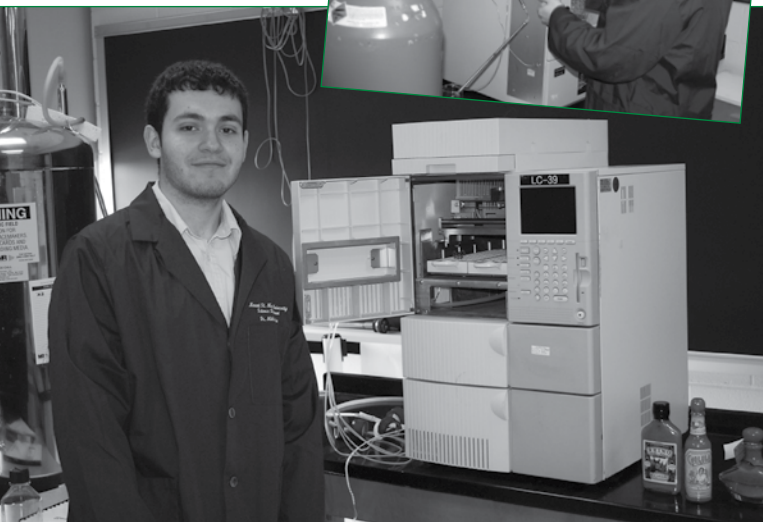




Joe with his parents Charles and Noura Mardini and Siblings, Serge, 17 and Karen, 13

“Besides being an outstanding student who has taken on a rare feat...triple majoring in chemistry, biology, and biochemistry...doing a superb job in all of them...Joe also has a difficult honors research project on the characterization of capsaicin using both traditional and modern analytical methods.”  
- Dr. Mike Epstein



Joe with a high performance liquid chromatography instruments that he is using in his research and several bottles of hot sauce. (Photo courtesy of Mike Epstein)



“This year has been, and will continue to be, a major turning point in my life. All the friendships, both with peers and professors, have imparted valuable life lessons to me and it will be very difficult to move away from what has essentially been my second family. This community has been very

accepting of other cultures and countries, and I am so glad to be a part of it!”-Joseph Mardini, C’09

Joe with friends, Sebastian Garcia and Richard Clark.



# Our Family

**STUDENT:** Joseph Mardini (2009)

**MAJOR:** a triple major in Biochemistry, Biology and Chemistry

**FAMILY - PARENTS:** Charles and Noura Mardini

**SIBLINGS:** Serge, 17 and Karen, 13

**HOMETOWN:** Aleppo, Syria

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Icarda International School of Aleppo (9th-10th), Winston Churchill High School, Gaithersburg, Maryland (11th-12th)

**ON CAMPUS:** Lab assistant, science tutor

**GOALS:** Short term plans include applying and being accepted to dental school. In the long term, Joe wants to be able to “provide quality oral care to underprivileged areas and at some point, start a family.”

**JOURNEY:** Joe holds dual citizenship. He was born in Canada but grew up in Syria. At 15, Joe decided to leave his homeland to live with his uncle in Gaithersburg and hopefully get a better high school education. It was there that his guidance counselor prompted Joe to take a look at continuing his education at Mount St. Mary’s. He was looking for a “small liberal arts school with a strong science program.” He came to campus and after “a couple of visits decided for myself” that it was, indeed, a good fit for his aspirations. Joe says his parents feel blessed and assured that the Mount is a “small, friendly community that complements our family’s upbringing.”

“At first, moving to an entirely new environment can be intimidating,” Joe warns, “but your friends and professors are there to help you if you let them. It’s a huge adjustment, but (new students) should remember - you’re not going through it alone!”

**FREE TIME:** Joe has adopted his engineer father’s ability to schedule and prioritize his time, quite necessary with his triple major academic load. Keeping in touch with his family also requires diligence on his part. Is there any free time left at all? His mother is a classical pianist, and so, is Joe. In fact, the entire family has performed occasionally together in Syria. At the Mount, Joe manages to squeeze in playing time by heading over to the music practice rooms on campus.

