

# Walsh University

## Mission Implementation Status Report

July 2010

### Introduction

Walsh University's mission demonstrates deep commitment to Catholic heritage. The mission statement is comprised of three layers, all grounded in faith and church:

#### **Statement of Identity**

Walsh University is an independent, coeducational, Catholic, liberal arts and sciences institution. Founded by the Brothers of Christian Instruction, the university believes in the desirability of a small university that promotes academic excellence, a diverse community, and close student-teacher interaction.

#### **Statement of Mission**

Walsh University is dedicated to educating its students to become leaders in service to others through a values-based education. The university encourages an international perspective in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

#### **Statement of Vision**

Walsh University is committed to being a Catholic university of distinction, providing each student the educational experiences, resources, and opportunities necessary to foster critical thinking, effective communication, spiritual growth, and personal, professional and cultural development. The university encourages individuals to act in accordance with reason guided by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The November 2009 reaccreditation visit by a Higher Learning Commission team of reviewers provided Walsh University opportunity to demonstrate persuasively the centrality of mission to all operations. Furthermore, 2010 marked the university's celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a series of more than 50 orchestrated events from June 2009-November 2010 reflecting the university's commitment to mission and Catholicity.

### The Brothers of Christian Instruction

Walsh was founded in 1960 by the Brothers of Christian Instruction, a worldwide order formed in 1819 for the purpose of educating the children of the working class. Today the Brothers serve around the world from Argentina to Tanzania and beyond.

Though the university is incorporated as an independent entity, it continues to be sponsored by the Brothers. Six Brothers serve on the Board of Directors, and the chair of the Board is a member of the order. In 2009, having been appointed Provincial Superior, Br. Jerome Lessard left campus for headquarters of the American Province in Alfred, Maine. He now chairs the Board of Directors. Four Brothers live on campus in Lamennais Hall (named for a co-founder of the Brothers of Christian Instruction, Father John de Lamennais): Ernest Paquet, Joseph Power, Guy Roddy, and Marcel Sylvestre.

Walsh honors the Brothers and their contributions, in part, by naming institutional facilities, scholarships, and awards:

- Founders Award— the highest award given by the university is named for the founders of the Brothers of Christian Instruction (Gabriel Deshayes and John de Lamennais)
- Farrell Hall—Walsh's first administrative and classroom building named for Brother Thomas Farrell, the new college's first president
- Lamennais Hall—named for one of the founders of the Brothers of Christian Instruction, John de Lamennais

- Menard Hall—Walsh's first residence hall named for Brother Patrick Menard, former provincial of the American Province and, at the time of the building's naming, assistant to the superior general of the Brothers of Christian Instruction
- Alexis Hall—Walsh's second residence hall named for Brother Alexis Guilbault, a mathematics professor among the founding faculty
- Brother Francis Blouin Peace Park—named for Walsh's third president
- Brother Edmond Drouin Library—named for Walsh's first librarian
- Barrette Business and Community Center—named for Brother Dacien Barrette, former business manager of Walsh.
- Brother Robert Francoeur Conference Center—named for one of Walsh's founding Brothers, first academic dean and second president
- Brother James Lacasse Lobby—named for Walsh's beloved golf coach and former administrator
- Farrell Hall Language Lab—dedicated in honor of Brothers Henri Bernier and Edward Harrison, former faculty members who taught foreign languages
- Statue of St. Francis in the garden of the Hannon Child Development Center dedicated to Brother Roland Vigeant, faculty member in the Division of Education
- Eighteen scholarships named in honor of Brothers or their loved ones

In addition, over the years Walsh has bestowed seven honorary doctorates, three Founders' Awards, and four Distinguished Service medals to Brothers. The Walsh University Alumni Association recently instituted a Lifetime Achievement Award and selected Brothers as the first four recipients of this honor. Throughout the year, Brothers are actively involved in campus life and are honored guests at all university functions. In the community they participate in numerous events, often invited to give invocations, benedictions, and lectures.

In the fall of 2009 a much-acclaimed video honoring the Brothers premiered at the sold-out 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala and was broadly distributed. And when Walsh loses one of these beloved men the campus mourns: Br. Charles St. James passed away in late 2006, Br. Robert Francoeur in 2007, and Br. Roland Vigeant in 2008. Brothers and alumni from across the country came back to Walsh to pay respects and attend the campus funerals. Artifacts from each are archived or displayed on campus—e.g., in a case near the Francoeur Conference Center of the Barrette Business and Community Center, in the Hoover Historical Society, in Betzler Hall, and in Maine.

