





Dear Madonna University Community,

Thank you to all who have welcomed me so warmly to Madonna University, from faculty, staff, and students, to benefactors, and community leaders. I feel right at home. As Madonna's President, I am proud to serve the students, alumni, employees, and friends of the University who each day recognize and engage in the many exceptional opportunities that define Madonna as a Catholic university of higher learning.



Having joined the Madonna community in July 2023, I am humbled to be chosen to work with an ambitious, passionate, creative, and dedicated group of professionals whose primary focus is the education and success of students. We devote ourselves daily to preparing our learners for lives that will make the world a better place. As a community, we will continue to achieve great things as we live out our Franciscan values and carry on the legacy of our founders, the Felician Sisters of North America. In doing so, I am grateful for the opportunity to work with a talented Madonna team to serve as an anchor institution in Livonia and surrounding communities with a global reach.

Please join me in exploring the many ways you can be involved in the learning, service projects, and campus happenings at Madonna University that will enrich your life as well as the lives of Madonna students. Together we can change lives.

For our Madonna,

Chris Dougherty, Ph.D.
President



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Features

- 4 [MEET MADONNA'S EIGHTH PRESIDENT](#)
B. Christopher Dougherty, Ph.D. is focused on relationships
- 6 [MADONNA'S 76TH COMMENCEMENT FEATURES KEYNOTE SPEAKER BISHOP DONALD F. HANCHON](#)
Humanitarian receives Distinguished Alumna Award
- 8 [CELEBRATING THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH](#)
60 Years of Compassion, Caring, Commitment
- 12 [HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS](#)
Pep Rally, Alumni Art Exhibit, Music and Memories, Cheers to Scholarships, Milestone Reunion, and more.

Departments

- 10 LIVING THE MISSION
- 14 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS
- 16 GIVING BACK
- 18 MAJORS AND MINORS

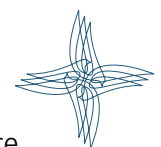
ON THE COVER:
Madonna University's eighth President Chris Dougherty, Ph.D.



THE MISSION OF MADONNA UNIVERSITY, a Catholic institution of higher learning, is to instill in its students Christian humanistic values, intellectual inquiry, a respect for diversity, and a commitment to serving others through a liberal arts education, integrated with career preparation and based on the truths and principles recognized within a Felician Franciscan tradition.

[Madonna's mission](#) receives its spirit from these Franciscan values:

- Respect for Each Person
- Peace and Justice
- Reverence for Creation
- Education for Truth and Service



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Ministry

MEET THE PRESIDENT

Chris Dougherty, Ph.D., joined the Madonna family July 1, 2023, as the University's eighth President. In addition to his commitment to student success, he brings to Madonna over 30 years of higher education experience at several colleges and universities. Most recently he served as associate professor of business at Chestnut Hill College, in Philadelphia, after having served as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty there from 2017 through January 2023.

A lifelong Roman Catholic, Dougherty (pronounced dockerde) fully embraces our mission and values. He and wife Joanne are the proud parents of daughters Madeleine, a master's student, and Isabel, an undergraduate student, in Pennsylvania. In his spare time, he enjoys running and biking.

Over the past few months, the President has been busy meeting alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents, donors, and business leaders. During those meetings, he has learned more about the Madonna family and community, while sharing his leadership style, what attracted him to Madonna, and the importance of relationships in living the mission of the University.

In July, he was the guest on the Livonia Chamber of Commerce's CityScape series (*photo above*) Chamber President Dan West interviewed Dougherty as a way to introduce him to the community. The interview can be viewed on the Chamber website at www.livonia.org.

During some informal luncheons in the board room, Dougherty has been getting to know some of Madonna's alumni and donors, including Ret. Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, '84, Ret. Bishop John Quinn, Judge Michael Talbot, and Gerald Smith (*at right*) and Shirley Walmsley, Elizabeth (Betty) Pluto, Noreen Haggerty '67, and George Ski (*below*).



Attending the pinning ceremony for the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) August graduates, President Dougherty congratulated them on their achievements and encouraged them to maintain their relationships with their alma mater. (*pg. 5, top left*)

During new student orientation, the President took the time to get to know students and their parents. In his remarks, he related that he, too, was new to the University, so he would be learning about the campus with them. (*pg. 5, top right*)

(continued on pg. 5)



cont.