**RESEARCH:** Joe works closely with his professor Dr. Mike Epstein who says this about him, “Besides being an outstanding student who has taken on a rare feat...triple majoring in chemistry, biology, and biochemistry...doing a superb job in all of them...Joe also has a difficult honors research project on the characterization of capsaicin using both traditional and modern analytical methods.” Capsaicin is the ingredient found in hot peppers and has been used as a topical cream to reduce pain from arthritis. It has been further suggested that capsaicin will lower cholesterol and blood pressure, act as an antioxidant against free radicals, and cause apoptosis (death) of prostate cancer cells. Professor Epstein added: “It continues to be a great pleasure to work with such a hard-working, modest, and skilled student such as Joe.”

**CHURCH:** Joe is an Armenian-Catholic and a volunteer in Bethesda, at Soorp Khatch (Holy Cross) Armenian Apostolic Church. The Armenian Apostolic Church is one of the most ancient Christian communities, founded by apostles Bartholomew and Thaddeus. Armenia was the first state to adopt Christianity back in 310 A.D. and as such, is the world’s oldest national church.

**MOUNT EXPERIENCE:** From the moment he stepped foot on campus Joe has felt welcomed as an international student. Even when first arriving in Maryland as a tenth grader it wasn’t culture shock so much as simply missing his family that was his hardest adjustment.

However, the Mount seems to have had a positive impact on him, “This year has been, and will continue to be, a major turning point in my life. All the friendships, both with peers and professors, have imparted valuable life lessons to me and it will be very difficult to move away from what has essentially been my second family. This community has been very accepting of other cultures and countries, and I am so glad to be a part of it!”

“Joe generously agreed to be a victim for my forensic class simulated crimes. The fact that Joe willingly cooperated in what we put him through (he was tied up and duct taped in a simulated mugging and robbery) tells you something about the great and cooperative person he is.”-Dr. Mike Epstein

# Mount celebrates World Marriage Day

World Marriage Day salutes the beauty of a husband and wife’s faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

A new tradition has been established on the Mount campus for celebrating World Marriage Day. Wishing to provide our students an opportunity to reflect on the vocation and sacrament of marriage in a personally meaningful way, three Mount community couples generously agreed to share their experiences after the Sunday evening mass.

“A Love that Lasts... True Stories of the Gift of Faith within Marriage” was presented. Panelists Prof. David and Brigit McCarthy, Coach Jay and Dale Phillips, and Robert and Anne Marie Miller spoke freely and from the heart. They also answered questions posed by two student moderators, Elizabeth Andruliewicz and Jonathan Benitez. The panel discussion was held in the Keeler Dining Room and festive refreshments were enjoyed by all.

During the liturgy February 8, at the regularly scheduled 7:30 Principal University Mass, all attending Mount married couples and students’ parents were recognized and blessed, and prayer cards were distributed for students to use in offering prayers for their parents.

World Marriage Day began in Baton Rouge, La., in 1981, where the local idea was so successful, the idea was adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter’s National Leadership. By 1982, 43 Governors officially proclaimed the day and celebrations spread to U.S. military bases in several foreign countries. The following year the second Sunday in February was set aside as the official annual date. WMD celebrations continue to grow and spread to more countries and faith expressions every year.



Panelists Coach Jay and Dale Phillips, Prof. David and Brigit McCarthy, and Robert and Anne Marie Miller field questions from student moderators.



Keeler Dining Room was full with over 40 students and community members in attendance.

Information at your fingertips! Tear off and keep for future reference.