### Governance and Succession Planning

Walsh University applies its Catholic mission across all divisions within the institution. A Brothers of Christian Instruction chairs the Board of Directors, and six Brothers sit on the board, as do the bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown and two other ordained priests.

To assure continuation of Walsh as a Catholic institution of higher education, Walsh's administration has committed to succession planning. With the Board of Directors' support, the president has created three groups of employees representative of the entire university community:

- Legacy Group (first cohort formed in 2006, second in 2008)—focused on the study and assimilation of Walsh's history and Catholic heritage to ensure its continuation
- Leadership Group—focused on developing the skills and knowledge necessary to fully implement the mission and lead the university into the future
- Legacy/Leadership Group (combined group formed in 2009-10)—visiting Maine in July 2010

The university has hosted extended visits in 2008-09 by Dominicans, whose charism specifies higher education. Fr. James Sullivan, a Dominican, has joined the Board of Directors, as has another Father, Msgr. James Clarke. Other distinguished guests of the university in 2009 included the bishop and the archbishop of Gulu and the bishop of Moshi in Tanzania. In 2010 Br. Gerard Byaruhanga, native of Uganda and currently Assistant to the Superior General with a base in Rome, made a presentation to the Board. Such activities support ongoing efforts to preserve the heritage and mission of Walsh.

## Spiritual Facilities on Campus and at SPS

Named for the patroness of the Brothers of Christian Instruction, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel was dedicated in September 2006 and is the first freestanding chapel on the Walsh University campus. This beautiful facility serves as the spiritual hub of the campus and visibly demonstrates the university's Catholic heritage.

The lower level of the chapel houses the university's theology faculty, several classrooms, faculty and staff offices, and the following:

**The Catholic Studies Institute** promotes an environment of learning and reflection, offering a selection of educational, pastoral and topical programs that foster a continuing collaboration with the Diocese of Youngstown and diocesan and ecumenical, ecclesial and religious communities. The institute sponsors Catholic-oriented theological, interdisciplinary, and intercultural programs.

**The Institute of Jewish-Catholic Studies** promotes dialog and study of Jewish and Christian history, thought, and belief. The institute oversees the Wilkof Jewish Study Project and sponsors scholars, courses, conferences, and interfaith dialogues designed to promote understanding and good will.

Mass is held in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel daily throughout the academic year, as are diverse spiritual programs, from Bible study to ecumenical prayer services. While the chapel is the spiritual center of the university, in several places across the campus students, faculty, and staff can pause during their busy days for prayer and quiet reflection. These include the beautifully landscaped prayer garden and small chapels located in each residence hall.

In October 2009 the Jewish-Catholic Studies Institute collaborated with Temple Israel to secure partial funding from the Ohio Humanities Council for a week-long program called *Expanding the Understanding of Christian Scriptures Through Examination of Their Jewish Origins*. The audience of college and high school students, university faculty, laypeople, parochial school teachers, Jews, Christians, and Muslims reached over 260 and included an interactive presentation by Dr. Julie Galumbush, religious scholar from the College of William and Mary.

The Mahoning Valley site for the School for Professional Studies (SPS) is housed at the Ursuline Center in Canfield (OH), about an hour east of North Canton. As they come and go to class, adults returning to Walsh to finish their undergraduate degree or to undertake a master's degree in education observe the nuns' service projects underway—e.g., the pre-school or a fundraising rummage sale—and interact with the Sisters on site.

While not a spiritual site per se, the university did complete and dedicate Father Matthew Herttna Counseling Center in May 2009, honoring his lifelong commitment to counseling the underserved. This suite of offices and counseling rooms on the main campus enables the Counseling Human Development master's students to extend free clinical services to low-income and uninsured families and individuals. The university has hired a director to contact agencies and coordinate services for clients with graduate students for 10-11.

## Curriculum

Walsh's core curriculum contains a six-credit hour theology requirement for all baccalaureate students. The Vatican document *Gaudium et Spes*, describing the role of the Catholic church in the modern world, is integrated via the general education core across the curriculum, with training for faculty occurring during May Days. Furthermore, all theology professors teach under the academic *mandatum*, which "recognizes the professor's commitment and responsibility to teach authentic Catholic doctrine and to refrain from putting forth as Catholic teaching anything contrary to the church's *magisterium* (U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops).

