



School of Arts & Sciences

Alumni Newsletter

Connecting Alumni with the University
of Mary and the Greater Community

Spring 2015

University of Mary

Christian, Catholic and Benedictine, the University of Mary exists to serve the religious, academic and cultural needs of people in this region and beyond.

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 www.umary.edu

The Dean's Message



Dr. David Fleischacker

New in 2015

Due to enrollment growth at SOAS, we will increase classroom capacity by 75 percent by shifting to a more efficient course schedule. The number of undergraduates with majors or minors has increased by 45 percent (from 488 to 708 students) since 2011-12 and by more than 100 students since last year. To create a more dynamic and responsive administrative structure, SOAS is evolving from departmental to administrative chairs. We are also initiating a new Humanities Honors Program developed in consultation with Dr. Don Briel and Professor Clay Jenkinson.

EVERYONE IN NORTH DAKOTA is well aware of the dramatic impact the shale revolution is having on the state's economy, as well as on the region's politics, culture and in personal lives. In response, the University of Mary has committed to preparing young men and woman to preserve and strengthen our wonderful traditions of family life, hard work, faith and virtue upon which North Dakota and our nation were built.

During this pivotal period, the School of Arts and Sciences (SOAS) focuses its key contribution on providing students with a liberal arts core to help them encounter the deepest questions of life and faith. At the same time, we prepare them to deal with the challenges they will encounter in society and their future professions. Our faculty is dedicated to providing both high-quality professional training and intellectual formation infused with our Christian, Catholic and Benedictine values.

In recent years, amazing feats of science-based engineering have greatly aided the oil boom in the Bakken. This boom has also brought tremendous social and demographic change. Towns in western North Dakota, which had been depopulating since the 1930s, suddenly experienced a massive influx of workers and families from all over the country, bringing a wide variety of lifestyles and cultures. This population growth has created tremendous social and infrastructure needs. While building roads and schools takes time and resources, building community is more demanding and certainly more crucial. The social challenge is to create community rooted in North Dakota values, while remaining sensitive to newcomers' concerns and aspirations.

At SOAS, we engage students in the cultural transmission of civilization's great intellectual, moral and artistic treasures, which builds the right foundation to solve North Dakota's social, cultural and technological challenges. Our young men and women find their professional vocations, discover the depth of their talents and assess the opportunities by which they can help build a better world.

On the cover: Gino Charmoli ('16) and Rachel Morrison ('18) play lead roles in the SOAS' production of "The Mousetrap."



The mission of a school of arts and sciences at a Catholic university is to enable the dialogue between faith and reason to become a lived integration for students and faculty.

“The Mousetrap” and New Theater Program



THE KICKOFF PLAY for our new theater program —Agatha Christie’s “The Mousetrap”—was staged at Arno Gustin Hall on April 16, 17 and 18. “The Mousetrap” is the world’s longest continuously running play, in its 63rd year in London’s West End, where it is billed as a “whodunit written by the greatest crime writer of all time.”

The play was directed by Dan Bielinski, a visiting Professor of Theater at SOAS, who earned an MFA in Acting from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Acting. At Columbia, he was taught by such theatrical notables as Kristin Linklater, who trained Patrick Stewart, Bill Murray and Mary Tyler Moore, among other stars. Bielinski played leading roles in numerous Off-Broadway plays in New York City, in professional opera productions, and in movies and TV series such as HBO’s “The Leftovers.” Bielinski currently stars in “Ceresia,” a feature-length thriller with costar Linda Elena Tovar (“General Hospital”), which will be premiered at film festivals this summer.



“The Mousetrap” is a great dramatic comedy that showcases how multifaceted a theatrical production can be—how a play can move audiences on many different levels,” Bielinski said in an interview. He recounted working with student actors to avoid presenting the play as a lifeless British period piece, as often occurs in America. “I want the audience to experience the play’s humor and humanity—and feel the terror of being caught in a house with a murderer in a snowstorm without knowing the murderer’s identity.”

Most importantly, Bielinski staged “The Mousetrap” as “a fascinating piece that will make students fall in love with theater.” Bielinski will return to SOAS in the fall as Assistant Professor of Theater tasked with creating a comprehensive theater minor program, with six acting classes, which he hopes to grow into a theater major.

