates House with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet on the Chalon Campus, and in the homes of several faculty members, she witnessed and experienced daily American life, enjoyed a Super Bowl party, tried foods unknown in her country, and discovered how few Angelenos use bicycles for transport.

At the same time, she enlightened the Mount community about China and student life at Nanjing University. In a lecture about the linguistic approach to teaching/learning Chinese, Wang engaged students with an account of character writing and demonstrated how vocal tones give different meaning to words. She encouraged students to study Chinese by explaining, “You only need to know about 1,000 of these characters to get by in China.”

Michelle King ’02, sociology, heard Wang speak several times. “She opened my eyes to an entirely different world and introduced me to a culture I haven’t had much contact with. I particularly enjoyed hearing about the educational system in China, and learned much about the country.”

Wang was awed by the beauty of the Mount’s two campuses and enjoyed being at an American college. But some things that we take for granted truly amazed her. “The faculty, staff, and students are so well equipped at Mount St. Mary’s College,” she said. “There are many supplies and good equipment for everyone: lots of paper, computers, office machines, and even videoconferencing classes! But most of all, I am impressed with how friendly Americans are. I didn’t think they would be so kind and helpful.”
During her few free minutes between teaching classes and holding office hours on the Chalon Campus, Sister Teresita Espinosa, chair of the music department, turned on her computer, clicked onto the Internet, and did her homework.

From his home in Pasadena, in the early morning hours while caring for his two-year-old son, Scott Bryson, assistant professor, English Department, turned on his computer and worked on his assignments.

Both faculty members were part of a class of 11 who volunteered to take the College’s first-ever online course, “Expanding Possibilities: Moving Toward a Deeper Understanding of the Latina Culture,” through the use of Blackboard software. The course was created to meet the guidelines of a Title V grant awarded to the Mount and other Hispanic-serving institutions of higher learning by the United States Department of Education. Designed to improve access and success for Hispanic students, the five-year grant focuses on student learning, and combined faculty development in technology and Hispanic culture awareness.

Following these directives, the online course was developed and taught by Makela Brizuela, instructor of modern languages and culture, Debbie Giunta, director of the Center for Cultural Fluency, and Jennifer Yee, assistant provost. Each week for six weeks, a specific theme was offered online and participants were required to spend 15 minutes a day, four days a week choosing their own activities from a list of readings, videos, self-help lessons, excursions to Hispanic stores, museums, movies or restaurants, and television novelas in Spanish. They also were asked to interview one Latina student as a means of creating a personal connection with her. According to Giunta, the 11 faculty visited the site more than 11,000 times during the six weeks, where an electronic discussion board gave them a place to share their thoughts.

“I like the idea of choosing my own experiences... choosing my own stories... going to places I haven’t been to in many years,” shared Sharon Golub, nursing instructor. “But most of all, I appreciate the comments from the other faculty.”

Espinosa wrote, “We have been given the opportunity not only to deepen our understanding of Latin American culture at its roots, but also of our own students as we converse with them now at a more personal level.”

The class met in person only twice: once at the beginning and again at its completion when participants celebrated at a Mexican restaurant, followed by a visit to a salsa dance club.

“The faculty development cohort is engaged in what has been a successful learning experience in integrating technology into their teaching,” says Larry Smith, associate provost and Title V project coordinator. “Now they will be able to encourage and influence other faculty to explore technology in the classroom and participate in the grant in the years ahead. Having been students in this online class, they will be better prepared to give their students an edge in learning.”

Class members and teachers assemble for the first time, back row left to right: Makela Brizuela, modern languages and culture; Frankie Lennon, English; David Leese, business administration and English; Debbie Giunta, Cultural Fluency Center; Sister Darlene Kawulok, religious studies; Sister Teresita Espinosa, music; Scott Bryson, English; and front row: Madeleine Bruning, nursing; Lance Skidmore, physical sciences and mathematics; Sister Annette Bower, biological sciences; and Karen Perkins, biological sciences. Not pictured are Sharon Golub, nursing; Debbie Lowe, physical therapy; and Jennifer Yee, assistant provost.

In a Class of Their Own

Class members and teachers assemble for the first time, back row left to right: Makela Brizuela, modern languages and culture; Frankie Lennon, English; David Leese, business administration and English; Debbie Giunta, Cultural Fluency Center; Sister Darlene Kawulok, religious studies; Sister Teresita Espinosa, music; Scott Bryson, English; and front row: Madeleine Bruning, nursing; Lance Skidmore, physical sciences and mathematics; Sister Annette Bower, biological sciences; and Karen Perkins, biological sciences. Not pictured are Sharon Golub, nursing; Debbie Lowe, physical therapy; and Jennifer Yee, assistant provost.
Two Juniors Receive Rockefeller Fund Fellowships

Future teachers Aracelie Garcia ’03 and Veronica Leon ’03, are recipients of the 2002 Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowships for Students of Color Entering the Teaching Profession. The fellowships are offered to top minority undergraduate students in the arts and sciences who wish to pursue a graduate degree in education and to teach in American public schools.

Garcia, a transfer student from East L.A. College, has worked as an assistant teacher in a kindergarten class. The Los Angeles native explains, “My parents were born in Mexico and were never given the opportunity to receive an education. I want to become a teacher so I can expose my students to the benefit of an education and give to others the opportunities that were given to me.”

Born in Reedley, Calif., to seasonal farm workers, Leon spent her early days helping in the fields. “Growing up I saw how children in my community couldn't go to school because they had to stay home to take care of siblings or help their parents,” she says. “I want to mold children into education-loving individuals who will continue to establish successful careers in which they can be financially stable.”

Both students are liberal studies majors and were selected from a pool of applicants from 25 prestigious colleges and universities across the country based on qualities that indicate their potential to become good teachers: exceptional academic performance, strong written and oral communication skills, and a commitment to public service.

The award includes a $2,500 stipend for a summer teaching project to be completed this summer, a stipend of $12,000 for one year of full-time graduate study or $16,000 for two years of fulltime study. Upon completion of a graduate program, fellows who begin work in public school classrooms as credentialed teachers will be assisted with loan repayments of up to $1,200 annually for up to three years of continuous teaching.

“We are very proud to have these young women join our cadre of 15 Mount students who since 1992 have been awarded Rockefeller Brothers Fund fellowships,” says Anne Wilcoxen, director, education department. “They will continue the Mount tradition of making a significant contribution to the education of California youth.”

Remembering Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

Mount St. Mary’s mourns the deaths of the following Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet:

Sr. Angeline Martinez spent 50 years in active ministry, many of which were as a cook and kitchen supervisor at the Mount.

Sr. Davida Conlan earned a bachelor's degree in English from the Mount, her master's degree in English from UCLA, and completed graduate work at the University of San Francisco. She was a poet and painter, and taught English at the Mount during summer sessions many years ago.

Sr. Ruth Ellen Daly earned a bachelor's degree in English from the Mount, her master's degree in English from UCLA, and completed graduate work at the University of San Francisco. She was a poet and painter, and taught English at the Mount during summer sessions many years ago.

Sr. Patricia Clare Mullen taught in the English department and was dean of the Associate in Arts program in the 1970s.

