

Our Family

PARENTS: RON AND KATHY FEHER
STUDENT: THERESA FEHER '08



For 16 years, Ron and Kathy Feher have been involved in the college search process with their children. Theresa, a rising sophomore at the Mount, is number eight of 10.

The Feher's, from Berwyn, Pa., offer wisdom born of experience. Their older children have attended West Point, Notre Dame, Carnegie Mellon, Loyola College of Maryland, and the University of Scranton. Number nine is beginning at University of Dayton this fall. Over the years, the Feher's attitudes evolved as they guided their offspring in the search process to find the perfect university to fit each child's needs and personalities.

Gradually, they discovered that campus life was not pretty much the same everywhere, as they had assumed. The diversity of values, even among Catholic universities, was a revelation to them. **Now a university's "culture" is the most important factor under consideration.** The culture can be viewed, according to Kathy Feher as a "product of the values of the institution, its political agenda, the type of student it attracts and, most significantly, the policies it enforces and the traditions it encourages."

Preparation is the key to a smoother transition from college life back to the realities of family life for the returning college student home on break. Ron and Kathy have been gaining expertise since 1990—welcoming a child back into the family fold. Strategies have been adopted as the dynamics have changed from the oldest child returning, to a passel of younger siblings, to the current situation of the middle group of siblings returning to a lone high schooler!

Coming home for Theresa meant returning to the rules of the household, but this was not unexpected and thus posed no difficulties for her. It also meant a welcome return to Mom's home cooking. She had not realized what a picky eater she was. She was also surprised to find how much she missed her lively home parish. And being the youngest also held some advantages. By observing her older siblings head off to college, Theresa gleaned that the further away one went to college, the better the Easter basket Mom sends!

Theresa made her selection to enroll at the Mount on size, the beauty of its natural setting, the number of activities that interested her, and above all, the welcoming and enthusiastic students. Her mother reports that while attending Accepted Students Day, when President Powell said, "If you do not see yourself as a leader in whichever field you choose, you do not belong here," Theresa turned to her mother and announced, "This is my school."

Since seventh-grade, Theresa has been actively involved with children who have a variety of developmental disabilities as a swim instructor and babysitter. Theresa has been delighted to continue at the Mount with the Best Buddies Club. Club members are paired with adults who experience intellectual challenges and get together a couple of Saturdays a month.

"You are not merely a name on a sign up sheet at an activities fair, but a true companion and confidant to someone who may not have that many people to turn to and except them the way they are," Theresa said. The relationship is "by no means one sided, and each member of the club puts forth a great deal of their time to commit themselves, and their hearts, to not only their matched buddy, but the rest of the participants as well." This year, as a club officer, she looks forward to swelling the ranks of Mounties willing to reach out and get involved.

Academically, Theresa has found her **coursework to be appropriately challenging and professors quite engaging and supportive.** Perhaps being a child of a large family prepared her for the organization necessary to prioritize work assignments, but she reports living with six sisters did not prepare her for the surprise of life with other young women away from home. She was not used to, nor tolerant of, the tears and crying. Initial roommate difficulties were resolved through open communication and help from their RA.



Hope and Ron (youngest of the 10). It sure is bright in here!



Mom and dad with Mary (left) and Dawn (middle)



There's me on the right, Theresa, with Katie.

Resident Assistants at the Mount

By Paul Ambrogio, Assistant Director of Residence Life

Resident Assistants are student leaders providing some of the most important services to the Mount community. Committed to providing a quality living-learning community for residents, RAs are students who excel academically, possess strong leadership and interpersonal skills and serve as mentors and role models to other students.

The selection and hiring process for Resident Assistants is held in the spring semester of each academic year. In order to qualify, students must be in good standing with the university and have a grade point average of 2.50 or above. Students who seek a position as an RA must have references from faculty and/or administrators who can attest to their character, leadership ability, involvement in the community and academic success.

As Para-professional staff members of the Office of Residence Life, RAs arrive prior to the start of the fall semester for 10 days of intensive training which includes: mediation, community building, managing health and psychological emergencies, policy enforcement and leadership skills. The training continues throughout the academic year as RAs gain additional skills and knowledge by attending in-service training conducted by a variety of professional staff and faculty members of the university.

