

INTRODUCING  
PRESIDENT KILPATRICK >

CLASS OF 2026  
SHINES BRIGHT! >

FAREWELL,  
FRANCISCANS

# CATHOLICU

Magazine of The Catholic University of America > Fall 2022

## PERCHED ON THE HILL

Cardinals in service to the nation  
and the world flock to D.C



## THE BIG PICTURE

### WELCOME PLAZA

On April 22, Catholic University dedicated Welcome Plaza, the new campus home of bronze sculpture *Angels Unawares*, located between Father O'Connell Hall and Gibbons Hall.

At the dedication, Wilton Cardinal Gregory, University chancellor and archbishop of Washington, was joined by Rabbi Esther Lederman of the Union for Reform Judaism; the Reverend Randolph Hollerith, dean of Washington National Cathedral; and Imam Talib Shareef, president of Masjid Muhammad, in offering prayers and reflections

"The call to welcome the stranger is ... a holy duty that expresses our love of God," Hollerith said. "Welcoming the strangers among us is what we do as people of faith. And it's what we must do as citizens of this nation."

The University is thankful for the generosity of Jackie Mars, who is the primary benefactor of Welcome Plaza.







## Truth, Gratitude, and Service

I would like my first words to you to be words of gratitude. I am honored to join your ranks as a Cardinal at this historic moment in the life of the University, our nation, and the Church, and I am humbled by the gravity of the task that lies ahead for our community. The education of young people at this crucial juncture in their lives is a grave responsibility, and I am grateful to be entrusted with it.

Gratitude is always an important dimension of our lives to cultivate. It is the virtue at the root of our three most fundamental tasks as a University, and an important element of the education we hope to impart to our students. The first of those tasks is to

help students discover who they are as persons and what the purpose of their lives is. To help them formulate an answer, we offer the view of the human person we receive in faith: life and all aspects of our persons are gifts of a loving Father. We are created by divine love and endowed with capacities for wisdom and wonder. We are called not only to contemplate the meaning of our lives, but to anchor our answers in how we live. The human person “can fully discover his [or her] true self only in a sincere giving of himself,” *Gaudium et Spes* declares. Pope St. John Paul II was fond of calling this “the law of the gift.” We discover our purpose in service to others. That begins with gratitude for what we have received and recognizing that every facet of our lives is a gift.

A second task for the University is also linked to gratitude. Our Catholic faith teaches us that we are integrated, whole persons — physical, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional. Our jobs as servants of The Catholic University of America are to create an environment in which our students recognize the integrated nature of their persons, and the integrated nature of knowledge, as whole persons. A common error in higher education today says that faith somehow limits or undermines intellectual work and ought to be separated from the life of the mind. We know the opposite is true. When we allow space for faith and reason to work together, our thinking becomes richer and more disciplined, our academic horizons grow wider, and our pursuits become nobler. “God is present in everything. In the universe, in creation, in me and all that happens to me, in my brothers and sisters, in the Church — everywhere,” our own Sister Thea Bowman, M.A. 1969, Ph.D. 1972, once said. Integrating faith and reason animates and vivifies our learning and our understanding of how to put our education and our lives at the service of others. It also reminds us that all learning is a gift, an opportunity to deepen our gratitude — and service — to God and others.

The integration of faith and reason enables our students to think deeply, but we hope they will learn to think broadly as well. Therein lies a third fundamental task for the University. By encouraging students to study across the disciplines, we help them to be better critical thinkers within their own discipline and also how to apply themselves in service to our society. An integral approach to education empowers students to step outside of the methodologies of their own field and learn from other approaches to knowledge. This makes for better scholars and professionals. More than that, it contextualizes learning itself. It affords students greater agency in their studies and facilitates bigger questions. It strengthens their ability to look for the truth both inside the classroom and outside of it. It makes education a way of life, and the search for truth a lifelong enterprise that encompasses all that we do. To truly love the truth is an act of gratitude for our creation. Indeed, the Truth is actually a person whom we should all come to know and love. When that love becomes contagious, it also becomes an act of service.