March 2009						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2009						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2009						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- March 16-20 Advising Week
- April 9-14 Easter Break\*\*
- April 26 Honors Convocation
- May 4-8 Final Exams
- May 9 Baccalaureate
- May 10 Undergraduate Commencement
- May 13 Graduate Commencement
- \*\* Easter break begins before evening classes
- AIRPORT/TRAIN BWI SCHEDULE
- Easter Break
  - Depart MSMU April 8 at 4 p.m.
  - Pickup April 14 at Train station at BWI, 6:30 p.m.
  - Pickup April 14 at BWI April 14 at 7 p.m.
- End of School Year
  - Depart MSMU May 8 at 4 p.m.

## What is there to do on and Off campus?

For a complete list of campus events visit [www.msmary.edu/calendar](http://www.msmary.edu/calendar)

### SGA FORUM WITH DR. POWELL

March 23, 7 p.m., Knott Aud. Come out and ask questions of your SGA Executive Officers and Dr. Powell to stay informed on what is occurring on campus and have your voice heard.

### CHERRY BLOSSOM TRIP

April 4, TBD, DC Spend of day sightseeing in downtown DC and enjoying the cherry blossom trees.

### SPRING BLOW-OUT DAY

April 25, 1-5 p.m., AC Quad Come and battle your friends in the jousting arena, race against a friend while dodging flying boulders, or cause your favorite professor, administrative or SGA member to fall into the dunk tank. With all this along with prizes and music who could want for anything more on a Saturday afternoon!

### LOYD DOBLER EFFECT, ACOUSTIC BATTLE WINNER OPENER

May 1, 5 p.m., Founders Plaza Finish out the semester with some great music with an outdoor performance by Lloyd Dobler Effect. Opening for them will be the winner of the Acoustic Battle, so support the winner and enjoy the great music!

### BREAKFAST & BED EVENT (MESSAGE ON THE GO)

May 2, 9p.m.-midnight, Purcell Tired, stressed, and hungry from exam prep? Well enjoy a comforting massage, a movie, and free food as we kick off your studying with a night of stress of relief.

## Friday Night Gettysburg Shuttle

Although student are allowed to have cars on campus, not all students have cars. As a rural institution not all needs of students can be fulfilled within walking distance. The Office of Campus Activities decided to begin a weekly shuttle service to both social and shopping activities to aid students in diversifying their social activities and giving them the opportunity to do some needed shopping. This service is enhanced through a partnership with Gettysburg Village Cinema to offer discounted movies to our students. So far the shuttle has been a success with an average of 30 students a night.

**WHEN:** Friday nights (March 13th, 20th, 27th; April 3rd, 17th, 24th; May 1st) 5 pm-midnight, on a regular loop every hour and a half

**WHERE:** Pickup at the Mount (in front of Patriot Hall): 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 11 p.m. Destinations: The Outlet Shoppes at Gettysburg, Gettysburg Village Cinema (at the Outlets), Wal-Mart/Giant Food (per requests)

## 2009 Commencement Weekend, May 8-10

All this information and more available at [www.msmary.edu/commencement](http://www.msmary.edu/commencement)

### COMMENCEMENT TICKETS

Every graduate will receive up to 7 tickets for Commencement Exercises in the Knott Arena. Tickets are required for the Knott Arena.

### OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

All graduating students currently living on campus will be staying in their own rooms during graduation weekend. If you need to make arrangements for accommodations, a list of hotels in the area can be found on the University website.

### PICTURES

In order to protect the dignity of the ceremony, guests will not be permitted close to the stage for pictures. A professional photographer will take a picture of each senior receiving a diploma. Proofs of these pictures will be sent to each senior in June.

### COMMENCEMENT DVD

You may order a DVD of the entire Commencement Ceremony for \$25.00. Orders should be placed by April 15. The DVD will be sent to you in June.

# A Message from our Chaplain

CAMPUS MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AT THE HEART OF THE MOUNT

When a parent sends their young adult away to a University, there can be a lot of questions, anxieties and fears. “Will the University help my son or daughter to grow up to be the best person they can be?”

Good question! One of the blessings of the Mount is its commitment, as a Catholic institution, to help students to grow in human and spiritual maturity. In particular, the Mount’s commitment to its four pillars: **Faith, Discovery, Leadership and Community**, guide us in our mission.