A primary responsibility of an RA is to provide a positive, safe living-learning community for all students while supporting and living the mission and values of Mount St. Mary's University. RAs design programs for residents on their floor designed to build community and further the personal, social and academic development of their peers. RAs enforce the standards, expectations and policies of the university and work closely with the Office of Public Safety in order to ensure a safe residential community.

The RA is also a primary source of information regarding services available on campus and will refer students to health services, counseling services, learning services or other offices on campus that are designed to support and assist students. The Resident Assistants conduct room inspections, open and close the halls at the start of each semester and all breaks and keep residents informed of activities, programs and other news related to the Mount.

RAs generally are involved in athletics, intramurals, clubs, organizations and other leadership positions on campus while unselfishly giving their time and support to their residents. They are amongst our most successful students and fulfill a vital role for the Mount community.

In 2003 a new compensation package for RAs was implemented. Based on their length of service and performance evaluation, RAs receive a stipend, free single room and a discounted meal plan. The compensation package has greatly improved the RA recruitment efforts and has been a symbol of the Mount's commitment to developing a quality RA program.

William Davidson, Vice President of Senior Class, President of LOFT and an RA.

Recently, some resident assistants and many LOFT friends went to Medieval Times.



A STUDENT VOICE

William Davidson, Vice President of Senior Class, President of LOFT and an RA

Bill, as he is known on campus, comes from a nomadic Coast Guard family. Born in Virginia, he has experienced many moves—living in Michigan, Maryland (twice), California, Florida and Rhode Island. His pre-college education was received in seven different school districts. While at the Mount, his family has relocated back to the state of his birth, Virginia, settling in Sterling. It was a priest at the Navy Chapel in Rhode Island that told Bill and his family about Mount St. Mary's University. Bill is a theology major.

Has your overall university experience been harder or easier than you expected?

My overall university experience is much different than I expected. I came from a military family that moved a lot and I was never involved in high school. I didn't like that experience at all. However, the Mount fits me like a glove. I love it here. I have learned a great deal from my courses, especially the electives that I took out of pure curiosity. I took Criminal Law this past semester with Scott Rolfe, the State's Attorney for Frederick County, and I enjoyed that class more than I thought one could enjoy a class. We went on a trip to a maximum security prison, where the inmates gave us a tour. I got to spend a day in court and ride along with a police officer for a Friday night. Overall, the academics are a lot different from high school in the sense that you learn a lot more in one class with only three hours a week as opposed to the five-six hours you would spend in a high school class. Also, I enjoy being able to schedule classes when I am best able to learn (afternoon). The workload is also different. Class assignments involve more than simple busy work, and this to me is actually a bonus. I'd rather write a five-page paper than look up vocabulary words in the back of the history text.

How about your adjustment socially? Any rough spots and how were they resolved?

I went to four different high schools, and so my adjustment to the Mount, in the social sphere, was very easy. Everyone is new (which evens the playing field) and looking for new friends. I remember eating dinner with 40 people for the first month. This was in part due to the Wellness Housing Program, which is now called LOFT (Lifestyles of Opportunity, Fellowship and Temperance). I meet people very easily who want to live in a similar manner. However, the diversity within my group of LOFT friends is immense. I have friends that play sports, are bookworms, and people just out to enjoy the college social scene. I also went from participating in nothing during high school to becoming the President of LOFT Hall Council, a resident assistant, and vice-president of the senior class.

Which co-curricular activities have you been involved in?

In addition to what I have already mentioned, I have been the Housing Chair for LOFT, Co-founder of the Apologetics Group, an altar server, sacristan, usher, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, SGA representative for Pangborn Hall, and student representative on the Undergraduate Academics Committee.

Any liturgical or spiritual highlights?

My spiritual highlight at the Mount is the ability to sit in one of the chapels and reflect at the end of a day on my life. It is simple, but it suits me well. I also loved doing the program on Natural Family Planning for the Callings Program.

Can you offer any tips on keeping in touch with high school friends, parents?

