



Classroom becomes entrepreneurship center

by Clare Gilligan
senior reporter

As the 2014-2015 school year continues, some big changes have happened, including the renovation of room 121 into a new business classroom.

The project came about following a survey of alums from '07-'09 which revealed that 36% of Marist graduates had gone on to be business majors. The survey results led administrators to wonder if Marist was doing enough to prepare students for business classes in college.

Principal Larry Tucker also visited some colleges and universities and was inspired to expand Marist's business curriculum and redesign room 121 to house a new course focusing on entrepreneurship.

The class is called Innovative Design for Entrepreneurial Applications (IDEA). In the IDEA class, students develop a product or service and learn about all the tools and resources they would need in building a business, including market research and business plan development.

Students also learn about marketing, accounting, human resources and the various legal aspects of running a successful business.

To teach the IDEA class, Marist hired an alumnus from the class of 1979, Mr. Daniel Gorsky, a former Senior Vice President of McDonald's North American supply chain.

"Several things attracted me to this opportunity," Gorsky said. "The Marist culture is first and foremost, along with the chance to help create something new

and unique which could potentially benefit students for their next step in life. Also, I am looking forward to helping Marist achieve its goal of providing a transformational, 21st century educational experience."

Renovations to room 121 began as soon as school got out last year. The room was completely gutted. A new heating and air conditioning unit was installed, along with new electric and computer wiring, custom lighting and furniture.

"The process took a little longer than expected, but we wanted to be sure to get it right," Tucker said.

The IDEA class is mostly a team-based class, so the room is designed with that in mind. The room is equipped with bullet-shaped tables, Microsoft Surface devices with monitors at the end of each table for each team with ergonomic chairs for each student.

The other half of the room is a community space where the class will meet for lectures and guest speakers. This area is furnished with a sectional couch, breakfast bar, and stools surrounding the area.

Renovations to room 121 were funded by private donations. Donors will be invited back to room 121 later this school year for 'Pitch Night,' when students in the IDEA class will pitch their products in the hopes of getting donors to invest in them.

"The class is unlike any other I have had at Marist," said senior Marty Ryan. "It allows us to be creative, work with others and get familiar with real-life situations as entrepreneurs. The new class room helps us get down to



photo by Megan Karas

Students in the IDEA class meet with Mr. Gorsky and Mr. Tucker in room 121 during MOD E on Tues., Nov. 18. The classroom was renovated this fall to provide a state-of-the-art space where students will learn about entrepreneurship.

business with access to state-of-the-art technology."

"Mr. Gorsky is a great teacher and really pushes us to do our best and be the best," said senior Maeve Diamond. "It's different from other classes because we go in every day with a new task to complete, we work in groups, and it's all about wanting to improve each other and our product."

Room 121 will also be used for other classes, including AP Literature and Composition, taught by Mrs. Tracy Michicich

"I believe that the environment will be ideal for the two courses I teach," Michicich said. "We utilize small and large group learning opportunities and the various seating configurations will allow us to move fluidly and productively."

Five seniors among top in nation on PSAT

by Akia Davis
junior reporter

Seniors Grace Enright, Cameron Heppeler, Ryan Higgins, Kaylie Sampson and Mitchell Schroeder set a new school record for the most Marist students to rank among the top 2% nationally on the PSAT.

Three students were named National Merit Finalists in 2013 and two students were named in 2012.

The PSAT is administered to sophomores and juniors nationwide every October. While the test is not mandatory, scoring high on the test makes students eligible for thousands of dollars in scholarships.

"Taking the PSAT gives students practice with standardized tests and gives them feedback about their skills, strength and weaknesses," said college counselor Ms. Nicole Peterson.



photo by Clare Gilligan

(l to r) Seniors Ryan Higgins, Cameron Heppeler, Mitchell Schroeder, Grace Enright and Kaylie Sampson scored in the top 2% of the nation on the PSAT last fall and have been named National Merit Finalists by the College Board.

Students' performance on the PSAT can also be a very good indicator of how they do on the ACT.

"The PSAT predicted that I would get a 33 on the ACT and that's exactly what I got," Enright said.

The seniors agreed that preparation in advance is important.

"I attended a PSAT workshop that really went over the test, so I was comfortable on the day of the test and there were no surprises," Enright said.

Entrance exam set for January 10

by Megan Karas
senior reporter

Future RedHawks will take the 2015 entrance exam on Sat., January 10 at 8 a.m. While all high schools in the Archdiocese offer the test on the same day, students who wish to become a part of the Marist class of 2019 are encouraged to test at Marist.

The exam takes two and a half hours and covers English, math and reading. The testing fee is \$25 and is due on the day of the test. Students are asked to bring number two pencils. Calculators are not permitted.

Last year, 582 students took the exam at Marist, and there are currently 420 members of the freshman class.

Over 700 prospective students have visited during the Fridays at Marist program this fall. Visitors take a tour of the campus and then follow a freshman or sophomore through the school day.

The final Friday at Marist is on Fri., Dec. 12. Interested 7th and 8th graders can sign up on the Marist website or by calling the Director of Admissions, Mrs. Alex Brown, at 773-881-5330.

Christmas raffle offers free year of tuition as first prize

by Keri Boyle
senior reporter

The Parents Club is holding a tuition raffle and the winning tickets will be pulled at their Christmas Social on Friday, Dec. 12, at Gaelic Park.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each and a total of 750 tickets will be sold. First prize is \$11,000, second prize is \$5,500 and third prize is \$2,250. The prizes can be taken as tuition credit or cash and the winners do not need to be present at the time of the drawing.