The master of arts in theology offers pastoral ministry training that honors Walsh's commitment to helping students grow personally and develop professional ministry skills. The program seeks continued development of the person, foundation of genuine Christian community, and understanding of relationships and structures necessary to respond effectively to

contemporary pastoral needs. It seeks to provide the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation necessary for training effective lay ecclesial leaders serving the global mission of the church. Fr. Patrick Manning, in his first year as chair of the Division of Theology in 2009-10, led the division toward greater cohesion with the university's graduate programs, all of which are defining program student learning outcomes (PSLOs), revising program brochures, expanding regional marketing, exploring tracks that might integrate with other programs (eg, a "parish administration" track combining MBA classes and Theology MA classes), and applying for or strengthening compliance with accreditation requirements. As Chris Petrosino assumes the title of Dean of Graduate Studies in 2010-11, graduate education at Walsh should continue to gain a reputation for quality, flexibility, growth, and fulfillment of the university's mission of service.

With its doctoral program in physical therapy firmly established now, with state and Board of Directors' approval to add advanced degrees in the service profession of nursing, and with CHD building the counseling capacity of Ugandan personnel, Walsh actualizes its vision of being a beacon of Catholic higher education, supplying leaders in service to the church and community, local or national or international.

### Global Learning

The Global Learning Program debuted in 2006, expressing Walsh's desire to provide thoughtful, intellectual cultural immersion led by its own faculty—contrasted with the popular image of "study abroad" as adventurous vacation. Walsh now offers recurring Global Learning opportunities in Italy and Uganda and additional opportunities in El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The program's leadership consists of a fulltime Director of Global Learning (to recruit and orient faculty and students) and a faculty member named Special Assistant to the Provost for Global Learning (to oversee academic components of the program and its courses). Moreover, in 2009 the university hired and will hire again a director of student life to reside in session at the Castel Gandolfo campus, so as to increase student participation in community and to serve student needs. And since 2007 a Rome Site Director in Italy has acted as in-country liaison, planning program logistics.

In 2007 a collaboration was established with the Brothers of Christian Instruction in Italy. The Brothers renovated their campus at Instituto San Guiseppe in Castel Gandolfo, a scenic 22-acre property, to accommodate classroom and residential activities. In terms varying from 3-8 weeks, faculty typically teach daily classes in the morning and take students on afternoon cultural, historical, and religious excursions, including visits to the Vatican, affording remarkable opportunity to study the history, heritage and culture of Rome.

Since piloting and then implementing global learning, Walsh has established remarkable integration of academic credit and mission-driven intercultural immersion for faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, and even alumni and board members. A total of 262 students and dozens of faculty have spent weeks to months abroad, often staying at residential communities of Brothers and visiting Catholic sites as well as service, corporate, and cultural enterprises in the context of academic study.

Global learning achieved notable penetration into the graduate programs in the past year. By Summer 2010 three groups of MBA students had travelled to Rome, Florence, and Milan—combining visits to corporate, cultural and religious sites. An 8-day alumni trip to Rome included 28 alums and board members. In 2010 two nursing faculty travelled to Tanzania on exploratory and lecture tours, assessing opportunities to secure funding for a joint venture with the Association of Nurses in AIDS care (ANAC) in leadership development.

Nursing is modelling the extraordinary success of Walsh's counseling faculty who themselves conducted workshops for two years for personnel in northern Uganda, especially war-torn Gulu, where Ugandan teachers, nurses, and social workers need assistance in techniques for handling trauma and chronic stress. Then in 2010 counseling took graduate students to Gulu to conduct training workshop. Walsh's Uganda experience also gives undergraduate students opportunity to mentor, tutor, and serve the community in which they are immersed. Residing at Kisubi Brothers University Constituent College of Uganda Martyrs University and completing college credit, students meet and work with Ugandan people for two weeks to devise projects aimed at improving quality of life and empowering individuals to make positive changes. In preparation for a future Walsh-at-Kisubi Mother/Daughter MicroEnterprise project, Walsh students were trained to conduct face-to-face needs assessment interviews with 66 women from the village of Ziika. The project will enable mothers to assist their families in

general and their daughters' secondary education tuition. An outgrowth of the project will be establishment of scholarships for the daughters to Kisubi Brothers' University Centre. This summer's work also involved exploration of potential funding sources for the project.

Faculty from most of the 10 academic divisions have now travelled with both undergraduate and graduate students, teaching and learning with them. Nursing, education, social and behavioral sciences (including counseling), humanities (history, philosophy), mathematics, theology, and business have all participated. Additionally, personnel from student services (the registrar) and student affairs (residence life) have also experienced immersion abroad, travelling with students and bringing to life the university's commitment to ongoing growth of the whole person and to global awareness. Along with the counseling program, nursing plans in the future to take graduate students and upperclass undergraduates to Uganda and Tanzania to promote global learning and build competency.

