A Message from the Department Chair

It is with great enthusiasm that I announce the appointment of Dr. David Burkitt as MBA Program Director. Dr. Burkitt is an alum of our Weekend & Evening College Business Program. He holds an MBA from Regis University and a PhD in Business from Regent University. He brings successful leadership, research and teaching experience to his new position.

Dr. Burkitt has served as a faculty member at Mount Saint Mary’s since 2005 teaching courses in both the areas of Accounting and Management. He has been instrumental in developing curriculum for our Online Business Programs. He has previously served as Interim MBA Director, MBA Program Coordinator and Program Director for our Undergraduate Online Bachelors Program. Dr. Burkitt was formerly the Chief Financial Officer for Shriners Children’s Hospital in Los Angeles and Controller for AYSO Soccer.

Dr. Lester Reams J.D., D.P.A. will serve as Program Coordinator for our new Online MBA Program commencing in the fall. Dr. Reams is overseeing the development of Online MBA Curriculum as well as leading our ACBSP business school accreditation process. Dr. Reams previously served as Business Administration Chair at University of Phoenix and led their business school successfully through ACBSP accreditation. Dr. Reams will continue to teach courses in Business Law in our undergraduate and online programs.

Melissa Cook MBA, joins our full-time faculty this fall. Professor Cook brings strong multidisciplinary business experience and great enthusiasm to our business program. She will be teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on ground and online. She will serve as Program Coordinator for our MBA weekend cohort. As a double alum of the Mount, she will be reaching out to our alums and their employers in promoting career development opportunities through the various academic programs and modalities offered by the university.

Dr. Christian Teeter has moved to a full-time faculty position at the Chalon campus working with undergraduate students in our on-ground and on-line Bachelor’s Programs.

Please come and join your fellow MSMU alums and friends at A Celebration of Generations Champagne Brunch during Homecoming & Reunions on Saturday, October 14, at the beautiful Chalon campus. MBA Alums will have a table - please encourage your former classmates to attend this memorable and fun occasion! Early bird registration available.
Director’s Update

Dear Mount MBA Community,

Welcome back! I hope you are all looking forward to the new academic year. Fall is a time of change and our program has some exciting new changes. We have been busy making the program even more robust for you this past summer. Our IT systems are in the process of being upgraded on the Doheny Campus and, as we look forward to improved speed over the next semester, we will also begin to get acquainted with our virtual MBA peers in the MBA Online program which started this Fall 17 semester. I have had the pleasure of working with many of you throughout your program. Now, I am honored to serve as the new Director for the MBA program. Dr. Christian Teeter will be working with the students at the Chalon campus, and we wish him well in his endeavors and thank him for his help with the MBA program these past 2 years.

I would like to use this newsletter to celebrate the many achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni. Highlight the events and new programs that we have, and, most importantly, keep our Mount community connected. I hope that you find this newsletter a valuable resource of information and help us to make it better by providing your accomplishments as you move through your careers and have memorable news in your family life.

Soon, we will celebrate the annual Homecoming event at the Chalon Campus and this year, as Christine Ramirez, MBA ’17 mentions in her article, our Board President Joy Bejarano, MBA ’15 will be honored as the Outstanding Alumna of the year. We are so proud of Joy and of all the good work that Joy has done for MAPS as President. I hope that you can join in the fun and celebration of this event and honor Joy at this Homecoming event. Be sure to look for the special table identified for MBA Alums. It would be great to have many tables just for MBA alums and, so far, this a plural discussion... so sign up soon – you may still be able to get that early bird special!

This happens to also be my 20th year anniversary as a Weekend College undergraduate alum – 1997. I know, I can hardly believe it! Just look at this picture of my study buddy Dorothy Nishawaka and I in 1996 – we are at the Chalon Campus cafeteria. We did study, really, and our Professors are standing very near to us to this day! I must tell you - it is so important to study...properly.

