

The background features a large, light blue watermark of the Madonna University seal. The seal is circular and contains the text 'MADONNA UNIVERSITY LIVONIA MICHIGAN' around the perimeter and '1937' at the bottom. In the center is a shield with a cross, a book, and a lamp.

ALUMNI

Spotlight

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LaDonna Bowen '01 (journalism and public relations), a proud United States Air Force veteran, knew that getting a college education was important. After carefully narrowing her choices, she decided Madonna University would provide the academic and practical instruction she needed. Bowen took full advantage of Madonna's Veteran Services. Her educational pursuits flourished with the help of her Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Counselor and Madonna staff in the Disability Resources Office, Academic Advising and Veteran Services. She was impressed with the work-study and internship opportunities afforded her at Madonna. "The giving, nurturing, selflessness philosophy of the University becomes a part of you," she said. "The foundation I acquired from Madonna

prepared me well for many of the challenges I faced in my professional and personal life." Bowen earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Troy University and has built an impressive résumé. Currently, she is the Director of Command Protocol for the United States Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, in Nebraska, where she serves as the principal advisor to the commander and 14 other executives. In addition to her 10 years of federal civil-service, Bowen is an advocate for female veterans and has authored research papers about homelessness among female veterans. She was honored with the Department of the Army Superior Civilian Service Award, two Commander's Awards for Civilian Service and two Achievement Medals for Civilian Service.

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Errin Brooks, '09 (music, vocal performance) was one of three winners in the Detroit District Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and recently took first place in the Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists, formerly the Leontyne Price Competition. He has also performed in the chorus with the Michigan Opera Theater in *Margarete Garner*, *Carmen*,

Mikado and *Magic Flute*. This past summer, Brooks finished a Resident Artist Program with the Opera Theater in Pittsburgh singing *Scaramuccio* and covering Bacchus in one of Richard Strauss' best operas *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

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Heather Casey '13 (fire science)

moved across the country to attend Madonna University, because she wasn't happy at a university in San Diego. Madonna came highly recommended to her by family members in Michigan. When she started her classes, it was clear she had made the right decision. "Every teacher and staff member was willing to help and guide me along the way," she said. Casey decided to major in fire science because she simply enjoys learning how and why things work or don't work. She landed her first job as a fire investigator for a private investigation company after

graduation, working with insurance companies to determine the cause and origin of structure fires. Her most recent milestone is working with Jane Doe Investigations as an assigned claims and surveillance investigator, where she works with companies to inspect vehicle accidents. As she anticipates steady growth and success at Jane Doe Investigations, Casey reflects on how her Madonna degree helped her blossom in the professional world. "I have been able to network and maintain relationships that have helped me tremendously (in the workplace). I have to thank the dedicated Madonna staff for making me as successful as I am today. I have never experienced staff, teachers and mentors that were so invested in my future."

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Muna Khoury '99 (journalism and public relations) has worked with the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) for 12 years, where she has held many roles. Her most recent milestone was being named District Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement. After graduating from Madonna University, she worked part-time at Henry Ford Community College's Foundation Office, until WCCCD offered her a full-time recruitment position. She also assisted

with community outreach and public relations at Wayne County. Currently, Khoury is trying to start an alumni association at WCCCD. She holds a master's degree from University of Michigan Dearborn. "I love making a difference for students," she said. "My Madonna degree has helped me in all of my roles. I was able to make lifelong friendships and contacts." Her daughter, Lauren, majors in mathematics at Madonna University. "I really push education. It's the most important thing you can have," said Khoury, a non-traditional student who was attracted to Madonna by the financial aid opportunities and the emphasis on internships.