The Catholic University of America has a long history of seeking the truth, responding in gratitude, and transforming gratitude into service. I would like to thank you, our alumni, in a special way for the critical role you play in supporting and transmitting that mission, and for the many ways you use your Catholic University education in service to the world.

**Dr. Peter K. Kilpatrick**

President of The Catholic University of America

# CATHOLICU

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# CATHOLICU

## IN THIS ISSUE

Fall 2022, Vol. 35, No. 2

### 05 > IN YOUR WORDS

*Comments from the University community*

### 06 > AROUND CATHOLIC

*The latest news on campus and in the community*

### 40 > ALUMNI CORNER

*Class notes and alumni news and events*

### 56 > FROM THE VAULT

*University Archives*

# 20

## Perched on the Hill

A Catholic University education informs the work of those Cardinals who chose careers in public service in and around the nation's capital.



# 26

## Class of 2026 Shines Bright!

The Class of 2026, a high-achieving group of students, arrive on campus, ready to take Washington, D.C., by storm as they start their journeys toward fulfilling careers and becoming engaged global citizens



# 34

## Farewell, Franciscans

A celebration of the Franciscan friars and their more than 24 years of service to the Catholic University community.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Tell us what you think of the magazine, offer an idea, or comment on an article by sending an email to [cua-magazine@cua.edu](mailto:cua-magazine@cua.edu). Call us at 202-319-5600. Submit address changes at [engage.catholic.edu/subscriptions](http://engage.catholic.edu/subscriptions).





I came to the United States with a dream of bettering my whole existence. At Catholic University, I have discovered new perspectives.

# Scholarships Open Doors

Over the past seven years, our alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and friends have come together to make Light the Way: The Campaign for Catholic University a huge success and build a bright new future for The Catholic University of America.

The Campaign will come to a close in 2023 — don't miss your chance to be part of this historic moment in University history! Your support is vital to our success. Together, we can light the way forward.

## Craig Thomas

Class of 2023  
Metropolitan School of Professional Studies  
Human Services Administration  
Sheehy Family Scholarship



LIGHT | THE | WAY

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



To support students like Craig, add your light now by making a gift at [engage.catholic.edu/thanks](https://engage.catholic.edu/thanks).



I was jolted by the picture of “THE HOUSE,” p. 31 in the CUA magazine’s spring issue of 2022!

This house was “Ma” Parent’s Boarding House, where many of the ex-Marines and I ate lunch and/or supper in the architectural class of ’48-’53.

In the late 40’s there weren’t enough on-campus rooms to go around with so many attending under the four-year GI Bill. These were the years when architectural classes were held in a reassembled barrack building. “Ma” kept her meal charges low, which helped some finish the program when it became a five-ye program in our sophomore year. So it was a house of joy decades before it became the “House.” Hopefully its use by the Special Language Bureau offered joy to some.

Her house is gone now along with the barrack building on campus, as CUA and its programs have grown out of buildings housing us 70 years ago.

— ARTHUR RIGOR DA EVA, CLASS OF 1953

I enjoyed reading the latest issue of *CatholicU*, as I always do, and in particular the article commemorating 50 years of The House. I was never a regular at House events, but did attend one of the Love Connection shows in Caldwell Hall my senior year.

That night I won a date with a very pretty freshman. We went out a few times but,

while she was a lovely girl, there was no spark between us. A few years after graduation, I returned to D.C. and was looking at a photo in a friend’s apartment. “Hey,” I said, “that nun looks like Caitlin!”

“That nun is Caitlin,” was the response I got back.

Even now, many years and one amazing wife later, it is still one of my favorite stories to tell. And, every time I do, it always ends the same way: “After me,” I ask, “who else is there to date but God?”

Please keep up the good work. I always look forward to new issues!

