More than a Ministry
Enriching the Lives of Students and Building Leaders in Faith
President’s Message

While Campus Ministry has always been a part of Walsh University – an important part – it has never been more active, more inclusive, more dynamic, and more necessary than it is today. Under the leadership of Miguel Chavez, high energy, enthusiastic hospitality, and prayerful, transformative activities are the hallmark. Add in the musical talent, welcoming attitude, and spiritual leadership of Pedro (PJ) Chavez, and we have a double shot of transformative spirit that serves the whole Walsh community. Then add Mary Niedenthal, Father Anselm Zupka, Dominica Rhein, Father Thomas Cebula, and Elizabeth Erickson, and you have a formula for a Christ-centered, meaningful campus environment firmly rooted in the Catholic faith, but deliberately inclusive of all.

As you read through this edition of the Walsh Times, note the stories, the careers, the volunteerism, the caring and helpful work of alumni, faculty, and friends of Walsh. A campus centered on Jesus Christ and open to His spirit, compels us all to labor in His vineyard and to be leaders in service to others. As we begin a new year, let us dispense of fear, pessimism, and doomsday predictions. Let us all draw strength from our vibrant campus culture and seek a way to take the message to our homes, churches, jobs, communities, and the world. Do not let anyone deter you. We do make a difference!

Peace and joy in the new year!

Richard Jusseaume, President

Campus Ministry: Enriching the Lives of Students and Building Leaders in Faith

WALSH TIMES is published three times a year by the Office of Integrated Marketing & Communications in collaboration with the Office of Advancement and distributed free of charge to alumni and friends of Walsh University.

Vice President for Advancement: Eric Belden
Vice President for Marketing and Communications: Teresa Griffin
Director of University Relations: Andrea McCoaffery
Director of Alumni Relations: A. Lucia Carise
Graphic Designer: Shane Brown
Additional Editorial Staff: Kristin Brimfield, Karen Hodge, Kathleen Moore

Walsh University is an independent, coeducational, Catholic, liberal arts and sciences institution.

Founded by the Brothers of Christian Instruction, Walsh University is dedicated to educating its students to become leaders in service to others through a values-based education with an international perspective in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Change of Address and General Correspondence to:
Office of Alumni Relations
2020 East Maple Street
North Canton, OH 44720-3336
Phone: 330.244.4752
E-mail: alumni@walsh.edu
www.walsh.edu

FEATURES
5 #TrendingNow: Writing for the Digital World
8 More than a Ministry: Enriching the Lives of Students and Building Leaders in Faith

DEPARTMENTS
1 Campus News
3 Alumni Profile: Bethany Weisend Cain ’99 – Blind Faith: Inspiring Beyond the Classroom
12 Donor Profile: A Quarter Century of Giving
15 Homecoming
17 Alumni Notes
20 Upcoming Events
President Jusseaume Signs Hunger Pledge at Accreditation Renewal

Walsh University honored more than 290 summer and fall graduates during Commencement on Sunday, December 14. The ceremony also included a special address by Monsignor Robert J. Siffrin, who was honored with the Walsh University Distinguished Service Medal.

The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to those who have rendered distinguished professional or voluntary service to others within the national, regional or local Walsh University community. Those who are awarded this honor reflect the University's steadfast commitment to the strength of noble character.

Msgr. Siffrin serves the Diocese of Youngstown as the Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia and works closely with the Bishop on matters of diocesan governance, overseeing all aspects of the operation of the diocesan Chancery. Prior to this position, in June 2005, Msgr. Siffrin was elected interim leader of the Diocese of Youngstown after Bishop Tobin was reassigned to Providence, Rhode Island. Msgr. Siffrin served as Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Youngstown until the Most Reverend George V. Murphy, S.J., was appointed as the fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown by Pope Benedict XVI in early 2007.

During his appointment as Diocesan Administrator, Msgr. Siffrin served as celebrant of the dedication ceremony of Walsh’s first free-standing Chapel, the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel, on September 8, 2006. Named in honor of the patroness of Walsh’s Founders, the Sisters of Charity, the Chapel, and its dedication ceremony marked a significant moment in Walsh’s legacy as a Catholic University of Distinction.

National Accrediting Council Recognizes Walsh’s Success in Preparing Exceptional Teachers

The Division of Education was recently notified that its education programs have been approved for accreditation renewal by The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the largest accreditor of educator training programs in the U.S.

“The Division of Education is proud to be a nationally accredited education program. This achievement represents hundreds of hours of work by faculty and staff and acknowledges the excellence of our talented students. Our graduates are highly regarded in their field and well-prepared for their teaching careers, as demonstrated in our employer and alumni surveys. On virtually every critical measure, Walsh graduates, teachers and educational leadership candidates place in the top rankings among national peers,” said Division Chair Dr. Jeannie DeFazio.

Walsh’s Bachelor of Science in Education, Bachelor of Arts in Education and Master of Arts in Education programs are accredited by CAEP through 2020. Accreditation renewal represents hundreds of hours of work by faculty and staff and acknowledges the excellence of our talented students. Our graduates are highly regarded in their field and well-prepared for their teaching careers, as demonstrated in our employer and alumni surveys. On virtually every critical measure, Walsh graduates, teachers and educational leadership candidates place in the top rankings among national peers,” said Division Chair Dr. Jeannie DeFazio.