Tickets for both the social and the raffle can be bought in the main office.

"This is a fairly affordable way for families to participate in something that benefits both the school and themselves," said Director of Marketing and Communications Ms. Patti Arvesen. "The social is also a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season with the Marist family."



MARIST
Christmas
SOCIAL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014
7:00 – 11:00 P.M.

GAELIC PARK: 6119 W. 147TH ST. OAK FOREST, IL
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Ticket includes: food, beverages, and entertainment
Live Auction - items will include Marist student artwork

Tickets can be purchased online at
www.marist.net or in the main office at Marist.



MARIST
Tuition
RAFFLE

First Prize: \$11,000*
Second Prize: \$5,500*
Third Prize: \$2,750*

DRAWING:
Marist Christmas Social
Friday, December 12, 2014
Raffle Ticket Price: \$50

*Based on 750 tickets sold. • Winner need not be present.
Winnings are subject to all applicable tax laws.



photo by Maggie Stimac

Members of the choir rehearse for the upcoming Christmas concerts, scheduled for Dec. 4 and 5 at 7 p.m. in the chapel. The band will also perform holiday concerts on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. in the Red and White Gym.

Concerts to ring in holiday season

by Olivia Gorney
senior reporter

With only 33 days left until Christmas, both the band and choir continue rehearsing for their upcoming holiday concerts.

The Marist band, directed by Mr. Andrew Creagh, will be performing two concerts on December 13 at 7:00 p.m. and December 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the main gym.

"We have our concerts every year to showcase the band's musical talents and to entertain and perform quality music for our audience," Creagh said.

Admission will be \$3 and the proceeds will be used towards the band's spring break trip to New York.

The students began preparing for the holiday concerts in late October. They will play eight Christmas pieces, along with one jazz piece.

The Marist choir, directed by Mrs. Erin Kelly, will be hosting two concerts for the first time this year on December 4 and 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel.

A \$2 donation is suggested. The proceeds will be used for their spring break tour to Nashville.

The choir started preparing for the concert in September.

The concert will consist of Christmas songs in multiple genres such as classical, jazz and pop and "Panus Angelicus," sung in Latin.

"Singing in a different language exposes students and the audience to different genres and is an excellent way to teach vocal technique," Kelly said.

First year choir students will be featured singing "The Bleak Midwinter" on Dec. 4, while honors choir students will be featured singing "Winter Cannon" on Dec. 5.

Seniors will perform "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" at both concerts.

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Students visit from Marist schools in Spain, France

by Noah Kemp
senior reporter

The Marist community welcomed 16 students from Les Collegi Maristes La Immacullada in Barcelona, Spain on Fri., Nov. 9 and 11 students from Saint Francois de Sales in Evreax, France on Fri., Nov. 14.

During their stay, the visiting students lived with Marist students and their families. They shadowed their hosts for a regular school day and then toured the city for two days, visiting the Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum and Art Institute.

The students from Barcelona also attended a Chicago Bulls game on Sat., Nov. 8.

“Coming to Chicago has been a very fun experience for me,” said Eduardo Gomez, who is hosted by senior Erik Fit. “Coming to America is a fantastic opportunity to practice my English and learn about American culture.”

The Marist host students and their families enjoyed the experience as well.

“The language department does a great job of planning a lot of activities,” Fit said. “It’s a really gratifying experience to host a foreign student because we learn so much about each other’s culture and the world in general.”

During spring break in April, 16 Marist students will travel to Barcelona and 11 will travel to Evreax and stay with the families of the students they hosted in Chicago.

World language department chair Mrs. Erica Nathan-Gamauf spoke of the advantages of the exchange program at the welcome breakfast for the students from Barcelona on Nov. 11.

“Perhaps the best thing is the long lasting friendships that form,” Nathan-Gamauf said. “To have a friend in a distant country means you will forever have a link to a country other than your own. We hope that all students involved will be further motivated to continue their study of a foreign language.”



photo by Noah Kemp

Students from Barcelona, their Marist hosts, teachers and administrators enjoy a welcome breakfast in the main office conference room on Nov. 11. Marist also welcomed 11 students from Evreax, France on Nov. 14.



photo by Megan Karas

Softball players Brooke Wilson (l) and Maggie Stimac pose in Champagnat Square on Nov. 12 after signing to their respective colleges. Seniors Alyssa Anderson (Lacrosse), Kelly Barker (golf), Lizzie Zaleski and Colleen Reilly (volleyball) have also committed.

Athletes commit on signing day

by Megan Karas
senior reporter

The *Sentinel's* own Maggie Stimac and her fellow senior Brooke Wilson have committed to play softball next year at their respective colleges at a signing ceremony held in Champagnat Square on National Signing Day Wed., Nov. 12.

Stimac, who played for the RedHawks as a freshman and sophomore, will attend the University of Minnesota-Duluth and will catch for the Bulldogs.

As a junior and senior, Stimac played for the Chicago Cheetahs, a traveling team.

Wilson will attend Loyola University, playing center field for the Ramblers.

“I’m sad to leave Marist, but looking forward to playing at Loyola with former RedHawks Brooke Wyderski and Erica Nagel,” Wilson said.

History was made when senior Alyssa Anderson signed to play girls’ Lacrosse for Tiffin College in Ohio. Anderson is the first Marist student to commit for girls’ Lacrosse.