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Angela Kraetke '04 '12 (English, MSEL)

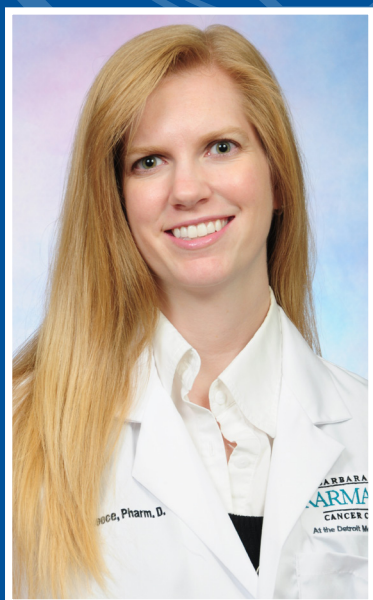
knew she wanted to become a teacher when she was in the third grade. Inspirational teachers and the opportunity to work with kids fueled her passion for being an educator. An advocate for Catholic Schools, Kraetke chose Madonna University because it simply felt like home. After attending Divine Child Elementary and High Schools, she knew that Madonna would offer a similarly caring, and compassionate learning environment with challenging academic programs. Upon receiving her bachelor's degree, she decided to stay in

Catholic education. Kraetke taught every level of English and literature at Divine Child High School, over a span of nine years. She also coached the competitive cheer team for the elementary school. She came back to Madonna to earn her master's degree and recently started her new role as Principal of St. Anselm Catholic Schools in Dearborn Heights in 2014. "Everyone at St. Anselm has been so welcoming. My heart is full every time I go home because I love what I am doing. It has made me a better, kinder and more patient person," she said. "I would come back to Madonna in a heartbeat for my next degree. Madonna has made me a better administrator, educator and person."

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Ashley (Higgins) Leece '07 (biology) has applied her Madonna education to further her career and to earn a terminal degree. Armed with a biology and pre-pharmacy degree, Leece went on to the University of Michigan, where she completed a Doctorate of Pharmacy in 2011.

Leece landed a dream job at Karmanos Cancer Institute two years ago, where she is a pharmacist and oncology/pharmacy resident. She completed her residency program in 2012 and is working on a second residency, at Karmanos. She will finish in March.

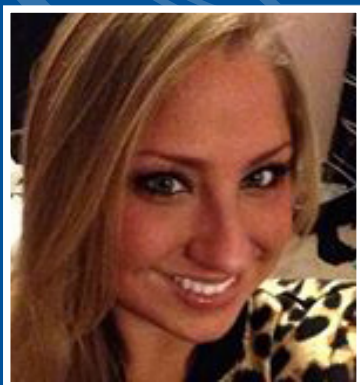
In addition to getting a great job, Leece, who is only 28, said one of her greatest achievements was passing the board certification as a pharmacotherapy specialist. "Karmanos is a pretty amazing institution. I was very lucky that they wanted me," she said.

Leece was part of the Sigma Zeta National Honor Society for the College of Science and Math at Madonna University. "She was an excellent student," said Ted Biermann, Dean of College of Science and Math. "She is a wonderful success story for Madonna."

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Marrissa Lumia '12, '13 (natural science, biology/occupational safety management)

recently landed a job at Henkel Corporation as a regulatory affairs specialist, where she creates safety data sheets and classifies chemicals. "I love it. I learn something new every day and there are a lot of opportunities," she said. "I started out as a temp and then the position opened up. It was perfect how it worked out." Lumia changed her mind several times when deciding on a major.

After she decided to rule out the medical field, she discovered occupational safety and health. She completed internships with the City of Dearborn Fire Department in fire safety and at Beaumont Hospital. "The program director at Madonna helped me get the internships I needed and even went with me to Career Services, where they assisted me with my résumé. Everyone wants to help you to succeed at Madonna. The teachers make you feel like you have a voice," she said. "I am so young to have such a good job already. I am very grateful."

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Christen McMillan '06, '09 (general science, Master of Science in Administration)

attended parochial schools from the beginning of her kindergarten year at St. Cyprian in Riverview, through high school at St. Mary Catholic Central in Monroe, and then at Madonna University for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. McMillan, who just completed her first year as principal at both the St. Michael and St. John (Monroe) campuses, strives to share her faith and integrate it into her classrooms and community.

A true ambassador for Madonna University, she

stayed to receive her master's degree because of its high-quality education and individualized instruction. "Madonna taught me how to be prepared," she said. "It gave me many tools to put into my toolbox. I love that it has a faith-based component and the fact that it allowed me to continue building on my faith." Her work as an educator began with teaching as a seventh grade homeroom teacher at St. Joseph Parish in Trenton for five years before spending three years at Guardian Angels Catholic School in Clawson as assistant principal and principal. As she has relished every role she has had in Catholic education, accepting the job at St. Michael and St. John felt like a homecoming. "It was a complete feeling of home right from the get-go," she said. "I am very thankful for my education that Madonna gave me. My students know I was a Crusader."