Walsh Joins Inaugural Meeting to Solve Hunger at United Nations Headquarters

On December 9, Walsh President Richard Jusseaume traveled to the United Nations Headquarters in New York City for the public signing of the Presidents’ Commitment to Food and Nutrition Security, written by Auburn University President Dr. Jay Gogue. The coalition of 60 higher education presidents worldwide marks the first time universities have shared a collective focus on ending food insecurity.

In September, Walsh was the first Ohio institution to sign and formally pledge to the Presidents’ Commitment. The United Nations event also commemorated the first official gathering of PUSH – Presidents United to Solve Hunger – where higher education leaders publicly acknowledged their commitment to making food security a priority.

“We are grateful for Walsh University’s leadership in the war on hunger in Ohio. Its commitment to service globally and locally on pressing sustainability issues such as food security can be a model for institutions both big and small,” said Harriet W. Giles, Ph.D., Managing Director of Auburn’s Hunger Solutions Institute.

Walsh Women’s Committee Hosts Sold-Out Fashion Show and Luncheon

The Walsh University Women’s Committee hosted a sold-out Fashion Show and Luncheon for more than 300 people on Saturday, November 15, at Brookside Country Club. Proceeds from the event will support student scholarships.

The “O’ Christmas Tree” themed event included a silent auction, a fabulous French market, beautifully decorated Christmas trees, gorgeous holiday centerpieces, and more. The Fashion Show featured Christmas Holiday couture presented by Laura of Pembroke, Vita, Encore, Lingenfelter Brille and vintage fashions by Carole Splendore.

For over 40 years the mission of the Women’s Committee of Walsh University has been to develop and implement fundraising and service projects for Walsh University. The committee’s goal is to support the University in its academic, cultural and social objectives for the benefit of the University community and the community at large.

President Jusseaume Discusses Ex corde Ecclesiae at Franciscan University Symposium

President Richard Jusseaume kicked off Franciscan University’s Fidelity and Freedom Symposium with his presentation of “The Heart of the Matter,” a discussion of Walsh’s successful commitment to Ex corde Ecclesiae (“From the Heart of the Church”), Pope John Paul II’s visionary Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Higher Education. The symposium was held from November 14–15 in honor of Ex corde Ecclesiæ’s 25th anniversary.

President Jusseaume’s remarks addressed how Walsh University’s acceptance and adoption of Catholic doctrine have helped lead the University through a period of significant enrollment growth and academic development during his 13 years as Walsh’s president. In his remarks, he noted that Ex corde Ecclesiæ has been “an inspiration for Walsh to grow, develop and fulfill our mission.”

Teresa Griffin Named Vice President for Marketing and Communications

Teresa Griffin has been appointed to the newly created position of Vice President for Marketing and Communications. Griffin has served as Walsh’s Assistant Vice President of University Relations since 2010 and brings more than 17 years of marketing experience to the University. She joined Walsh in 2005 as Assistant Director of Marketing in 2005.

In her new role, Griffin will continue to provide leadership for integrated University marketing strategies and promotional activities of the newly created Office of Integrated Marketing and Communications.

“In the highly competitive market of higher education, the necessity for a professional and concise approach to the branding of an institution is a requirement. With that in mind, we have elevated the role of marketing to a senior staff position,” said Walsh University President Richard Jusseaume. “We are confident that Teresa’s experience in both the corporate and nonprofit industries will continue to enhance the reputation of Walsh University as we strive to become an even greater resource to the Northeast Ohio community.”
Walsh alumna Bethany Weisend Cain ’99 is not only an expert in her chosen field of teaching the visually impaired, she is also an inspiration. Like her students, Cain was born blind. But she has never let her blindness define who she is or slow her down. “I think the one thing that seems to surprise people the most is that I come from a very large family,” said Cain. “I have 14 brothers and sisters, and I’m one of 13 who were adopted by my parents. Other than that, I’d say my life is incredibly normal. And really, that is a blessing I am grateful for every day.”

Cain was adopted at the age of 7 by her parents, Dennis and Gail Weisend. She grew up in North Canton, Ohio, where she attended Canton City Schools and graduated from the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired for Marysville Exempted Village School District.

“Through my scholarship, I had an orientation and mobility specialist who taught me how to get to class independently so that I could travel on my own around campus. They also hired readers to help me study for tests,” said Cain. “If you had seen me on a typical day on campus, I don’t think you would’ve been able to tell me apart from every other Walsh student. The only exception was that I had a cane when I traveled.”

One of the first friends she met was fellow education student Gayle Miller who volunteered to help her navigate the cafeteria lines and introduced her to the close circle of friends she quickly made on campus. The two remain close friends to this day.

She describes meeting her husband, Greg Cain, in 2004 as “love at first sight” and the two were married the same year.

Her more than 15-year career in special education has included positions at Northwest Local Schools, Pittsburgh Public Schools, and a combined eight years in Iowa as an Itinerant Teacher of the Visually Impaired for Keystone Area Education Agency and Clinton Community Schools. In 2012, Bethany and Greg moved to Georgia where she was employed by the Clayton County School District. This past summer, the couple returned to Ohio and are currently living in Bellefontaine, OH, where Bethany is a teacher of the visually impaired for Marysville Exempted Village School District.