Bielinski will direct a play in the spring and fall semesters, but he hasn’t decided which work the student actors will perform next. What he has discerned is that the University of Mary’s strong Christian, Catholic and Benedictine identity and remarkable strategic vision is exactly what draws him and his wife Lillian—a highly accomplished musician, singer and music director—to work and raise their two young children here.

Top: John Salling ('17) and Rachel Morrison ('18) play Mr. Paravicini and Mollie Ralston.

Middle: Professor Dan Bielinski directs dress rehearsal.

Bottom: Brittany Smith ('16) plays Mrs. Boyle.



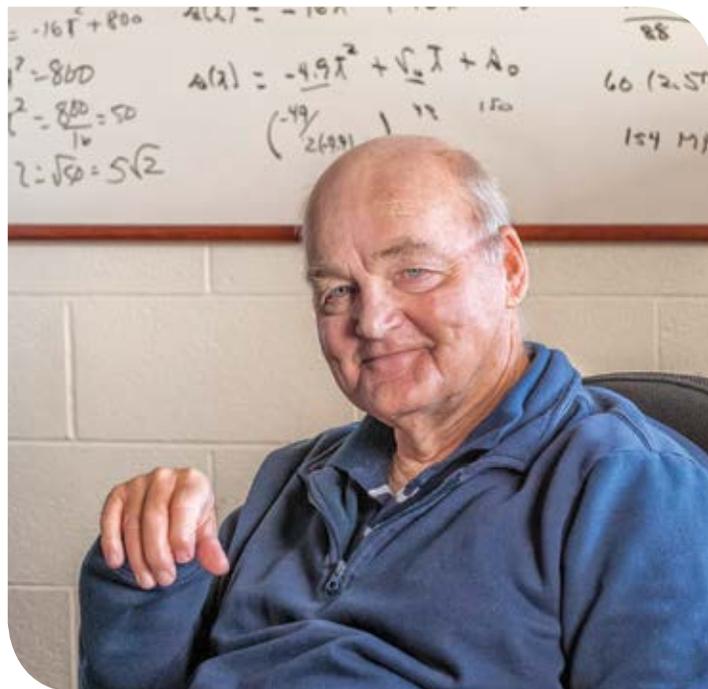
Retiring Faculty 2015



MARLA BEHM, PHD, joined our faculty in 1975 as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Eight years later, she left to earn her doctorate in biochemistry at Purdue University and then returned in 1988 to serve as a full professor ever since. She became "known as one of the best instructors at the University of Mary because of her care and concern for students," said Sr. Nicole Kunze, OSB, PhD. Sr. Nicole first met Dr. Behm in 1990 as an undergraduate and was inspired to study chemistry, earn a doctorate degree and return to SOAS to teach chemistry as an assistant professor. Dr. Behm's devotion to students was evident in her constant involvement in the university's theater productions, freshmen orientation classes, scholarship committee, fundraising events and the Vocation Advisory Group. She also served as the United Way coordinator from 1988 to the present. During her chemistry career, Dr. Behm taught almost every science and health care student at the University of Mary. Her awards include the Best Practices in Leadership Award in 2002, and the Outstanding Faculty Award in 1997, 1999, 2001 and 2003.

"What made my life at Mary so enjoyable was working and learning with wonderful students and colleagues," said Dr. Behm, "as well as getting to know the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery and sharing their vision for the University of Mary."

ROGER HAUG, MS, found his vocation of mentoring young men and women into adulthood at St. Mary's Central High School in 1963. Throughout his career, Professor Haug's vocation took two forms: teaching mathematics and coaching team sports. In 1986, he served as the chief recruiter for the University of Mary's first football team, which played its first game the next year with Professor Haug as the defensive line coach. A year later, he took his X's and O's into the university's classrooms to teach undergraduate mathematics as an associate professor. In 1990, Haug added varsity women's basketball to his responsibilities and 10 years later, he coached the team to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II National Championship. A year earlier, Haug ended his football coaching tenure. Professor Haug was known and appreciated by students for his no-nonsense approach to teaching in the classroom, as well as to coaching on the gridiron and basketball court. From 1986 to the present, he has served as an advisor to the Radiologic Technology program in the School of Health Sciences. Professor Haug's awards include the University of Mary Regents' Award for Teaching Faculty and the NAIA National Coach of the Year, both in 2000. He was inducted into the Marauders Hall of Fame as an individual in 1999 and as a coach in 2005.