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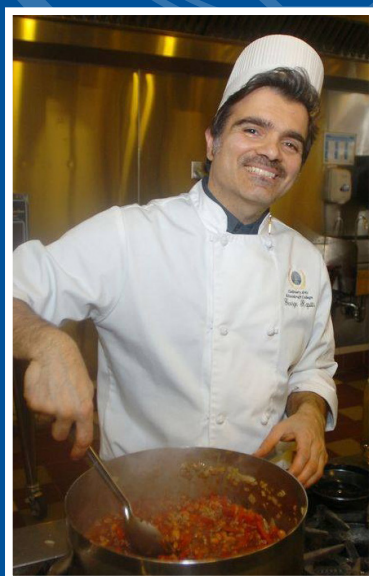
Amy Przygoda, '08 (English) teaches third grade at Francis W. Parker School in Chicago, a private, independent progressive school. After graduation, she taught her first year in a fifth grade classroom in Eden Prairie, Minn. Przygoda and her husband then moved to Chicago where she received her master's degree in curriculum studies with a focus on administration and supervision from

DePaul University. "Attending Madonna was the best decision I ever made. I was able to build important relationships with other students as well as professors. I felt like every professor took time to get to know every individual student, and shared such masterful information from their educational professional lives," she said.

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George Rapitis '00 (dietetics) always wanted to become a chef, and Madonna University was the perfect place to begin his journey. "I felt like Madonna's dietetics program would be a good combination with culinary arts, especially with the demand of people with special dietary needs," he said. It was a bonus that Madonna was conveniently close to his home, which made it an easy commute. Since graduation, Rapitis has made a big splash in the culinary world working several jobs as a nutritionist, teacher and chef. He shares his passion for food and the culinary world through educational classes, TV spots and books. His latest book, *The Lighter Side of Dark*

Chocolate, was published in 2007 and he currently has a cooking show, *Eat Right by George*, on the Brighthouse Network. He also teaches culinary classes at Schoolcraft College. "For me, cooking is centered on transformation. I love cooking from scratch and creating something magical to the human eye that tastes amazing," he said. "Madonna helped shape me into the person I am today. It helped me become a better-rounded person through the marriage and family classes I took."

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Laura (Sweeney) Tahmouch '10 (journalism and public relations) is the director of marketing and events for the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, where she plans and coordinates, from beginning to end, 30-40 events a year for members. Armed with experience from three internships while at Madonna, Tahmouch has excelled in the marketing world as she handles all of the Chamber's social media, email marketing, newsletters and advertisements. "The experience I gained from my three internships is irreplaceable," she said. "Community is very important in my role and having already built some connections in the area and having knowledge of Livonia has helped." Tahmouch, who attended parochial schools from kindergarten through high school, knew that Madonna's feel and student-to-professor ratio would provide an atmosphere for success. Maintaining a job while going to school also was important to her, so being able to commute was key. Shortly after graduating, she began working with the Livonia Chamber's as the program coordinator. She also wrote freelance for The Michigan Catholic newspaper thanks to a connection made at Madonna. "I have seen so many people who graduated from Madonna thrive in various career paths," she said. "The expectations, organizational skills and morals that Madonna instills in its students has stuck with me. Madonna provides you with the knowledge, skills and connections to succeed no matter the degree."

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Ron Bracey '11 (MBA) moved from a tenured career in finance to the logistics industry in 2013, doing contract work for C.H. Robinson within the Global Import Division. In 2014, he transitioned into the role of business sales field account executive with Fedex Services. He also serves as marketing coordinator for Brotherhood Oath Mentoring Services,

a nonprofit organization that develops life skills in young men within metro Detroit. "Attending the MBA program has provided the necessary tools to be successful within my professional career. Through the intimate class sizes I was able to work closely with many of my peers to share classroom knowledge and how it integrates into the business world," he said.