Through the use of assistive technology products such as an iPhone with voice accessibility, a note taker with a braille display screen, computers with screen reading accessibility and adapted iPads, Cain is able to teach visually impaired students how to live and work self-sufficiently. “I’d have to say it was my struggles, rather than my successes, that made me want to become a teacher. Kids who are physically impaired need to know and understand that they can lead a normal life. I feel like a person who has a disability can relay that message a little stronger than someone who doesn’t. I’m an expert because I live it every day.”

As a Walsh student, Cain enjoyed campus life, made lifelong friends and was active in Jack Chesterfield’s music program as a Cantor at Walsh Masses.

“My three years at Walsh were truly some of the best of my life. Besides in my own family, Walsh was really the first place where I felt like I was treated normally. I’m proud to say that my time on campus helped to shape me to be the adult that I am today,” said Cain. “I hope that my experiences can serve as an example for even just one of my students. I want them to understand that anything is possible when you have faith and set your mind to it.”

“My three years at Walsh were truly some of the best of my life. Besides in my own family, Walsh was really the first place where I felt like I was treated normally.”

“I think the one thing that seems to surprise people the most is that I come from a very large family,” said Cain. “I have 14 brothers and sisters, and I’m one of 13 who were adopted by my parents. Other than that, I’d say my life is incredibly normal. And really, that is a blessing I am grateful for every day.”
From Twitter hashtags to WordPress blogs and Goodreads.com, the traditional world of literary and professional writing is constantly changing. How we communicate and the channels in which we receive information have dramatically altered over time through the integration of new technologies that impact not only the way we write but also how we deliver the message.

In an evolving professional climate where corporate memos have been replaced by instant messages and breaking news is delivered in 140 characters or less, Walsh’s Division of Language and Letters within the School of Arts and Sciences is incorporating the latest technologies and new learning methods to effectively prepare students for success in the digital culture.

“Today, the growing use of the Internet and social media tools have created a new mastery category that is commonly known as digital literacy,” said Chair of the Division of Language and Letters Ron Scott, Ph.D. “Literacy is the ability to read and write. Digital literacy means that I can research and evaluate the legitimacy of online information. I can determine if there is a use for Twitter or Facebook in my communication plans. I can write in an intelligent and emotionally sensitive way across various media platforms.”

With the development of a new professional writing major for 2015 that will include a focus on writing for digital communications, students will gain the knowledge and skills to successfully enter careers in the corporate, computing and communications industries where social media, printed text and digital design often come together to deliver one message. Graduates from the new major will be prepared for careers in social media analysis, technical writing, print and broadcast journalism, advertising, strategic public relations and integrated communications.

The new major will offer a 21st Century adaptation of the traditional English major. Coursework will preserve the essential English foundation of the written word with the latest communication tools available in digital technology, visual culture and the Internet.

“In our increasingly digital culture, graduates will need the flexibility to clearly communicate corporate messages and branding to constituents through various media channels, while also assisting in concise technical writing that, for example, might ensure the use and safety of their products,” said Dr. Scott. “Today’s messages are often multimodal and include graphics, sound, video and visual components, as well as text. Even in the traditional writing cultures of English, literature and journalism, we need to understand that there are different nuances when you add in the digital element.”

Through the emergence of new technologies and the increasing demand for skilled writers who are comfortable navigating social media channels, students like Walsh junior Rachel Blakely have a diverse range of career options to choose from as English majors.

“I think that English is essential to any field that one might enter,” said Blakely. “You have to know the basic rules of English, languages, and how to communicate in a business setting. With the integration of technology in our coursework, we are perfecting the ability to communicate through emails and social media, research efficiently online, create strategic presentations, write persuasively, and gain the basic knowledge that you’ll need in any career.”
Blakely has combined her double majors in English and International Relations with minors in French and Creative Writing. She hopes to pursue a career in journalism, editing or travel writing.

By incorporating technology with the classical elements of English and literature coursework, professors are addressing the need for sophisticated writing that can transcend many genres including social media, blogs, corporate communications, journalism and marketing. Students are honing the ability to write specifically for social media, not just for personal expression but from a corporate point of view to deliver a professional message.

“For my generation, we’ve been using social media comfortably for years to express everything that is on our minds,” said Dancik. “Approaching the use of social media tools like Twitter for a professional purpose was a new experience for many of us in class.”

For Walsh graduate Angela Dancik ’12, her degree in English and Professional Writing was the catalyst for an unprecedented career move from intern in the Human Resources Department to writer/editor for the United States Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC. As a civilian marine, Dancik is responsible for the writing and editing of official policy, documents, and doctrine. It is her responsibility to ensure that internal and external communications are operating with one unified voice and that the appropriate message is understood by its intended audience.

“The audience I am writing for ranges from the most junior marine in boot camp to senior officers. I’m tasked with crafting documents that can be understood by all ranges of age and experience, while also translating technical military material into language that can be easily understood by the general public.”

Dancik credits her Walsh writing courses for successfully preparing her for life after college, especially her electives in professional and technical writing.

“We don’t want to use technology in the classroom just because it looks cool or is considered ‘fun.’ We need to make sure we know what potential employers are looking for and prepare our students accordingly.”

“Coursework like developing and maintaining a travel blog while studying in Italy really opened my eyes to all the different means that we can utilize to convey written products,” said Dancik. “That experience gave me a new perspective on the benefits of tapping into online forms of communications.”