— BRIAN KEANEY, B.A. 2003

Seeing the photo of St. John’s Hall in the spring issue brought back fond memories. I was on the staff of the New Catholic Encyclopedia from 1963 to 1967. Our publishing offices were housed on the fir floor and basement of St. John’s. Father John Whelan and Mother Mary Peter were the chief editors. We comprised a diverse staff of different backgrounds, schools and faiths. These were developing years for me and the Church. Vatican II was in session and changes were occurring daily. We were kept busy with rewrites, edits, and, in some cases, cancellations. By the end of the project the biographies of questionable, but popular, saints were dropped.

## IN YOUR WORDS

Comments from the University Community

I remember coming to work one day and finding a strange woman in the office. She turned out to be Mother Mary Peter wearing a plain skirt and blouse. Her order was no longer required to wear a habit. It felt odd to see her hair and face so clearly after a lifelong education in Catholic schools by nuns in habits. Perhaps the most defining moment was the day the bell at the Shrine rang out and we found out that President Kennedy had been shot. Almost the entire campus headed to the Shrine. We filled the entire church as we prayed the rosary for his recovery.

I was sorry to hear that St. John’s was demolished but my memories of it and those heady years go on.

— CHARLES J. KELLY, M.L.S. 1981

### BEAUTIFUL MAGAZINE!

I just wanted to say that I love your magazine design for *CatholicU*. My husband is an alumnus, so we’ve received the magazine in the mail. I’ve been working on the design for Brookewood School’s magazine, and your design is both creative and clean, an inspiration for my own work.

Anyhow — I just wanted to say Congrats! You did an amazing job!

— GLENCORA PIPKIN

### CLARIFICATION

It was great to hear about CUA Rowing going to the Head of the Charles in the latest issue; but the article is incorrect in that the program is only four years old. I rowed for the club from 2000 to 2002 and the program came before me and stayed after me.

— BILL PHELAN, B.A. 2004, M.A. 2007, J.D. 2007

*Editor’s Note: Rowing became a varsity sport in 2018. It was a club sport prior.*

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS. WRITE TO US AT  
[cua-magazine@cua.edu](mailto:cua-magazine@cua.edu)

# AROUND CATHOLIC





# President Kilpatrick: Deeply Committed to Catholic Higher Ed

University President Peter Kilpatrick and his wife, Nancy, officially made Regent Hall their new home this fall. Dr. Kilpatrick spent his first months meeting his new team and colleagues, visiting with individual members of the Board of Trustees, traveling to meet community members around the country, and setting forth his vision for his tenure. Our Alumni Engagement team caught up with the President earlier this fall and asked him to share thoughts about his new role.

## What are you most excited about as you begin your tenure at Catholic University?

It is always exciting to begin something new and challenging. I believe that The Catholic University of America is the most important Catholic university in America for obvious reasons, and I am deeply and totally committed to the concepts and ideas inherent in Catholic higher education. I think my entire career as a faculty member and academic administrator has prepared me well to serve the University and contribute to its success.

## What is your vision for Catholic University?

Part of our future is determining our main aims for educating our students. I have worked closely with a number of persons and stakeholders to identify three main goals: (1) to help our students discern who they are as human persons, their purpose in life, and their vocations; (2) to help our students fully integrate their faith with their reason; and (3) to contextualize our education so that students are not only learning skills and a discipline, but are doing this within the larger context of the integration of the disciplines and their understanding of societal needs. Helping our prospective students understand

fully what Catholic University has to offer them — and how that is different from any other university in America — is an important goal for ensuring that we can be successful and achieve our very ambitious enrollment goals.

## Who inspires you most in your life?

I would have to say that Jesus Christ is the most inspirational person in my life. I have come to know Him in Word and Sacrament, and through prayer. My life would be meaningless without Him. I am a huge fan of Our Lady and have a deep devotion to her. My dad, who was a real hero in World War II, has always been someone I admire tremendously. And my wife, Nancy, is one of the most remarkable servant leaders I have ever met, and I admire and love her deeply.