“My life changed direction freshman year when I was introduced to Lacrosse through Marist,” Anderson said. “With hard work and support from my coach and family, I am lucky to be the first girl from Marist to sign and have the opportunity to play in college.”

Senior Kelly Barker also signed to play golf at Benedictine University, while senior volleyball player Lizzie Zaleski signed to Valparaiso University. Senior volleyball player Colleen Reilly signed with Wofford College in South Carolina.

Formal signings by members of the boys’ athletic teams are scheduled for a later date.

Students participate in 3rd annual Lavalla weekend in Esopus

by Courtney Coan
senior reporter

Seniors Fiona Clair, Jared Weston, Hannah Smith and instructional technologist Ms. Sarah Rakauskas participated in the 3rd annual LaValla Weekend on October 24-26 at the Marist Brothers’ retreat house in Esopus, New York.

A total of 17 high school students, six young adults and many teachers from Marist schools around the entire country gathered at the Marist Brothers Center at Esopus.

The students and teachers spent the few days they were there working to recover the excitement and spirit of the early days of the Marist Brothers who worked and lived in LaValla, France.

The group performed service at Esopus by adding stations to the Champagnat

Meditation Path, fixing up the Chapel in the Woods, working on a new labyrinth and participating in team-building and leadership activities.

“These opportunities provide students with the ability to connect to the greater Marist mission and see how important they are to the Marist community and the global community,” Rakauskas said. “Service trips and retreats offer us the ability to learn more about ourselves, our spirituality, and those with whom we share a sense of community.”

“It was such a powerful experience to live with and even become friends with Marist students and Marist Brothers from around the world,” Clair said. “It was a rewarding experience that I would not trade for anything. It gave me the opportunity to more fully appreciate what it means to be Marist.”

Students interested in retreats at Esopus should ask for more information in Campus Ministry.



photo by Sarah Rakauskas

Senior Hannah Smith (center) works with other Marist students from across the country on the new labyrinth at the Marist Brothers’ retreat house in Esopus, New York.

THE
SENTINEL



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Business electives benefit the college-bound student

Marist offers a number of business elective courses aimed to prepare students for college and help them succeed in their future careers. These electives include personal finance, accounting 1 and 2, innovative design for entrepreneurial applications (IDEA) and financial literacy.

Personal finance is an academic level course that emphasizes concepts that students need to enhance their financial security as effective consumers, citizens and participants in the business world and is only available for grades 11 and 12.

Accounting 1 and 2 are academic level courses that show students how to post to a general ledger, prepare financial statements and record adjusting and closing entries.

Innovative design for entrepreneurial applications (IDEA) is a course where students will have the opportunity to

create and develop their own product or service. Student teams will work through the process of forming ideas or concepts, market research and business plan development. This is a hands-on course designed to allow students to imagine, design, construct, market and refine their own business ventures.

Financial literacy is a course where students will face in our ever-changing global economy. Course topics include: banking, credit, debt, loans, insurance, financing education, retirement planning, taxes, investments, large purchases, the federal budget and national debt.

According to the National Business Education Association, there are four benefits to taking these electives.

Business electives help students to develop life skills necessary for economic success, including knowledge of personal finance, time management, organizational skills and goal setting.

Business electives also help students develop information technology skills, which are vital in today's business world.

The third benefit is that these courses expand educational opportunities. Most students learn best in courses that offer hands-on experience.

Finally, these electives help students develop marketable skills and habits to apply to any career. These include communication skills, self-confidence, problem solving, critical thinking, punctuality, reliability, teamwork and leadership.

Registration for next year's classes will begin after the holidays. Marist students should consider taking a business elective in order to gain a better understanding of what the future holds. The experience will also help students prepare for college and, more importantly, for their entry into a real world career.

NCAA should work with colleges to focus on athletes' educations

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has decided to change the landscape of college football by switching the format of the annual playoff series this season.

Now that the NCAA's mission to change the format has been accomplished, the organization should turn its focus on college athletes getting a better education.

After 15 years of the Bowl Championship Series (BCS), the NCAA has decided to change to the College Football Championship, which consists of the top four college football teams in the nation competing for the national title. The new format has been accepted by 11 conferences in the NCAA.

Under the previous format, the top two teams were voted into the championship bowl games.

The six largest bowl games (Rose, Cotton, Sugar, Orange, Peach and Fiesta) that were part of the BCS, will now rotate annually as semifinal games lead to the national championship game.

"We needed to do something different," said Southeastern Conference Commissioner Mike Slive in an interview at Statesmen.com. "There were too many bowl games and too many empty seats."

The top four collegiate football teams in the nation will be chosen based on the strength of their schedule, conference championships and head-to-head results.

This new era of college football is a step in the right direction, but there must be advances in the athletes' education as well.

According to sportswriter Chip Patterson at CBSsports.com, the NCAA recently reopened its investigation into the University of North Carolina's relationship between the athletic and academic programs.

The investigation uncovered that some university professors were giving passing grades to failing athletes to help them along academically and enable them to play football. This is a violation of the NCAA's code of conduct.

The real purpose for students going off to college is to get a degree and to make sure that they are prepared to compete for a job in their chosen fields.

Only 71% of college football players nationwide graduate with a degree in their major, according to Michelle Brutlag Howick, author of *Division 1 Student-Athlete Slow Progress in Graduation Rate*, an article posted at ncaa.org.