Sr. Naomi Mullen worked in the library for a number of years in the 1970s.
Entrepreneurship Day

Maria de Lourdes Sobrino, founder, president, and CEO of LuLu's Dessert Corporation (right), gives samples of her products to freshmen Alejandra Valenzuela (left), and Jacqueline Ortiz (center) at Entrepreneurship Day on the Chalon Campus in April. Students from four local high schools joined Mount students at the event, which was sponsored by the Business Administration Department and the Student Ambassador and Women’s Leadership Programs. Sobrino, affectionately called “LuLu” by her family, explained how she started her business by making 300 cups of gelatin a day by hand in the 1980s. Today she employs more than 100 people, and expects to sell 130 million cups of gelatin this year in addition to 44 other dessert treats. “Always think positive, dare to be different, learn from your mistakes, and never let anyone tell you that your dreams are impossible,” she told the audience of more than 100 students.

Entrepreneurship Day was sponsored by a grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation.

The Power of COACH

By Jacqueline Rodriguez ’02

During the spring of 2001, I had the opportunity to participate in the Community Outreach Assistance for Children’s Health Program (COACH) through Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Madeleine Bruning ’76, our pediatric instructor, was actively involved in providing services to local communities through this program which is designed to reach out to medically underserved communities. We provided immunizations, conducted lead testing, and offered patient education. My involvement with this program enriched my pediatric experience and inspired me to contemplate a career in public health.

The intricacies and dynamics of this inner-city community offered me a positive hands-on experience with an extremely diverse group of children and their families. My classmates and I reached out to the community at their doorstep and educated them about the signs and symptoms of lead poisoning. We then encouraged these families to participate in testing at our on-site COACH van. This program implemented preventive measures at an early age in an effort to curtail and possibly eliminate potentially harmful problems these children may face in the future. Through this experience, I was enlightened by the multifaceted dynamics that defined these families’ lifestyles. Understanding the daily challenges they faced, we were able to intervene in providing medical services. This program made a true difference in their lives.

As we walked door to door, we realized that residents were receptive to the white uniforms and that our knowledge needed to be shared with a community in desperate need of health education. I was enthralled to give back to my community and empowered to know that it was positively received. The sense of gratification I experienced cannot be replicated. It was through the exposure to COACH that the notion of pursuing a career in public health became a possibility.

Having grown up one mile away from the Wyvenwood Projects, which we visited that spring, I was able to relate personally to the residents of this area. Thirty years ago, I may have been one of these children. I am confident that the efforts I made in helping this community left a lasting impression on these children and their parents. I was inspired and astounded at the gratification I received from knowing that I had made a difference in my community. These children left me with a gift of a lifetime and for that I am grateful.

A 2002 graduate of the Mount’s ADN program, Rodriguez is currently working with her interim permit as a research nurse at Women’s and Children’s Hospital (part of County General) while she studies for the National Council licensure examination for registered nurses. She would ultimately like to teach nursing, somehow integrating both research and teaching.
The Mount Offers First Doctoral Degree

With recent accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), the Mount began officially offering its first doctoral degree with the Doctor in Physical Therapy Program.

Designed to produce competent, compassionate, reflective generalist physical therapists prepared for practice in the current and future healthcare environments, this post-baccalaureate degree program offers professional education based on a foundation of liberal arts and sciences. It is a three-academic years (nine semesters) program of academic rigor requiring full-time study throughout the curriculum. Concentration on the basic and clinical sciences is integrated with physical therapy evaluation and treatment/management principles and procedures.

With the recent closure of the Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program and the transition of the Master's Degree in Physical Therapy (MPT) to the doctoral degree, the program has refocused itself based on trends in the industry.

Tenet Gives MSMC $250,000 for Scholarships

Tenet Healthcare Corporation recently gave Mount St. Mary's College $250,000 for nursing scholarships, enabling students in the areas surrounding Tenet's newly acquired Daniel Freeman Hospitals to pursue careers in nursing during a time of critical need in the region, the state, and the nation.

“We are deeply appreciative of Tenet's gift and its ability to enable current and future students to achieve their dreams,” says Mount St. Mary's College President Jacqueline Powers Doud. “It’s timely that they honor us this way, as we celebrate the golden anniversary of offering the first baccalaureate degrees in nursing in Southern California.”

Tenet recently completed the acquisition of the two Daniel Freeman Hospitals in Inglewood and Marina Del Rey from Carondelet Health System. Tenet, through its subsidiaries, owns and operates 116 hospitals with about 28,750 beds and numerous related health care services.

Advisement Director Susan Fread Receives Award

Susan Fread, director of academic advisement, has been selected as an Outstanding Advising Award winner in the Academic Advising Administrator category as part of the 2002 National Academic Advising Association's (NACADA) National Awards Program. She will be honored and presented with the award in Salt Lake City, UT, during the annual NACADA National Conference in October.

Fread is one of six advising administrators honored nationwide with this award which is presented to individuals who have demonstrated qualities associated with outstanding academic advising of students or outstanding academic advising administration. She was chosen on the basis of letters of reference from faculty, administrators, and students, as well as on student evaluations.

According to Fread, seeing students come to their own realization is what she finds most fulfilling. “What I like most about what I do is watching students go from not having any idea of what they want to study to graduating with a clear sense of purpose and direction,” she says.

The goal of NACADA is to promote quality academic advising and professional development of its membership to enhance the educational development of students.

A Salute to Jubilarians

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

80 YEARS
Sister Agnes Marie O'Loughlin

70 YEARS
Sister Sheila McCarthy

60 YEARS
Sister Charlotte Rigali

50 YEARS
Sister Louise Bernstein
Sister Joseph Adele Edwards
Sister Annette Bower
Sister Rose Adrian Peukert
Sister Dolores Cecile Schembri
Sister Catherine Marie Kreta

25 YEARS
Sister Darlene Kawulok

Golden jubilarians Sister Joseph Adele Edwards ’58 (left), and Sister Annette Bower ’59 (right) celebrate their 50-year anniversary as Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet with President Jackie Doud (center).
Laying the Groundwork

“At the time there was a significant need for the program because it had become very important for R.N.s to have bachelor’s degrees,” remembers Sister Genevieve Marie, now retired and living at Carondelet Center. “R.N.s were coming to the College to get their bachelor’s degrees, but the curriculum included only a few science courses.”

Recognizing the need, then-Provincial Mother Mary William sent Sisters Rebecca and Genevieve Marie to Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in 1949 where they earned their master’s degrees in nursing education. “The plan was for us to come back to the Mount to establish the program—Sister Rebecca would be the director and I would be the clinical instructor who would oversee the students in their work at the hospitals,” explains Sister Genevieve Marie.

A credited by the Board of Nurse Examiners of the State of California in February 1950, the four-year program offered a bachelor of science degree in nursing and the public health certificate, preparing the student for state examinations to become a registered nurse.

Much like today, the program combined theory and experience in clinical nursing with a liberal arts and sciences program that emphasized spiritual, intellectual, social, and cultural ideals, as well as community health. Students spent the first two years and intervening summers doing clinical work at St. Francis, St. Vincent’s, Queen of Angels, Brentwood Veterans Administration, or Children’s Hospitals.

The charter class totaled five. “From the beginning our students did very well,” recalls Sister Genevieve Marie. “The Mount worked hard at teaching them basic subjects and at preparing them for the state board exams. As a result, our students always fared well and the program established a good reputation within the health care community.”