In a professional sense, I have learned a great deal from my dear friend and colleague, Dr. Eric Kaler, who is the current president of Case Western Reserve University, and formerly the president of the University of Minnesota system. I was very inspired by the way he handled some very difficult challenges with his athletic teams during his time at Minnesota. I have also learned a tremendous amount from my dear academic mentor, Dr. Ruben Carbonell, who guided me when I was a young professor at NC State University. Ruben, who is also the godfather of my youngest son, Charlie, taught me the importance of an all-out commitment to excellence and hard work.

## Although you're new to the District, what is your favorite thing to do in D.C. so far? What are you looking forward to exploring?

The District is a wonderful “foodie” town. I love to cook and I love to eat, so Nancy and I have enjoyed learning about the restaurants in the District and have already been to several outstanding ones.

INSTALLATION CEREMONY OF

# Dr. Peter K. Kilpatrick

THE SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Thursday, November 11, 2022

10 a.m.

Great Upper Church  
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception  
Washington, D.C.

Visit [president.catholic.edu/installation](https://president.catholic.edu/installation) for more information.

## AROUND CATHOLIC

Student Spotlight



# Janae Middleton

“I never wanted a typical college experience,” said sophomore Janae Middleton, who grew up with her missionary parents in other parts of the world and now calls Colorado home. “I wanted to be somewhere that has more of a ‘Europesque’ feel. I wanted somewhere I could live out my faith. I’ve always wanted to help and serve people.”

And she wanted a place where she could crawl through the mud as a cadet in an ROTC unit. “I loved running around in the woods, getting muddy, shooting the rifle with my dad,” Middleton said.

She’s found all of that at Catholic University.

In her first year, Middleton showed such outstanding academic, physical, and leadership abilities that she was awarded a three-year, full-tuition Army ROTC Scholarship.

“You learn so many things about how to handle yourself, to be well-rounded and disciplined, because you realize you’re on a team in ROTC,” Middleton said. “And the military offers a lot of opportunities to serve, some cool humanitarian opportunities.”

This past summer, Middleton got another opportunity through the Catholic University ROTC program. She was chosen as one of a select national group of ROTC students for Project GO, a Department of Defense program that sends students overseas to learn language and culture skills that will help them as officers.

Middleton chose Kyrgyzstan, where she spent this past summer studying Russian at The London School of Languages and Cultures in the capital city

of Bishkek. She took classes during the week, then on weekends headed out of the city to the country’s beautiful mountains and waterfronts.

“A lot of people are very American-friendly,” she said. “A good number of the younger people also know Russian, Kyrgyz, and English, all very well. It has also been fascinating seeing the influence of American culture, from music and media especially.”

Before leaving for Kyrgyzstan, Middleton spent two months with other Project GO students at Arizona State University’s Critical Language Institute, getting fully immersed in Russian.

“You get very into the thick of it,” Middleton said. “They condense two semesters of Russian into eight weeks. I studied at 6 a.m., went to class all day, then studied till 11 p.m.”

Juggling a heavy load is nothing new for Middleton. In addition to her academics and ROTC duties, she works in the Disabilities Support Office. “Janae brings a great work ethic day in and day out, to both her studies and to Army ROTC,” said Stephan Murphy, director of Military and Veteran Student Services. “I’m excited to see what the future has in store for her.”

“The CatholicU ROTC program is fantastic,” said Middleton, “and so are my classes. I got to take a class at the National Gallery of Art. It was so cool to take a class at a museum.”

And there’s the mud. “We do field training exercises, crawling through puddles, getting close to people, literally in the mud,” Middleton said. “I’ve loved it.”

— E.T.

## University Honors Sister Thea Bowman with Street Naming

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, archbishop of Washington and University chancellor, together with Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser, unveiled a sign for the new Thea Bowman Drive at an April 29 dedication ceremony with University leadership, staff, and students.