The NCAA continues to adopt reforms in its academic policies aimed at ensuring that more college players graduate. Specific reforms are listed at ncaa.org/governance/reform-efforts.

NCAA President Mark Emmert said, "More student athletes than ever before are earning their college degrees and we are gratified to see our reform efforts having an impact. We have higher expectations for the future, but we are proud of the progress we have made."

The NCAA's efforts should continue so that athletes are prepared for the big games and successful careers after college.

Mayor's incentive to CPS students is not fair

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced on October 1 that qualified graduates of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) would be given full scholarships to Chicago community colleges if they maintain a grade point average of 3.0/4.0 or higher.

These scholarships would cover the costs of tuition, fees and books. Not only must the students graduate with a 3.0, but they must also place into college level math and English.

There are seven community colleges linked with this program, including Harold Washington, Harry S. Truman, Kennedy-King, Malcolm X, Olive-Harvey, Richard J. Daley and Wilbur Wright.

According to an article by Chicago Tribune reporters Juan Perez, Jr. and John Byrne, the money for these scholarships will come as the colleges trim their budgets. For example, Malcolm X College would save money for the scholarships by streamlining its nursing program, saving an estimated \$2 million per year.

The scholarships are unfair to taxpayers.

First, the money being saved for these scholarships could be used toward higher priority issues for the city.

According to Reid Wilson of the Washington Post, the city of Chicago is \$33 billion in debt. If the City Colleges can reduce their costs, then so should the rest of city government.

Or, instead of creating scholarships out of money saved by streamlining costs, the money should be refunded to the taxpayers or taxes should be cut.

Another argument against the Mayor's incentive is that it excludes those who attend private schools. According to Jack Jennings of the Huffington Post, about 10% of students attend private school, while their families still pay property taxes to support public education.

If all residents are paying taxes to the city colleges to support these scholarships, then the scholarships should be offered to all students, not just those in public school.

In addition to that, parents of private school students also struggle to pay college tuition. These parents have the best intentions for their children to get a good education. They deserve a chance at free tuition as well.

Finally, the 3.0 grade point average requirement for the scholarship is too easy to achieve. The bar should be set higher when free tuition is the incentive.

According to an April 2011 article published at usnews.com, grade point averages have risen steadily in the United States since 1990. Currently, the average GPA for a female high school student is a 3.10/4.0 while the male average is a 2.90/4.0.

Students receiving full rides to college should have to reach higher requirements.

It is true that many students in the Chicago Public Schools struggle and need assistance if they are to continue their education. But motivating students by asking them to reach average goals sends the wrong message.

Three and a half years later, I would still choose Marist

by Megan Karas
senior columnist

After three and a half years at Marist, many things begin to seem routine, like listening to Brother Rich playing his congas in the morning, or trying to avoid the traffic in the parking lot by booking it out of the building at the end of the day. Of course there are things that have changed, like the new room 121, or the new rolling orange desks, and some things that we wish would change, like a remodeled girls' bathroom in the main hallway (Please!). I came to Marist from Prairie Junior High, a public grammar school in Alsip. The transition from public to private was difficult. I knew there would be new rules and many changes, but I could not differentiate between what was true and what was not. The rumors I heard about coming to Marist, a school where I would only know very few people, were quite intimidating for a timid eighth grader.

For example, one of my friends told me that girls could not wear nail polish, or even have the whites of their nails showing. As my long pink nails will tell, this is obviously not true. Another was that I would have to spend all night until three in the morning studying and doing homework. This one actually turned out to be true if I decided to take a nap and scroll through Facebook and goof off until ten or 11 o'clock when I eventually decided to start that day's work. For me, thankfully, this does not happen often. Given that this year is half way over, I have been realizing that my time here is dwindling. During freshman and sophomore years, I worried about about final exams. I spent most of junior year worrying about the ACT. And now that senior year has somehow rolled around, I worry about what I plan to do with the rest of my life. Marist to me is home. In nine months I will take my RedHawk wings and fly away to San Diego, a city where the only


people I know are my cousins and the only place I know is the beach. Sure, San Diego will be my new home, but there are some qualities about Marist that I will never find anywhere else. The day before parent-teacher conferences, my father died. It was a huge loss for me and my mom. My mom and I went to visit the faculty the next day and explain what had happened. We met with all the teachers, but two people left a lasting impression. Deacon Jim, who carved wooden crosses for us, and Mr. Tucker, who took my mom in one arm and me in the other and told us everything would turn out alright. Marist is more than just a school. Marist is a home. Marist is a family. I met my best friends here, people with whom I hope to keep relationships long after graduation. Marist goes beyond its slogan "brothers and sisters for life." I have had teachers who are so warm and welcoming that they make their classes something to look forward to and enjoy.

Whether it's Mr. Coe playing Sandstorm before a Western Civ test, Mr. Harper arguing with the authors of the books in his lectures, or Mr. Breckenfelder trying to find the height of Mt. Greenwood in geometry class, the teachers find a way to make class more fun, and they make the time fly by. Moving on from Marist will be hard for me, especially because it took me until junior year to figure out which hallway I was headed to when I walked down the main stairs. I often ended up in the art wing when I was trying to go to the gym. Though it is almost time to go, part of me does not want to leave. I could go on and on about how much Marist means to me. Sure, there are things that I would change about this place (did I mention the girl's bathroom in the main hallway?). But I love Marist and appreciate everything it has to offer, and I am grateful for the time I spent here.

photo opinion


by Olivia Gorney and Courtney Johnson

What are you most grateful for this Thanksgiving?