Spring Term in Peru

SIX SOAS STUDENTS studied at Universidad Católica de San Pablo in Peru for the entire 2015 spring semester. Five sophomores and a freshman were part of the first cohort to experience this vibrant, educational experience after the University of Mary partnered with Universidad Católica de San Pablo last July. Universidad Católica de San Pablo is a private Catholic university located in Arequipa, a beautiful mountainside city that is Peru's second largest urban center. The students studied theology, philosophy, Spanish and music. They also took class trips into the surrounding region to practice their Spanish and learn native music. During spring break, the students traveled to Ayaviri, a small impoverished city in southern Peru, to join a group of University of Mary healthcare students on a medical mission trip, during which they distributed food and donated clothing. Happily, the students were also able to take an excursion to Machu Picchu, built by the Incans in the mid-15th century and now the most popular tourist attraction in South America.

Annual Jazz Festival

UNIVERSITY OF MARY'S 42nd annual Jazz Festival was held January 30 and 31. Almost 50 junior high and high school jazz ensembles, combos and vocal jazz groups from across North Dakota, South Dakota, Saskatchewan and Manitoba performed for professional guest artists on campus at Arno Gustin Hall and Butler Hall. The student musicians received written adjudication, and each group spent half an hour with one of the internationally acclaimed guest artists, which included saxophonist Donny McCaslin, trumpeter Joey Tartell, and vocalist and pianist Rachel Eckroth.

The University of Mary's Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz performed at two sold-out concerts at the Belle Mehus Auditorium in downtown Bismarck. The performances featured our student musicians who also played with the guest artists to thunderous applause.

"With each guest artist's unique sound and style," said Dr. Russ Ballenger, the festival's manager, "there was something for everyone."

"The University of Mary Jazz Festival is the premier jazz event in our community," said Dr. Tom Porter, Professor of Music and Chair of the Music Department at the School of Arts and Sciences. "The mix of student ensembles and professional artists provided high-energy entertainment, and the Belle Mehus Auditorium is a wonderful venue for the concert."



Top: Claire Guggemos ('17), Daniel Lang ('17) and Dominic Mangino ('18) distribute medications in Peru.

Middle: University of Mary students visit Machu Picchu.

Bottom: Donny McCaslin performs with the University of Mary Jazz Ensemble.

Faculty & Student Accomplishments

Publications

DR. JAMES MASKEY'S article titled "Climate and Habitat Influence Meningeal Worm Prevalence in North Dakota" was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* in July.

DR. DAVID FLEISCHACKER wrote a chapter titled "St. Augustine: Foundations for a Christian Humanism" in a book titled *Medieval Christian Humanism*, which will be published by Brill Press later this year.

Presentations

DR. CHRISTOPHER COLLINS presented a paper titled "Psalm 79:8 and St. Augustine's Vision of Education" at the Wisdom and Renewal of Catholic Theology Conference in honor of Fr. Matthew Lamb at Ave Maria University in Ave Maria, Florida, on February 6 and 7.

DR. CHRISTINE FLEISCHACKER gave a presentation at the North Dakota Teachers Association meeting on March 20 and 21 highlighting her success implementing a "design your own experiment" approach to lab courses. She also shared useful ideas about designing a writing assignment