Sister Rebecca, who would later go on to earn a doctorate and become the seventh president of the College, passed away in 1999. A few years before her death, while being interviewed for an article about her success with the program, Sister Rebecca made it a point to clarify: “The strength of the department was not a result of the work or inspiration of one person. It was the product of the combined work of the fine faculty, the capable students, the supportive college administration, and the cooperative clinical agencies.”

First Class Memories

They were a unique group, these trailblazers of the nursing program: Vivian Burgess ’52, Maureen Boylan Scherzer ’52, Marie Astier Devine ’52, Mary Ishida Yoshimoto ’52, and Ruby Mae Bunyard ’52, who later became Sister Eugene Marie. Among them were a first-generation Irish, a first-generation French, a first-generation African American, and a first-generation Japanese. Bunyard passed away, but the other four have remained close friends to this day.

VIVIAN BURGESS ’52

Recalling her memories of Sister Rebecca and the faculty, Burgess says: “She moved along silently with strength, courage, and conviction, always believing that the program would be successful. Those are the strengths that we saw exhibited by the entire faculty.”

Years after graduation, Burgess learned of an incident from her classmates that profoundly exemplified Sister Rebecca’s courage and conviction. “When Sister Rebecca approached a local hospital about allowing us to do our clinical work there, they rejected our group because I am African American,” Burgess says. “She stood up to them with dignity and told them, ‘I’ll just take this program elsewhere,’ and she did.” According to Burgess, it was this incident that “engrained in me the strength of a woman who bravely faced the world and society.”

And that was common of all CSJs, according to Burgess: “The CSJs were ahead of their time. Before it was popular to have an integrated campus, they made the effort and commitment to that as Christian women.”

From bedside nurse to head pediatric nurse coordinator to developer of an independent living retirement home for senior citizens, Burgess has overcome many obstacles in her personal and professional life, all the while making significant contributions to her profession and community. For this, she was honored with the Outstanding Alumna Award from Mount St. Mary’s in 1987.
Now retired, she thanks her family and the College for teaching her the importance of treating others with dignity and recognizing differences, the essence of the Mount mission. These lessons learned would carry implications far beyond her college years and would eventually help earn her the 2002 Cardinal’s Award from Cardinal Roger Mahony of the Los Angeles Archdiocese for her “faith and service to her church and community.”

MARIE ASTIER DEVINE ’52
Marie Astier Devine ’52 had always wanted to be a nurse and, with the Mount’s support, that dream became a reality when she became a member of the inaugural nursing class. “I am very grateful to the Mount because it offered me a full-paid tuition scholarship and relieved my parents of that financial burden,” she says.

Devine, a mother of eight children, describes her most moving professional experience as taking place at Baptist Hospital in 1953. It was there that she worked as a nurse in a segregated unit where African Americans were kept in deplorable conditions. “I would decry how horrible it was to treat these people differently from the others who were cared for in a clean area,” she remembers.

Her philosophy in nursing has always centered on a firm belief that “the human touch” is an important part of the healing process. “We need to focus on the patient as a human being, rather than on just the clinical aspect,” she proclaims.

Currently a nurse at Redlands Community Hospital in Redlands, Calif., she credits the Mount’s inspirational and dedicated faculty for its success in teaching its nurses well. “Not only did we learn how to relieve pain, but also how to instill hope in our patients,” she explains. “Nursing,” Devine states, “is a wonderful profession.”

MAUREEN BOYLAN SCHERZBERG ’52
For Maureen Boylan Scherzberg ’52, it was Sister Rebecca’s constant encouragement that helped her develop in her career. “She encouraged us in all areas we chose to pursue and enhanced our individual growth,” she recalls. “It was because of her encouragement that I taught at the Mount for two years after graduating from the program,” she adds.

She also fondly recalls how Sister Rebecca encouraged the group to partake in the decision-making process. “I have great admiration for her and thank her for having had the confidence in us to allow us to make important decisions, like choosing our caps and uniforms. She treated us like adults,” she says. Sr. Genevieve Marie was very supportive, according to Scherzberg, who describes her as “our guiding light, always holding our hand and very persistent so that we learned what we needed to learn.”
After the Mount, Scherzberg earned her public health certificate from UC Berkeley. The years that followed would see her working as an instructor, a flight nurse, a public health nurse, and a nurse practitioner. “The ethical background we received at the Mount,” she says, “prepared us to succeed in whatever field we chose.”

MARY ISHIDA YOSHIMOTO ’52
“We had fabulous training that made us better nurses and enabled us to adjust to different situations,” recalls Mary Ishida Yoshimoto ’52 of her experience in the program. “Other nurses would’ve packed up their bags because of how rigorous the training was, but we hung in there.”

Yoshimoto, who has great appreciation for Sr. Rebecca for having initiated the program, recalls how her encouragement helped the class get through the difficult times. “She would always come talk to us and give us words of encouragement.” A’s for Sr. Genevieve Marie, “She was tough, but we learned a lot from her.”

After graduating from the Mount, Yoshimoto’s career included working at St. John’s Hospital, as a school nurse while raising her two children, at Kaiser, and in the blood service department of the Red Cross. Now retired, she volunteers at two hospitals in Las Vegas three days a week.

Changing with the Times
Since graduating its first class, the nursing program has seen increasing numbers in its student enrollment. And despite the ever-changing trends in the health care industry through the years, the program has earned a reputation for its ability to adapt and prepare its students to perform beyond expectations.

“Our nursing graduates in our accelerated and traditional programs are highly successful and much in demand,” says Colette York, chair, nursing. “Ninety percent of them are employed before graduation, even before they take their board exams, because of the reputation of the College. UCLA likes to boast that they hire 75 percent of our nurses each year.”

“When you go through the liberal studies courses taught at the Mount such as ethics, bio ethics, and sociology, you go into nursing with a holistic approach,” says Sister Carol Puraycki ’71, alumna, assistant chair, and associate professor of the nursing program. “When you treat the mind, body, and soul, you set yourself apart from others who solely deal with the clinical aspect.”

This holistic approach is rooted in the framework of the Roy Adaptation Model, named after Professor Emerita Sister Callista Roy, CSJ, Ph.D., a 1963 graduate of the Mount’s nursing program and its chair during the 70s and 80s. Applied throughout the curriculum, the model teaches the nursing student to recognize that a person is a bio-psycho-social-spiritual being in constant interaction with a dynamic and complex world. In essence, it teaches them respect for human values.

Today, the model is widely used throughout the world, and the most recent edition of Sister Callista’s landmark text The Roy Adaptation Model got medical professionals talking. “I’ve answered hundreds of e-mails and questions from persons at conferences who are very excited about it,” said Sister Callista in an interview about the book in 1999. “They find the edition much more comprehensive and explicit in its focus on values and spirituality.”

But she doesn’t take all the credit. “The Roy Adaptation Model is really a Mount St. Mary’s project,” she said in the interview. “Over the years, 33 people from the Mount have worked on the six editions of the book.”

An Accelerated Path
Mary Caratan Sloper ’62, who graduated from the program and served as instructor, associate professor, and assistant chair, explains how faculty contribute greatly to the program’s success. “The faculty are active in the delivery of health care and, as a result, they change the curriculum to keep up with trends, or oftentimes forecast trends—especially those of inpatient to outpatient and home care,” she says.