Santino Tischina
freshman

I am most thankful for my family, my friends and my school.




Madyson Armer
sophomore

I am grateful for my friends and family and always having time to share every minute with them.




Chamar Hawkins
junior

I am thankful for my education, for a great support system, my family and, most of all, for life!



Beth Finn
senior

I am thankful for McDonald's dollar Coke Zero, for my family, my team, Ms. Brusky and my Kairos sisters.



Mr. Kevin Butler
science teacher

I am thankful for my family, for having a great, hot meal and relaxing with my best friends...my dogs.

A reflection on the power of Christmas

by Brother Rich Grenier, FMS
guest columnist

The DaVinci Code seems to have created a whole new emphasis on deciphering fact from fiction concerning the person of Jesus Christ. We know very little about the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. What has emerged over the last few centuries in many countries is a cultural phenomenon known to all of us as Christmas. I say cultural phenomenon, because unfortunately in many societies there has been a steady erosion of the reason many of us celebrate Christmas. Despite the intense commercialism surrounding Christmas here in America, my personal experiences of Christmas over many years have made it possible for me to recall many symbols, images, and memories concerning the most significant birth in history. When I was just a kid growing up in Maine and Massachusetts, my mom and dad made sure my brothers and I focused on the needs of others. There was always a warm feeling in our home at Christmas, because we knew that shopping, gifts,

turkey and countless other cultural niceties, although good and desirable, were all subordinate and peripheral. We were not rich, but it didn't matter. Although my brothers and I resented certain customs at the time, we grew up to appreciate the wisdom of our family traditions and devotion to seeking the Peace of Christ. We had fun, exchanged gifts, had many hilarious family gatherings, shoveled plenty of snow, played soccer in snow, got buried in snow, and sometimes we temporarily lost our smaller friends in the snow. I am always amazed by the power of Christmas. Good experiences during this season can have a major impact on our outlook on life and on the way we treat people. I have fond memories of one Christmas many years ago, when several of us accompanied our music director, Mr. Andiorio, to several local nursing homes to entertain our elderly citizens. Some of those wonderful faces were covered with tears by the time we were finished singing. I've always wondered if they were touched by our presence among them, or if they simply found our singing unbearably bad. I hope it was the former.



I remember almost freezing to death one night when our van broke down on the way to a nursing home. For me, the cold was more than vanquished by the warm smiles of those beautiful people we entertained. I'm sure many of you reading this can relate many stories of past Christmas experiences. My fear is that many young people in our society today will never know what Christmas really is. The birth of Christ, and the hope and promise of a better future which the nativity represents, unfortunately continues to elude many people. As I recall my own experiences, I thank God for the many blessings I've received in my life, and I wish all of you the ultimate gift, THE PEACE OF CHRIST.

Marists making a difference around the world

by Matt Hickey
senior reporter

Marist is more than a private school that educates 1,800 students every year. Marist is more than a 55 acre campus that has three gymnasiums and an academic resource center fully equipped with over 50 computers.

Marist is an international community whose duty is to care, support and love one another.

The Marist Brothers maintain a global presence through schools, orphanages, academies and retreat houses in 79 countries and six continents including North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. There are currently more than 3,500 Marist Brothers throughout the world with the goal of making Jesus Christ known and loved.

Over the past few months, tragedy has broken out all over the world. Although it may seem distant, the issues affect our brothers and sisters internationally.

One of the recent conflicts breaking out is the spread of ISIS. Recently, ISIS has spread throughout the country of Syria and has made their presence known. They have made it clear that the United States is their enemy through the beheadings of journalists like James Foley. The spread of ISIS is directly affecting the Marist community.

There is currently a Marist Center, known as Mouhafazat, which reaches out to a small Christian community in the city of Aleppo, Syria. Water and electricity has been shut off from the Marist center and the workers and citizens are beginning to starve.

Members of the Blue Marists also are being affected by the recent spread of ISIS. Blue Marists are groups set up of Marist Brothers and lay people ministering to people in Muslim communities. The Blue Marists provide after school service, job trainings, food and clothing.

September 1, 2014 was the last time the Marist community heard from the Blue Marists in Syria. An emotional update was sent from layman Nabil Antaki of the Blue Marists in Syria. Antaki spoke directly about how dangerous these terrorists are.

“The worst thing is the fear that grabs one by the guts, instilled by this gang of barbarians who took possession of the whole eastern Syria and northern Iraq, to establish an Islamic State having nothing to do with the Islam that we know,” Antaki said.

“This is a gang of mostly foreign militants with whom fellow Syrian Muslims cannot identify, who slaughter, behead Western journalists, crucify people to death, stone allegedly adulterous women, flog to punish (smokers, for example), bury people alive, and sell women as slaves.”

“The full list of their barbarous and cruel deeds is too long to fit within this newsletter.”

The goal of ISIS is to establish a completely Islamic state. Islam is a religion of peace. The actions of ISIS are far from peaceful. ISIS preaches radical Islam and view Christians as infidels. To ISIS, the only good Christian is a dead Christian.

“It is hard to wrap our heads around that decree,” said Marist President Brother Hank Hammer. “It is hard to believe that young children are being brought up that way.”

Br. Hank reminds us that, as Marist students, it is our duty to keep our brothers and sisters in our prayers. These struggles in Syria are not something that the average student at Marist High School in Chicago deals with.