#### Record of Walsh Students' Global Learning, 2007-10

	ROME	FRANCE, ITALY, SPAIN	EL SALVADOR	CCSA	UGANDA	Total Students
Summer 07	4 students		6 students		8 students	18
Fall 07-Summer 08				4 students	10 students	14
Fall 08-Summer 09	128 students			1 student	9 students	138
Fall 09-Summer 10	65 students	7 students			20 students (undergrad and grad)	92

An informal consortium of 5 Catholic colleges in three states (St. Anselm in NH, St. Vincent College in PA, Ursuline College in OH, and Notre Dame College in OH, and of course Walsh) is being formed, enabling other schools to immerse their students in Walsh's global learning experiences. Furthermore, as shown in the table, Walsh participates in College Center for Studies Abroad (consortium of 24 colleges).

The university is a member of the Association of American College and University Programs in Italy (AACUPI), an organization of 130 US institutions offering higher education in Italy, thereby assuring ongoing dialog about changing conditions and opportunities to network. With assistance from AACUPI Walsh secured legal standing in Italy, as required by the Italian government of any American college or university operating there. Walsh has been honored for such efforts by being selected for membership in the prestigious International Federation of Catholic Universities, joining with the University of Notre Dame, Boston College, Villanova University and Georgetown University. The University of Dayton and Walsh are the only two Ohio IFCU members.

Assessment results continue to show students' satisfaction with increased appreciation of diversity, development of personal relationships, intellectual growth, independence, and emotional and spiritual change. Parents as well send messages to the Office of Global Learning reflecting their satisfaction with changes observed in their sons or daughters following their international exposure, regardless of length of program or destination.

#### Service Learning

Service learning (SL) is a priority for the university: Walsh is committed to preparing leaders in service to others. Faculty work with the Director of Service Learning to create learning experiences that enhance academic coursework while promoting civic learning and personal growth. Each division continues to offer at least one service learning course per academic year. Opportunities to learn through service include collaborative projects abroad (Ugandan efforts, for example) and outreach among local nonprofits (for example, in 2009-10, Canton City Schools, Community Services of Stark County, Open Ministries, Project RISE, Coming Together Stark County, North Canton Heritage Society, Hoover Historical Center, Proyecto Raices, Refuge of Hope, Camp Mowana, Canton Calvary Mission, Hattie Larlham, and many area churches with health ministries).

A 5-year strategic plan for service learning was formulated for 2008-12. In addition to executing ongoing goals, specific goals for 2009-2010 were accomplished: creating a mission statement, supporting faculty scholarship and development, increasing the number of faculty offering service learning courses, formalizing faculty and community partner appreciation, implementing assessment of students' service learning, and collaborating with local institutions of higher education.

In 2009-2010, 45 sections of service learning enrolled 690 students and worked with as many as 39 agencies per term. 5 faculty members implemented service learning for the first time in a course at Walsh. Additionally, 9 different classes invited the Walsh campus to presentations where students recounted the impact of their service learning projects. The Director of Service Learning hosted a training session for faculty during 2010 May Days, traveled with faculty to Ohio Campus Compact events, took one faculty member to the national Research Academy at IUPUI, and facilitated a Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on Service Learning. Five faculty and one staff member participated in the year long FLC that read *Where's the Learning in Service-Learning?*, researched current articles, and discussed such topics related to service learning as: writing learning outcomes and syllabi, creating community partnerships, designing reflection, assessing learning, and publishing scholarship.

Continuing the assessment work started in Spring 2009, during 2009-2010 academic year 294 student surveys were collected at the end of each semester (126 Fall 2009, 168 Spring 2010). Some of the Strongly Agreed/Agreed results were:

Fall 09	Spring 10	
72%	68%	The service learning work helped students better understand lectures and readings in the course
82%	76%	Students were able to relate course readings and/or class discussions to their work in the community
78%	74%	Overall the service learning enhanced students' learning in the course
89%	81%	The service students provided benefited the community
87%	88%	Students have a responsibility to serve their community
91%	96%	Students can make a difference in the community

Additionally, in writing samples collected from each service learning course, students discussed academic material that they applied to their service in the community and personal and civic reflections.

Internal collaboration among the offices of service learning and student outreach continued. Externally, the university's continued membership in Ohio Campus Compact assured ongoing training, access to resources, and a statewide exchange of ideas regarding growth and enrichment of service learning.