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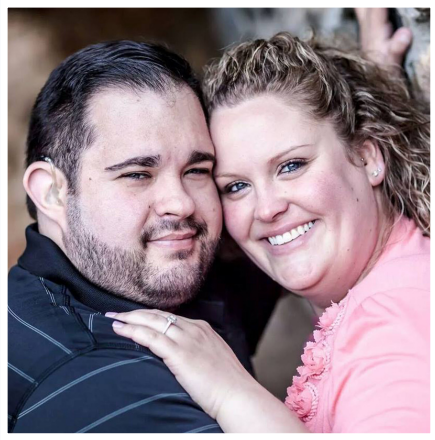
David Cardenas '09 (business) chose to attend Madonna University for multiple reasons, the most noteworthy being that he wanted a quality education, from a local university that would prepare him for success in the business community. He accepted an athletic scholarship to play baseball for Madonna, which helped him hone his skills as a team player. Through lasting relationships, networking and a genuine receptiveness to change, Cardenas has prospered in the financial services industry and has achieved many career milestones. After graduation, he

accepted a position with Bank of America in the retail sales division. He boosted his career, a couple years ago, when he became a loan officer for Total Home Lending, a division of Mortgage One. There, he strengthened his experience, and deepened his knowledge of the industry, while working in a team-oriented culture. In 2014, Cardenas jumped at the opportunity to join the Madonna University Alumni Advisory Council, where he shares his business expertise and fresh outlook. "Madonna will always be an important part of my career and personal life. I hope I am able to influence and help current students and alumni. I am thankful for the foundation that Madonna provided me," he said.

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Noah Goldberg '08, '11 (sport management, MBA) was not able to attend Commencement for his MBA in 2011 because he was on his way to Battle Creek to start his new job with the federal government. Goldberg took full advantage of the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP), a federal initiative for college students and recent graduates with disabilities. The WRP connects federal

sector employers nationwide with motivated college students with disabilities who are eager to prove their abilities through jobs. He landed his first job at the Defense Logistics Agency in Battle Creek as an internal auditor. His most recent milestone was getting a job as a contract specialist at the Environmental Protection Agency in Ann Arbor. "It was a great choice coming to Madonna. I have never let my hearing (disability) affect me and at Madonna, I always knew I would have someone in my corner. David (Stokes) is a great resource and a wonderful advocate," he said. "I am thankful for the WRP. The government is not going anywhere. My job is very secure." Goldberg was recently married to his wife, Katie.

For more information on the WRP, contact David Stokes, Advisor/Counselor for Disability Resources, at 734-432-5640.

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Mary Beth (Strong) Smykowski '96 (business) and '99 (MSBA)

was recently elected to the Risk and Insurance Management Society™ (RIMS) Detroit Chapter Board of Directors. As a Director at Large, Smykowski will serve as Membership Chair of the Detroit Chapter. RIMS is an organization dedicated to advancing the practice of risk management and is a global

not-for-profit representing more than 3,500 industrial, service, nonprofit, charitable and government entities throughout the world. Smykowski is currently employed as the Director of Risk Management at Masco Corporation. Smykowski also serves on Madonna University's Foundation Board and Trustee Committee on Advancement and Public Relations.

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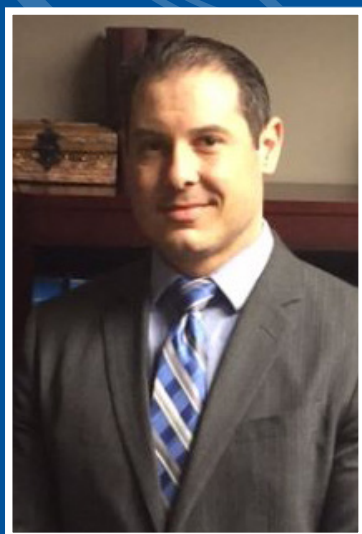
Education