Students in the Division of Language and Letters are also engaged in coursework through experiential and service learning projects that help to extend the traditional classroom. Recently, students in Walsh’s English courses participated in after-school activities that included writing and directing short plays on the topic of bullying with students from the Canton City School District. This past semester, students in the Professional Writing service learning course volunteered to work with high school students to develop resumes and cover letters, while students in the Spanish for Healthcare major perfected their conversational Spanish by providing free healthcare services to migrant farmers and their families in Hartville, Ohio. New collaborations also include employers and faculty members from neighboring universities, which has resulted in the first ever Northeast Ohio Consortium of English Departments’ Career Prep Day on February 7, 2015.

“We don’t want to use technology in the classroom just because it looks cool or is considered ‘fun.’ We need to make sure we know what potential employers are looking for and prepare our students accordingly,” said Dr. Scott. “Our graduates are going to know Google Analytics and understand the value of a hashtag. In fact, digital communications will be their second language.”

Miguel and PJ embody the mission of the University. They are a walking example of the Gospel in action,” said Campus Minister and Coordinator of Outreach Mary Niedenthal. “They are just remarkable young men who empower students and call forth their gifts.”

In many ways, the Chavez brothers are trailblazers for campus and music ministry here at Walsh. Miguel is the first Haspersion to serve as the director of Campus Ministry. In his role as Director of Music Ministry and Sacristan, PJ has brought a new level of organization and structure to liturgical music on campus, creating a musical ensemble comprised of Walsh students as well as two students from St. Thomas Aquinas High School who join the group on the weekends.

"When I came to Walsh it was the first time in my life when I became Miguel. I wasn’t one of the twins,” Miguel said. “It was a unique dynamic and an important hiatus from the twin unit piece.”
empty space, before the pews were installed. “It was the coolest thing watching them get the piano into the chapel,” PJ said. “I remember they wheeled it right in, and I sat down and just started playing. I was so excited.”

Originally, the plans called for the piano and one microphone in front of the pulpit. However, PJ had bigger ambitions. He knew he wanted a full band and opportunities for more people to create music. He moved the setup over to its current location, plugged in a soundboard and began laying the groundwork for the current liturgical music program.

“I have learned so much about being a musician in the past year and a half I have worked with PJ. He has completely transformed the way I play for the better, and I am an entirely different musician than I was before I met him,” said Walsh student Mary Moderna. “He is an amazing boss, mentor, friend and musician, and he always brings out the best in the students he serves.”

Building Leaders in Faith
“Our role in Campus Ministry is to meet students, staff and faculty where they’re at and challenge them to grow in light of their faith and in light of their experience in the Catholic tradition that the University is so grounded in,” Miguel said, adding that the role of ministry on campus isn’t limited to work within the chapel or within the Office of Campus Ministry but, rather, is the responsibility of everyone on campus.

According to Moderna, Miguel is certainly accomplishing that task. “His faith inspires countless staff and students, including myself, to find faith within themselves,” she said. “He truly brings out the best in people and points out the self-worth and value in everyone he comes across.”

In addition to Miguel Chavez and Mary Niedenthal, the Campus Ministry staff includes Dominica Rhein, Campus Minister for Residence Life Outreach, part-time campus ministers Rev. Tom Cebula and Elizabeth Erickson, as well as nearly two dozen work-study students, an intern, and other student volunteers.

Although Miguel and PJ have both been working at Walsh, but he also inspires the students. “I have learned so much about being a musician in the past year and a half I have worked with PJ. He has completely transformed the way I play for the better, and I am an entirely different musician than I was before I met him,” said Walsh student Mary Moderna. “He is an amazing boss, mentor, friend and musician, and he always brings out the best in the students he serves.”

“Miguel and PJ embody the mission of the University. They are a walking example of the Gospel in action.”

Coordinator of Outreach Mary Niedenthal

“Our programming has grown because they seek to empower students to take on leadership roles at Walsh and beyond, whether that be by way of developing new service projects, organizing retreats or becoming musical directors in their own parishes.”

Campus Ministry’s list of programs and projects is flourishing. Not only is the number of programs expanding, but the attendance at these programs has increased so much that they continually outgrow their space.

In fall semester alone, the group hosted more than a dozen internal and external retreats, including the signature Agape retreat. Student organizations like Peacemakers and the newly formed Sisters in Christ, along with programs such as Praise and Worship, Theology on Tap and Water into Wine, are also growing in popularity both on campus and beyond.

“Our role in Campus Ministry is to meet students, staff and faculty where they’re at and challenge them to grow in light of their faith and in light of their experience in the Catholic tradition that the University is so grounded in.”

Miguel Chavez, Director of Campus Ministry
From on-campus clubs and lectures to service projects and retreats, Walsh’s ministry outreach extends beyond the campus, providing opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth. Below are a few highlights of current organizations and initiatives in which students can participate.