### Faith and Discovery

The Center for Campus Ministry and Community Service is also known as “the heart” of the Mount. They are committed to providing encouragement and opportunities for students in grow in their faith. “We try to meet the students where they are and invite them to take a step forward in their faith,” says Fr. Brian Nolan, Campus Chaplain at the Mount.

Along with discovering the world through the disciplines of the arts, sciences, business and education, President Powell and the Mount continually reminds students of the need to discover not only what they are called to do, but *who* they are called to be. Fr. Brian gave some further thoughts, “I love Pope Benedict’s words, ‘And only where God is seen does life truly begin. Only when we meet the living God in Christ do we know what life is. Only in Jesus Christ do we know who we are, where we’ve come from, and where we’re going.’” The role of Campus Ministry is to provide an environment that is conducive to helping cultivate this on-going encounter with Christ

leading students to become fully themselves in God.

The reality is that a student’s involvement in their faith is voluntary. “This is not West Point where attending service is mandatory,” says Fr. Brian. “But we are committed to inviting them to be active and engaged in their faith and we do challenge them to integrate their faith into their daily life choices.”

Campus Ministry provides numerous opportunities for a student to grow in their faith or even lead others in their faith journey. Activities include Men’s and Women’s Fellowship, retreats, Praise and Worship evenings, Mount students for Life, bible studies and more.

This year, four members of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) have joined our Campus Ministry team. FOCUS is a national organization that works with existing campus ministry programs to help meet college students where they are and invite them to examine the meaning and purpose of their lives. This year approximately 60-80 students are involved in eight small-group Bible studies that meet weekly. Students have mentioned the positive impact FOCUS has had on the Mount community.

### Leadership and Community

One of the most established and successful programs has been Mount-sponsored outreach and service trips where approximately 50% of all Mount students have participated. Whether it’s through working in soup kitchens, nursing homes or helping with Special Olympics, the Mount students are very engaged with selfless giving.

Melissa Main, the director of Community Service, reminds us, “We teach our students, ‘the call of leadership is fulfilled through

our self-sacrifice and selfless giving to others through service’. Mount students have been very receptive in response to this call.”

Service trips to areas like Florida, Kentucky and West Virginia, have become one of the most popular events offered to students. This year they will again travel to Belize for a service/CRUX outdoor experience trip.

One questions often asked is, “What if my son or daughter is not Catholic? Is there anything to help them grow in their faith?” Campus Ministry has developed a reputation of being inviting and welcoming to all. One popular event is “Monday Night Praise and Worship” where a large group of students from various denominations gather in Pangborn chapel for praise, music and intercessory prayer. This semester we have recently begun an Inter-denominational Group on campus. This student-initiated group will be gathering weekly to study the Word of God with a “Message” for each week. During this semester, they are also planning two larger gatherings with Campus Ministry including, a Cross Walk where students will “walk in the footsteps of Christ” in an engaging way, and an “Evening of Witness and Worship” that will include, uplifting music, skits, witness, and dance.

Mount St. Mary’s University cares for its students. Dedicated to encouraging and providing opportunities for our students to grow, not only academically and intellectually, but also spiritually is essential to our Mission. Forming students in our four pillars: Faith, Discovery, Leadership and Community will help them to be the whole person that they are called to be.

# Career Center Q&A

INSIGHTS FROM THE CAREER CENTER ON THE STUDENT JOB SEARCH

**Q. What services can the Career Center offer me as I enter my job search?**  
A. Career Counseling, Job Search Techniques, How to Network, Resume Writing and Critique, Mock Interviews, Salary Negotiation

**Q. How is the economy affecting the job search of recent college graduates?**  
A. Dramatically, yes it is definitely going to be difficult year for this year's graduates. Traditional job search methods may not be as effective.