Dr. Burkitt and Dorothy Nishawaka dining in the café at Chalon in 1996

We went from undergrad International Business in our undergraduate work to the MBA at our respective universities. This meant the next great frontier for me - China. Wow, what a fabulous experience - 1999! When you go, you will have so much fun and learn so much as current students or as Alumni if you elect to return.

My education opened many new doors, and I promise you I went through “ALL” of them - and more. But one day the big challenge came, the “doctorate”. I said ok, I can do this and I will. Seven years later I was able to say that the dissertation and all of the many requirements were complete. I was so happy. Now, I could teach accounting and really “LOVE IT” and say with a passion that I just know “YOU ALL LOVE IT TO”.

Dr. Burkitt in Beijing in 1999

Throughout my 20-year career life experience at the Mount, it has been fun! I’m so glad I have had the experiences that have come my way, and I am very happy to be here to help you meet your goals and move forward in your careers. This is an exciting time for the MBA program at the Mount. Let’s make this year even more successful than ever before. Please contact me at any time. I am certain that our department Chair Mark Alhanati, along with the faculty and staff of the Business Administration department would agree that we are here to assist you and your education endeavors in any way we can.

Sincerely,

David Burkitt, PhD
Associate Professor
Director, MBA Program

We are always looking for interesting content for our newsletter. Comments, article suggestions, content submissions, and feedback are welcomed. Please email us at busadmin@msmu.edu. We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed preparing it for you!
New MBA Advisory Board Members: Richard Daetwiler and Angela Stern

Join us in welcoming the newest member of our Advisory Board to the Mount MBA Community!

Richard Daetwiler currently serves as Director, Structured Solutions. Richard is responsible for the marketing and distribution of Structured Solutions covering UBS Financial Advisors and their UHNW and Family Office clients in the New England Region.

Richard is a graduate of USC Marshall School of Business iBEAR Program with an MBA in International Business. In addition to his MBA, Richard also has a BA in International Relations from Boston University. Richard has over 20 years’ experience in financial services. He has held various roles at UBS, and most recently was responsible for all Investment Bank Product marketing into UBS Wealth Management. He specializes in Foreign Exchange, Precious Metals and Equity Linked Derivatives and focuses on solutions for UBS Americas UHNW clientele.

Prior to UBS, Richard worked in various capacities in financial services including: running the San Francisco office for a Boston based money management firm, and also has worked globally in London and Zurich for major Japanese Investment Banks specializing in Asian linked Derivatives and Convertible Bonds covering West European- and Asia Pacific institutional clients.

Angela Stern is a Principal at Mercer Health & Benefits Los Angeles office. Angela has more than 30 years of brokerage and consulting experience. She is responsible for overseeing all insurance services and activities for approximately 15 major middle-market clients. She is also the Enterprise Practice leader which focuses on all clients up to 2000 lives.

Angela attended Mount St. Mary’s University, where she received a B.A. in business with an emphasis in marketing and a Master of Business Administration. She also completed the University of Southern California’s marketing and sales program in 1986. In 1999, Angela was recognized as Marsh’s top sales performer in the Pacific South Region.

Angela is the current President of EWI, LA, an organization that focuses on helping professional women come together to help their companies, their careers and their communities thrive. She is currently a Regent on the MSMU Advisory Board and also a member of the Advisory Board of the Archdiocesan Youth Employment-Los Angeles.

Thank you to all of our Advisory Board members for their hard work and dedication to our program. Jim Roach will chair the next Advisory Board meeting on October 26, 2017.

-MBA Steering Committee

Faculty Publication

Pilgrimage in Leadership

by Jane Cruz, PhD

Adjunct faculty member, Dr. Jane Cruz was recently published in the International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage, a peer reviewed leadership journal. In her paper, Jane presents research on components of leadership dealing with personal patterns and opportunities for growth. The abstract from that paper is included here.