Keep in touch with high school friends over AOL Instant Messenger, since some of your time at college is spent on the computer. My family no longer lives in Florida (where I graduated from high school). So, I actually have very little contact with those friends except two that I email and talk to on the phone every once in awhile. I talk to my mother everyday. I have five siblings that I love very much that I like to keep up with, and a five- or even 10-minute phone call before dinner catches me up with my family.

How did you know the Mount was the place for you?

I didn't really even think about it. I mean, I chose to come here because of the nice campus and the financial aid (also they offered my major, theology). It wasn't until my family dropped my sister off here at the beginning of my sophomore year did it occur to me that I fit in so well.

Any thoughts you would care to offer, as a rising senior, on "If I knew then, what I know now" type of advice?

That's a funny question. I think the answer would be I have done everything as it has come to me, and grabbed the opportunities. School related, I would do nothing different—even though I can say I have made some poor personal decisions, but that's life.

How has it been having your sister, Laura, attend here as well?

My sister is one of the most amazing people I know. I was extremely happy to learn of her decision to attend the Mount. Throughout my high school experience, she was usually the only person I knew (since I was always at a new school), and that made us best friends. The thing I am most grateful for at the Mount is my sister. The school fits me so well, but to have my life-long friend here with me makes it that much better. Plus, when I am interested in a girl, it is a lot easier to have a scout!

August 2005						
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September 2005						
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November 2005						
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December 2005						
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Fall 2005 Schedule

August 24 Classes Begin/Convocation
September 23-25 Family Weekend
October 8-16 Fall Break
October 24-28 Advising Week
November 23-27 Thanksgiving
December 12-16 Final Exams

Important Dates

Fall Break is October 8-16
Residence halls **close** at 6 p.m. on **Friday, October 7**.

Thanksgiving Break is November 23-27
Residence Halls close at 6 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 22**.

Final Exams are December 12-16
The campus has a very different feel and tempo during finals week. The quiet hours for residence halls are in effect 24-hours-per-day beginning December 9. We strive to work with students to be respectful of the needs of the community in preparation for exams.

In the Loop

- Sept. 7* Student Involvement Fair
- Sept. 10* Trip into DC
- Sept. 17* Wellness Expo
- Sept. 21 & 22* Lippizzaner Stallions, 7:30 p.m. \$22.50/\$19.50; \$2 off for seniors (60+ and children (12 & under) Call 301-447-5700 or 800-628-ARCC
- Oct. 1* Hike for Hunger
- Oct. 22* Alcohol Awareness Week begins
- Oct. 29* Maryland Special Olympics
- Nov. 10-12 & Nov. 17-19* Our Town Mount Theater Mainstage Production, 8 p.m., Flynn Hall
Matinee Nov. 13, 2 p.m. Tickets: \$
- Nov. 12* Ring Mass and Dance
- Nov. 15* Hunger Awareness Meal
- Nov. 17* Intramural Turkey Trot
- Nov. 19* Fall Service Day
- Dec. 3* Christmas Formal
- Dec. 4* Mount Chorale Advent Concert, 3 p.m., Immaculate Conception Chapel
- Dec. 11* Wind Ensemble/Jazz Ensemble Concert, 3 p.m., Knott Auditorium

save-the-date	Friday, September 23-Sunday, September 25
Friday, September 23	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. BBQ Patriot Hall <i>Cost: Adults \$9.50 (Students need tickets) Children (12 and under) \$5.</i>
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Information and Registration <i>McGowan Center</i>	8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Student Talent Show <i>Flynn Hall</i> <i>Cost: \$5. Tickets are limited.</i>
7:30-9:30 p.m. Mystery Dinner Theater: "Hawaiian Luau" <i>Patriot Hall</i> <i>Cost: \$25. Tickets are limited.</i>	9 p.m. -12 a.m. "Generation Mixer" <i>Patriot Hall</i> <i>Cost: Adults \$5. Students free with MountCard.</i>
10 p.m. Student Comedy Contest <i>Purcell Lounge</i>	Midnight-12:30 a.m. Fireworks <i>Quad</i>
Saturday, September 24	Sunday, September 25
8 a.m. -11 a.m. Breakfast <i>Patriot Hall</i>	9:30 a.m. Mount Family Association Meeting (Continental Breakfast) <i>Patriot Hall</i>
9 a.m. 5K Cross Country Race Community Event <i>ARCC</i>	10 a.m.-2 p.m. Family Weekend Brunch <i>Patriot Hall</i>
10 p.m. Information and Registration <i>McGowan Center</i>	10 a.m. Men's Lacrosse Alumni Game <i>ARCC</i>
11 a.m.-Noon President's Address <i>Knott Auditorium</i>	11 a.m.-Noon Mass <i>Immaculate Conception Chapel</i>