The new road, north of the Columbus School of Law, honors Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA, M.A. 1969, Ph.D. 1972. A nationally renowned champion for social justice and interracial solidarity, the alumna inspired the University's Sister Thea Bowman Committee, which is tasked to promote the values of diversity and inclusion on campus.

Law Professor Regina Jefferson, chair of the Bowman Committee, said, "We hope that Sister Thea Bowman Drive will serve not only as a visible tribute to Sr. Thea, but also as a constant reminder to each of us to 'light a candle' and work together to make positive and meaningful change in our lives, our communities, and the world."

— S.G.



## Dominican Father Aquinas Guilbeau Named Chaplain

Rev. Aquinas Guilbeau, O.P., is the new chaplain and director of Campus Ministry. He taught theology at the Dominican House of Studies and served as prior for the community until coming to the University in July.

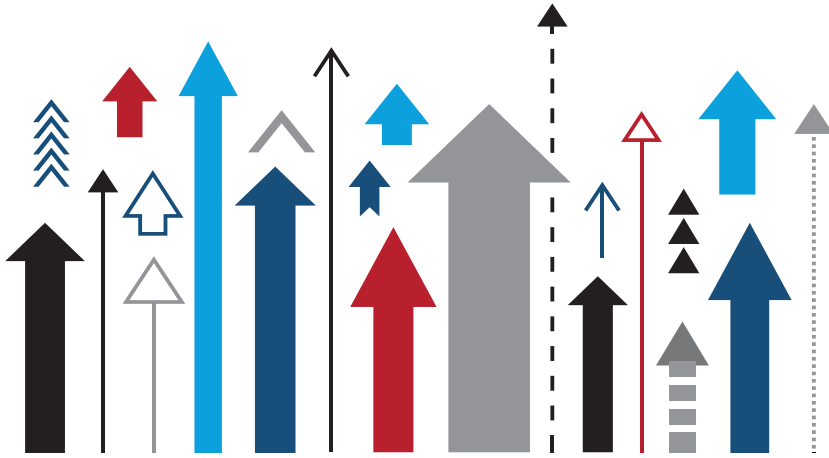
"I've long admired Catholic University from across Michigan Avenue. The University's witness to truth and charity are impressive. I'm thrilled to participate in Catholic University's life and work."

A native of Louisiana, Father Guilbeau entered the Dominican Province of St. Joseph in 2005. He spent several years in pastoral work in New York City before undertaking doctoral studies in moral theology at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). His dissertation was on St. Thomas Aquinas's doctrine of the common good. In addition to teaching, Father Guilbeau serves as senior editor of *Aletheia.org* (English edition).

"The other Dominicans and I look forward to carrying on the Campus Ministry program handed on to us by the Franciscans. They laid a strong foundation of charity and service for us to build on. Today's world presents a number of challenges to university campuses, and we hope to engage them all with the truth and love of Jesus Christ."

He and four additional priests from the St. Joseph Province and the St. John Society will work closely with the University's campus ministers and student ministers to provide sacramental and pastoral care and help students grow in their faith.

— S.G.



## Graduate Programs Rise in National Ranking

Catholic University’s social work and law programs climbed in the 2023 *U.S. News & World Report* graduate school rankings released this year.

The M.S.W. program at the National Catholic School of Social Services broke into the top 20% of programs nationally, rising 15 places to 62 since the last ratings in 2020. The Columbus School of Law continued its rise, this year moving into the top 100 law schools, with a 94 ranking.

Rankings were determined by statistical surveys of more than 2,150 programs and from reputation surveys sent to more than 23,400 academics and professionals.

## Exploring Ethics of AI and Military

Ethical concerns surrounding the use of novel artificial intelligence in military settings are gaining attention as technology companies vie to work with the U.S. military on applications.