Humans are universally drawn to the act of pilgrimage and current research informs us that the call to pilgrimage is increasing globally. In many cases pilgrimage is associated with religious ritual or a healing process. However, when pilgrimage is understood as archetypal behaviour, it becomes clear that an inner or outer pilgrimage can serve as a powerful metaphor for the development of transformational leaders. Exploring the works of important writers and researchers in pilgrimage, mythology, religion, history, psychology, philosophy, art and leadership development, this paper will demonstrate how the act of pilgrimage is a foundational symbol for leadership development. When leaders consciously engage with the archetype of pilgrimage from this perspective they activate the flow of creative images necessary for psychological development in ways necessary to their individual growth. Additionally, when viewed through this lens, pilgrimage can help advance our understanding of the unique pathways leaders must take in order to increase self-awareness through the rich resources of the psyche. Through both actual and metaphorical pilgrimage, leaders can attain increased understanding of their own personal patterns and opportunities for growth. We know that the most motivational and successful leaders are those who not only have clear ethical boundaries, but also have the courage and creativity to lead the way into the wilderness of the unknown. In an increasingly fast-paced, complex, technological and global world, this capability to find the courage to lead the way forward and to facilitate the new is more critical than ever before. The creative use of images, such as that of the pilgrim, contributes toward developing the qualities essential to becoming a sustaining and transformational leader.


To read the full paper go to http://arrow.dit.ie/ijrtp/vol5/iss2/
MBA Alumni President Joy Bejarano, MBA’15, to receive MSMU 2017 Outstanding Alumna Award

by Christine Ramirez, MBA’17

Joy in China during her program.

Joy Bejarano, alumna of the Mount Saint Mary’s University (MSMU) MBA program 2015, has been chosen to receive the prestigious 2017 Outstanding Alumna Award for service to the University. The MSMU Alumnae Association recognizes alumna with distinctive accomplishments. This award comes as no surprise to many of the alumni, faculty, and current students. Joy’s journey as MBA Association of Professional (MAP’s) alumni board president has been of one excellence. Since being voted president in 2015, Joy has worked tirelessly to build a strong MAP’s board, strengthen relationships with alumni, support current students through their MBA journey, fundraise for student scholarships, serve as the Alumni representative to the MBA Steering Committee, and supporting the launch of the online MBA program this fall. Joy’s many contributions help to continue the academic integrity of the program.

The greatest accomplishment Joy is proudest of, is the MSMU MBA mentorship program. It is a project near and dear to Joy’s heart as it allows alumni to connect with MBA students and offer the extra support students need to be successful during the program and after graduation. There are two key reasons Joy believes mentoring is important, it offers Alumni “the opportunity to inspire others to be better leaders” and “allows both the mentor and the mentee the opportunity to connect and further strengthen their network.” It is Joy’s hope the mentoring program will continue to keep students and alumni engaged and add value to the MBA MSMU program.

Joy further seeks to instill the importance of our alumni network. Joy states, “MSMU Map’s should be a natural extension of the program once students graduate. Networking needs to be the focal point; one where MBA students have opportunities to interact within the alumni network, as well as with current students, and hopefully becomes the first place to seek top talent. Alumni should know they are now a part of a growing pool of professionals and are encouraged to connect with each other.”

Please join us at the MSMU Homecoming event on October 14, 2017, as we watch Joy receive her award surrounded by peers and administration of the institution. Mount Saint Mary’s University was Founded in 1925 as a Women’s University and has coeducational programs such as the MBA, Nursing, and Weekend and Evening Programs just to name a few. We are very proud to have Joy Bejarano, MBA as our MBA President and congratulate her on this significant achievement.

Joy in 2015 with her cohort.

Joy is a firm believer in lifelong learning and an avid reader. She highly recommends reading John Bradshaw’s Homecoming: reclaiming and championing your inner child. Joy’s passion outside of the University includes travel and Joy looks forward to future vacations! When you see her around campus, say hi to her and congratulate her. Her leadership is commendable and it is our hope it inspires you to give back to Alma matter!

A Special Note to Joy from our First MAPs President

Congratulations Joy! As the recipient of the Alum Award, you should be very proud of your accomplishments. The award is a symbol of the Mount community recognizing your contributions on a public platform. We are very thankful that you have dedicated yourself to nurturing and engaging the MBA students and alumni. As the former MBA Alumni President I believe that we are only as strong as our network. Recognizing the challenges that are innate to your role, they did not deter you from succeeding. The MBA program provided the tools for you to take on this opportunity. Without asking how a good leader should be. You became one.