"Donuts with Dougherty" was an opportunity for the President to hear from students. (*right center*)

Nermine Atteya, professor of strategy, operations, and supply chain, introduced the President to Susan Rokosz, Madonna benefactor, parent, and Automotive Women's Alliance Foundation member. (*bottom left*)

The President showed his support for Madonna scholar-athletes as a golfer in the Crusaders Classic fundraiser, and as the official coin tosser at the Homecoming game. (*bottom right*)



Commencement 2023



Celebrating the Graduating Class of 2023

MADONNA UNIVERSITY'S 76TH COMMENCEMENT was held on Saturday, May 13, at Suburban Collection Showplace. Deborah Dunn, provost and vice president for academic administration, served as emcee. Bishop Donald F. Hanchon, Madonna trustee, gave the keynote address and received an honorary doctorate of humane letters. Some 380 of Madonna's 730 graduates participated in commencement. Madonna's Class of 2023 included 10 doctoral candidates, 129 master's and education specialist graduates, and nearly 600 undergraduate students, including 14 Haitian graduates who traveled to Michigan to take part in the ceremony. Business graduate Maci Best sang the National Anthem and nursing graduate Emily Gavalier was the student speaker.

The Madonna University community also honored internationally-recognized humanitarian Najah Bazy with the Distinguished Alumna Award. Bazy, who earned her bachelor of science in nursing degree in 1998, is the founder and CEO of Zaman International.

Graduation Mass

Graduation Mass was celebrated in the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel by Bishop Donald F. Hanchon, Madonna trustee, and concelebrants were Rev. Charles Morris, and Rev. Alex Steinmiller. Organist Sr. Mary Ann Smith accompanied the Felician Sisters' Choir.

A reception for the graduates was held after Mass and faculty applauded the grads into the reception.



The College of Nursing and Health Celebrates 60 Years of Compassion, Caring, and Commitment



Nearly 150 faculty, alumni, and friends attended the anniversary event to celebrate and support 60 years of Madonna University nursing and its legacy of caring, compassion, and commitment.

Former Dean Teresa Thompson served as a most informative and entertaining emcee. She shared the history of the nursing program and paid tribute to Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa and Sr. Victoria Marie Indyk for their important contributions to the success of the nursing program over the years.

Provost and Interim Dean Deborah Dunn talked about the future of nursing education and new initiatives such as telehealth training and Certified Nurse Assistant certification.



Alumni shared wonderful stories of their time at Madonna and enjoyed seeing class composite photos and other photos of nursing milestones. Guests even took a stretch break and danced the Macarena.

To see the list of event sponsors, event photos, and the history of nursing at Madonna, visit www.madonna.edu/nursing60



Our degrees change lives.



Symposium Showcases Scholarship and Creativity

Madonna University's 9th annual Symposium for Research, Scholarship and Creativity was a resounding success, said Elizabeth Prough, symposium organizer and Interim Dean of the Graduate School and Director of the Center for Research. The event, which showcased the intellectual and creative achievements of students and faculty, drew an enthusiastic crowd.

The symposium featured award presentations, poster sessions, musical performances, and faculty-led Madonna Talks on various topics. Students and faculty from several academic departments participated in the event, which offered an excellent opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration and learning.

PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION AWARDS

Jude Galindo – Creative Award – Poetry Reading (pictured top right)
Haley Harting – Creative Award – Dance Choreography

RESEARCH POSTER AWARDS

Undergraduate First Place: Poster 3: Molly Chantres, Sarah Gendron, and Audrey Pickett (pictured center right)
Second Place: Poster 6: Madison Gietzen, Jessica Godfrey, Sadie Supina, and Madison Watts (pictured bottom right)
Third Place: Poster 7: Miranda Hild, Hiba Hamoud, and Ghada Itani
Graduate First Place: Poster 36: Katherine Sartori (pictured bottom left)
Second Place: Poster 40: Chelsea Stimbirt and Courtney Giles
Third Place: Tie – Poster 43: Rachel VerVaecke and Gabrielle Rogers
Poster 45: Annette Wimberley

The event highlighted the University's commitment to academic excellence. Prough expressed her gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event. "We had a fantastic turnout this year," she said. "The event is a true reflection of our rich academic environment at Madonna."