Catholic University, with support from Leidos (a defense and information technology research company based in Reston, Va.), convened scholars and practitioners from multiple disciplines for a virtual conference to explore the ethics of human-machine interactions for military use. “Virtue in the Loop: Designing Ethical Military AI Systems” was held April 5, 2022.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a type of computational technology that can “learn” from data sets to detect patterns, such as an app that makes personalized recommendations based on past purchasing choices.

Presenters tackled the ethics of military uses, the problems AI presents from a virtue ethics standpoint, the role of ethics in U.S. military technology development, and integrating ethics into technology design.

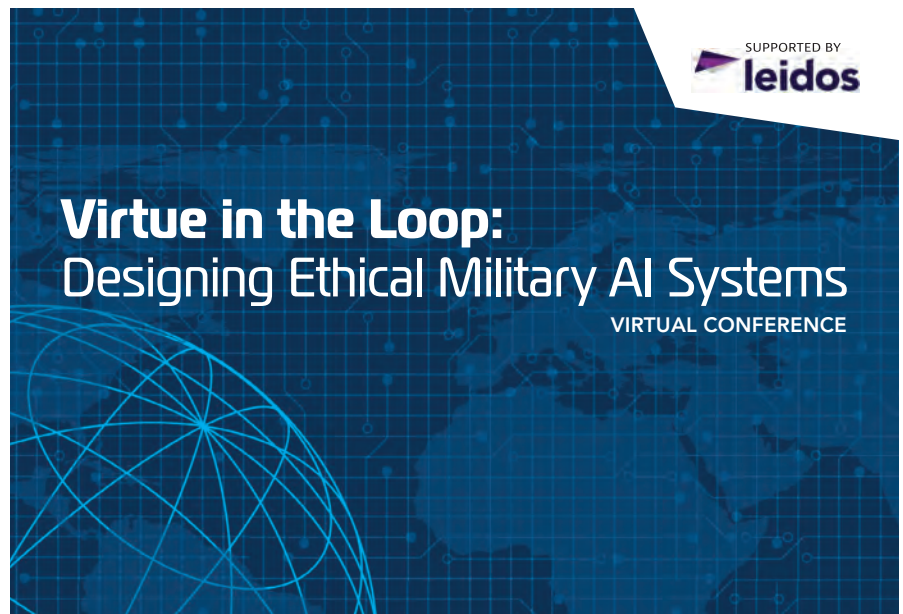
Ron Keesing, a vice president at Leidos, proposed asking “whether we can make AI systems ... that can lead to more virtuous outcomes.” Jonathan Askonas, Catholic University professor of politics, argued that ethical AI systems should be assessed in the context of “human-machine teaming,” putting AI systems at the service of human judgment and maintaining service members’ ability to intervene when systems fail.

A drone operator’s separation from the emotional pressures of the battlefield, combined with the camera-enhanced ability to see the enemy’s face, may actually enhance moral decision-making, Nigel Biggar, professor at the University of Oxford, argued.

Presenters emphasized the importance of an interdisciplinary approach with users, designers, and scholars. This will help “make the system fit the human” who will know “when to trust and rely on AI and when not to,” said Mary Magee Quinn, senior life scientist at Leidos.

Keesing identified the present time as an “inflection point” when the U.S. has the opportunity and obligation to set the standard for ethical military AI on the global stage.

— S.G.



# Garvey Hall Opens this Fall

The University's new dining commons has been named Garvey Hall in honor of former University President John Garvey and his wife, Jeanne Garvey.

The name was unveiled during the second annual 1887 Society Weekend on June 4, 2022, and was the suggestion of an anonymous donor who generously gave \$8 million toward construction. One-third of the building is being funded through private gifts.

The new building, just south of Centennial Village, alleviates space pressures for student dining, which is currently housed in the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center.

The Center for Academic and Career Success (CACS) also is moving to Garvey Hall. CACS, which provides support for students and alumni to achieve academic and career goals, will be more accessible to students. CACS will also gain space for advising and coaching and expanded live, virtual, and hybrid programming.