& Human

Development

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Spotlight



Mark Cole '03 (psychology) is a product of Detroit Catholic Central High School, where personal relationships with classmates, professors and administrators is a key staple. "It was important for my college experience to have the same feeling," Cole said when asked why he chose Madonna University. Cole, who was also offered an athletic scholarship to play on Madonna's baseball team, was impressed by Madonna's commitment to ensure the success of the students, both on and off the athletic fields. "Madonna felt like home. The faculty took a personal interest in my academics and were always willing to provide insight and

direction along the way, which was invaluable," he said. After graduating with a clinical psychology degree in 2003, Cole decided to switch gears and attend Thomas M. Cooley Law School, where he obtained his Juris Doctorate in 2008. He built his resume while working with several law firms and has most recently been working at Moblo Fleming & Watt P.C. Law firm in Novi as a senior associate, managing caseloads, mentoring junior associates and continuously building clientele. Cole has also been an ambassador to Madonna University, working with the athletic department coaching, tutoring student-athletes and most recently, speaking at the annual baseball banquet. "Madonna provided me with a support structure that was integral to achieving success in countless arenas. I value that to this day," he said.

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Stefanie DeNardin '06 (sport management)

is the new coordinator of recreation programs for the city of Marysville, Mich., the city she was born and raised. DeNardin, who was also a member of the Madonna University volleyball team, was a unanimous choice for the position and said that "Madonna has prepared me to handle the many aspects of this job." Her responsibilities include everything from event planning to overseeing the budget.

Until her recent hiring, DeNardin juggled part time jobs such as a paraprofessional in Marysville Public Schools and a substitute teacher. "I really enjoy providing the fun to the residents of Marysville," she said. "I attended Madonna because of the smaller campus and class sizes. Because I come from a smaller city, I felt right at home when I first visited campus."

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Warren Evans '75 (criminal justice)

made a transition to his new role as Wayne County Executive in January 2015. Evans experience spans several decades and many facets of County Government including service in the executive, legislative branches and close interaction with the judicial branch. He has also practiced law as counsel for Wayne County and for a previous County Executive in Wayne County Circuit Court,

where years of old litigation between the Sheriff and Wayne County were settled. Evans said his Madonna University education opened many doors for upward career mobility. "The learning environment prepared me with a knowledge base and sincere appreciation for collaborative and participative management," he said. While attending, he enjoyed the campus size and close relationship between student and professor. He continues to practice Madonna traditions and values of inclusion and respect, as he leads his team, with a vigilant eye on the prize. "Madonna has taught me effective leadership, management and concern for the best interests of our communities and the people that make them strong."

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Connie Gladki '03 (accounting) is the Vice President of Finance and Accounting at Parkside Credit Union, where she manages financial support activities that include financial statement preparation, financial regulatory reporting, general ledger management, audits, investments, facility management, ATM operations and transactional balancing and validation. Her various roles at the credit union have allowed her to fully utilize her Madonna education. "Although it is thought that accounting is one type of work, there are many branches. If I did not learn all aspects of

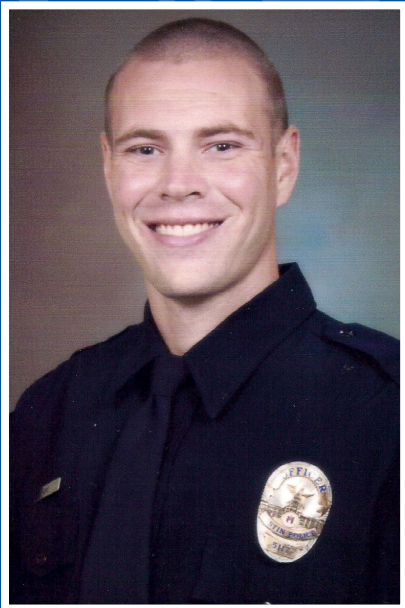
accounting at Madonna I would not be successful with these new responsibilities," she said. Gladki has built an impressive résumé, including 22 years with an insurance company where she held an Associate Vice President title, and eight years with Valassis. Madonna was the most convenient university location for Gladki, who was working 50+ hours a week at the time. She also enjoyed the size of the University. "I felt like I was part of a team to get a great education," she said. "I liked that it is very diversified, too. I am not a very religious person, but I think the two (religion) courses I took helped me to be a better manager."

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Jordan Hoke '10 (criminal justice) knew that he wanted to be a police officer and was open to relocating, which led him to accept a position at the Austin Police Department in Texas, in December 2012. While attending Madonna, Hoke was a member of the men's basketball team. He learned how to budget his time in order to meet deadlines, which is a skill crucial in his

current position. "My time at Madonna definitely helped me to be successful during my police academy classes. I liked that it was a smaller college with smaller class sizes... the small class size helped increase the student-teacher interaction, which led to a more meaningful experience," he said.