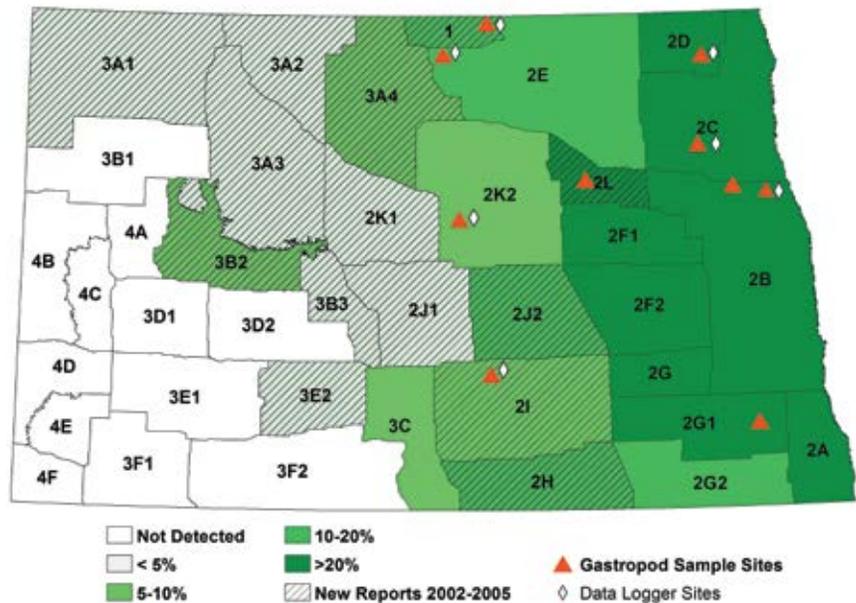
that helps students integrate studying biology with art related to various biological themes.

VOCAL JAZZ performed in the showcase concert at the annual convention of the North Dakota Chapter of the American Association of Choral Directors at Bismarck State College on February 6.

DR. DAVID FLEISCHACKER presented a paper titled "Revelation and Liberty" at the Liberated by God and His Church Symposium at the Lonergan Institute in Washington, DC on September 14.

He also presented a paper titled "Original Sin: A Catholic Introduction" at the National Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue in St. Paul, Minnesota, on October 10.

DR. JOSHUA HREN was a panelist and also presented a paper titled "The Future of the Catholic Literary Imagination" at a conference of the same title at the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at the University of Southern California from February 19 to 21 in Los Angeles, California.



NSF S-STEM Grant for Low-Income & Minority Students

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION recently awarded the Department of Biology a five-year S-STEM (Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) grant of \$501,250 to fund the Expanding Career Opportunities in Wildlife and Environmental Biology (ECOWEB) Program.

The grant will provide scholarships and other higher education opportunities to minority and low-income students interested in wildlife conservation or environmental science. The scholarships

range from \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year, and there will be a specific focus on recruiting Native American students. The program builds on the University of Mary's legacy of serving disadvantaged students and enhances relationships with other institutions of higher learning through collaborative research.

Dr. Margaret Nordlie is ECOWEB's principal investigator (PI), with Dr. Michael Lares and Dr. James Maskey serving as co-PI's.

Alumni Focus

SHE GRADUATED *magna cum laude* from the University of Mary in December 2013 with a BA in Catholic Studies and Theology—and a new name. Two months earlier, Jennifer Krumm married Nicholas Trout, a classmate, and took his family name. As a student, Jennifer joined the Campus Ministry Team and participated in the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, which seeks to build joyful, Christ-centered community currently on 100 faith-based and secular campuses nationwide. She also served as the Coordinator of Youth Ministry for the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

Right after graduating, Jennifer was hired as the Office and Outreach Assistant by FirstChoice Clinic in Bismarck, which was established in 2010. “We exist to help those experiencing unintended pregnancies and other sexual health crises make informed and healthy decisions,” Jennifer explained. FirstChoice offers testing services and complete information on



Jennifer Trout with son Edward.

parenting, adoption and abortion, but the clinic doesn't perform or refer for abortion procedures. Although more than half of the pregnant clients are considering abortion when they consult FirstChoice, only 4 percent of these ultimately pursue that option.

Last October, Jennifer was promoted to Outreach Coordinator and plans the organization's

fundraising events, including the annual banquet, which raised over \$200,000 in March.

Jennifer grew up on a grain farm near Hague in south central North Dakota. She learned how to operate machinery well enough to instruct new farm employees. Jennifer graduated from Strasburg High School as class salutatorian and chose to attend the University of Mary.