Recently retired as chair of the business administration department and named associate professor emerita in nursing, Sloper became the first director of the Mount’s Accelerated Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing Program which she implemented in 1995. “At the time, there were 12 programs already like it in the country, but it was the first on the west coast and only the second west of Mississippi,” she notes.

Designed to meet the needs of those who already have a bachelor’s degree in another discipline but would like to pursue nursing as a career, the program “allows individuals to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing in just a year and fulfill a dream they wouldn’t have time for otherwise,” explains Sloper. “It is very intense and rigorous.”

As for its success, the figures speak for themselves. While the national passage rate of nursing alums taking the boards is around 83 percent, alums from the accelerated nursing program have a passage rate of 98 percent. “[It is another diamond on the crown, another alternative way of delivering quality education at the Mount,” remarks Sloper.

The ADN Program
Committed to meeting the needs of the community by providing options for those wanting to pursue a nursing degree, the Mount also began a two-year Associate in Arts Degree in Nursing Program (ADN), also preparing R.N.s, at the Doheny Campus in 1972. Although the program closed several years later, an ADN program in evening/weekend format opened in 1992. “The program that opened in 1992 was the dream of Sister Anne Joachim Moore,” says Rebecca Otten, director of the ADN program, “who, in keeping with the mission of the college, wanted to serve the community and offer working adults the opportunity to become nurses.” One of only three such programs in Southern California, the ADN program allows working adults to take classes in the evenings and do their clinical work on the weekend, making them eligible to take the state-licensing exam to become an R.N.

Social workers, pharmacists, school-teachers, and even aerospace engineers have enrolled in the ADN program over the last 10 years, according to Otten. “For many students, nursing has been a second career choice,” she says. “Most of them go on to work in doctor’s
offices, clinical settings, or hospitals. Many of them go on to earn a baccalaureate degree in nursing.”

Success, One Alum at a Time

“How do you describe the overall ambiance that surrounds you in describing what influences one’s life?” questions Juanita Quinn ’52, who was the first registered nurse to enroll in the nursing program when it first opened. “The goodness and devotion of the sisters seeped out of them and into us.”

Contracted by the College to serve as a school health nurse in exchange for tuition, room and board, Quinn earned her bachelor of science degree in nursing education in 1952. It was Sisters Rebecca and Genevieve Marie’s influence that would lead her to go on and get her master’s degree. “They were very influential in my education and in my future. Sr. Genevieve Marie taught me how to be a nursing educator and Sr. Rebecca taught me the view of the future and stressed how important it was for me to continue my education,” she explains.

Currently an associate dean for research at UCLA, Woo is quick to note an obvious difference in the Mount students she works with. “They have good critical thinking skills and tend to be individuals who can be future leaders in nursing,” she says. “They carry a reputation of being good problem solvers; they’re not afraid to think ‘out of the box.’”

Echoing the sentiments of many fellow alums, Madeleine Distaso Bruning ’76 says, “We were encouraged to make a difference, even if it was only one life, one day at a time. We were encouraged to be learners for a lifetime, not just one semester.” She credits Sister Joyce Van Ladingham, Sharon Vairo, and Sister Annnette Bower ’59 for “challenging me to think and do the common things uncommonly well.”

The Mount was so close to her heart that when she came back to teach in the A D N program in 1994, she felt like she had “returned home.” Currently an assistant professor in the A D N program, she notes, “Although many aspects of the college have changed, the core value of service to students, the college, and the community have remained authentic and visible in the actions and work of the faculty, the written philosophy, and the mission.”

News Flash—
New MSN Program Announced

As the Mount was going to press, the nursing department announced the opening of a Master of Science in Nursing Education Program, which will begin in September 2003.

The 37-unit program will prepare nurses in advanced nursing theory and provide them experience as nursing educators within the changing patterns of health care.

“Because Mount St. Mary’s College’s nursing department has had such a fine reputation for many years, it seemed appropriate to develop an advanced degree that would become a culminating experience for graduates or prepare them for doctoral studies,” says Colette York, chair of the nursing department and coordinator for the Graduate Program in Nursing. “In addition, the College is meeting the need of its community. The demand for nursing faculty is at a critical point across the country. This is the Mount’s way of offering a viable solution to the profession.”

For information about the MSN program, contact the Graduate Recruitment Office at (213) 477-2676.
Students, faculty, and staff eagerly assembled in the José Drudis-Biada Art Gallery last fall to hear a first-hand account of the movie-making process from Stuart Cornfield, producer of the film Zoolander, which featured Ben Stiller.

The lecture, which also included a viewing of the film, kicked off the Mind & Spirit series of cultural events initiated in fall 2001. Open to the entire Mount community, the series offered opportunities for a wide variety of experiences on both campuses, including lectures, art exhibits, concerts, symposiums, and conferences.

Based on suggestions from faculty and staff, the College’s Cultural Affairs Committee developed the series to:

- Enhance cultural life at the College
- Extend boundaries through excellence
- Provide a variety of experiences
- Be attractive to all MSMC educational programs
- Bring students from both campuses together.

In response to the events of September 11, Muslim Awareness Week was organized by Debbie Giunta, director of the Center for Cultural Fluency, and Maria Lyons, director of student activities for the Doheny Campus. The weeklong program brought speakers, panel discussions, and videos to both campuses in November to explain Muslim life and the Islamic religion.

Musical performances abounded during the holiday season with an all-Baroque Choral Festival, a performance by the Tallis Scholars presented by the Da Camera Society, and the College’s annual Christmas choral concert in Mary Chapel, featuring the Mount Chorus and Chamber Singers.

Offerings in the spring semester began on the Doheny Campus with Annamarie Gallardo, professor of theater, California State University, Northridge, who presented a one-woman show focusing on issues of identity, place, and family called Libro A bierto.

The Larkin Ethics Lecture Series, presented annually by the philosophy department on the Chalon Campus, featured Allison Renteln, University of Southern California professor of political science, who discussed the issue of cultural defense in the law. “The right to culture is a fundamental human right which requires the consideration of culture in the courtroom, though this right has to be weighed against other competing human rights,” she explained.

Mystery fans flocked to the Doheny Campus in February to attend “Ex Libris: a conversation about the mystery as a literary genre” sponsored by Alumnae Relations and the English Department. Marcos McPeek Villatoro, Fletcher Jones Endowed Chair in Writing, discussed his latest book, Home Killings, a Los Angeles Times 2001 best mystery selection, and Father George O’Brien, chair of the English department, commented on the construction of the mystery.

Children’s artwork decorated the walls of the José Drudis-Biada Art Gallery in February and March, when Inner-City Arts, a non-profit organization that provides art classes to elementary school children in Los Angeles, brought drawings, paintings, and sculptures by youngsters who visited the Chalon Campus several times last summer. Inspired by its architectural features, flora, and sweeping views, the children fashioned imaginative portrayals of their experiences at the Mount.

On March 5, the art gallery served as a colorful backdrop for the annual Writer’s Series featuring inspiring readings and
The next day saw a panel of distinguished women on the Chalon Campus for a discussion about "Women Who Lead." Joan Payden, president and CEO, Payden & Rygel; Zulima Garcia '95, manager, KPMG; and Jan Perry, Los Angeles city councilwoman, shared their expertise and explained how they achieved success in their respective fields. They agreed that successful women leaders must be able to communicate well and be willing to take risks in their careers.