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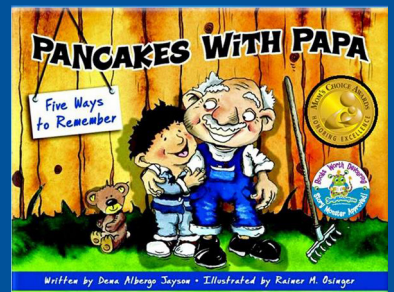
Spotlight



Dena (Albergo) Jayson '03 (MS, Catholic School Leadership) has worked for 14 years as a principal for three Archdiocese of Detroit schools, most recently serving at St. Patrick School in White Lake. Prior to becoming a principal, she worked as a teacher at St. Valentine, in Redford, before moving on to an administrative position. Jayson chose to attend Madonna University because it offered the master's degree—in Catholic School Leadership—that she wanted to pursue. "The emphasis on leadership styles within the program helped define the school leader I've become," she

said. "Students should consider Madonna because of its quality programs and classes and because of the lasting relationships formed with professors."

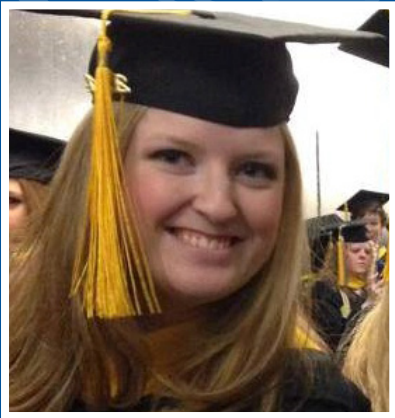
Jayson also has written and published her first children's book, *Pancakes with Papa*. Already recognized for its content and illustrations with three independent book awards, *Pancakes with Papa* is a story to help families with children cope with the loss of a loved one. "It is a heartwarming grace that aids in remembering good times with family," Jayson said.



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Colleen Lachat '12, '14 (B.S. psychology, MSCP clinical psychology) holds multiple positions in order to learn as much as possible in different areas of her field: in her private practice, launched in May 2014, she conducts psychotherapy and psychological assessments; at Special Tree Rehabilitation Services she works as a psychologist; and in Madonna's MSCP program she serves as a Lab Assistant for the Assessment I class. A

member of Psi Chi, the psychology honor society, Lachat received multiple job offers less than a month after graduation.

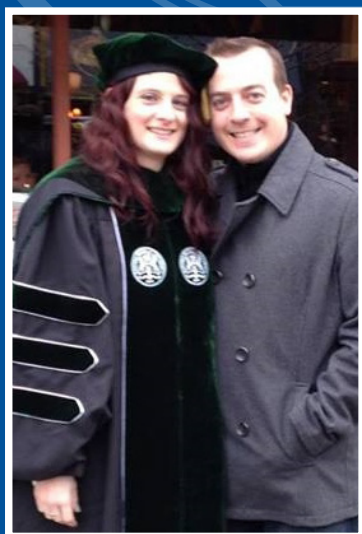
Lachat, along with Shanice Echols, M.S. '14, Madonna faculty member Nicole Kletzka, Ph.D. and their co-author Suzanne Witterholt, M.D., recently had a research paper accepted for presentation at the annual conference of the International Society for the Improvement and Teaching of Dialectical Behavior Therapy. The paper, Structuring Dialectical Behavior Therapy in a Forensic Inpatient Setting: Patient Progress and Staff Perceptions, represents many hundreds of hours of exacting empirical work.

"I am very excited about the research being accepted for the conference," Lachat said. "We hope that it provides information for other professionals to start their own research or to try Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) in their own professional work environment."