“One thing that comes to mind is that students at Marist don’t have to care for their safety and fear of becoming refugees,” Br. Hank said. “As Americans, we do not have to fear being killed by a political force.”

As Marist students, there is not much we can do until further information is given from these select areas.



This photo of three Syrian children was included in Nabil Antaki’s September newsletter. Antaki is a lay member of the Blue Marists, a group of lay people and Marist Brothers working with communities in Syria and other war-torn Muslim nations.

“As we ask God to be with us as we attempt to meet the challenges in our own lives, let us make time to ask His grace and help for those Marists around the world who are faced with challenges that a news story can never accurately portray.”

--Marist President Brother Hank Hammer, FMS

As the Christmas season approaches, we should all pray that Muslims and Christians can learn to live together in peace.

Among other issues in the world has been the recent outbreak of the Ebola virus. Ebola is a deadly disease spread through direct contact with blood and body fluids of a person already showing symptoms.

The virus is spreading throughout the world and has hit the Marist Community in Monrovia, Liberia. Schools in Monrovia have been shut down since August and plan to stay closed until November at the earliest.

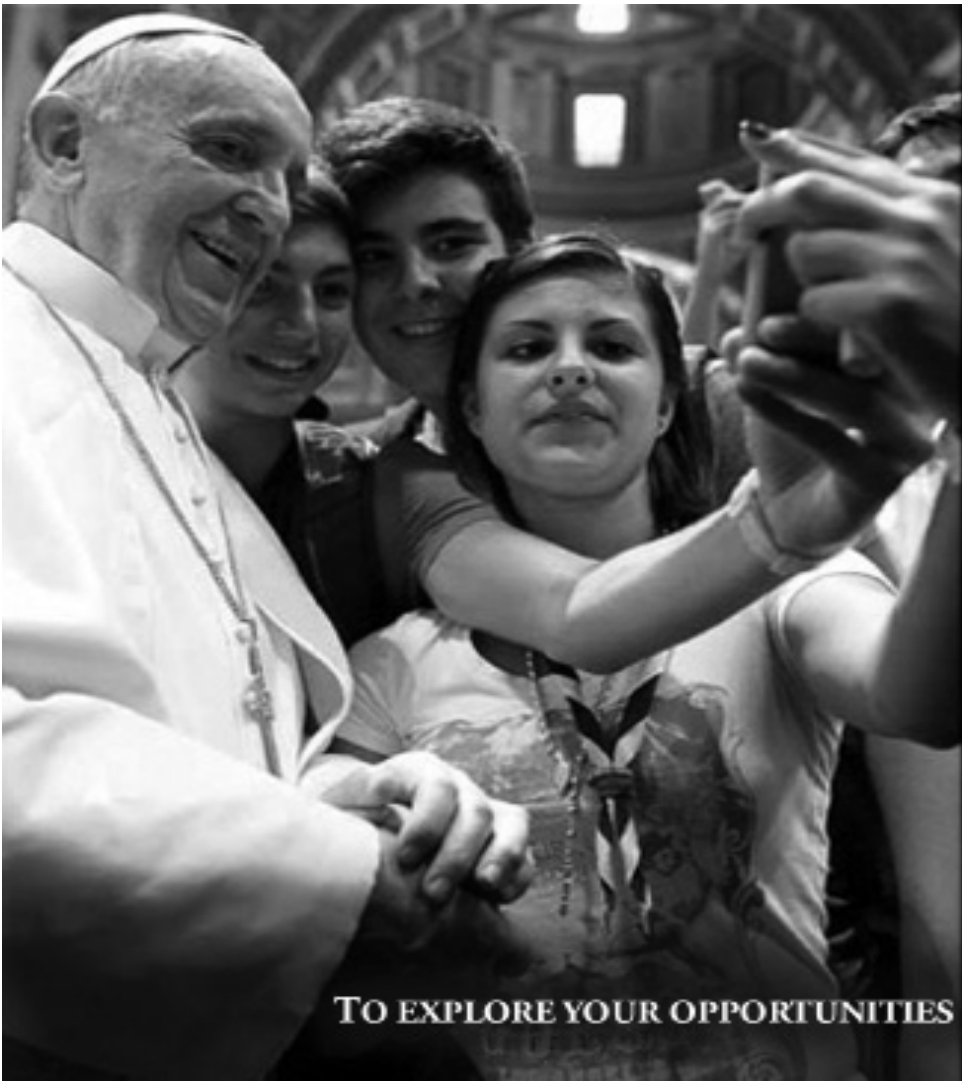
Young children are missing their education and the country as a whole is in fear of losing their lives to this dangerous virus.

As Br. Hank points out, the most important reminder we can draw from these recent tragedies is that we belong to a bigger Marist world.

“We are well aware of the wonderful part we play in the worldwide Marist mission,” Br. Hank said. “While Marist/Catholic education faces challenges of its own in the United States, there are any number of Marist places in the world where people are striving just to stay alive.”

The full text of Nabil Antaki’s September letter from Syria is available at www.champagnat.org.

Although some may disagree with some of Antaki’s political statements, “[The letter] is worth reading with a ‘Marist’ heart,” and responding to with “prayerful support,” Br. Hank said.