Rounding out the week, Jacqueline Powers Doud, president, and the Reverend Alexia Salvatierra, a Lutheran pastor with Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, were presenters at the 14th annual Women Connecting Women Conference on the Doheny Campus. "How Shall We Lead," the conference theme, was expressed through speeches, group interactions, and prayers by the gathering of Christian women engaged in dialog on numerous topics.

March was Women's History Month, rich with observations, including lectures, a women's fair, and other activities. One of the highlights on the Chalon Campus was the showing of the video "Killing Us Softly 3: Advertising's Image of Women," depicting societal messages in ads over the last 20 years, while "Take Back the Night," a march and speak-out rally against violence, took place on the Doheny Campus and in the surrounding neighborhood.

The J. Thomas McCarthy Library on the Doheny Campus houses one of the College's most significant art exhibits, "Creativity Crucified, Stations of the Cross." It was there that Marina Forstmann Day, the creator of the 14 collages that comprise this exhibit, met on March 21 with the Mount community to discuss her personal imaginative process. "Creative life is the deepest expression of ourselves as we go on our journey of life; everyone has this force inside waiting to be discovered," she said.

April's offerings began with "Media, Morality, and Spirituality," a day-long forum presented by the Archdiocesan Program in the Spiritual Life, which brought Ralph Sariego, former TV producer and longtime media advisor to the Los Angeles Archdiocese, to the Doheny Campus to explain how media images impact moral values and spiritual lives.

Also in April, two seniors and one junior delivered honors theses in the José Drudis-Biada Art Gallery, revealing extensive research and discoveries in their chosen topics. Biology major Lauren Chilstrom '02 explored "Equine Drug Testing and the Psychology of Winning"; history major Valerie Gonzalez '02 offered her study of "Mujer y Onna: A Comparative History of Mexican and Japanese Women Immigrants in Los Angeles, 1960-1970"; and junior nursing major Carrie Christiansen '03 presented "Achter Code Blue: How Healthcare Professionals Cope."

Concluding the series with rounds of applause and ovations in Mary Chapel were Mount Chorus and Chamber Singers directed by Robert Duff as they introduced two choral works at the Spring Choral Concert.

When the series concluded, Sister Mary Williams, provost and academic vice president, reflected on the more than 20 programs presented. "I am very proud of the Mind and Spirit series," she says. "We truly offered varied events designed for all areas of the College. Undergraduates, graduates, traditional age and adult students, faculty, staff, alumnae, and community members were able to find programs to nourish their spirit and to remind them of the Mount's profound commitment to the liberal arts."
It was eerily prescient in a way. On the agenda of the Hunterton (New Jersey) County Health Department workshop titled “Are You Ready? Coming Together to Meet the Challenge” was a speaker who would address the topic of “Headlines—What’s New?”

It was March 2001 and the speaker was Carol LaValley Genese ’67, coordinator of bioterror surveillance for the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and four months later she would have a lot to share in terms of what was new and what was in the headlines. After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, this Mount alumna’s job took on new meaning when anthrax began showing up in the mail and in offices on the east coast. And Genese was drawn deeper into the maelstrom when it was discovered that the post office in the township where her office was located was the site where the letters that were sent to senators and newsmakers had originated.

“It was an exhausting, stressful, exciting, interesting, educational, unbelievable few weeks,” she says of the experience. “I have to admit that I was one of those people who believed ‘it’ was just a matter of time—that terrorism and bioterrorism were inevitable. However, I never in my wildest imagination anticipated a 20,000-gallon ‘bomb’ flown into WTC or anthrax through the mail.”

As part of the DHSS communicable disease response, Genese initiated active surveillance for illness that may have been related to WTC and responded to numerous phone calls. While she and her team of experts had rehearsed their response, they were not fully prepared for what was to follow—the use of the mail as a vector for delivering deadly spores of anthrax to individuals. It was in the mail processing facility of nearby Hamilton, New Jersey, that two postal workers were infected through cutaneous exposure to anthrax. Unlike five other Americans who died, they eventually recovered.

Genese was at an epidemiology conference in the northeast when the first case of anthrax exposure was announced. Robert Stevens, a photo editor at American Media in Boca Raton, Florida, died October 5 of inhalation anthrax and a mailroom employee at the American Media building tested positive for exposure to the bacteria.

“Initially, the word was that Stevens’ exposure was from natural causes,” Genese recalls of the announcement of the incident at the conference. “But not one person in the room agreed with that assessment. Our first response was ‘no way!’

“Dealing with anthrax was no different than a salmonella outbreak,” she continues. “The response was several years in the making and the activities and procedures were the same. We are fortunate to have a well-trained group of individuals—hazmat [hazardous materials] professionals, police, fire, emergency room staff, and county prosecutor—who work together. They all are incredibly dedicated and responsive. We were prepared, but the population didn’t know all the details beforehand. Politically, it wasn’t the right message.”

Her title uses the word “surveillance,” but that poses a problem with anthrax or other diseases like bubonic plague. “It’s very difficult to deal with these kinds of incidents because they are—by their nature—complaint-based,” she says. “We can track them once they occur, but prevention is another matter. We are way behind in terms of an integrated national or regional electronic laboratory system. I was involved in writing New Jersey’s first grant proposal for such a system in 1991 and we’re still begging for funding.

“Unless we can touch it—meningitis in our daughter or Legionnaire’s disease in our husband—we don’t support funding for communicable disease prevention,” she continues. “Our priorities are police, fire, health, and education, in that order. Public health has not been represented well because we don’t market ourselves. For example, it wasn’t until there was a cover story in...
Time called ‘Disease Detectives’ that anyone ever knew what an epidemiologist was."

In the near-panic situation that followed the anthrax scare, “everyone was seeing white powder,” she explains. “We received more than 3,000 samples perceived by the public as a threat. Everyone wanted to be tested. I took hundreds of calls from people who thought they should receive a nasal swab. For all the good it does, CNN ends up being part of the problem. People thought a nasal swab was a valid diagnostic test, when it was not. It took weeks to reverse that thinking.”

Genese spent little time in the office during the months that followed the anthrax scare. In that office are photos of the Mount, which evoke warm memories of innocent days as a student. As an “Air Force brat,” it was understood she would go to college, but she wasn’t pushed to attend. She chose Mount St. Mary’s because it was the biggest and the best of the Catholic colleges she looked at. Her faith led her to a Catholic institution.

Once she arrived, she was a bit of a rebel, however. As junior class president, she spearheaded a group of students who sought to change the class ring. “What is this fleur-de-lis thing and why do we need it?” she recalls asking. After the historical significance and meaning of the symbols were explained to her, she better understood and relented. “I was mortified to learn the sister who patiently sat down and explained the significance of the elements of the ring had actually designed it.”

Genese has fond memories of many people at the College, notably Sister Joseph Adele Edwards, CSJ ’58, assistant professor of English, who has served in many capacities in the College administration as well. “I had to take ‘bonehead’ English,” Genese recalls (she was a biology major), “and she forced me to learn to write, which I resisted. I am a very visual person and writing didn’t come easy, but she made me realize I had to be able to write well in order to succeed. She was tough and had very high standards, but it was well worth it.”