Celebrating Madonna's Mission and Heritage

The University community celebrated Mission and Heritage Week, Oct. 2-10, with a number of events.

The week started with the Transitus Mass honoring the death of St. Francis of Assisi. On Wednesday, the Feast of St. Francis drew a large attendance at Mass, then at 1 p.m. several faculty and staff members joined employees from other Felician Ministries for a pilgrimage around the holy square mile, starting at Madonna and finishing up at the Felician Sisters Central Convent, where Sr. Nancy Marie Jamroz shared the Sisters' history (*top right*).

The Franciscan Symposium featured Sr. Mary Ann Agnes Mueller (*at right*), who spoke about reverencing others and finding opportunities to encounter people who are different than you. "One of the best ways to reverence the other is to listen deeply to the other and find the commonalities," she said. Sr. Mary Ann shared that a culture of encounter is a solution to the division and tension in our society. She reminded those in attendance that St. Francis considered humility the foundation of all Franciscan virtue.

There were breakout sessions before and after lunch about the progress of women, diversity in children's literature, the Fulbright trip to the Philippines, LGBTQIA+, and Human Trafficking.

The Pet Blessing, a highlight of the week, drew cats, puppies, and dogs and their owners. Some of the Sisters even brought stuffed pets (*at right*).



An Interfaith Ceremony and Blessing closed out the week and featured students sharing readings from the Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Sikh Traditions. Bachelor of Music Senior Jack Nicodemo sang *Agnus Dei* by Lowell Everson/Gene Grier. *One Good Thing* was performed by MUse Dance Ensemble members Alexis Brown, Ellen Houseman, Cameron Krome, and Emma Schulz. Schulz, a forensic science major and dance minor, choreographed the dance.



The event also included a reenactment of the story of the meeting of St. Francis (played by Noel Emehiser, athletics director) and the Sultan Malik Al-Kamil (played by Jesse Cox, chief diversity officer), that took place in Egypt in the year 1219 (*below right*).



This year, every Friday in October was a Franciscan Day of Service, when students, faculty, and staff provided service to organizations in Livonia and surrounding areas (*below*).



Saints Watch Over the Residence Halls

Last spring, a good-sized crowd of faculty, staff, students, trustees, and Felician Sisters braved the chilly temperatures to celebrate the naming of all four of the University's residence halls in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Felix of Cantalice, and Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska. The saints' names reference our Felician Franciscan heritage and bring a more collegial feel to the residential experience.

Chris Benson, vice president for student affairs and mission integration, served as emcee for the event. She also shared biographical information about each of the saints whose names are now above the entrance to each hall: St. Francis, whose values the University espouses; Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska, foundress of the Felician Sisters; St. Felix, patron saint of the Felician Sisters; and St. Clare, a follower of St. Francis. A plaque with each saint's biography has also been installed in the lobby of their respective halls.

Madonna residential student Taylor Hicks read a reading for the blessing and Fr. Charles Morris blessed the three newest residence halls as well as Francis Hall, which is part of the University Center.



1. Chris Benson addresses the crowd. 2. Student Taylor Hicks with a poster of the biographical plaques. 3. Student Affairs staff members in front of Clare Hall. 4. Fr. Charles Morris blesses Angela Hall.

HOMECOMING 2023

Madonna University's Homecoming weekend was chock full of activities, memories, and fun, from Thursday's Athletics Hall of Fame dinner and awards, to Sunday's Alumni Mass and Milestone reunion. The campus was a busy place with the addition of some new events to welcome back alumni and friends. Friday began with the Crusaders Classic Golf Outing fundraiser to support Madonna Athletics. Later in the day the Pep Rally fired up the football team and fans.

Saturday kicked off with the Alumni Board meeting followed by the Crusaders football team walk and prayer. Families and friends enjoyed tailgating before the game. A reunion of current and former Madonna employees, an alumni art exhibit, took place Saturday morning. In addition to the football game, Saturday afternoon fun included a poetry reading by alumni author Kayvonna Stigall '08, and Music and Memories by the Pond — an outdoor concert to celebrate the Music Department's 60 years, and the Lyric Theatre's 20 years. The Cheers to Scholarships Winetasting fundraiser capped off Saturday's events.