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Spotlight



Amy Olszewski '04 (MSCP) works at State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate Medical University in New York as a senior research specialist and at Syracuse University as a post-doctoral fellow and part-time instructor. Olszewski has built an extensive résumé since graduating from Madonna University; after working as a psychometrician at the University of Michigan Health System for a few years, she started an APA-accredited clinical psychology Ph.D. program at Eastern Michigan University in 2008 and completed her pre-doctoral clinical psychology internship at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse from 2012-2013,

where she met her fiancé, Matt. After defending her dissertation in October 2014, she graduated from her doctoral program in December. She will also start teaching a class at Colgate University later this month. "My training at Madonna University inspired me to pursue a doctorate. That education and experience stayed with me throughout my doctoral studies," she said. "I really appreciated the emphasis Madonna's clinical psychology program put on helping the individual understand him/herself, as well as considering of the multiple causalities behind psychological difficulties."

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Chantelle Renaud '11 (criminal justice)

is working her dream job as a K9 Officer at the Detroit branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She and her partner, Gajo—a 3-year-old male German shepherd trained to detect explosives—work together as a team to maintain and ensure overall building security and the safety of fellow officers at the bank. They also provide assistance to other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies when needed. Officer Renaud's criminal justice degree from Madonna helped her gain an officer position at the Federal Reserve Police Department before she was appointed as a K9 Handler. She and Gajo have accomplished many things as a team, such as assisting the United States Secret Service with the

First Lady Detail in Detroit and performing sweeps for the Detroit Tigers Opening Day and the North American International Auto Show. Their awards include taking second place in the United States Police Canine Association explosives detection in April and winning Top Dog for annual explosives detection certification in March. Officer Renaud also was honored as Officer of the Year in 2014. "If it wasn't for Madonna, I wouldn't be in the position I am today with Gajo," she said. "The morals and ethics instilled in me from Madonna carried over into my law enforcement career and have taken me to a place I thought was unachievable."

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Christine (Torrento) Sagert '04 (education)

has worked for the Archdiocese of Detroit as an educator for 11 years and began her most recent role this year as Principal of St. Linus Catholic School in Dearborn Heights. Sagert has relished every role she has had in the classroom, from her beginning student-teaching placements to now orchestrating her own school. Her most recent milestone has allowed her to hone her craft as an educator and work with talented faculty and parish staff that are supportive and driven. "What I love about St. Linus are the people I am surrounded by daily. The Archdiocese of Detroit

is a supportive organization to work in and I am blessed to be a part of a network that has the best interest of the whole student — academically and spiritually." She testified that at Madonna, she knew she would be getting the most personalized educational experience she would have at a university level. "My professors really knew me and cared about my successes. Madonna prepared me more than any other school could have for my own classroom," she said. After graduation, she primarily taught middle school mathematics at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic School in St. Clair Shores for six years. She also earned her Master of Science in Administration from Saginaw Valley State University.

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Gloria Scheuer '56 (history) will always remember one particular night at Madonna University, more than 60 years ago. After hearing a knock on her dormitory door in the middle of the night, she was asked to help birth a baby calf at the farm down the road. "I have always loved animals and I grew up on a farm," she said. "That was the highlight of my time at Madonna. I knew right then and there that I was where I was supposed to be." A pioneer of Madonna, Scheuer received a scholarship to help pay for her tuition,

which "gave her the opportunity to get an education. Madonna is where I got my start," she said. Along with teaching and administrating, she also opened up 12 new schools, which are still successfully standing today. Her life has been dedicated to volunteer work, first starting at the International Farm Exchange in 1948 and then joining the Peace Corps. Most recently, she is focused on working with migrant children and homeless families in Monroe, where she currently resides, but will travel wherever volunteer work is needed. She has lived in 15 different countries and traveled the world during her volunteer adventures. As she reflects back on her time at Madonna, Scheuer remembers how Madonna taught her as a whole person—"how to be a lady and how to be socially graceful. The old-fashioned values are still there (at Madonna), and that's impressive. We need old-fashioned values in this world today and I know that Madonna is the place to get that. The values taught there are so much more than a classroom."

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Spotlight



Jennifer Kirkland '96 (gerontology) serves as Director of Marketing for a continuing care retirement community that supports older adults and their families with all levels of care, including end of life care. Kirkland's experience in the world of aging has been diverse. In 2014, she earned a master's in education, from Wayne State University, and began teaching hospice studies at Madonna — a long-time goal.

"It's a privilege to be a part of the faculty," she said. "I don't think there is any other school in the country that has Madonna's level of commitment."