After graduating from the Mount, she spent 18 years at St. Peter’s Hospital in Albany, New York, first in the blood bank, then in the microbiology lab as the lab supervisor. She regrets not going to medical school, but it wasn’t practical at the time. Her first daughter was born and it would have been a financial hardship she didn’t want to face. Instead, she took advantage of a flexible program at the College of St. Rose (also a CSJ college) in Albany, New York, and earned her master of business administration degree.

Genese knows she could earn a lot more money as a consultant than she does working in public health. Her MBA and her years of experience could pay off handsomely if she went to work for herself. Instead, she remains committed to her work at DHSS.

“I get frustrated with the bureaucracy that evolves in the public sector. It really is a mixed blessing, because it can create monsters—public employees who just get by and collect a paycheck. But there are also a lot of talented and dedicated people in public service. I constantly fight the notion that the people at the Department of Health are nothing but white glove regulators who won’t work with you—someone whose role is to slap your hand. In the end, I am convinced people want to do the right thing.

“I was very lucky to have had the Mount experience,” she continues. “I realized afterward how valuable it was to me as a scientist to have had a multifaceted, all-encompassing liberal arts education. I learned to ask questions. I still question a lot of things, and people aren’t always receptive to it, but there is no question that it makes me a better person, a more thorough investigator/epidemiologist and a more understanding and perceptive manager.”

Genese at her office at DHSS.

JON ROEMER
Class Notes

'42
Yvonne “Bonnie” Wightman Whitley and her husband celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary last July.

'45
Vincentia Ginevra Lesko and husband visited their daughter and family in Ohio en route to her husband’s high school reunion.

'48
Elizabeth Peukert spent Christmas in Seattle with her niece Irene Camuti Bernard '68 and her family.

'49
Doris Schuck Reichel is ill with a recurrence of cancer and her family asks for your prayers.

'50
Mary Krug Erlandson performs volunteer work at St. Margaret’s Center in Lennox, which is run by her daughter.

'52
Beverly Halpin Carrigan traveled to Spain last year with her husband, son, and daughter-in-law.

'53
Charlotte Rohe Bell is enjoying retirement and last year took a trip with her two sisters to Europe. The trip included a visit to the farm in Germany where their great-grandfather lived.

'54
Loretta Fanning’s name has been included in the thank-you section of a plaque, by Artists Embassy International, which is affixed to a statue of St. Francis which was installed in Assisi, Italy, last October. She also attended a birthday celebration for Mary Jane Saul McKnight '53, hosted by Mary’s 10 children.

'55
Portia Spencier Loughman retired from UCLA after 20 years and is currently working for her husband, a CPA.

'56
Patricia Pierce has volunteered at the InterCommunity Medical Center in Covina since retiring after teaching for 40 years.

'57
Nellie Beridon Walker hosted a mini-reunion for classmates Mary Cretti Allen, Callie Orfano Matheopoulos, Wana Phillips Del Olmo, and Mary Doyle Modjeski.

'58
Bee-Beatrice Benko has recovered so well from brain tumor surgery that she took a trip to Chicago for an opera, museums, and a Bears football game.

'59
Regina Mason Fitzgerald is expecting her third grandchild. Rosemary Lucente spent a fabulous three weeks touring Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji.

'60
Donna May Avery is a founding member of the Women’s Leadership Council of the United Way of Chicago.

'61
Judy Cascales is doing well after another bout with breast cancer.

'62
Jonneiap Mobley has been elected president of the parish roundtable at St. Timothy’s Church in Morrow Bay, where she is also lector trainer. She is also president of the Estero Bay Unit of Church Women United.

'63
Carol Kroll Babbitt traveled to Beijing, China, last year to run a half marathon on the Great Wall of China.

The Mount Spring 2002
family in Littleton, Colo., and in Austin, Tex., and traveled to Hawaii for fun and sun.

Olivia Plascencia Webber has been retired for one and one-half years, and is catching up on old projects.

Jaqueline Susse Diennemann and her husband traveled to Italy last fall with their daughter and 10 friends. She is working part time for the University of North Carolina-Charlotte as a research administrator, and is also working with a shelter for battered women to start a domestic violence program at a local hospital.

Mary Couture Killmond has just started a full-time position teaching religion at Bishop Alemany High School in Mission Hills, Calif.

Margie Rojas Lensch retired in 1994 after 40 years of teaching grades K-12.

Cecelia Schmahl Stratford still flies her Piper Cherokee weekly, and flies children in the “Young Eagles” program every month.

Janet Olinski Trautmann is working as a supervising public health nurse for the County of San Diego. She plans to celebrate the graduation of her last child from high school with a trip to Paris.

Kumiko Kazahaya Cross continues to work for the U.S. Department of State and is currently posted in Hong Kong.

Elina Hlavaty Humphrey now has a new husband and a new family in Littleton, Colo., and in Austin, Tex., and traveled to Hawaii for fun and sun.

Jacqueline Farber Stanton retired after 33 years of teaching high school English and guidance counseling with the Torrance Unified School District.

Kitty Carton took a road trip through British Columbia, ending in Tacketta, Alaska. She also spent three days kayaking in the San Juan Islands.

Sandra Pawloski Comouche and her husband enjoy traveling and visiting family. She also is a substitute teacher in math and science in the Carlsbad School District.

Alene Finn Griffin has been elected first vice president of Kappa Gamma Pi, the National Catholic College Honor Society. She will chair the National Awards Committee and work closely with the president.

Mary Gnam Grubbs and her husband celebrated their 35th anniversary in Italy, and are happily awaiting their third grandchild.

Maria Jones Hoffman has been teaching for 32 years, and has a Food Server Hospitality Career Paths Program at Katella High School, where she runs a community kitchen and an on-site restaurant and catering business called Break Away.

Michele Prendergast Ley is working as an adolescent psychiatric charge nurse. She and her husband live a few houses from the beach in their dream retirement home.

Susan Schanz Rausch and her husband are very active in their parish in Maryland and presented a session on Church Building Committees at the Form Reform Conference, and also visited with college roommate Sandra Pawloski Comouche and her husband.

Mary Scoville Steinberg is currently working at the Cal State L.A. High Risk Infant Program, and is working to obtain her high risk early intervention certificate.

Irene Camuti Bernard currently works at a home furnishing store called Pennsylvania Woodworks, where she sells, among other things, Amish-made furniture. She also gives decorating advice and does store displays.

Macrina Garcia continues to grow her traveling nurse business with nurses now working in 47 states.

Carol Feloney Garibay is currently serving a second year as a consulting teacher in the Peer Assistance and Review Program for the Fontana Unified School District. She is also an active member of the St. Vincent De Paul Conference in her parish.

Jeanne Burnham Black does karate for stress relief, helps her husband in his ironwork shop, and sings in the Holy Cross Church choir.

Terese Riendeau Crane is a national board certified teacher in the area of early adolescent/English language arts.

Cathy Weakland Gibbons is in her 33rd year of teaching AP English at Louisville High School. She and her husband enjoy RVing, which they hope to do fulltime one day.

Mary Limebrook Burnham continues to teach fourth grade, and loves fourth graders.