Homecoming weekend wrapped up on Sunday with an Alumni Mass at the Felician Sisters' Chapel followed by the Milestone Reunion Brunch in the Franciscan Center, where alumni reconnected and shared their favorite Madonna memories. Enjoy some of the photos that were captured during the fun-filled weekend.



CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS



HALL of FAME HONORS ATHLETES and ADMINISTRATOR

The 2023 Madonna [Athletics Hall of Fame inductees](#), pictured L-R below, are:

- Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz, University administrator, is the ultimate long-time supporter and fan of Madonna's athletics program.
- Jeremy Gooding, outstanding Crusaders baseball pitcher 2009-2003, earned a criminal justice degree in 2019.
- Sarah Pack-Dyer, accomplished women's soccer player 2001-2003, studied chemistry.
- Bobby Naubert, men's basketball standout 2010-2014, earned a social studies degree in 2015.



Homecoming Photo Captions

1. Class of 1973 Nursing Alumnae look through photo albums and reminisce about their Madonna days.
2. Crusaders football team takes the field.
3. Crusaders cheer squad builds school spirit.
4. Sister Mary Ann Smith shares her experience at the Employee reunion.
5. Artists and guests at the Alumni Art Exhibit and reception.
6. Alumni, students, and faculty celebrate 60 years of Music and Memories and 20 years of Lyric Theatre at Madonna.
7. Members of the Alumni Advisory Board after their inaugural meeting: (L-R) Christina Paglia, Acire Crayton, and Simone Dukes. Not pictured is Sara Sabadosa who participated via Zoom.

Alumnus Receives Governor's Award



Madonna alumnus Bryant George recently received the 2023 Governor's Service Awards Youth Impact Award in recognition for his work with young people in his hometown of Detroit. Sergeant Bryant George serves at the Detroit Police Athletic League (PAL) as part of the Chief's Neighborhood Liaison Office and helps youth find their greatness while having a positive experience with law enforcement. His impact is transformational for so many as he interacts with youth every day, whether as a volunteer and mentor or while in the line of duty as a Detroit police officer.

As a first-generation college student and two-sport scholar athlete (Basketball and Cross Country), he graduated in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Before joining the Detroit Police Department, George worked in admissions at Madonna. During that time, he developed the

Bridging Lost Gaps (BLG) program to help increase the enrollment, retention, and graduation rates of black male students from Detroit. He earned a master's in higher education administration in 2019.

He quickly found a way to merge his expertise in higher education and law enforcement by serving in PAL's Critical Conversation Program, which creates a safe space for youth, community members, and police officers to discuss current events between the police and community.

Officer George graduated from ProsperUS Detroit – Entrepreneur Training Program in 2021 and launched Game Game Mobile & More, LLC – a mobile video game business that was honored with a 2021 Spirit of Detroit Award from the Detroit City Council. George has received a plethora of awards, including the Detroit Branch NAACP – 2021 Great Expectation Award, 2018 Michiganiaan of the Year, and Madonna University's 2019 Distinguished Alumnus, to name a few.

Business Alumnus Named to Forbes 30 Under 30

by Nekold Jones

The career of Chase Dobbie, 2016 business administration alumnus, has been marked by entrepreneurial success and continuous growth. The Toronto entrepreneur and two partners founded func.media, a digital media agency, in 2016. The trio secured a spot in *Forbes 2024 30 Under 30*, as well as recognition as Canada's Fastest Growing Company by *Globe and Mail*, and a place in *Adweek's* list of Fastest Growing Agencies in 2023. The agency's acclaimed clientele – including Lamborghini, Consumer Reports, and Ikea – speaks volumes about their hard work and industry capability.

In order to demonstrate func.media's social media and advertising competency, Dobbie and his partners launched Rolo Golf, an e-commerce company for golf sportswear. The brand's social media explosion and strategic growth made it one of Canada's top-selling golf sportswear brands with placement in major Canadian retailers and over 400 pro shops nationwide. Rolo Golf also won the Drum Award for advertising. The e-commerce brand is popular with many National Hockey League players and celebrities such as Adam Sandler, who wore a Rolo Golf shirt in the movie *You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah*. Rolo Golf became so large that the team sold the company in July 2023 to focus on func.media.

