

DISCOVER

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

Come One, Come All... to the QEP Rally, February 5

Rally with the entire University community on Tuesday, February 5, at a Mardi Gras celebration where you can *discover* more about Marymount's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The rally will take place from noon to 2 p.m. in the Lee Center Atrium.

Come for lunch, get questions answered, and have fun as you learn facts about this vitally important element of the University's reaffirmation of accreditation with SACS, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Marymount's QEP is called DISCOVER, and it will enhance student learning by infusing inquiry-based learning and research throughout the curriculum. (The third installment of *InsideMU's* series on this program can be found on page 3 of this issue.)

The more you learn, the better prepared you will be to respond when "mystery questioners" roam the campus in the coming days, asking employees and students about the program. Answer correctly and you could win a prize.

It's important for everyone to know about the DISCOVER program in preparation for the visit by the SACS On-Site Committee, February 19-21. The purpose of the committee's visit will be to gauge how knowledgeable the Marymount community is about the QEP. So, come to the rally, learn lots, get your free Mardi Gras beads, and – as they say in 'Nawlins – *laissez les bon temps rouler!* Let the good times roll!

FYI Marymount to Host VFIC Ethics Bowl, February 10-11

The Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges and Wachovia Bank will sponsor the ninth annual statewide Wachovia Ethics Bowl at Marymount on February 10 and 11.

Student teams from 15 of Virginia's independent colleges and universities will debate a variety of case studies focusing on "Ethics and the Environment."

Dr. Brian Doyle, associate professor of Theology, is the coach for MU's team.

The opening session will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 10, in the Ballston Center's Truland Auditorium. On Monday, February 11, debate rounds will begin at 8:15 a.m., with a closing round at 11:30 a.m. The winning team will be announced at 12:45 p.m.

Co-chairs of this year's event are **Roger Mudd**, former CBS and History Channel journalist, and **Ken Garren**, president of Lynchburg College.

The University community is welcome to attend the debate sessions free of charge.

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season on February 6. Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel at 7:30 a.m., noon, and 9:30 p.m. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses.

Save the Date

Distinguished Visiting Professor

David Seiders

Chief Economist and
Senior Staff Vice President
National Association of
Home Builders

Thursday, April 3

7 p.m.

Ballston Center

InsideMU is a biweekly newsletter for Marymount faculty and staff.

To submit items for consideration in *InsideMU*, e-mail: insidemu@marymount.edu or send via campus mail to University Communications, Rowley Hall, Room 89.

Faculty: Interested in Teaching a Course Overseas?

If you have an idea for teaching a course abroad, be sure to start your journey by meeting with **Victor Betancourt**, director of Marymount's Center for Global Education. It usually takes one to two years of preparation before submitting a proposal. Proposals for summer 2009 courses are due by March 14, 2008. To learn about proposal guidelines, visit www.marymount.edu/academic/studyabroad/facultystaff/ledprograms.html.

Alumni Association Seeks Board Nominations

Do you know a former student who would be an asset to the leadership of the University's Alumni Association? Board nominations are now being accepted by the Office of Alumni Relations.

Marymount's Alumni Association connects the University's 24,000+ alumni through social, professional, and educational events.

If you know a graduate who would make a great nominee, visit online www.marymount.edu/alumni/advisoryboardnom.html. Nominations are due by Monday, February 18. If you have someone in mind, please let him or her know before submitting your nomination.

Questions? Contact Alumni Relations, ext. 1541.

Dollar Dinner to Focus on Some Family Food for Thought

Grace Before Meals: Recipes for Family Life will be the topic of the next Dollar Dinner on Friday, February 15. It is also the title of a book by **Rev. Leo Patalinghug**, a priest from Mount St. Mary's who will speak at the dinner, which begins at 5 p.m. in the Gerard Lobby.

For just a buck, faculty and staff can join students for a delicious meal, while learning how to feed body *and* soul at family meal time!

PLAUDITS

Dr. Carolyn Jacobson, professor of Business, recently chaired an accreditation team site visit evaluating a Computer Science program and an Information Systems program at an institution seeking accreditation by ABET, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. She also recently chaired interim reviews for a Computer Science program and an Information Systems program at another institution. Dr. Jacobson is a member of the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET.

Dr. Pramila Rao, assistant professor of Human Resource Management, presented the paper "E-Recruitment Challenges in India and Mexico" at the Washington Business Research Conference, held in early January in Arlington.

Dr. Monica Robbers, associate professor of Criminal Justice, recently had the article "Crime Shows and Sensational Interests: An Exploratory Examination of Students in Criminal Justice-Related Majors" published in the *Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture*. She also wrote "The Caring Equation: An Intervention Program for Teenage Mothers and their Male Partners," published in the journal *Children and Schools*.