### Chorale

The Walsh University Chorale has grown significantly in recent years in numbers and quality. It now enrolls 70 members who perform regularly on campus and near and far. Prior to 2003, as an adjunct, a high school teacher directed the choir of 15-25 students and staff. In 2003 a fulltime director actively recruited in Catholic and public high schools, instituting bona fide auditions, growing the choir into a group that successfully toured the Atlantic coast in 2006, performing in DC's National Basilica, in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, and South Carolina. A music minor was added to the curriculum in 07-08; a band director with a significant reputation in Ohio and beyond has been hired for 10-11 to build a marching band; development of a degree in music therapy or sacred music is under consideration.

On campus the fall concert regularly draws overflow crowds in the 300-seat chapel, warranting in Fall 2009 two nights' performance billed as lessons and carols. The choir's repertoire continues to be largely sacred music but expanded to large-scale works with orchestra or organ. A second choir of 40 called the Chamber Singers was established as a traveling ensemble in 2008 and delivered a cappella concerts at area churches in 09-10 and also performed at St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Malachy's Catholic Church (the Actors' Chapel), New York City, in May 2010. A third group of 30 members, called the Stark Community Chorus, sponsored by Walsh University, has evolved out of a Walsh-based community choir in existence for 20 years. Three major concerts were performed on campus by these groups for 09-10. In addition, the director and Heather Cooper presented a recital of sacred music in the chapel was in the chapel in January. The choir was featured in the

Fall Family Festival, in the Immaculee event of October, and at the Christmas at Hoover Farm event. This broad integration of the choir into multiple campus activities assures that widely varied audiences experience the quality of spiritual witness in sacred and select secular music, even down to the school's alma mater. Some years ago the director refreshed the Walsh alma mater with a new arrangement and during Founders' Week 08 premiered a new arrangement of the Brothers' beloved "Animés de l'Amour."

### University Chaplain and Campus Ministry

Guided by the vision of the Brothers of Christian Instruction and the mission and goals of Walsh University, the Office of the Chaplain and Campus Ministry work together to:

- Coordinate liturgical services and provide pastoral care, often in collaboration with other campus units and local area church leaders
- Provide programs geared toward faith formation, spiritual practice, community service, community building, and leadership development

Walsh University expanded offerings and resources by the chaplaincy and campus ministry. Five people serve in these units, increased from two in 2002:

- University chaplain
- Director of liturgical music/sacristan
- Director of campus ministry
- Campus minister/director of the Peacemaker Program
- Campus minister/director of student outreach

The impact of this structure on programming and participation has been quite dramatic. Since 2008-09, the first year the university had a fulltime chaplain, he has been available to serve daily sacramental needs on campus; he has also served as ranking cleric in official activities, reporting to the president, collaborating with campus ministry, and directing evening prayers and Eucharistic exposition. Campus ministry has richly documented in a comprehensive annual report on its unit mission, articulation of student learning goals, the year's activities complete with brief description, records of attendance, presentations, professional development for staff (national or regional affiliations and conferences), commendations from local agencies, and a 2009-2010 programming calendar. An example of this collaborative structure's impact is that five students in Walsh's 2010's graduating class declared intent to become priests or nuns. The singularity of this fulfillment of mission was explored in a large front-page feature article in the *Canton Repository* (April 2010).

### Peacemaker and Campus Ministry Scholarships

Walsh University offers two types of scholarships through campus ministry, one funded by the Brothers of Christian Instruction (formerly known as the Touchette Scholarships) and the other funded through university scholarships. In 09-10 four Peacemakers received the first type of scholarships. These upperclass students serve as catalysts, living and sharing their faith in freshmen residence halls and, as an extension of campus ministry, providing vital services at nontraditional hours. Their ultimate goal is to empower students to practice their faith and grow in God's transformative grace.

Each Peacemaker is responsible for a wing (1-3 dorm floors). They listen, respond to students in need, make necessary referrals, and collaborate with RAs to provide programming in the residence halls. Peacemakers meet with the campus minister/director of the Peacemaker Program weekly to share highlights or issues and to stay motivated. Working 24/7 with students who sometimes face difficult challenges can be draining, but weekly meetings help uplift the Peacemakers, troubleshoot problem areas, and maintain focus.

Peacemakers receive two weeks of summer training and a 3-day refresher in January. Rooted in prayer, the Eucharist, and papal documents and resources like the encyclicals *Spe Salvi* and *Deus Caritas Est*, the pastoral document "Empowered by the Spirit," and other peer ministry tools. Peacemaker training emphasizes the "person": faith formation, emotional support, and relationships with friends, peers, and professionals. Peer ministers find practical applications in the training for their work, and they establish an effective network with residence life staff to deal with policies, safety, and dormitory procedures, as well as enhancing character development in students as servant leaders.