Dobbie characterized his Madonna experience as a mix of academics, athletics, and community engagement. Living on campus for three years Dobbie built friendships that provided him diverse perspectives and a sense of unity.

Dobbie credits Frank Notturmo, associate professor of marketing and management, as a transformative force whose mentorship played a pivotal role in his post-graduation success. Notturmo taught Dobbie's favorite class, Professional Selling, which provided practical, real-world applications that sparked the young entrepreneur's passion for selling and persuasion, skills he uses in his business dealings today.



Alumnus Scores Head Coaching Job at Georgia Southern



Charlie Henry, Jr., a 2009 journalism and public relations alumnus, was named head coach of the men's basketball program at Georgia Southern University. During an introductory news conference, Georgia Southern's Director of Athletics Jared Benko praised Coach Henry's elite basketball mind, progressive approach to game planning and style of play, and use of advanced analytics. He also commended Henry's high-character leadership, integrity, and incredible drive.

Coach Henry expressed his excitement about being part of Georgia Southern's rich basketball tradition. "The effectiveness of the job we do won't consist exclusively of wins and losses," Henry said. "[W]e're also going to evaluate what type of student-athletes we are producing for this University, ... for the overall Statesboro community, and are they better for having spent time inside this program."

A native of Canton, Mich., Henry was in his fourth season as an assistant men's basketball coach at the University of Alabama when

he got the call from Georgia Southern. He has over 10 years of coaching experience on three major levels of basketball – NBA, G League, and Division I power-five schools – including stops at the Chicago Bulls, Windy City Bulls, and Iowa State, among others.

A four-year member of Madonna's men's basketball team, Henry went on to serve as graduate manager at Utah in 2010-11, and as a video intern with the Indiana Pacers in 2011-12. He earned his master's degree in educational leadership and policy study from Iowa State in 2014.

Henry and his wife Teisha are parents to son Nash and daughter Dixie Grace, pictured above.

Alumna Wins FBI Award

by Nekold Jones

Valerie Mayra, 2017 forensic science alumna, developed a fascination with forensic science from such TV shows as *Forensic Files*. Raised by her state trooper father, her interest in law enforcement and criminal justice began at an early age. But, it was the Impression and Trace Evidence class, taught by Jessica Zarate, that piqued Mayra's interest in the Latent Print discipline.

Mayra was honored with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) prestigious Latent Hit of the Year award in December 2023. The award recognizes an outstanding latent print examiner who solved a major violent crime.

As a latent print analyst at the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, Mayra played a role in solving a gruesome and challenging case – the murder of Susie Zhao.

Identifying Zhao's fingerprints proved difficult due to extensive burns on her body. Unable to use traditional ink and paper methods, Mayra took digital photos to capture post-mortem finger impressions. Details found in the right thumb were checked against the FBI's Next Generation Identification system and were a match for Zhao. Mayra's dedication led to the conviction of Zhao's killer, Jeffrey Morris. Mayra was happy to have brought justice to Zhao and her family.

Mayra believes that successful latent print examiners possess qualities like patience, strong visual acuity, exceptional attention to detail, analytical thinking, and a high level of integrity. Her advice to prospective forensic scientists and latent print examiners: stay vigilant, work hard, and go the extra mile.





Alumnus Honors Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa

IN 1992, TED PICANO WAS A BUSY MADONNA NURSING STUDENT who also worked in critical care and the cardiac catheterization lab at Botsford Hospital, now Corewell Health, in Farmington Hills. One particular day he was trying to register for a class that he needed to graduate that December. He went looking for help and found Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, then academic vice president. With Sister's assistance, Picano was able to enroll in the class and complete important paperwork needed for graduation.

Because Picano had 13 years of nursing experience under his belt before he came to Madonna, he soon discovered that Madonna offered him something special. "As seasoned nurses, we all know what to do for our patients. As professional nurses, we also know why those things are done. That is what we learned at Madonna."

Citing a sense of gratitude "for being at a school that was there to really help all students," Picano has been an enthusiastic annual donor to Madonna since he graduated. He continued working at Botsford after it became Beaumont, eventually leaving in 1998 to relocate to warmer climes. Continuing his nursing career in Georgia, California, and North Carolina, Ted Picano spent several rewarding years working at the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C., before retiring in 2014.