Cecelia Duffy Essin is doing a fellowship in developmental and behavioral pediatrics to increase her expertise in developmental disabilities.

This is a faculty development position.

Mary Lillig Koenig accepted the blue ribbon award for Montevideo Elementary School at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. She and her husband traveled to Florida and New England last year.

Marcia Broadus Niessen has completed 12 years with Pacific Capitol Bancorp, parent company of Santa Barbara Bank & Trust.

Alicia Gutierrez Wilson is a counselor at Ventura High School.
Monica Spillane Luechtefeld, executive V.P. for e-commerce of Office Depot, Inc., was featured in an article on business successes in Business Week magazine.

Loretta McBride Musselman, a clinical nurse specialist, has her own mental health private practice and is soon to be a grandfather for the second time.

Mary Lou Lynch celebrated her 22nd year teaching nursing, and went on a cruise to Mexico to celebrate her 30th wedding anniversary.

Marilyn Baumgartner Shirk has been the mental health-nursing liaison at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for over 17 years.

Carol Ferrato Espinola was married last June, and is in her 27th year of teaching with the Madera Unified School District.

Kristine Kosak has moved to Bear Valley Springs near Tehachapi since she is now an assistant professor at Cal State Bakersfield in the master of social work program.

Janet Fisher Petersen is currently a kindergarten aide at her daughter’s Catholic school.

Bette Payson Worth’s children are both in college. She continues to raise money for various organizations. The religious advisor on her daughter’s dorm floor at Santa Clara University is Sr. Ingrid Honore-Lallande CSJ ’72.

Cristina Y. Yi retired in 1995, and since then has tried to travel at least once a year, last year spending 14 days in China.

Kathleen Becherer Zacharski is managing the operating room for a Santa Monica plastic surgeon and dermatologist. She and her husband traveled to London last Christmas to visit their son and daughter-in-law.

Brenda Boland Morgan works for Kaiser Permanente as a quality and utilization management R.N. She is also a program coordinator for the Oregon Youth Authority. Last year she and her family spent a week on a cruise to Mexico with 21 relatives, many of whom came from Ireland for a family reunion.

Diane Rosenfield is busy teaching fourth grade and raising her nine-year-old daughter.

Patricia Aston Giffin is working as a special education instruction assistant at Rancho Bernardo High School. She is also on the board of directors of Rest Ministries, a nonprofit Christian organization for those with chronic illness and pain.

Terri McAtee and her husband spent 24 days trekking through Europe with their three young children. They visited nine cities in four countries, ending in Rome for the wedding of her brother-in-law.

Ron McCamy, after receiving an A.A. in nursing from the Mount, went on to get an M.A. in theology from the Fuller Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Marquette University. He credits his nursing education with giving him a valuable background in bioethics. He recently published a book, Out of a Kantian Chrysalis.

Katie Pugel attended a memorial service for fellow classmate Kathy Hunter who died after a five-year battle with breast cancer. The service was held in Kathy’s hometown parish in Lakewood, Calif.

Laura Cuddy continues to work at Honda as corporate counsel and enjoys being mom to her two children.

Brenda Deck Davis has kept her nursing license although she is not currently practicing nursing. She plans to take a Spanish for nurses course to help her in her volunteer work at a local Hispanic church.

Julie Westervelt Lehmann continues to work for Home Health Care Management as assistant director of professional services and as director of the HOME Program—a grant through the California Department of Aging to help seniors with their medications.

Natalie Harris Martinez recently volunteered with Project Compassion on two medical mission trips—to Oaxaca, Mexico and to Romania. She is employed as a pediatric nurse practitioner.

Deborah Pavetti has a new career as a special education teacher and she is also going to Seton Hill College to obtain a master’s degree in special education.

Claudelle Zack retired from nursing in 1998 and moved to the north coast in 1999. She keeps busy with gardening, church and community activities, and taking blood pressure readings at the Senior Citizens Center.

J oyce Centofanti just completed her first year at Texas Tech University, working on a Ph.D. in special ed art education.

Cathy Doolittle Dye is currently working as the manager of the GI lab at Simi Valley Hospital, and was recently elected to the Board of Southern California Gastroenterology Nursing.

Irmalee Jordan retired at the end of 2000 after many years of nursing.

Miwa Kojima Izumi is very happy with her own CPA firm.

Roxanne Moore Riley is excited about her organization, LifePath Hospice and Palliative Care, moving to a professional practice model for decision making.

Ramona Potts Camargo is the supervisor of utilization management at Blue Cross, and recently became a certified case manager. She is the mother of two teenager daughters.

Barbara Kucia Condrey is currently working for the San Juan Unified School District as an elementary school librarian and computer lab instructor. She has been married 14 years, has two sons, and is busy with soccer games, teaching first communion classes, and helping her husband with his videography business.

Patricia Dominguez Ellis will be visiting family in West Virginia this July.

Susan Whigham Thompson is currently chair of the Med Surg Nursing Council at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

Adrienne Allison is finally a grandmother. Gabrielle Tabellaris Hadley lives in south Orange County, and works one morning a week at a school clinic in Long Beach. She has three children.

Brigid O’Flaherty Williams is busy with three girls and is their school’s PTA president.

Jean Streuber Bushnell is quilting every chance she gets, traveling when possible, and volunteering at Alexandria House.

Shellie Weekes has recorded her first CD, Round Midnight, which was released in late January.

Bertha Salazar Herrera has been teaching for 16 years at San Gabriel Mission Elementary School. She teaches third grade and is also the vice principal.

Tanja Studenroth Helms and her husband recently celebrated 15 years of marriage on Maui with their three children.

Kristine Fedel Blanchard is the manager of nursing administration at Marian Medical Center—Catholic Healthcare West in Santa Maria, Calif.

Stacey Marchus Hickman and her family moved in July 2000, from Alabama to Virginia and are enjoying living near our nation’s capital. She is still taking time off from physical therapy to concentrate on raising her son.

Brother Kevin Berntson, former associate director of development at MSMC, received his Ph.D. from the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, in the psychology of medieval monastic art.

Wende Wawerchak recently successfully completed all course work to become a national board certified teacher.
Lisa Liddicoat Maxey co-edited a book on post-operative therapies, Rehabilitation for the Post Surgical Orthopedic Patient. Susan Singh has moved from business owner to elementary teacher. She has taught for the past six years teaching business owner to elementary teacher. Nancy Marcello Burns, husband, president and legislative representative, respectively, of the California branch of the National Federation of the Blind, successfully persuaded Governor Gray Davis to sign the Braille Literacy Act of 2001.

Jennifer Bright '92 graduated last May from Claremont Graduate University with a Ph.D. in social psychology. Alida Lopez Reyes and her husband just celebrated 10 years of marriage and have two beautiful children.

Trish Sandri Brown is enjoying her two girls, and also enjoys working as the assistant to the youth minister at her parish church, working with young people. Michelle Mosser De Lorme works parttime as a pediatric PT in the school system, is the creative activities coordinator for MOPS (mothers of preschoolers), sings in the church choir, and keeps up with her busy two-year-old boy.

Bridget Kaumeheiwa is working on-call at an outpatient rehabilitation clinic in addition to raising a two-year-old son. Elizabeth Lopez Reyes and her husband just celebrated 10 years of marriage and have two beautiful children.