“Studying the liberal arts at Mary prepared me well for my current position,” Jennifer said. “I use my knowledge of theology in church and parochial school outreach for FirstChoice. More importantly I am able to live an integrated life, and my faith is the foundation of my passion for the clinic's life-affirming mission.”

Jennifer's husband works at the University of Mary as an admissions representative. In February, the Trouts welcomed their first child, Edward, into the family. So far, Edward is a leading candidate for valedictorian for the University of Mary's class of 2036.

Alumni Connections

Give Back to University of Mary

Providing the best education for current and future students requires continual investments at an increasing cost. Please consider becoming a University of Mary donor. To do so, please go to www.umary.edu/giving to contribute by credit or debit card or to pledge a gift by check.

In the News? Changes?

If you or your business has been in the news recently, please let us know. Also if you have changed your address, telephone number or career, please inform us via the “Keep in Touch” form, available at www.umary/forms/alumni.

Career Advancement

The only thing better than being an alum of the University of Mary is doing it again. The university offers many graduate degree programs that might suit your career aspirations at an affordable price. Programs are offered in online, blended and traditional formats.

Contact Info

For all alumni-related issues or for more information, please contact Paul Keeney, Director of Alumni, by email (alumni@umary.edu) or by phone: **(800) 408-MARY x8370** or **(701) 355-8370**.

Humanities Honors Program Begins Fall 2015

BEGINNING THIS FALL, the School of Arts and Sciences will offer an undergraduate Humanities Honors Program developed in consultation with Dr. Don Briel and Professor Clay Jenkinson. Dr. Briel holds the Blessed John Henry Newman Chair of Liberal Arts at the University of Mary and, for 20 years, was the Director of the Center for Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. Professor Jenkinson is an award-winning American humanities scholar, author and performer.



Clay Jenkinson



Dr. Don Briel

meals and conversations with faculty and guest speakers.

The program will provide students with the intellectual and collegial means for personal engagement with the most significant and pressing questions of human existence. Programmatic hallmarks, within our Christian, Catholic and Benedictine

The Humanities Honors Program invites students to intentionally and intensively read great writings, examine beautiful works of art, experience outstanding performances, explore significant sites in North Dakota and on the Great Plains, and enjoy

intellectual traditions, include personal attention from faculty and participation in discussion forums, where the human spirit finds deep impression and expression. For students longing for greater things in life, for the noble and the true, the Honors Humanities Program offers harbor, hope and lodestar.

To learn more, contact Dr. Matthew Gerlach at **(701) 355-8296** or **mtgerlach@umary.edu**.

Media Ecologist Speaks at March Convocation

DR. READ M. SCHUCHARDT, an Associate Professor of Communication at Wheaton College, delivered a talk in Butler Hall titled "The Seven Vices of the Virtual Life" about the downside of technological progress. Dr. Schuchardt is a renowned author (*You Do Not Talk About Fight Club: I Am Jack's Completely Unauthorized Essay Collection*, BenBella Books, 2008) and media ecologist.

"I look at what technology is doing to us," he said, "rather than what we are doing with technology." Historically, technology makes tremendous, often painful impacts on society, culture and religion. The five major stages of technological development correspond with epic shifts in religion: tribal oratory with polytheism, writing with monotheism, printing with the Protestant schism with the Catholic Church, electronic media with secularism and digital media with post-modernism.

"The seven vices are not a re-cooking of traditional vices," Dr. Schuchardt explained, "but new unintended consequences of digital communications technology." For example, "goallessness" results from the "endless digital now," which induces a trance of infinite possibilities negating commitment or responsibility. Another vice is ignorance, precipi-



Dr. Read M. Schuchardt spoke at a University of Mary convocation about how technology is affecting people today.

tated by knowledge dissolving into torrents of data that have transitioned from one's head into the computing "cloud." Other "vices" include impatience, desensitization, addiction, narcissism and disembodiment, which is the primary defect.

The antidote, Dr. Schuchardt emphasized, is not to become a Luddite but heed the Gospel message of the Incarnation. "We are put in bodies by God who came in bodily form to teach us about love by sacrificing his body," Dr. Schuchardt concluded.