When he learned of Sister Rose Marie's death in December 2022, Picano immediately remembered her kindness and the important help she had given him 30 years earlier. Instead of making his usual annual gift, he decided to create an endowed scholarship in her name. "It's an opportunity to make a more profound statement about what the school has strived for during its history," Picano explained.

Originally, he thought it should be a scholarship only for nursing students, then realized that Sister Rose Marie would have wanted the scholarship funds to be available for students in any major. "She was inclusive," he recalled.

During the 2023 St. Felix Day of Giving, the Scholarship was fully funded. Scholarship funds will be available for distribution by fall 2024.

The [Sister Rose Marie Kujawa Scholarship](#) is a fitting legacy for one whose wisdom guided and sustained Madonna University for so many years.

Look What's Cooking at Madonna

A culinary revolution occurred in the [Nutrition and Dietetics](#) lab when Bill & Rod's Appliance recently delivered five stoves, a double oven, a countertop range, and a microwave to replace the aging lab equipment. Assistant Development Director Tom Laabs secured the generous donation from the Livonia-based appliance retailer that has been a fixture in the Livonia community since 1963.

Laura Kull, dietetics professor, talked about how this donation will enhance educational possibilities.

"We'll be able to continue to provide the best quality instruction for our students," Kull explained. She said the new equipment will enable exciting collaborations, including food demonstrations for athletes.

With the help of interns in the master's program and a partnership with the Counseling Center, the Nutrition and Dietetics program plans to showcase proper cooking techniques that can have a positive impact on students' lives.

(cont. on next page)



COOKING (cont.)

This story is not just about donations of new technology, appliances, or scholarship funds. Rather, it's about the power of generosity, the pursuit of excellence, and the bond between Madonna University and the Livonia community. The Nutrition and Dietetics program integrates academics, technology, innovation, collaboration, and a host of exciting learning possibilities.



Birthday Gifts from George Ski

FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS, MADONNA BENEFACTOR GEORGE Ski has been supporting student scholarships in a very unique way – through birthday gifts to family members.



Ski's project began in the Madonna library. He wasn't a student or an alumnus who had returned. He was a retiree looking to continue to keep up with the stock market and investing, and at Madonna he could read financial papers and periodicals to his heart's content. Feeling grateful to the Felician Sisters, and somewhat guilty for use of the library resources, Ski wanted to give back to Madonna University.

Sr. M. Jean Rogoszowski, the librarian, referred him to Sr. M. Danatha Suchyta, the University's fourth president and then director of planned giving. When his parents passed away he established a scholarship in their name.

"A product of the Catholic school system, I believe in private schools," Ski said. "and I promised my parents I would be fair to each of my 11 siblings and several dozen nieces and nephews, and none of them would go hungry."

That promise inspired Ski's unconventional support of Madonna. Each month since 2013, with the help of Anne Merrill and Linda Hall in the University's Advancement Office, Ski has been sending birthday wishes to his siblings, nieces, and nephews. Each message explains that to celebrate their special day, a gift in the amount of their age has been made to Madonna University to support the family scholarship for students. This year, Ski moved from birthday letters to custom Madonna birthday cards.

"I enjoyed a special friendship with Sr. Rose Marie and many of the Felician Sisters," Ski said. "My familiarity with Madonna and the relationships I have developed there, have been a great way of meeting people."

George Ski is changing lives at Madonna, one birthday card, one scholarship at a time. Email [Matt Rheinecker](mailto:Matt.Rheinecker@madonna.edu) to learn more.



Mentorship Program is Mutually Beneficial

Madonna Rising Star Business Students and their mentors celebrated the wrap-up of their semester-long mentoring relationship.

The students and mentors had wonderful things to say about the value of the mentorship program.

Most of the students had the chance to meet with their mentor more than the required four times during the semester.

The program turned out to be a reciprocal learning process. While the students expressed gratitude for everything they learned from their mentors, the mentors, a few of whom were members of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce, said that they learned quite a bit from the students.