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is not a privilege for the few,
but a vocation for everyone.**

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TO EXPLORE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES TALK TO BR. HANK OR DEACON ANDY

Varsity football season strong until the end

by Nick Konow
senior reporter

The varsity football team fell to Nazareth Academy and Joliet Catholic in the last two games of the regular season. The team’s overall record was 4-5 this season, the first time since 2007-2008 that the RedHawks did not advance to the playoffs. “We faced a lot of adversity this season,” senior linebacker Sean McGuire said. “Although the season didn’t finish the way we wanted it to, we never lost hope and fought to the very end.” The RedHawks faced the challenge of having only one of 22 starters remaining from last year’s team, which advanced to the Class 8A semifinals. The team’s four wins this season came against DuSable (45-0) on Aug. 29, Benet (21-7) at homecoming on Sept. 26, St. Patrick (32-20) on Oct. 4 and Marian Catholic (44-7) on Oct. 10.

“A lot of guys stepped up this year and the team is looking forward to a lot of returning talent next season,” said senior defensive back Marty Meyer. Four players were named to the ESCC All-Conference team, including Meyer, linebacker Marty Ryan, defensive back Nick Gasbarro and running back Darshon McCollough. “It was an honor to be named to the All-Conference team and a great way to end my career here at Marist,” Gasbarro said. Despite the 4-5 record, head coach Pat Dunne highlighted the team’s strengths this season. “This group of seniors led by example and set a high standard of hard work,” Dunne said. Dunne also sees the team progressing and is looking forward to 2015. “It seems like each year that standard rises, and I’m excited to see how this next group of guys builds off that in the offseason and eventually into next year’s season.”



photo by Tom Ryan

The RedHawk special teams unit lines up to contest a Joliet Catholic field goal attempt. The RedHawks fell to the Hilltoppers with a final score of 25-7 to end the 2014 season.



photo by Joseph Kezon

Senior defender Grant Kenny (#12) waits for a pass from sophomore midfielder David Regan (#16) after Regan brings the ball out of the air in the match against Benet on Oct. 8.

Soccer for four years, brothers for life

by Keri Boyle
senior reporter

The boys’ varsity soccer team faced a challenging season this year, ending with a 9-12-2 overall record and a 5-1-2 record in the ESCC conference. Ending their careers at Marist, seniors Carter Olson and Noah Kemp were named to the All-Sectional team, while seniors Joe Kezon, Grant Kenny and sophomore David Regan made ESCC All-Conference. To receive All-Sectional honors, players are nominated and voted for by area coaches based on the players’ overall abilities and achievements on the field. Players are named by coaches to the All-Conference team based on their performance during the conference season. During the season, eight players suffered significant injuries, but the team remained focused.

“We were hit with some injuries, but with the inspiring leadership of our coaches, we knew nothing could stop us,” said Sam Gainer. Senior team captains Grant Kenny and Joseph Kezon, commented on how the team progressed over the years and how much they will miss Marist soccer. “We have had a core group of players that led the team over the past four years,” Kezon said. “We will miss the early morning grinds but continue the friendships we have created these past four years.” “Together we built this program up so that the sophomores and juniors can take over and continue on with our success,” Kenny said. Senior goalie Noah Kemp also commented on the end of his soccer career at Marist. “Soccer gave me a stronger sense of maturity and responsibility,” Kemp said. “I’m going to miss being on the team.”

Senior golfers staying on course

by Sarah Peel
and Brooke Sitasz
senior reporters

The varsity golf season is over for both the boys’ and girls’ teams, but at least two seniors will continue to play in college next year. After finishing 4th overall at the ESCC Championships on Oct. 2, the boys’ team finished in 2nd place overall at regionals on Oct. 7. At regionals, senior Dan Cachey shot a 73 and came in 3rd place. The boys’ season ended at sectionals on Oct. 13. “I had a lot of fun during the past four years playing golf at Marist,” Cachey said. “My golf game has matured and I’m excited to continue playing in college.”

Cachey will continue his golf career at Illinois Wesleyan University, while teammate Nick Konow remains undecided about playing golf next year at St. Joseph College in Indiana. The girls’ varsity team finished its season with an overall record of 8-3. Highlights included a 5th place finish at the ESCC Championships on Sept. 29. Golfers Sam Smith and Kelly Barker, both seniors, were named to the All-Conference team. At regionals, the team placed 4th overall, with seniors Kaitlyn Maloney placing 7th and Kelly Barker placing 14th. Barker has signed to play with Benedictine University next year. “I realized how much I would miss being on a golf team,” she said. “The coach at Benedictine contacted me and it ended up being a perfect fit for me.”

Girls’ tennis season ends at sectionals

by Courtney Coan
senior reporter

The varsity girls’ tennis team season ended with a loss at sectionals on Fri., Oct. 17, marking the end of Marist careers for seniors Geneva Allen, Mary Cunningham, Annie Hynes, Mary McIntyre, Maggie Ringbauer, Claire Callahan, Clare Gilligan, Hannah Kelly, Taylor Pace and Anna Thomas. The team finished 10-6-1 for the season. Big wins for the tennis team included Oak Lawn Community High School, Marian Catholic, Lincoln-Way Central, Providence, Chicago Christian, Benet, Nazareth, and Richards High School. Tough losses came against Stagg, Fenwick, Benet, Sandburg, Joliet and Carmel.