You should have received your complete schedule and registration form in the mail. Visit www.msmary.edu/familyfest

(Habits of Faith continued from cover.)

Whatever faith you and your young person profess and whether or not you actively practice your faith in a particular church, the Office of Campus Ministry and Community Service, and I as Chaplain, want to be a source of support and encouragement. Our goal is to provide opportunities for students (as well as for faculty, staff and administrators as other components of the Mount community) to draw on their faith as a font of God's grace, to ask and seek answers to questions about their faith, to discern their vocation and career choices, to make responsible decisions about relationships, and to find their place as responsible adult citizens and members of society. As parents you have been the first teachers of the faith, and we want to assist as you continue that role. If you have questions, concerns or particular needs with which we might help, we welcome your call.

Our goal as Campus Ministers is to help members of the community embrace the call to holiness in their lives through: vibrant worship, especially Sunday liturgy; participation in acts of charity, justice, and service; and thoughtful integration of faith and life through prayer, reflection on and conversation about the Gospel and our faith in Jesus Christ. All of this takes place in the context of the community of the Church, and the role of Campus Ministry is to foster the communal life of the Church on campus in ways that are welcoming and inviting.

Some members of the community have a habit of full, conscious and active participation in the life of the Church, and outreach to them supports and encourages their continuing practice of the faith as they grow into mature adulthood. Other members of the community do not have a habit of active participation in the Church, or they are members of another ecclesial community or another faith. Campus ministry will strive to be for them a ministry of outreach: a ministry of witness, presence, and availability, and to support and encourage those in other ecclesial communities and faith traditions, so that every opportunity to participate in the life of the Church on campus and beyond is accessible to everyone.

Ample opportunities will be available on campus for reflection and study of the faith in informal settings as well as in various retreat programs, for prayer and worship at daily and Sunday Mass and other forms of communal prayer and worship, for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance), for engagement in service activities, and for Campus Ministry sponsored social and community-building activities. All activities are open to those of any faith. As young adults with some newfound independence, it will be each student's responsibility to choose to participate. We will make every effort to support and encourage healthy and informed choices.

As the year gets underway, I pray that each of us will be a source of support and encouragement for one another, and I pray especially for the Class of 2009 as they embark on their college career at the Mount, that God, who is always good and kind, will bless them with a fresh gift of the Holy Spirit to empower and enrich their lives. May God's peace be with you.

Get Outside!

A STUDENT'S VIEW OF THE MOUNT'S OUTDOOR ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Based on research by Lindsay Muller, C'05, Mount communications office intern

From the journal of rising junior Phillip Bauchan, who embarked on a weeklong staff training session to become a student leader in the Mount's new Outdoor Adventure Program.

FALL 2005 OUTDOOR ADVENTURES TRIP LIST

Climbing	Sept. 3	\$15
Whitewater Rafting	Sept. 9-10	\$50
Climbing	Sept. 17	\$15
Canoeing	Sept. 18	\$15
Caving	Sept. 22	\$15
Backpacking	Sept. 30-Oct. 2	\$25
Hiking	Oct. 21	\$5
Canoeing	Oct. 28-29	\$20
Caving	Nov. 12	\$15



The Newsletter of the Mount Family Association

In the fall 2005 issue

- Habits of Faith
- Our Family: Ron & Kathy Feher
- Resident Assistants/A Student Voice
- Campus Calendar & Family Fest Information
- Get Outside