Robin Wagner, assistant professor of Interior Design, received the 2007 Louis S. Tregre Award at the annual Council of Delegates meeting of the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ). The award recognizes an individual for outstanding volunteer work at the grassroots level in support of the NCIDQ mission.

PEOPLE Welcome

Jameela Anderson, academic advisor, Academic Success Center (ext. 6927; jameela.anderson@marymount.edu)

Grace Braggs, accounts payable coordinator, Business Office (ext. 1487; grace.braggs@marymount.edu)

Christopher Dreslin, maintenance mechanic, Physical Plant (ext. 1529; christopher.dreslin@marymount.edu)

Anab Garad, access services associate, Library and Learning Services (ext. 5947 or 6837; anab.garad@marymount.edu)

Prayers Requested

Please pray for the repose of the soul of these friends of the University community who died recently:

Dorothy May, mother of **Dr. Bridget May**, professor of Interior Design

Madeline T. McLaughlin, mother of **Madeline "Lynn" McLaughlin**, access services associate, Library and Learning Services

Elizabeth Storck, mother of **Barbara Storck**, administrative secretary, Campus Safety and Transportation

EVENTS

Now through February 28 — Fine Arts and Design Faculty Exhibition continues, Barry Gallery. Free.

February 6 — Men's and women's basketball vs. Wesley, Wesley College, Dover, DE; men at 6 p.m., women at 8 p.m. (*InsideMU* does not normally include "away" games in its Events Calendar due to space limitations. However, this game may be Coach Bill Finney's 500th career win. We are rooting the team and Coach Finney on to this impressive milestone!)

February 15 — Proposal deadline for faculty presentations at Innovations 2008. Proposal forms available online at www.marymount.edu/cte.



This is part three of a four-part series on DISCOVER, Marymount's Quality Enhancement Plan.

Part III: It Takes a University: Faculty, Staff, and Student Involvement in the QEP

One of the criteria SACS will use in judging the excellence of Marymount's QEP is evidence of broad involvement from all campus stakeholders. The University has already benefited from the involvement of many faculty, staff, and students; this continued collaboration will be eagerly anticipated and welcome.

Faculty, staff, and students have been involved with the DISCOVER program since the idea's conception. During the initial brainstorming period, all University stakeholders contributed their thoughts through surveys, town hall meetings, and faculty meetings organized by the QEP Selection Committee, chaired by Dean Jim Ryerson.

Once the QEP topic was chosen, input from faculty, staff, and students became the basis for the development of the DISCOVER program. As the QEP Implementation Committee began its work, faculty from all of the teaching disciplines provided their committee representatives with ideas that shaped discussions on the definition and scope of student research and inquiry; Library and Learning Services faculty emphasized the importance of information literacy in the inquiry process. Faculty also met with our QEP consultant to explore issues related to enhancing student research and inquiry. Our Admissions staff representative helped us look at the plan from the viewpoint of prospective students and their families. Our representative from Student Services kept us thinking about the ways that the program could (and should) intersect with students' lives outside the classroom, and the financial and academic support that many of our students would need to get the most out of DISCOVER. Staff from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness developed the assessment plan. Our student representative helped us see what students would expect in order to be involved in DISCOVER and what aspects of the program would be exciting for them. This was truly a group project!

But the involvement of faculty, staff, and students in DISCOVER doesn't stop with the writing of the plan. Here are just a few examples of what's to come:

- Our budget plan includes funds for full implementation of the program; however, the Office of Development will explore ways to enhance the program's resources through grants and philanthropy.
- Staff from Information Technology Services and E-Learning Services will help develop an online research journal and assist with setting up electronic databases for the DISCOVER Office.
- Faculty will continue to be involved in developing and refining courses to meet program goals, and Student Development will continue to be instrumental in identifying and training peer mentors for the first-year seminar.
- Students will serve on the DISCOVER Center Advisory Board, and serve as peer mentors in the program. Graduate students can be involved in mentoring undergraduates.

In addition, much support has already come from many corners of the University:

- The Office of University Communications – along with the Conference Center Office, Food Services, and others – has helped to publicize the program.
- And, of course, none of us could get our jobs done without the backbone of the University – the Financial Affairs, Physical Plant, and Auxiliary Services departments.

DISCOVER belongs to everyone.

As we begin this exciting new program, there will be many more opportunities for you to be involved. Remember that your perspective is unique – you see a part of the University that no one else may be aware of – and we need your observations and ideas to maximize our success. If you have an idea that you feel would help us meet our goals more effectively, use our resources more efficiently, or just have more fun with DISCOVER, please don't be shy. Speak up and get in touch with the DISCOVER Office. It will open in the fall. Until then, you can contact **Carolyn Oxenford**, chair, QEP Planning Committee, at carolyn.oxenford@marymount.edu.