“The team did great this season,” head coach Brian Burns said. “The entire team put in many tennis camp hours before the season and it really showed. We had some injuries, but I am very proud and happy with the outcome of the 2014 season.” One obstacle the team faced was when Ringbauer sprained her ankle in September. This was to be Ringbauer and Callahan’s 10th season playing as doubles partners. Junior Megan Ward stepped in to play doubles with Callahan for the rest of the season. “We worked for hours on the court to improve our game and this showed through the season,” Callahan said. “For me, this season was about more than just playing tennis. It was about the bond that I created with the team. We truly became a family.”

varsity hockey

RedHawks open season #40

by Megan Karas
senior reporter

Led by captain Jack Dombrowski and assisting captains Ryan Loizzo and Joe Scurek, the RedHawk varsity hockey team opened its 40th season on Sept. 25 with an 11-1 win against Homewood-Flossmoor.

With a 3-6 record at press time, the team hosted a fundraiser at the game against Mount Carmel on Nov. 2, raising \$5,000 for multiple sclerosis (MS).

MS is a disease that impairs a person’s mobility and breathing and can cause seizures, tremors and numbness.

The team won this game 7-4, and drew a large crowd that included the Marist cheerleaders. Highlights included two goals each from Loizzo and Vito Dellorto, as well as single goals from CJ Antonelli, Joe Prkut and Zack Meeker.

On top of raising money for MS, the hockey team also visited Hope Children’s Hospital in Oak Lawn on Oct. 13. Each team member brought a toy to present to a child undergoing treatment at the hospital.

“Going to the hospital really puts things in perspective,” senior Jack Dombrowski said. “It shows us how lucky we are and it feels even better to give back to the community that supports us.”

Chuck Peters is the RedHawks’ new head coach this year. Peters has introduced the team to an off-ice program this year led by Chicago Fury coach Jeff Blindauer.

“Our goals are to build up our program and rise to the challenge of beating some of the best teams in the Catholic League,” said senior Colin McGovern.

The RedHawks play next in the Loyola Thanksgiving Tournament Nov. 27-29.



photo by Lynn Prkut

Marist hockey players pose with the staff of Hope Children’s Hospital in Oak Lawn on Oct. 13 after donating toys to the patients being treated there. The team also raised \$5,000 for multiple sclerosis at the game against Mount Carmel on Nov. 2.

varsity cross country

Running RedHawk 10th in state

by Gianna Callo
senior reporter

To highlight the girls’ cross country season, sophomore MaryClare Leonard finished 10th in the IHSA cross country state finals on Sat., Nov. 8, with a time of 17:06. Her finish at state was also a personal best for Leonard, with an improvement of 18 seconds.

Leonard’s finish is the second best in Marist history on the state course, earning her the title of All-Star Athlete for the second year in a row.

“I am so lucky to be part of such an awesome team,” Leonard said. “The girls I run with are so supportive and hard-working, and I also credit the dedication of my coaches, Mr. Richard Karnia and Mr. Pat Quinn.”

Earlier in the season, both the boys’ and girls’ teams enjoyed many other victories.

On Oct. 25 at the IHSA class 3A regionals, the girls’ team came in 2nd place, with Leonard placing first, junior Catherine Viz placing 8th, junior Bridget McDermott placing 11th and senior Molly Fahy placing 18th.

Highlights of the boys’ season included a first place finish at the Tinley Park Invitational on Sept. 27, followed by a 4th place finish in the ESCC conference meet on Oct. 18.

The boys also came in 6th place at the IHSA class 3A regional on Oct. 25.

Senior Mike Conrad finished 6th overall at Tinley Park, with a time of 15:49. He also placed 4th at the ESCC conference championship with a time of 15:50, and placed 7th at regionals with the same time.

“Unfortunately, none of us advanced from regionals,” Conrad said, “but we are going to use that race as fuel for the track and field season this spring.”



photo by Pat Quinn

Sophomore MaryClare Leonard leaves her competition behind on the course. Her 10th place finish at this year’s state finals was a personal best and the second best time at state by a Marist runner.

girls’ volleyball

Strong season ends at sectionals

by Maggie Stimac
senior reporter

The girls’ varsity volleyball team, named 2014 ESCC conference champions, ended its season with a tough loss at sectionals to Lyons Township on Nov. 4 (25-19, 20-25, 22-25).

The team had won both rounds of the IHSA regional game, defeating Richards on Oct. 28 (25-16, 25-11) and Hinsdale Central on Oct. 29 (25-20, 25-19).

At the 6th annual Nike Tournament of Champions held in Phoenix, Ariz. on Oct. 17-18, the RedHawks were named Gold Division Champions after four wins and one loss. Junior Cameron Enright was also named most outstanding player at the tournament.

“It was not something I expected, but I was very happy about it,” Enright said.

At senior night on Oct. 21, Lizzie Zaleski, Colleen Reilly, Sarah Lowery, Emily Coghlan and Maggie Hughes

played their final home game, turning in a win against Joliet Catholic (22-25, 25-12, 25-15).

Head coach Julie Popp-Hopkins is proud of the team.

“I thank our seniors for their hard work and dedication,” she said. “We are going to miss them. The future looks very bright for the program and I’m already looking forward to next season.”

Co-captains Reilly and Zaleski will be moving to the next level after graduation, playing Division 1 volleyball at Wofford College and Valparaiso University, respectively.

“The coaches and players became my second family and I will miss the RedHawk Rowdies packing the stands to cheer us on,” Reilly said.

The rest of the team is focusing on next year.

“We will continue to practice and focus on mental toughness,” Enright said. “We need to believe that we can continue to win.”



photo by Patricia Enright

Junior Cameron Enright jumps for the spike during the Nike Tournament of Champions held in Phoenix, Ariz. on October 17-18. Enright was named most outstanding player at the tournament.