February 2005
After eight hours on the water retracing our route because we couldn't find the exit river, we stop right on the edge of the Gulf of Mexico, tired but ready. It has been cloudy and cool all day, following after the most beautiful Florida day yet on our trip, and for the past hour it has been drizzling on and off as each moment brings us closer to sunset. We bring our canoes together into a pod and prepare to make an open water crossing to Mormon Key, one of the many islands that follow the coastline and our next destination. As we draw closer to the shore it is getting darker and more menacing with each stroke; pulling in together we land and quickly unload all of our things. Each person scrambles as fast as he or she can to make sure all have rain gear on while simultaneously throwing up tarps and setting up tents, bunkering down for what looks like quite a storm.

I'm on kitchen duty so I begin cooking, and for the next half hour I'm huddled underneath a tarp cooking the most delicious smelling chicken teriyaki I have ever come across, being a vegetarian myself. Meanwhile the sun has set and the rain has come pounding in as the temperature drops to the point that you can see your breath in the light of your headlamp. Dinner is ready and all 12 of us are sitting, drenched, eating the most delicious meal we have ever had in our entire lives, all the while taking in the exhaustion, the rain, the sand and the darkness surrounding us, realizing that we are on an isolated island in the Gulf of Mexico in February.



Phillip has since participated in several other Outdoor Adventure trips and feels that part of what makes these trips so special is that people act differently when they're outdoors. "You get closer to who they really are."

He learned to rock climb and has seen others grow in even more significant ways. "I saw someone deeply reflect on his own life like I have never seen before and realize that he needed to change."

Phillip adds, "I simply cannot wait to lead trips and let other people experience the same things I have, whether it's rock climbing or crawling through the mud of a cave. Our campus is in a perfect spot where there are places to go hiking right behind the Mount, canoeing less than twenty minutes away and climbing less than thirty minutes away."



◀ Photos from Saturday, June 11 Orientation: Welcome to incoming students from Andrew Shaw, president of the George Henry Miles Honor Society, and Professor McFadden's advising session.

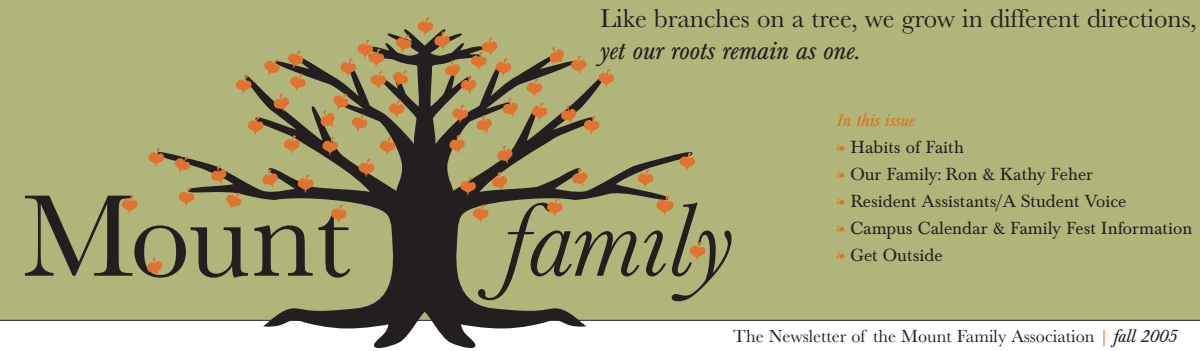
TELLING TALES

Tell us a true anecdote from your own experience as a parent of a college student. Share the wisdom and the humor. Responses will be printed in a future edition, anonymously, if privacy is an issue or concern!

Recount your story in 250 words or less to the following questions ...

- Tell us of an item that your son/daughter insisted on bringing to college.
- Tell us when you realized your child had become an adult.

Email your tale to ipowell@msmary.edu or pop it in the mail to Mount Family Association, 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd. Emmitsburg, Md. 21727. Please provide your name and a daytime phone number.



The Newsletter of the Mount Family Association | fall 2005

Mount on the Move

Excitement is high as returning students migrate back to their academic home on this glorious hillside. New students are finding their way; adjusting to new territories, forming new networks of friends and missing home, perhaps more than they will admit!