During 2009-10, Walsh University distributed 13 additional campus ministry scholarships (called the Pillar Program). Some of these students served as sacristans, helping to prepare for mass, assisting in the music ministry, preparing the weekly bulletin, securing volunteer service for liturgies (readers, servers, cross-bearers), leading guided meditations, organizing student retreats, and so on. Some helped organize fundraising activities for campus ministry events; one served as campus ministry archivist. Four campus ministry scholarship recipients assisted the service outreach coordinator as she placed students in volunteer service throughout the local community and coordinated outreach in 09-10 focused on Immaculee and Our Lady of Guadalupe for Catholic elementary, middle, and junior high school students. Over 600 children have visited the Walsh campus for tours, programs, prayer, and fellowship.

In September of 2009 Campus Ministry and the Chaplain's office brought to campus Fr. Paul Keller, OP, to speak on "The Mass as a Sacrificial Banquet"; over 50 people attended. Throughout 2009-10 Campus Ministry organized a weekly gathering called "The Naked Truth," highlighting timely topics in a presentation and conversation format; 75 students took advantage of these gatherings. In 2009-10 Elise Francis and Miguel Chavez were trained to facilitate the Diocesan child protection in-service, "Treasured Gifts from God"; over 170 people attended in partial fulfillment of the Diocesan Child Protection Policy.

## Retreats

Campus ministry coordinates several retreats throughout the year. The annual On-Campus Lenten Retreat for 2010 featured Fr. Bede Shippo, OP; the four-day series of events drew 170 faculty, staff, students and community members. The Agape Retreat (held each spring) is a completely student-initiated/student-run event, with campus ministry staff serving only as resources to a core team of 11 student servant/leaders. In this way, students gain intensive first-hand experience in planning, presenting, and executing a large event. Walsh's 2010 Agape Retreat served 58 people.

The Simplicity Retreat, a largely unstructured gathering focused on scripture emphasizing simplicity held this year in the spring, was limited in Fall 2009 to 15 individuals and held at Loyola of the Lakes retreat center. Campus ministry also offered a number of twilight retreats, held around a bonfire. In spring 2010 campus ministry again took a group of 18 to the Chrism Mass at St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown, Ohio. Students witnessed a number of important rituals central to the Catholic faith, and a faculty member carried a Walsh banner in this celebration.

## Social Outreach

The Office of Social Outreach is a liaison between Walsh and the community, helping individuals and groups connect so as to carry out campus commitment to service. The ultimate mission of this office is to provide students, faculty, and staff with quality volunteer opportunities enabling them to develop intellectually, socially, spiritually and ethically. Efforts seek to address real community needs, especially in society's most vulnerable members.

Students, faculty, and staff can be found throughout the greater Stark County community and beyond, helping to meet the needs of the underserved through:

- Work on a homeless shelter by several crews of student athletes
- STARS, an after-school enrichment program for children living in low-income housing and run by Walsh's Education Club in collaboration with Mercy Medical Center
- A requirement for all clubs and organizations under the umbrella of student government to perform a minimum of one service outreach per semester
- Service trips to Appalachia (two separate vans and crews in 2010—to Kentucky and to West Virginia) and areas in Southern Ohio
- Friends Mentoring Program, a partnership with Canton City Schools
- Domestic Violence Awareness Week (51 participants in Fall 09)
- Participation in walks for breast cancer, diabetes, and heart health
- Harvest for Hunger, which collects nonperishable food items for the needy (200 lbs. and \$770 in 09-10)

- Four blood drives per year (85-130 participants per drive in 09-10)
- Local Habitat for Humanity projects

The Walsh Justice and Peace organization is a student-led group focused on raising awareness of Catholic social teaching relative to justice. In March 2010 the group staged End the Wars Week, including an art display, film showings, a teach-in featuring Bishop John Michael Botean, and a prayer service for peace. The group also formally protested CIA recruitment on campus. Campus Ministry continues to work with Justice and Peace, now advised by a historian in the humanities division. In March 2010 Campus Ministry students staged the Oxfam Hunger Banquet in association with International Services and a nutrition class.