-Nancy Valdivia Antoniou, MBA’09
Alumni Focus

Clinical Excellence - Superior Patient Outcomes

Jason Aranda, RN, BSN, MBA ‘11

by David Burkitt, PhD

We are honored to have Jason Aranda, RN, BSN, MBA ‘11 as one of our MBA Alumni at Mount Saint Mary’s University. Jason first came to Mount Saint Mary’s University LA to study nursing in 1997 and become a healthcare clinician. He reached his goal and passed his board exams, becoming a registered nurse in 2000. When you talk with Jason, you get a real sense of how he cares for people and how he wants to help people. He is truly a genuine, caring person. Jason worked very hard to earn his credentials. On Jason’s LinkedIn site, you can see that he worked very hard to earn his credentials. On Jason’s LinkedIn site, you can see that he worked very hard to earn his credentials. On Jason’s LinkedIn site, you can see that he worked very hard to earn his credentials.

Jason states, “I like to equate success not by my individual accomplishments, but how as a leader you mobilize a group towards a common goal. One of my proudest accomplishment was when at City of Hope I was asked to lead our efforts of data conversion. We were going “live” with a major Electronic Health Record expansion and needed to make sure there was actionable data when we flipped the switch so that the doctors can provide care to their patients accordingly. Not only did I have to come up with the strategy, I had to plan its execution as well. Oncology care is very complicated, with very complex regiments and coming up with a plan for dual settings (inpatient and ambulatory) and ensuring patient data translated appropriately was no easy task. It was the most challenging, and most rewarding experience. It gave me confidence that if I survived this project, I could survive anything…”

Each step of our careers builds upon our readiness for the next step or phase. Just when we think we have mastered one phase of our career another hurdle is placed in front of us. One might say this presents an ever ending struggle or challenge to get to the top of our profession…and then what? For Jason this became the MBA. He succeeded at this, too. I asked Jason when he felt he was ready for success in his career.

Jason stated, “I love this question, because the truth of the matter is, I never felt I was welcomed success. Even at this point in my career, I still have so much to learn. At every stage of management the degree of accountability became even more and more complex as my span of control and responsibility exponentially expanded as well. I think the key is to have a state of mind to always pursue more. This is one thing I have learned from The Mount, I am in a constant state of learning. So I have just applied that to my career as well. Every stage of my career was actually the next challenge to learn more about my specialty.”

Learning is a lifelong endeavor and those of us that have the “Mount” experience know what this means. Jason knows this all so very well. Jason talked with me in this interview about his position at Cleveland Clinic saying, “My current role with the Cleveland Clinic to date has been the most rewarding accomplishment. I feel privileged every day to be able to do what I do and have this amazing opportunity to be able to take it across the pond, London, UK. I am also humbled at the fact that Cleveland Clinic (No. 2 ranking in U.S. News & World Report’s “2017-18 Best Hospitals” expansion to the region. I also feel very proud to be part of an organization that is looking to change how healthcare is delivered in the UK. We have a real opportunity to make real change as far as health care in the UK, but we have to play a delicate balance on not being too disruptive that it is received negatively.” As adult learners, we came to Mount Saint Mary’s University to change and transform our lives in some way.

For many, the thought of a new and exciting career and life that new study may provide and may create highly motivates individuals to work hard and accomplish new goals and, in particular, reach new career achievements.