**Q. What are employers looking for?**  
A. Well rounded students, with good communications and people skills.

**Q. How important is Networking?**  
A. Extremely important especially in this current climate, where a lot of jobs are through direct referrals rather than the traditional job search methods.

**Q. What are social networking Sites?**  
A. There are numerous social networking sites, primarily for connecting to people. We are seeing an increase in social networking sites being used for recruiting. Sites such as LinkedIn and Twitter.

# “Don't stop Belizing” Group Needs First Communion Dresses

The Mount's Community Service office is joining with the Outdoor Adventure program again this year for a service trip to Belize in May. The group of students and staff will be building churches for poor parishes in the Mayan Highlands of Northern Belize. The group is collecting First Communion outfits for distribution to young girls in these remote parishes.

The group has also been asked to bring used Pascal candles. Many parishes use a new Pascal candle at Easter and have little or no use for those from previous years, so if your home-parish has Pascal candles no longer being used please see if they will donate them to a great cause.

If would like to contribute, dresses, veils and pants can be dropped off or mailed to:  
Communications Office  
Mount St. Mary's University  
16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd,  
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

For more information contact, Linda Sherman, director of communications, at 301-447-5366 or lsherman@msmary.edu.

**Dresses are needed by May 1, if at all possible, so they can be distributed and packed by Thursday, May 21.**



Like branches on a tree, we grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.

- In this Issue
- Third Century Resolutions
  - Mardini Family Profile
  - World Marriage Day
  - Chaplain's Memo
  - Q&A on Career Services
  - Communion Dresses Needed
  - Calendar of Events

The Newsletter of the Mount Family Association | spring 2009

## Third Century Resolutions

*New Year's long gone but at the Mount it's just the beginning of our Third Century and we have big plans for starting our next one hundred years of service.*

### Renovations:

The Terrace residence halls have withstood 200 years of student life and it shows. We are in the midst of a huge renovation of the Terraces which will make them handicapped accessible, eco-friendly and technologically state of the art while keeping the historic façade. During the construction we've uncovered some very interesting artifacts including the remains of the old chapel. A new chapel will be located in the same spot with an altar built by hand (specifically the hands of President Thomas Powell and carpenter Terry Sanders) from 100 year old trees taken down on campus.

Adjacent to the Terraces is another construction project, Flynn Hall is receiving an "extreme makeover" to more adequately serve the needs of our visual and performing arts students. It will be reborn as the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center with its own art gallery and will be a tremendous asset to the entire community

The changes don't end with the construction projects, actually they just begin the real revolution taking place on campus; academic reorganization. The move toward a more dynamic structure for the University comes after deep discernment and assurances that we will maintain the consistently excellent Catholic education foundation offered to our students. This is but a beginning.

The Board of Trustees of the University challenged the administration to meet the demands of our ever-changing world with a more nimble structure while continuing to foster our academic excellence. There will be three new schools; the Schools of Business, Education and Science, as well the College of Liberal Arts. This bold move propels the Mount past other universities and sets the pace for our future growth.

### More exciting changes:

In addition to the new academic changes, two more programs will be launched for students preparing to enter the legal and education professions. The Pre-law program could be up and running as early as fall 2009, with the Pre-med program to follow shortly thereafter. We are announcing the establishment of the Center for Catholic School Excellence under the direction of **Professor Elizabeth Monahan** from our Education department. Liz was superb as head of our Bicentennial Celebration and is highly qualified to lead this new, critically important Catholic Center.

### Diversity

A more diverse campus community is another resolution that has gained traction. Campus administrators have made a concerted effort to be more inclusive. Since the year 2000 our minority student population has risen from 12 % to 18.5%. **Tyrone Perry** heads up our Third Century Scholar program which offers direct support to inner city students from Washington DC. Currently, we have 14 students participating in this program which is funded through the generosity of private donors with the ultimate goal of a permanent endowment ensuring that the program would be woven into the fabric of the university's future. Our office of Intercultural Development, headed by **Sara Furr** actively engages students from many diverse backgrounds.