In 2008-09 collaboration between the divisions of theology and education linked 20-30 Walsh student tutors with Hispanic students (preschool-8<sup>th</sup> grade); the volunteers were recognized with Canton City Schools "Volunteer Organization Award." In 2009-10 the collaboration shifted to a partnership called the Enrichment Outreach Partnership between the Division of Education, St. Paul's Catholic Church in northeast Canton, and Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. The partnership serves 60-75 children of all backgrounds (Latino, African-American, Appalachian, and so on) in grades P-8 with afterschool enrichment and a four-week summer camp. The aim throughout is to equalize marginalized children's experiences in school by assisting them in improving language, physical, and educational skills through non-denominational programs rooted in the principles and social teachings of the Catholic Church. Canton's Antioch Baptist Church has sent children to the summer camp both years, and Canton City Schools has requested a similar camp. In addition, the university intends, through its master's in theology/pastoral ministry degree program, to prepare lay persons in parishes throughout the region to address the needs of the Hispanic community.

Walsh University has also initiated a number of wellness programs to serve low-income neighborhoods, some now incorporated into the permanent curriculum. For example, a family health fair that brought parents and children important information about hygiene, health living, nutrition, disease prevention, and personal safety is now integrated into the nursing program and is repeated annually.

Additionally, the outreach office is collaborating with the Champions of Character program in athletics, through which student athletes perform service—e.g., chaperoning disadvantaged children on the Canton Jaycees Holiday Shopping Tour, or participating in the ALS walk, co-hosting Hoops for Healing (Liver Foundation), and assisting with the Firemen's and Policemen's Special Olympics, painting rooms at a local mission, and building houses through Stark County Habitat for Humanity. One athlete commented that such service "has driven our team beyond success to self-fulfillment. [Character] is who each individual remains when the audience disappears."

### Outreach to the Catholic Community

#### **The Wellness Center**

Since its beginnings in 2006, the Wellness Center has penetrated the campus and the community remarkably. The overarching goal is to establish a health-based culture that interweaves and empowers multiple constituencies to perpetuate wellness and consciousness through physical activity, nutrition programs, stress reduction, and so on. On campus the center has installed advisory and planning groups to manage fitness center policies and wellness activities for faculty and staff; it has underwritten the costs of certifying students in group fitness instruction—eg, voluntary enrollment in Zumba classes continued throughout the year. The fulltime director (also a nurse) sustains programs for faculty, staff and students such as the massive campus health fair and training/certification in adult CPR at cost. At this year's February health fair, 147 of the 400 attending were referred for first or persisting awareness of glaucoma, osteopenia, stress, blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose concerns. In Fall 09 the center reached almost 500 freshmen in the FYI freshman orientation course via a strong wellness component emphasizing the mind/spirit/body connection. Additionally, the speaker on drug and alcohol awareness that Wellness sponsored for FYI classes drew an audience of more than 300.

The Wellness Center nurtures relationships with community partners, conducting three community clinics per year, ranging from 3-8 weeks each, for clients otherwise mostly dependent on Medicare and Medicaid. The dual focus this past year was osteoarthritis and balance and prevention of falls. Space limited clinic attendance for the latter to 20% of those who inquired. These February-March clinics paired third-year Physical Therapy graduate students with first-years in mentored teambuilding, leadership, and oversight roles in community clinic settings. Students later reported in a service learning session, open to the campus community, how the experience integrated their classroom and applied learning. In Spring 10 a favorite professor agreed to shave his head as a means of raising money for the Colleges Against Cancer student group. In August 09 the Wellness Center and Campus Ministry collaborated to raise \$10K for MS (from Walsh alone) in a Pedal to the Point bike ride of 150 miles by 32 Walsh team members.

The center works with the influential community action group called ACHIEVE (with the Wellness Center director heading up worksite wellness in Stark County). With the North Canton Community Challenge Walsh helped stage a Community Health Fair at a North Canton park. The center has also actively explored forming a local consortium of wellness directors from Malone and Mount Union, to discuss common interests and potential collaboration. It has worked with virtually every unit on campus to build a culture of health and service that takes the university's mission and its students into the community on a level that changes people's daily lives and well being—mental, physical, and spiritual.

### Other Initiatives

Walsh's Catholic Studies Institute offers a Diocesan Initiatives Program through which lay ecclesial leadership can further develop their theological competencies. This 15-credit-hour course of study provides improved instruction through renewed understanding of Roman Catholic theology and tradition within contemporary culture.