- Agape Retreat
- Other Student-Led Retreats
- Praise and Worship
- Bible Studies
- Sisters in Christ
- Water into Wine Young Adult Ministry
- Theology on Tap
- Liturgical Music Ensemble
- Creating Blankets for Akron Children’s Hospital
- Campus Ministry Art Projects
- Sunday Night Social
- Witnesses and Themed Talks
- Prayer Services
- Community Confirmation and Thematic Retreats
- Devotional Prayers (Rosaries, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, etc.)
- Walsh University Knights of Columbus Council #13289
- Spring Break Appalachia Service Immersion Trips
- Leadership in Faith Workshops
- Themed Book Studies
- Adopt a Family collaboration with Catholic Charities
- Other Community Outreach

In addition, PJ is helping to spearhead campus ministry at his alma mater, Canton Central Catholic, along with the help of a group of Walsh students. Together they are helping teach the Central students how to lead and develop programming at the high school level.

**Being Joyfully Present**

Both PJ and Miguel take to heart the idea of being “joyfully present” in everything they do, and they do so in a very authentic and palpable way.

“I admire and respect these young men so much because they actually live out their faith—they’re not just giving it lip service,” Niedenthal said. “No matter what is going on in their lives, they always have smiles on their faces.”

It’s a genuine joy that helps their work transcend into something more than a job. “We truly love what we do, and we have a lot of fun. The students pick up on that,” PJ said.

That joyful energy inspires not just the students but the campus community as a whole. “I have never met two people with so much energy,” said Father Anselm. “They are the heartbeat of Walsh that pulsates throughout the University.”

and in the local community. In fact, Miguel and his staff have created a manual for the Water into Wine young adult ministry, which will be piloted in three local parishes in the spring.

Walsh’s musical ministry is also expanding into the community. Walsh students now host Praise and Worship at other parishes, bringing the Walsh experience to the parishioners and leading their musicians.

“It’s not always what’s on the page,” PJ explained. “You really need to put your heart and soul into it and let the Spirit take you.”

For many Walsh University alumni, their long-term and consistent support of the annual Walsh Fund shows a common theme: turning college dreams into a reality for students.

Gifts to the Walsh Fund help fund critical student resources such as scholarships, service-learning initiatives, library materials and much more. Founded on the belief that a high-quality education should be made affordable to anyone who seeks it, 99 percent of Walsh students today receive some form of financial aid. All gifts to the Walsh Fund, no matter the size, have the ability to make a significant impact. Long-term support is especially meaningful and demonstrates a high-level of confidence in the Walsh University mission and in the value of its education.

With gifts that extend far beyond the quarter century, the following three alumni share their personal reasons for why they choose to support the annual Walsh Fund each year. It is in their more than 25-years of giving, not the actual gift amount itself, that exemplifies their strong belief in the mission upon which Walsh was established and ensures the University’s ability to sustain that legacy for future generations.

Larry Schaffner ’76

A Gift that Lasts a Lifetime

It was his father’s open heart surgery that prompted Larry Schaffner ’76 to make the personal decision to move closer to home to finish his college degree. He was looking for a change from the large state school he had attended and wanted a campus environment that would provide a more intimate setting with a close teacher-student relationship. Schaffner also wanted to continue to play collegiate baseball. It was at Walsh that he found the opportunity to pursue both his athletic and academic goals.

After graduating from Walsh in 1976 with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry, Schaffner went on to earn his MBA and then spent more than 35 years working in the technology field. He currently manages the Technology Center and Computer Training for the Akron-Summit County Public Library. Larry and his wife, Lori, together raised two daughters, Kristi and Andrea. For more than 35 years, Schaffner has chosen to make a gift to the annual Walsh Fund.

“I’ve been impressed with the leadership and the direction of the University over the years. It has evolved from a commuter environment when I attended to a true on-campus experience. Also, it will always hold a place in my heart because Walsh is where I met my beautiful wife of 35 years, Lori, while she was taking nursing classes on campus.”

As a resident of Canton, OH, and as the brother and uncle of two alums and uncle of a current student, he has personally witnessed the University’s evolution from the commuter school with only two dorms and 10 residence halls and 25 buildings situated on a park-like campus setting.

“Why do I continue to give to Walsh each year? Because I hope to make the financial burden just a little bit easier for current students so that they can enjoy a true college experience.”

A Quarter Century of Giving

Long-Term Support of Annual Walsh Fund Creates Powerful Impact for Students

For many Walsh University alumni, their long-term and consistent support of the annual Walsh Fund shows a common theme: turning college dreams into a reality for students.
“It’s a fact that I would not have been able to afford college without scholarship assistance, which is why I feel compelled to help other students in that same situation now. I want them to have the same opportunities that I had without worrying about the financial aspects of earning a degree.”

Mary Barnabi Datsko ’82: My Turn to Give Back

If it hadn’t been for student scholarships like those provided by the Walsh Fund, Mary Barnabi Datsko ’82 would not have been able to attend Walsh University. “Having gone to Catholic elementary and high school and growing up in the small town of Dennison, OH, I remember thinking that Walsh just felt like a good fit for me. It wasn’t until I received my financial package though that I was able to fully commit to attending. My scholarship helped to make a college education possible for me.”

While studying accounting at Walsh, Datsko stayed active by working in the student center’s Stumble Inn and enjoyed living on campus in Menard Hall. She graduated in 1982 with her bachelor’s degree in accounting. “Overall, I received a well rounded education at Walsh, and definitely felt like I was very well-prepared for my career. Since graduation, I’ve been working in my chosen field of accounting for more than 30 years. Along the way, I’ve had the opportunity to work for several Fortune 500 companies including: McDermott International, and currently as a business analyst for United Technologies Corp., formerly the Goodrich Corporation.”