**Karl Little Owl** is a non-traditional student in his junior year at the Mount. A Crow Indian from Montana, he is a business major studying here with his wife, two daughters and brand new son. Karl is actively assisting the Mount through the St. Labre Indian Missions in recruiting additional students of Native American heritage.

### Our Catholic Identity

At the brink of our third century, our Catholic identity and Campus Ministry have been re-emphasized. This is the heart of the Mount; always has been and always will be. **Fr. Brian Nolan**, our campus chaplain, reports in this issue all the exciting new directions and initiatives that have been established in just this past year.

As a Catholic University, we reaffirm our efforts to "graduate men and women who cultivate a mature spiritual life, who live by high intellectual and moral standards, who respect the dignity of other persons, who see and seek to resolve the problems facing humanity, and who commit themselves to live as responsible citizens" as stated in our Mission Statement.

According to President Powell, "As the Mount identifies ways to enhance and improve its operations to better serve our students, we focus always on transforming lives one sacred interaction at a time through faith, discovery, leadership and community—four simple words that reflect our mission and our vision. It is within this context that we move forward, toward the Mount's next and third century."



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

Irene Q. Powell  
Coordinator, Mount Family Association  
ipowell@msmary.edu  
301.447.3156



*Karl Little Owl with his wife, Shannon, and daughter, Shelby.*

## Sheriff Concludes No Threat to School or Students in Incident



The Frederick County Sheriff's office suspended its investigation of the incident in which a bullet was found lodged in a window on campus on February 6, 2009. The campus emergency alert system notified the community simultaneously using email, text, and phone calls, telling people to remain in a safe place until they heard the all clear from police which came about two hours later.

Sheriff Chuck Jenkins concluded, "the bullet had probably traveled a great distance and wasn't likely to have been targeted at a person or even the school." He also said, "no evidence indicated the shot was intentionally discharged toward or near the campus."

The University worked with the police agency in setting up the emergency crisis response plan prior to the incident and held table-top exercises simulating possible campus situations.

"The successful outcome of events is a credit to the cooperative efforts and preplanning between

the Frederick County Sheriff's Office and Mount Saint Mary's University," said Sheriff Jenkins. "The Frederick County Sheriff's Office looks forward to our continued partnership to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for students."

Parents also can be notified by Mount Alert but the information must be added by the student and updated as needed. In the case of an on-campus emergency, parents can go to: [www.msmary.edu/mountalert](http://www.msmary.edu/mountalert) website for late-breaking information updates.

*Mount St. Mary's University Mount Alert is a mass notification system that enables students, parents, faculty and staff to receive emergency alerts on cell and home phones and through text messages and email. This service is part of the University's strategy to enhance campus-wide communications during an emergency and to increase safety on the Mount campuses.*



The Newsletter of the Mount Family Association

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- Mardini Family Profile
- World Marriage Day
- Chaplain's Memo
- Q&A on Career Services
- Communion Dresses Needed
- Calendar of Events

Information at your fingertips! Tear off and keep for future reference.

## Contact Information

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- Dean of Students**  
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Leona Sevick, Dean of Academic Affairs  
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- Athletics**  
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- Residence Life**  
301.447.5274  
Jen Lenfant, Associate Director of Residence Life  
lenfant@msmary.edu
- Campus Activities**  
301.447.5849  
Sean Adams  
sadams@msmary.edu

**Want to order a cake or care package for your son or daughter?**  
Contact Howard Williams in Dining Services at 301.447.5276

**Want to add money to your son or daughter's MountCard?**  
Contact the MountCard Office at 301.447.5276

## Transportation Medical

- Amtrak**  
717.232.3313
- Frederick Hospital**  
240.566.3300
- BWI Airport**  
800.435.9294
- Gettysburg Hospital**  
717.334.2121
- Greyhound**  
301.663.3311  
717.255.6970
- Poison Control**  
800.492.2414