Jason ultimately went on from his BSN to obtain his MBA so he would understand the business of healthcare. Both degrees complement each other, and he leverages the nursing knowledge with his IT knowledge and Business degree knowledge. Combined this motivates him to create real change in how we practice healthcare. Jason states, “I feel that as a Registered Nurse working in Healthcare IT, I am cognizant of the demands that have been overlooked. I am intrigued by the challenge of creating a standardized language, actionable online data for health care providers, and utilizing a reporting system and data collection from these computerized resources. My goal and motivation is to be involved in the strategic development of user-friendly computerized systems that utilize language and concepts applicable to all health care professions. In this way, I will ultimately contribute to improving patient outcomes. I have learned there is a better way to serve the needs of the health care consumer as well as our health care providers.”
Alumni News

Promotions and Achievements
Mount alums are making strides in their careers and professional development. Here’s a snapshot of what alumni are doing:

Henry Buchot MBA’17 is currently running for City Council in Whittier
Nicholas Connell MBA’14 is beginning his Doctor of Public Administration program at University of LaVerne

Congratulations to the following alums on their recent promotions:
Brigidann Cooper MBA’11
Researcher, LA BioMed – Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute
Stephanie Ghayouri, MBA’14
Director of Talent Management, Junior Blind
Justin Key MBA’13
Staff Writer, Blavity
Devon Weis, MBA’12
Client Account Executive, National Accounts ADP

Received a promotion? Recently started a new job? Any other exciting career news? Email us at busadmin@msmu.edu and you could be featured in a future newsletter.

Giving to the Mount
Alumni are integral to the success of Mount Saint Mary’s, and essential to achieving our shared aspirations for the future of the University, our students, and the community we serve. Mount Saint Mary’s is a special place to receive a college education. Every student has embarked on a unique journey to get here, but what each has in common is the unwavering support they find from our dedicated faculty and staff when they arrive, and throughout their academic career.

Your partnership truly makes a difference and allows us to provide the necessary resources to support our students, faculty and staff. There are numerous ways to contribute to the Mount MBA community:

Sponsor a culminating project. We are always looking for sponsors for culminating projects. If you own or work for a company that would be interested in partnering with us, contact dburkitt@msmu.edu.

Other opportunities to give back include:
- **Guest Speaker** – Volunteer to speak at our Community Luncheon and other events throughout the year.
- **Mentoring** – In coordination with MAPs, work with current 1st semester MBA students.
- **Donate** – You may target your contribution to the Mount to a specific program or project.

For more information on how you can contribute to the Mount, please contact us at busadmin@msmu.edu or (213) 477-2644.

Mount Career Network
Mount alums, are you a new grad looking for your next opportunity? Or perhaps you’re looking for a new career change. MSMU’s Career Services & Internships is here to help. Check out these amazing career opportunities and many more on our Mount Career Network! Log on to the Mount Career Network and explore your options. [www.mountcareernetwork.com](http://www.mountcareernetwork.com)
China Trip Summer 2017

MBA Cohort December 2017

Organizational leaders in the 21st century need to think globally. The Mount Saint Mary’s MBA immerses students in an international market as a complement to the study in the third semester during a 9-day guided exploration of China.

With a rapidly evolving economy and growing geopolitical influence, China holds many of the world’s most dynamic regions today. The complexities of its transitioning markets make it an ideal study for organizational leaders.

Participants first visit Shanghai. With a long tradition of American, British, and French commercial presence, the city is quickly emerging as a leading commercial harbor, financial center, and manufacturing center in China.

The international field study ends in Hong Kong, one of Asia’s Tigers and one of the world major transportation and financial centers.

Cultural excursions and informal sessions also introduce students to China’s many perspectives on the United States and the global business environment.

Next, the program travels to Guangzhou and Guangdong Province to gain an understanding of China’s manufacturing powerhouse. Visits to factories and exchanges with Chinese executives and professors provide opportunities for a deeper appreciation of the Chinese business, cultural and management environment.

December 2017 cohort visiting Shanghai.

MBA Student Project in China

As a way of giving back and acknowledging the hospitality of our hosts in China, the MSMU MBA classes have developed a program where they donate English books to a university in China. Each MBA group member brings a minimum of 3 English books with them and a formal presentation is made to Gannan University. The books are then placed in the library of Gannan University for use by students studying English. Over 1,200 books have been donated so far.

Student Experience

The trip to China is a dynamic addition to the traditional classroom experience. Students in the third semester gain new insights and applicable skills from the lessons presented during the trip.