Mary remained in North Canton following graduation, where she and her husband of 25 years, George, raised two daughters, Sarah and Emily.

Since 1988, Mary Datsko has been a consistent supporter of the Walsh Fund.

A Graduate’s Dream

Realized through the Walsh Fund

From the time she was 8 years old, Taylor Sherrod ‘14 has known that she wanted to become a veterinarian. It’s been a life-long dream of hers that started while watching the “animal doctors” help heal animals on TV. But, as the first in her family to attend college, Sherrod knew affording the cost of a private education would be a significant challenge.

With the encouragement of her parents, she worked hard in high school and graduated at the top of her class. She set her eyes on Walsh University because she was attracted to Walsh’s prestigious honors program where she would be able to conduct research in areas like cancer to set her ahead of her peers.

Through generous donations to the Walsh Fund like those given by Larry Schaffner, Mary Datsko and Larry Clark, Taylor received two scholarships to attend Walsh University and graduated this past May. Thanks to the education she received at Walsh, support from her parents, and the caring professors who helped her succeed, she is now attending The Ohio State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. And more importantly, her dream to become a veterinarian is becoming a reality.

To learn more about how your gift can create a lasting impact in the lives of our students, contact Mike Frank, Director of the Walsh Fund, at 330.490.7280 or mfrank@walsh.edu.
More than 300 alumni, students, and friends celebrated Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, October 17-19, 2014. This year’s event also marked an important historical milestone for Walsh when members of the first graduating class of 1964 returned to campus for their 50th Class Reunion.

Special activities included the return of the Alumni Ox Roast, Cavalier 5K and Fun Run, tailgating and press box reception at the Walsh vs. Malone football game, Reunion Years Brunch, and Mass in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel. The 2014 Outstanding Alumni Lunch was a highlight of the weekend, celebrating the many achievements of Walsh alumni.

Lifetime Achievement Award
Walsh University honored its outstanding alumni during a special luncheon on Sunday, October 19. During the ceremony, the Class of 1964 was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award. This distinction is bestowed on those who have dedicated countless hours to Walsh’s students and alumni. Walsh’s first class of 47 graduates established a legacy that demonstrates the success of Walsh by distinguishing themselves in business, education, medicine and law. Most importantly, they went on to become servant leaders in their own communities, volunteering time and talent to make meaningful contributions in their workplaces and their neighborhoods.

Outstanding Achievement Award
The luncheon also honored select alumni with the Outstanding Achievement Award. This award is given each year to recognize outstanding achievement in a chosen field or profession, outstanding service to Walsh University, and or outstanding community service. This year’s recipients were James McPartlin ’67, Larry Clark ’72, and Virginia Neutling ’83.

James McPartlin has served with the Peace Corps, the United States Military, the Massachusetts National Guard, and the American Legion. He is now retired from his successful career as an educator and spends his time volunteering in the community.

Larry Clark’s 34-year career as an educator included teaching Spanish and English; coaching cross country, track, and girls’ basketball; and serving in leadership roles in Wellsville, New York. He is involved in his community, serving his local Kiwanis Club, the Knights of Columbus, and on the Board of Directors of the Allegany County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Virginia Neutling has served as an adjunct faculty member at Stark State College and Kent State University; Executive Director of the Stark County Health Care Coalition; and a Public Health Nurse and Health Educator for the Stark County Health Department. She currently volunteers with The Austin Bailey Health and Wellness Foundation, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, the Wilderness Center, and the Rotary Club of Canton and has received many awards for service to her community.

Wall of Fame Induction
The annual Wall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony on Friday, October 17, recognized and honored new members who have exhibited excellence in the Walsh Varsity Athletic Program. Inductees for 2014 included: Darian Tate (Football 2001), Mike Galassi ’09 (Football 2006-07), Christine (Haver) Lynn ’07 (Women’s Golf 2003-07), Jason Hicks ’07 (Men’s Basketball 2004-07), Ruth (Kucklick) Prentice ’95 (Volleyball 2001-05), Richard Mapp ’87 (Men’s Soccer 1983-87) and longtime Walsh Cavalier supporter Jeff Rabbitt.
Marriages

1967
Gene Frankart married Cindy Carter on May 25, 2013. Cindy and Gene each lost their first spouses to cancer and met each other on a blind date arranged by a mutual friend. Combined, they have four children and six grandchildren. The newlywed couple resides in Houston, Texas.

2009
Adam Birtcher married Haley Richardson on July 12, 2014. The couple resides in Napoleon, Ohio.

2010
John Dubois married Jenamarii Ianni (2009) on August 9, 2014. John is a fourth-year dental student at the Ohio State University College of Dentistry. Jenamarii is a preschool teacher at St. Mary Magdalene. The couple resides in Columbus, Ohio.

2011
Anna Wilson married Johnathan Lloyd at Walsh University on August 31, 2013. Anna is an international marketing manager at Timken Company. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Linc Worldwide. The couple resides in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

2013
Catherine Rosza married Lennie Schmandt on October 25, 2014.

Births

1998
Christine (Ebers) Muniak and her husband, Michael, would like to announce the birth of their son, Justin Michael, on September 22, 2014. The family resides in Uniontown, Ohio.

2003
Steven Green and his wife, Dawn, welcomed their daughter, Abigail Ann Green, into their family on February 2, 2014. The family resides in Westerville, Ohio.