The 2005-06 school year is off and running and we are pleased to be welcoming 445 new Mounties! We also are welcoming many new faculty and administrators. This year, Patriot Hall is a flutter with colorful state and country flags representing the far-reaching spirit of Mount St. Mary's students and alumni. Our students come to us from more than 30 states and from around the world. We are a diverse community on the move.

On the academic front, three new degree programs are being launched this year: a minor in environmental studies, a major in criminal justice, master of arts in liberal study and a proposed major in sports management. This year both the business and education departments will be seeking national accreditation, a vital step in achieving recognition for our outstanding programs.

Athletically, the effort to construct a new stadium for lacrosse and soccer is coming to fruition. This will benefit not only our own Division I teams, but thousands of visitors and campers annually.

President Powell dubbed last school year, the "Year of the Student." Our RA program has been steadily reinforced over the past two years—providing a stronger foundation for establishing a nurturing social culture within residence life. The new Outdoor Adventure program has taken flight and is off to a roaring start this fall. Twenty-two students participated in a special pre-orientation adventure opportunity for incoming first-year students and bonded while hiking, canoeing, rock climbing and camping!

Spiritually, more than 50 newly-minted Mounties attended a pre-orientation Mountward Bound retreat opportunity. Campus Ministry has been leading this traditional retreat for many years. Additionally, we welcome Fr. Rick Hilgartner as our new Campus Chaplain. More can be read about him, and from him, in this newsletter.

Faith and leadership are propelling us forward to greet our Third Century, and as we move into the new school year it is with the eager anticipation of a community growing together, learning together and praying together; striving to discover the untapped resources within to better serve our world and our God.



Feel free to contact us with any suggestions, questions or concerns you might have.

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Habits of Faith

BLENDING THE OLD AND THE NEW FOR THE CLASS OF 2009

Fr. Rick Hilgartner, Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry



"This particular university is deeply rooted in its Catholic heritage, so it is fitting that faith is an instrument for growth and development of the student."

The beginning of a student's college career is both a challenge and a gift. The challenge of facing the unknown, meeting new and more difficult academic tasks, stiffer competition on the court, the field, and the stage, and experiencing more mature relationships often bring great stress. At the same time, however, one discovers a gift in the possibility of making a fresh start, forming new habits, and setting new goals; this is a rare opportunity to do things better than before. There are choices to be made as the members of the freshman class are facing this situation today.

As I write this, I, too am facing a major transition. It's July 5 (the Mount has early publication deadlines!), and I'm somewhere over the Atlantic on my way from Rome (where I have just completed a two-year graduate program in Sacramental and Liturgical Theology) to my new home at the Mount and my new ministry as University Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry. I'm filled with a great range of thoughts and emotions, some of which I suppose I share in common with the new freshman class.

This transition for me brings excitement, mixed with some apprehension, at the prospect of the challenges that await me at the Mount, joy to be returning home to Maryland, some sense of loss from leaving a great community of priests (and new friends) with whom I lived in Rome. A new beginning after a sabbatical affords the opportunity to establish good habits (I'm thinking

particularly of the need for exercise!) and start off on the right foot. For me there is also a sense of nostalgia as I return to my own alma mater and recall my own college days: the important lessons I learned, the great experiences I had here, and the lasting friendships I formed.

As parents you face an even broader range of emotions as you send your young person to college. If this is your first child to leave home for college, there are undoubtedly questions as well. Young people on a college campus face a great challenge where they embrace newfound independence at the tail end of adolescence. They will explore new ideas and think critically in the classroom, establish new relationships and learn valuable lessons of friendship as young adults, and discern their own vocations and careers in the university community. This particular university is deeply rooted in its Catholic heritage, so it is fitting that faith is an instrument for growth and development of the student. In the midst of the many changes and new experiences facing college students, and the members of the freshman class in particular, their faith can remain a constant source of support. As they continue to grow and mature, the faith remains unchanged, even as they experience it from a more adult perspective. The anchor of faith is a great source of grace and strength.

(Continued on inside.)