“China was AMAZING!! Definitely an experience I’ll never forget. Super grateful to have met a wonderful group of people along the way.”

Kimberly Sterling
December’17 Cohort

“What an absolutely amazing experience! MSMU has done a really great job organizing a wonderful China colloquium for the MBA program. Everything ran smoothly and I really appreciate Professor Antoniou’s expertise and Professor Whitman’s guidance. It was obvious the agenda was planned with precision and to teach MSMU students about the importance of China’s influence in the global business community. I learned so much.”

Adela Ramirez
December’17 Cohort
Student Spotlight

Jeff Trovinger –Cohort Semester One
by David Burkitt, PhD

Each semester, a new group of students enters the MBA Foundation course structure of the program. Bright-eyed and ready to learn the business core requirements these individuals work very hard during this semester taking core courses in Accounting, Marketing, Finance, Economics, and Business Management. We offer the Foundation courses for those who were not Business majors in their undergraduate studies so that they are prepared to study the rigor of the MBA program. Jeff Trovinger is one of our summer Foundation students that exceeded in all areas of Foundation study and is now entering the Fall 17 MBA program - Cohort Semester One.

The thematic curricular approach and weekend format are important distinguishing features of the Mount Saint Mary’s MBA program and are important, but there are other characteristics that are important as well. Among the other unique features are personal career coaching, the culminating project, and international travel study.

The Mount St. Mary’s University MBA is highly student-centered, career-relevant and strategically-focused on the practice of managerial leadership. Cohort Semester One, Understanding the External Global Business Environment is directed towards analyzing and interpreting what is happening outside the organization and how these conditions may subsequently impact the organization. This includes information regarding the business environment, economic conditions, competition, data collection, interpretation, assessment and dissemination of relevant information. Jeff and his cohort will be learning the components of this study within the next months during the Fall 17 semester.

Jeff is happy to be in this program and realized the importance of continuing his education and states, “After being promoted to my current position, I realized that I needed to learn the nuts and bolts of business acumen, and speak the same language as those who are tied to the bottom line. Having a liberal arts undergraduate degree put me in good stead with soft skills. Yet, to take it to the next level and truly connect with an ever-increasingly competitive business environment, I had to expand my knowledge of finance, accounting, and economics, management, and be more savvy to current business trends.”

Mount Saint Mary’s University’s mission serves as the basis of our core values. At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, we are dedicated to the same mission: we offer a dynamic learning experience in the liberal arts and sciences to a diverse student body and are dedicated to providing a superior education enhanced by an emphasis on building leadership skills and fostering a spirit to serve others.

Our measure of success starts with graduates who are committed to using their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their environments, and the world. Jeff determined that after researching many months he would prefer a program that would be primarily online and cohort-driven.

When he attended the information session, he was sold on the rotation weekend and in-person cohort model. He made his decision to attend the Mount based on considerations of time required for the program, closeness to the main campus (drive-time), the cost, and most importantly, who would be his fellow students. Jeff states, “In research, I appreciated the diverse student population and the core values held by MSMU-LA.”

The Mount Saint Mary’s University Los Angeles MBA Program strives to prepare Women and men at the graduate level as leaders for society by giving them the means as well as the confidence to:

- envision and facilitate personal responsibility for the direction of society...
- create and contribute to a society; 
- assist those with whom they work to recognize and use their own talents, skills, and resources;

Jeff brings years of valuable work experience into the program. His peers respect him. He states, “my greatest strength is experience. I’ve been in many roles with varying degrees of responsibility in multiple business segments. I wish to bring my experience to the table and uplift those who are struggling in their current role, encourage or advise those who wish to move on or up in their chosen field, and learn from them - as much as they hopefully learn from me.” I felt Jeff’s statement was very was inspiring for all of us. Jeff hopes to learn more about what he doesn’t know. Jeff states, “There are many apps and communication tools that I’ve already picked up in my short time at the Mount.