2000/2001 by the Roseville Area Joint Elementary School District for an outstanding teacher in the Dry Creek School System. Jodi-Marie Dedrick was honored as student of the year by Vaughn Elementary School and now has two children.

Jodi-Marie Dedrick '97 has been working as a resource specialist at Vaughn Elementary School and now has two children. Appropriating $100,000 in incentive grants for community colleges to offer Braille education.

Josie Salazar Romero recently received a master's degree in special education from Cal State Northridge. She is working as a resource specialist at Vaughn Elementary School and now has two children. Jennifer McCormick Bartlett '95 recently published a book on post-operative therapies. Lisa Liddicoat Maxey co-edited a book on post-operative therapies.

Joy Di Palma left NBC and is now a senior writer/producer for Beantown Productions. Jennifer Allande '99 is engaged and planning a wedding for June, 2002. M. Veronica Martinez '00 is currently working for MSMC full time as coordinator of the Student Ambassador Program and Women's Leadership Program. She also attends the Mount's graduate school in the human services program.
Alumnae News

Two by Two
The Alumnae Association extends best wishes to the following alums and their spouses:

* '98 Kenneth Martin to Michelle
* '96 Lauren to Maria-Theresa Gosom
* '95 Amber to Paola Lizarraga-Arvizu,
* '95 Timothy Rogan to Marlou Onias Fish
* '93 Emily Anne to Jean Milew, 1st child
* '93 James Christopher to Mary Ellen
* '91 Anna Nicole to Mary-Heather Barnes
* '89 Jacob Allen to Jennifer Payad
* '89 Kyra Maurine to Kathryn Brown
* '89 Jessica to Patricia Lomas Rios,
* '89 Evan Michael to Alison Akins
* '89 Andre Lewis to Monica Quintero
* '83 Matthew Raymond to Mary Cruz

Northern Exposure
Alums in the Reno–Lake Tahoe area often meet for lunch and discuss the latest news from the Mount.

Pictured (left to right) are Ishbel Macintosh Murray ’44, Ann Lentz Rasmussen ’59, Patricia McReynolds ’73, Donna Benoit Faker ’68, Jeanette Squatrito Danna ’62, and Chere Major Stark ’59.

By-Lines
The Alumnae Association extends congratulations to the following alums and their spouses on the birth of their children:

* '83 Valencia Renee to Donna Booker-Dennis, 2nd child
* '83 Matthew Raymond to Mary Cruz Johnson, 2nd child, 2nd son
* '89 Andre Lewis to Monica Quintero de Bond
* '89 Evan Michael to Alison Akins Franzen, 1st child
* '91 Anna Nicole to Mary-Heather Barnes Kahlehn, 2nd child, 1st daughter
* '93 James Christopher to Mary Ellen Eichler
* '93 Emily Anne to Jean Milew, 1st child
* '95 Timothy Rogan to Marou Onias Fish
* '95 Amber to Paola Lizarraga-Arvizu, 3rd child, 2nd daughter
* '96 Lauren to Maria-Theresa Gosom Laprid, 2nd child, 1st daughter
* '98 Kenneth Martin to Michelle Chamberlain Cervantes

Requiscant
Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

* '31 Rose Alce Wills Smith
* '37 Vivian Young Harwood
* '40 Sr. Margaret Clare Borchard, CSJ
* '43 brother of Mary Pansini Lahaye
* '43 husband of Winfried Gatz Soboeck
* '49 Ellen Garrecht
* '53 husband of Mary Doyle Modjeski
* '54 Justine Weiler
* '55 mother of Anne Bondan Ingebriksen, Katherine Bondan Gross ’57, and Jo Bondan Roche ’58
* '56 Sr. Dorothea M. Ross, CSJ
* '56 mother of Carol Weidly Spalluto
* '57 Winfred Stahly Mamer
* '57 Cordelia Hayhurst Williams
* '61 MaryGail Kiner Kutchins
* '61 father of Ruby Conaway Lassanyi
* '62 mother of Dawn Ferry Friedman
* '62 Gloria Left Sancon
* '64 mother of Eileen Miller and Donna Miller Chohrach ’67
* '66 son of Elizabeth Clark Stevens
* '66 mother of Sandra Kallen Umlauf
* '67 mother of Toni Bannan Gross
* '68 father of Sr. Sharon Breden and Mary Breden ’73
* '68 father of Carole Herrick Hodges
* '68 Martha Stevens

Advanced Degrees
The Alumnae Association congratulates the following alums on their successful pursuit of intellectual achievement:

* '87 Kristine Fedel Blanchard, MPH from CSUN, 1997
* '87 Claudia Ruiz, MA in educational leadership and policy study from CSUN, 2002
* '91 Jane Hendrick’s Cook, MSN from University of Phoenix, 2000
* '93 Jose Salazar Romero, MS in special education from CSUN, 2001
* '94 Dawn Trujillo Coffeldt, MS in physical therapy from Texas Woman’s University, 2001
* '96 Kevin Koch, JD from the San Fernando Valley College of Law, 2001
* '97 Karen Vialatano, MBA from Woodbury University, 2000

Note—We are proud of all of our alums and are happy to showcase your academic achievements. Please let us know when you receive an advanced degree and include the date and the name of the institution granting the degree. In order to keep this feature current, please do not go back any further than three years and do not send information that has already appeared in Alumnae Class Notes.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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Maria D. Hummer
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Sister Cecilie Louise Moore ’53
Sister Maureen O’Connor ’63
Barry Patmore
Margo Ryan Peck
Sister Mary Allen Rosholt ’64
Monsignor Royale M. Vodakin
Most Reverend Gabino Zavala
Emeriti
Sister Mary Brigid Fitzpatrick ’47
Sister Mary Kevin Ford
Frank P. Moothart
Rosemary Park Anastos
J. Robert Vaughan (deceased)

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Gail Sullivan
John P. Sullivan
Celia Gonzales Torres ’58
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Frank Moothart

A LOOK BACK
Nursing students work on an assignment in class in the early 1950s.

Yolanda Ramirez ’74, Beth Momburg ’76, Kathryn Knemeyer Gasperini ’74, and an unidentified student.
June-July

June 20 - July 23
Religious Studies Lecture Series
Donohue Center, Doheny Campus
For more information on these lectures, contact Religious Studies, (213) 477-2640.

August

Saturday, August 17
Christmas in Summer
Carondelet Center
10 a.m.
Alumnae and CSJs will be working together to assemble gift baskets and prepare for the CSJ boutique. Join in this year’s alumnae community service project by contacting Alumnae Relations at (213) 477-2767.

Homecoming Weekend
Call Your Classmates and Plan to Attend MSMC’s Homecoming!

Friday
October 11, 2002
Saturday
October 12, 2002

• Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Nursing Program and
• 77th Anniversary of Mount St. Mary’s College
An Alumni Awards Banquet, friends you haven’t seen in years, classes taught by dynamic professors, rediscovering The Mount—all this and more awaits you!

Come and join fellow alumni returning to campus for a two-day Homecoming Celebration. Choose from several lively classes and workshops, featuring the Mount’s faculty, and join us for events designed for fun, learning, meeting people and reflecting.

Visit the Mount Web site at www.msmc.la.edu/alumnae for more information. Watch for your invitation in September.