2004
Carolyn (Crawford) Stefanik and her husband, Mark, welcomed their son, Brandt Jeffrey, into the world on August 19, 2014. The family resides in Galion, Ohio.

2005
Sarah (Tomes) Richards and her husband, Dan, welcomed their son, Landon, born six weeks early on July 15, 2014. He weighed 4 lbs. 13 oz. Landon joins big sister Brooke who is 2. Sarah is employed as a marketing manager for PNC Bank. The family resides in Canton, Ohio.

2005
Stephen Rose and his wife, Kelly, welcomed the birth of their son, Jack Andrew, on August 13, 2015. The family resides in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

2010
Jordon Niedenthal and his wife, Karen (Dotterweich) '09 & '12, welcomed their daughter, Katherine Susan, on August 27, '09 & '12, welcomed their son, Landon, born six weeks early on July 15, 2014. He weighed 4 lbs. 13 oz. Landon joins big sister Brooke who is 2. Sarah is employed as a marketing manager for PNC Bank. The family resides in Canton, Ohio.

2011
Anna Wilson married Johnathan Lloyd at Walsh University on August 31, 2013. Anna is an international marketing manager at Timken Company. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Linc Worldwide. The couple resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

2013
Catherine Rosza married Lennie Schmandt on October 25, 2014.

In Memoriam

1988
Ruth Mary (Baars) Lee passed away on May 11, 2014. Ruth was a teacher at St. Mary’s Grade School in Akron. After retirement, Ruth spent her time gardening and caring for the family pets.

1991
Douglas S. Lyons, of Garrettsville, passed away on August 16, 2014. He is survived by his devoted wife, Karen.

Friends of the University

1987
Jane Moria Gibbons Schirack, 86, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at the home of her daughter in Washington, DC, September 7, 2014. She was a charter member of the Walsh Women’s Committee, which she cherished, recipient of the 2013 Walsh University Distinguished Service Award, and in 2014 the first recipient of the Walsh University Jane Schirack Community Commitment Award.

Dan Peters, former Walsh Men’s Basketball Coach and Athletic Director, passed away on Monday, October 27, 2014, at the age of 60 after complications from pancreatic cancer. He spent five seasons at Walsh and was named Mid-Ohio Conference and District 22 Coach of the Year twice (1983-84, 1986-87). He was also selected Area VI Coach of the Year in 1986-87.

Dr. Robert Dunnerstick

Associate Professor of Education Dr. Robert Dunnerstick, 63, passed away suddenly on September 29, 2014.

Born in Cherry Point, NC, Dr. Dunnerstick grew up in Perry Township and graduated from Perry High School in 1968. He obtained his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in education from The University of Akron and was a member of Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Green. He was known as a huge fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Cleveland Browns and had a very dry sense of humor and a quick wit. He loved to read and especially enjoyed history.

A dedicated educator, Dr. Bob, as he was known to his students, served as Associate Professor of Education at Walsh University. He began his career as an elementary teacher in the Plain Local Schools in 1973 and went on to serve as an elementary school principal in the Buckeye & Warren School Districts before becoming a superintendent in the Indian Valley Local School District at the young age of 29. He also served as superintendent of Highland Local Schools. In 1989, Dr. Dunnerstick became superintendent of the Lake Local Schools, leading the district through one of its worst financial periods during his seven-year tenure. Dr. Dunnerstick, who served as the chief operating officer at the Ohio Department of Education, joined the staff at Walsh University in 2003.

Dr. Gerald (Skip) Koff

Walsh Professor Emeritus Dr. Gerald (Skip) Koff, passed away on December 2, 2014, at the age of 75.

Dr. Koff majored in economics at Yale University and earned his Ph.D. from the Medical College of Pennsylvania. His early career included a stint in a high-end Philadelphia audio shop, where he developed a theory of the ideal listening room: a large, angular space with few hard surfaces to free the sound and minimize reverberation. He also worked for a major pharmaceutical firm but tried his hand at teaching and realized he belonged in a college classroom.

He came to then Walsh College in 1988. While he was known for his “Peace Mobile” and preppie, thrift-store chic dress, his mind was always focused on more important matters. Dr. Skip Koff retired from Walsh in 2010 after 22 years as Professor of Psychology, but his academic interests ranged from psychology and American culture to chaos theory and post-modern theories of identity. His teaching emphasized critical analysis based on facts which the media often overlooked. His most important achievement was “the relationship I developed with my students.” He did not limit his office hours, often spending most of his weekend available for drop-ins. He was awarded “Outstanding Educator” by a vote of graduating seniors in 1994.
Hispanic community in Ohio. serve as role models for the growing and organizations who have demonstrated Outreach Network that recognizes individuals Commission and Latino Empowerment award from The Ohio Latino Affairs was honored with an 1997 Connecticut Department of Education. Leslie is currently employed at the Education in Education Policy and Manage- degree from Harvard Graduate School of Leslie (Miller) Carson earned a master’s 1989 education at Walsh University. earned her Ph.D. in Psychology from Grand Canyon University. 2012 Amanda Cookston is employed as the assistant head of circulation at the Snow-Murree Falls Public Library. 2013 Lindsey Epling is employed as a staff accountant at Zion, Synck, and Associates in Independence, Ohio. 2014 Nicole Walliser is employed as a surgical nurse at Riverside Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She resides in New Albany, Ohio.