“Strong connections were made with my peers in Foundations. It was an easing-in of what seems to be an intensive business education. All of us were liberal arts students with limited exposure to the business side, yet all of us embraced feeling uncomfortable and learning new things.”

“Success is leveraging a life-long development of soft skills, coupled with newly acquired business acumen, to build a strong career that supports smart business decisions and an appreciation of colleagues/people at the same time.”

“Before interviewing for this program, I hadn’t taken the next step in actualizing this goal of balancing soft skills with business acumen. God willing, I will achieve and flourish

MBA Schedule Fall 2017
Weekend #0: Aug. 19-20, BUS 211
Weekend #1: Sept. 9-10
Weekend #2: Sept. 23-24
Weekend #3: Oct. 7-8
Weekend #4: Oct. 21-22
China Trip: Oct. 25-Nov. 5
Weekend #5: Nov. 4-6
Weekend #6: Nov. 18-19
Presentations: Dec. 2
Celebrating 30 years of Commitment to the Mount: Darcy Burke, MBA ’09

Mount St. Mary’s College looked similar back in 1987. Thirty years have seen it grow in both beauty and grace. The faces may be different now, and the men in the room have definitely changed the experience, but what hasn’t changed is the spirit.

When I came to the Mount for the very first time, at Chalon, I happened to sit next to Sister Magdalen Coughlin. Unbeknownst to me, she was President of the college. She struck up a conversation that was about not limiting my options or my vision. She told me that it did not matter what I majored in; rather, it mattered whom I would become. “How was I planning on serving the world?” she asked me. How would I share my talents and how was I planning to live my faith? Tough questions for anyone to answer, but all necessary. No other college I visited had even started the conversation of service, faith or vision. Rather, they spoke about their cafeterias and their coed events. Sister spoke about growing women leaders that knew how to lead, but even greater, they learned how to inspire. That chance encounter on a simple bench in “the Circle” changed everything.

For those that had the privilege and blessing of knowing her and being in her presence, Sister Magdalen Coughlin was a woman of grace, and demonstrated that in her words and deeds. She was one of the Mount’s great leaders. That chance encounter changed my life and enabled me to envision a future far greater than I imagined. I will be forever grateful for the chat on the bench.

Fast forward twenty years and I was able to attend Homecoming and celebrate 20 years with my classmates. During another chance encounter, this time with a former professor, Katherine Whitman, I was invited to apply to the newly formed MBA program. As part of the first MBA cohort, I had the opportunity to return to the Mount and experience the spirit in a new and different way. Looking back over thirty years, it was the Spirit of the Mount that brought me to the Mount and the Spirit that brought me back. The faces have changed, the people are different and we are all a little older, but the spirit is the same. Being part of the Mount family is a special blessing, one which call us to live the Mount spirit in our work and our communities. So yes, the name has changed, the college has grown into a university and men are now allowed to participate in a variety of ways. But the spirit that started in a few buildings on a beautiful hill, remains strong across two campuses, online learning and most of all, in the chosen few that can call Mount St. Mary’s their Alma Mater.

- Darcy Burke, MBA’09

Upcoming Events

Community Lunch
Sunday, September 24
Donohue Center 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Guest Speakers:
Elizabeth Ibarra, MBA – HR Director / IMRI Technologies and Engineering Solutions
Nancy Valdivia Antoniou, MBA - Vice President, Strategic Operations & Human / Capital Nantworks LLC

Information Sessions:
Saturday, October 7
Saturday, November 4
Both dates 10:00 AM - 12:00PM Bldg. 10, Gillin Conference Room

In the next issue:

A preview of what to expect in our Winter 2017 issue coming in November.

Where Are They Now?
We will catch up with our Presidents Emeritus of MAPs and discuss what they have been doing since their tenure ended.

Faculty Focus
Dr. Lester Reams, JD, DPA our new Online MBA Program Coordinator and Prof. Melissa Cook, MBA our new MBA Weekend Program Coordinator/Corporate Outreach will be highlighted.

2017 Year in Review
Highlight of our accomplishments this year as a program and a community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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