Kirkland sees the growing need in society to be able to understand and to work with the older adult community. "Madonna has such unique programs, like aging studies, which I encourage working professionals to consider adding to their background."

Madonna
University

40

Aging Studies

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Spotlight



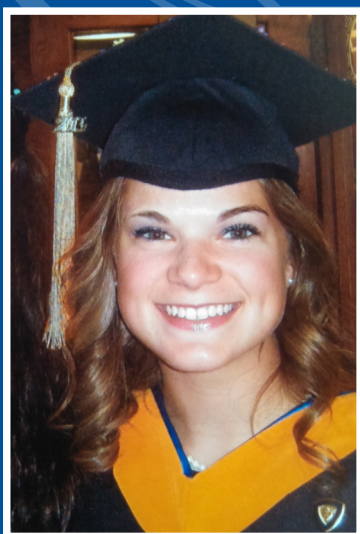
Teri Majewski '68 (BSN) is enjoying retirement and the new adventures it brings after working for 30 years at Baltimore County Community College, in Maryland. The most noteworthy of her multiple roles there, was as the division chair of allied health, where she sat at the helm for nine years. The division included nursing and 11 other health-related programs. Majewski also taught mental health nursing for 13 years, tutored nursing students, was a key contributor at national workshops for health career programs,

and conducted assertiveness training around the country. Majewski earned her Ph.D. in adult education at the University of Maryland and honed her craft in the professional world. As a business and practical-driven professional, she has had varied experiences throughout her career and has created professional relationships to last a lifetime. She currently resides in Maryland with her husband Hank and Great Dane Bowser. Majewski, who was valedictorian of the 1968 class, said Madonna really prepared her to be a nurse. "I felt very proud and knew that everything I learned at Madonna was relevant and current. I fell in love with nursing; my experiences in the professional world were wonderful," she said.

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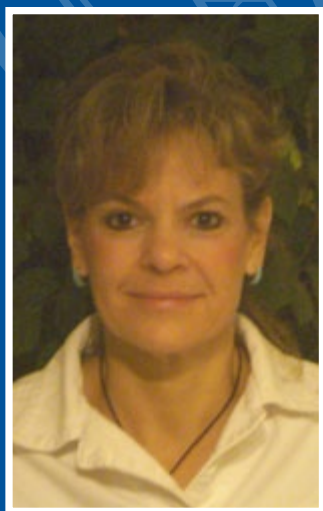
Amber Rafko '13 (nursing) is a registered nurse in labor and delivery at Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She is the primary nurse to laboring women, preterm pregnant patients, those who need cesarean sections or even families whose baby has died in the uterus. While at Madonna, Rafko was a four-year member of the softball team and was founder of Madonna's first American Red Cross Club. "Madonna taught me everything I needed in order to be a nurse. I started out as a scared pre-nursing student afraid to touch IV tubing and now

I look for every opportunity to start an IV," she said. Madonna is a small, tight-knit community. I learned an immense amount of knowledge while being comfortable with familiar faces."

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Maryanne Swanson '81 '00 (BSN, MSN)

was seeking a competitive nursing program when deciding on where she would receive her undergraduate degree. "At the time, Madonna only accepted 100 students into the program and the second year it cut us down to 60. You had to work so hard, but when you made it, you felt such a sense of accomplishment," she said. In addition to the strong foundation the undergrad program provided Swanson, she came back for her Master of Nursing because of how welcoming Madonna is to its former students. She also received a nurse practitioner post-grad certificate, which has allowed

her to work in a variety of positions in the workplace. Swanson began her journey on the healthcare path in adult ICU, later working in all critical care areas, cardiac rehab, stress testing and interventional radiology. Her most recent milestone is setting up her own private practice, where she works with primary care and psychology/mental health patients. She also has a corporate-level position with global responsibilities and has taught in nursing school and mentored precepted graduate students. "I can't ever imagine 'retiring' and feel life is going by too fast because I still have so much more I want to do," she said. Swanson had glowing things to say about Madonna's nursing programs. "The post-grad program was taught by exceptional instructors who were highly clinical and brilliant," she said. "I know a lot has changed in the undergrad program (since I have been there) but hopefully it still has the same high standards."

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