Beyond the student service learning initiatives in Uganda, Walsh now offers an educational leadership track in its master of arts in education program through the Brothers' new institution of higher education in Kisubi (Uganda). Members of the Walsh campus community regularly visit the Ugandan campus to aid in curriculum development and implementation. The first cohort enrolled in Fall 07 (19, including several Brothers); in Summer 08 an adjunct professor of education won a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to go to Kisubi to teach in this program; in Spring 10 a total of 99 students were active, either taking classes or working on their dissertations. And in October 09 the first graduating class numbered 13, with as many as 40 anticipated for October 10. For Summer 10 the first MAED students from Walsh USA travel to Uganda for a 17-day program resulting in credit and enriching integrative interaction with the Kisubi MAED students.

Each school year, hundreds of Catholic elementary schoolchildren make a pilgrimage to the Walsh campus to learn about their faith, visit spiritual sites on campus, pray, and experience fellowship. A number of priests and other religious from third-world nations live, work, and study at the university. As part of the Walsh community they contribute to campus life; priests help with liturgies and religious events, and several sisters work in a variety of roles on campus.

The Mission Project Service, directed by Br. Marcel Sylvestre (former chair of the university's Board of Directors), exists to help church people and other agents of development in less industrialized countries obtain assistance from international agencies for religious and socioeconomic projects. Walsh provides office space, administrative services, and other support to the project, whose distribution of *Agencies for Development Assistance* (2007) has now reached 136 countries.

The university offers scholarship and tuition assistance incentives to the local Catholic community. 21 top scholars from Catholic high schools received \$431.5K in Founders Scholarships in 09-10. Other students who meet Walsh's admission criteria and graduate from a Catholic high school receive a renewable \$1000 grant as entering fulltime freshmen. In 2009-10 359 students received \$358.5K in such assistance. Fulltime employees of the Diocese of Youngstown are eligible for a scholarship that reduces their per-credit-hour undergraduate and graduate tuition. A total of 30 Diocesan students received discounts totaling \$73.6K in 2009-10. Priests and other religious from third-world nations are also eligible for special tuition rates to attend classes at Walsh University.

With federal and private funding, Walsh continues into 10-11 to lead a project encouraging students typically attending college at the rate of 10% to actively prepare for college. The mentoring has been phenomenally successful with 22 of 24 targeted Massillon High School students successfully applying to enter college in Fall 10—a success rate of 92%. This kind of support for children of the working class directly follows from the mission of the Brothers of Christian Instruction. And the university has extended at no cost meeting space to groups such as Magnificat, a women's prayer and lecture group; Catholics United for the Faith; and Opus Angelorum. Each meets once a month on campus and helps establish Walsh's as a major regional resource for the diocese.

Marketing efforts support the university's Catholicity, and its faith-based mission is prominently featured in all print and electronic media, establishing Walsh as a Catholic university of distinction. The university enjoys excellent relations with *The Catholic Exponent* and with Living Bread Radio, both regularly using university press releases. Walsh's marketing department collaborates with Living Bread Radio to invite the public to campus events—such as two appearances by Immaculee Ilibagiza, survivor of the 1996 Rwandan genocide and author of *Left to Tell*. Over 3000 people heard her in October 2009 in the Cecchini Center, where she was awarded an honorary degree, and another 300 joined a weekend retreat with her in January 2010. Audiences included hundreds of area high school students, the entire Walsh freshman class, and travelers from every corner of the US. For the Immaculee events, paid advertising in area publications and media; direct mail to 16,000 alums, students, and friends of the university; flyers and posters delivered to churches and Catholic schools throughout northeast Ohio, as well as campus banners and numerous radio or television interviews promoted the event.

In February 2010 over 800 students from Catholic elementary through high schools attended a mass led by Bishop Murry in the Cecchini Center. In March 2010, 500 came to the university's Guadalupe Festival, featuring Monsignor Cesar Chavez of Mexico City, Dana Scallon of Ireland, and Father Tom Bishop of Canton's St. Anthony Church. For the Guadalupe Festival paid campaigns and full-page news coverage in Canton and Akron informed the broad community of the mission-related event. The university both takes its resources to the surrounding community and welcomes the public to campus facilities.

## Conclusion

Walsh University is committed to carrying out its mission in accordance with the teachings of the church. That commitment infuses all academic and co-curricular programming, as well as outreach to the local and global communities. The two-year self-study for the Higher Learning Commission's reaccreditation visit in Fall 2009 has confirmed that Walsh does see itself genuinely assuming the responsibilities of a Catholic university of distinction. The university measures its success not by self-perception or external honors, not by its fiscal vitality, not by the size of its physical plant. Success is measured by the accomplishments of its students. When Walsh alumni make meaningful contributions to the communities in which they work and live, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to serving others, the university achieves success. Mission frames that process and guides faculty and staff as they collaborate to ensure its effective implementation.