Love Found at Walsh
Frederik Bengt ‘01 of Sweden and wife Olivia (Gonzalez Perez) ‘01 of Mexico met as freshmen at Walsh University in 1997 and have been together ever since. The couple are married and are living in Sweden with their two year old son, Victor. Frederik is a Logistics Manager for IKEA, and Olivia is a Global Product Manager at Tetra Pak in Lund.

M.B.A.
Complete in as little as 12 Months Online or In-Class
Entrepreneurship – Marketing – Healthcare Management – Management

M.S.N.
Including the Byers School of Nursing’s new Family Nurse Practitioner Track Also Available: Clinical Nurse Leader – Nurse Educator

D.N.P.
Online format catered for busy working adults

M.A.Ed.
Teachers can stay ahead of the technology curve with the new 25th Century Technologies Track Also available: Reading Literacy and Leadership with Principal License

L.E.A.D.
Licensure in Education for Adults with Degrees

C.H.D.
New for 2014! Student Affairs in Higher Education Also available: School – Clinical Mental Health Theology 50% Discount to all Full Time Employees of the Diocese Parish Administration – Pastoral Ministry – Religious Education

www.walsh.edu/gradinfo 330.490.7181

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

January 24
Walsh Men’s Basketball 2005 NAIA National Champions 10th Anniversary Alumni Celebration
All alumni are invited to a special reception following the Walsh vs. Tiffin men’s basketball game • 5:30 p.m. Auxiliary Gym, Gaetano M. Cechini Family Health and Wellness Center.

FEBRUARY

February 14
Walsh Valentine Brunch • 9 a.m. • Hotel Birk Center • $20 per person (Reservations required)

February 26
Washington DC Alumni Event • 6-9 p.m., The Monocle Restaurant in Washington, DC • RSVP to Lucia Cirese at lcirese@walsh.edu or 330-490-7509.

February 27
The Office of Alumni Relations presents: “The Art of Recognition” with guest speaker, David Berry • 6 p.m., The Family Health and Wellness Center • Free and open to the public daily • 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. For more information, contact Katey Brown, kbrown@walsh.edu or 330-490-7599.

MARCH

March 10-14, 2015
40th Annual Philosophy/Theology Symposium
“Human Nature, Grace, and the Interior Life” Includes lectures by the internationally renowned philosopher Michael Novak and theologian Michael Waldstein as well as several other philosophers, theologians, and scientists.
• The academic programs will be held March 10-13, from 7 – 9:30 p.m., and March 14, from 9 a.m. to noon. Birk Center for the Arts Contact Dr. John G. Tappuni Jr., 330-490-7042 or Fr. Patrick Manning, 330-244-4922.

March 12
“Christians and Jews: Creating Relationships Built on Truth” Guest Speaker Rabbi Eric Yoffie, in Memory of Martha Lastman • 7 p.m., Barrettre Business & Community Center
Contact jspitzer@walsh.edu

March 13
Cross Country and Track Alumni Social • 6:30-9 p.m., The Hagen House in North Canton, Contact Coach Muzo at 330-490-7518, or the Office of Alumni Relations at 330-244-4752.

March 14
Viva Walsh Vegas • 6 p.m., Barrettre Business & Community Center For more information, email alumni@walsh.edu

March 19
Viva Walsh passes presented by the Walsh University Department of Fine Arts’ Family Health and Wellness Complex • 5:30 p.m., Auxiliary Gym, Gaetano M. Cechini Family Health and Wellness Center • $20 per person (Reservations required)

March 20
St. Patrick’s Day Dinner • 4 p.m., Hotel Birk Center For more information, contact Lucia Cirese at lcirese@walsh.edu or 330-244-4752.

April 12
Walsh Men’s Basketball vs. Grand Valley • 3 p.m., Birk Center For more information, call 330-490-7111.

APRIL

April 17
Spring Choral Concert • 7 p.m., Cechini Family Health & Wellness Center

April 18
Spring Band Concert • 7 p.m., Cechini Family Health & Wellness Center

April 27
Gary Farey Scholarship Raffle • 6 p.m., Barrettre Business & Community Center
Email alumnus@walsh.edu

MAY

May 2
Kentucky Derby Day Presented by the Walsh University Women’s Committee Call 330-490-7111

May 10-21
Alumni Trip to Rome Join the Office of Alumni Relations for a two- week tour of Rome, Florence, Siena, Assisi and many more cities.
For details, contact Lucia Cirese at lcirese@walsh.edu or 330-244-4752.

May 19
MBA Alumni Gathering The Office of Alumni Relations and The DeVille School of Business invite you and a guest to an evening of career networking and a delicious dinner. Catch up with your fellow MBA alumni and professors and share your experiences. • 5:30-7:30 p.m., Hoover Park Dance Hall & Pints

JUNE

June 19
Alumni Golf Outing • 11 a.m., The Sanctuary Golf Club For details, email alumni@walsh.edu

WALSH UNIVERSITY
PARENTS: If your son or daughter has established a separate permanent address, let us know by calling 330-244-4752 or via email at alumni@walsh.edu.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Las Vegas Night and Auction

March 14, 2015

For more information or to make reservations contact the Alumni Office at alumni@walsh.edu, 330.244.4752 or online at www.walsh.edu/alumni-rsvp