The project was the brainchild of School of Business Dean Tara Kane, '02, '08, and Phillips Endowed Chair of Leadership and Management [Jacob Frimenko](#), shown below with Cheryl Doelker, former Livonia Chamber Board Chair. Doelker and Livonia Chamber President Dan West endorsed the mentorship program and served as mentors.

The students pictured here with their mentors are: Devin Romaniw and Doelker (*top right*), Maci Best and Jeff Prough (*center right*), Jake Bailey and West (*third right*), Abbey Powell and Ed Holinski (*bottom right*), and Bobby Martin and Mark Lee (*bottom left*).



Faculty Member Named to IRS Advisory Council

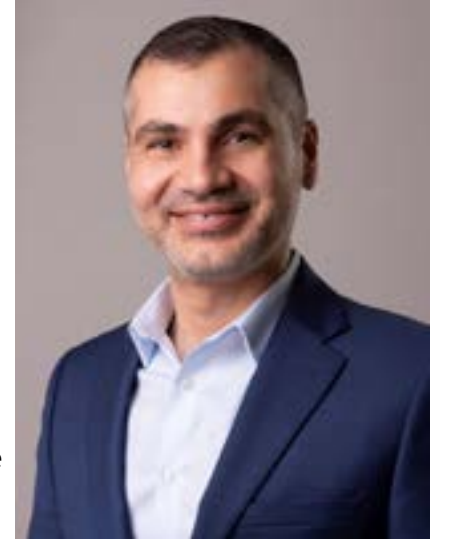
Hussein Tarraf, associate professor of accounting and director of the accounting and finance program in Madonna's School of Business, has been selected by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as one of 12 new members of the IRS Advisory Council (IRSAC).

A certified public accountant and certified fraud examiner, Tarraf is president of Tarraf & Associates, PC, in Dearborn. He has been working in public accounting for more than 20 years, providing tax advisory and assurance services primarily to small- to medium-sized businesses and high-net-worth individuals. He also has worked in the areas of accounting, audit, consultation, business planning, and taxation within several firms.

The IRS strives to appoint members to the IRSAC who represent the taxpaying public, the tax professional community, small and large businesses, tax exempt and government entities, and information reporting interests.

"I am delighted to have been appointed by the commissioner of Internal Revenue Service with the concurrence of the secretary of the Treasury to the Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council," Tarraf said. "I look forward to working with the IRSAC's very select group of accountants, lawyers, academics, and economists from around the country to advise the commissioner and recommend administrative and policy changes for the service."

Established in 1953, the IRSAC is an organized public forum for IRS officials and representatives of the public to discuss a broad range of issues in tax administration. The Council provides the IRS and agency leaders with relevant feedback, observations, and recommendations. It will submit its annual report to the agency at a public meeting in November.



Celebrating Barbara and 20 Years of Lyric Theatre

by Gary Dettore



During my 11 years here, I got an insider view of what it takes to put on a play in Kresge Hall. I witnessed Barbara Wiltsie (Barb) share, with her cast members, stage directing, voice coaching, lighting, sound assistance, and a hundred other life lessons with her cast members.

At 11:30 p.m. one evening, I saw lights on in Kresge Hall. I found Barb on her hands and knees scrubbing the stage floor. When I asked why, she said it needed it. Every night or so she scrubbed a section free of grime and scuffs until it was done. That's Barb.

On another night I heard a whirring noise coming from Kresge. Barb, bent over her sewing machine, was altering costumes for another play, fabric, buttons, and pins all over the place. The sound whirred on for many a night. That's Barb.

Barb never took a bow after a show, despite the beckoning by her student actors. She said it was the hard work and perseverance of her students that deserved recognition. That's Barb.

Following the final performance of *Brigadoon* last April, the actors took their bows. Then, in a surprises plot twist, Barb's daughter, Abigail Youngerman, took the stage to surprise her mother. Youngerman told the audience that this play marked the 20th anniversary of Madonna's Lyric Theatre started by her mom. Barb was coerced to the stage, where she received a quilt featuring the handbill art of each of the 20 productions (*pictured above*). Then, one by one, the former actors came to the stage with bouquets of flowers for Barb. A friend and college classmate flew in from Seattle for the surprise. The crowd erupted into a roaring standing ovation, Barb took that well-deserved bow, and tears of love and joy flowed.



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