"Jeanne and I are honored to have this new dining commons named for us," said Garvey. "Even more, we are grateful that our students will soon have a beautiful place where they can eat their meals together, and an academic and career space proportioned to the size of their ambitions."

## Byron Dining Room

Of four dining areas that accommodate 490 diners, the largest is named in honor of former University President William Byron, S.J., who served from 1982 to 1992.

Van Smith, a University trustee during Father Byron's term; his son, Victor Smith, J.D. 1996, chairman of the University's Board of Trustees; and his daughter, Susan Smith Newell, J.D. 1993, M.A. 1994, a member of the Columbus School of Law's Alumni Council and former member of its Board of Visitors, donated \$1.2 million for the dining commons and wished to honor Father Byron's role at Catholic University.

In addition to indoor dining, Garvey Hall has two outdoor dining areas overlooking University Lawn to the south and one, with a stone fireplace, that faces north.

## Honoring Jeanne Garvey

The suite where the CACS is located is named for Jeanne Garvey through a gift of Tim Scheve, B.A. 1980, donor and trustee emeritus, in recognition of the positive impact Mrs. Garvey has had on University students and of her own accomplishments. She holds graduate degrees from Harvard University and Stanford University and has held several positions in higher education, including director of career services for the Boston College M.B.A. program. — S.G.



Rendering of Garvey Hall, the new 35,000-square-foot dining commons under construction. The building, which also will house the Center for Academic and Career Success, has been named after former President John Garvey and his wife, Jeanne, and will open in fall 2022.

Rui Barros



The new dining commons, opening in fall 2022, was named Garvey Hall in honor of outgoing President John Garvey and his wife, Jeanne Garvey. At the June 4 announcement: Judi Biggs Garbuio, vice president for student affairs; Maddy Naleski, senior; John and Jeanne Garvey; and Huey Bodger, senior.



# A Passion for Catholic Education

## Sister Mary Agnes Greiffendorf, O.P.

The Institute for the Transformation of Catholic Education (ITCE) at Catholic University promotes the renewal and transformation of the nation's PK–12 (pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade) Catholic schools. It was established in fall 2021, with Sister Mary Agnes Greiffendorf, O.P., Ph.D. 2021, as director. She has devoted her career to Catholic education in numerous teaching and administrative positions in elementary and secondary schools, and in higher education. She served on the Board of Directors for the National Catholic Educational Association from 2016 to 2022, and is currently a consultant to the Committee on Catholic Education of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### When did you know you were called to religious life?

I had a profound moment in high school. In a religion class, we watched a video about Mother Teresa. I was so moved by her single-hearted devotion to Jesus Christ that I went home and told my family that I, too, felt called to Christ. After much prayer and discernment, I visited the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia from Nashville, a religious congregation that has engaged in the apostolate of Catholic education for more than 160 years, and I knew it was home — I had found my vocation.

### Why is Catholic University the best place for the Institute, and what excites you about being its first director?

There is a deep and rich heritage of service to Catholic education at this University. Some of the greatest thought leaders in Catholic education have served, and currently serve, on the faculty. Being here gives us the best opportunity to be a unifying force in Catholic education because we are the national university of the Church in America.

I completed my Ph.D. in Catholic Educational Leadership through the University's Education Department in 2021. I experienced firsthand the quality and gift of an education degree at Catholic University. I have been blessed to attend Catholic schools from kindergarten through graduate school, and served Catholic education at all levels, from teaching second grade to

being president of a college [Aquinas College in Nashville]. I have been so deeply moved and edified by the people I encountered along the way — the children, parents, staff, and teachers. It has been a tremendous gift to experience the gift of Catholic education and now to share in that great work.

### In the Executive Briefings of the Catholic Education Salons [that were hosted by Catholic University in 2020 and 2021], you stated, “We need Catholic schools more than ever.”

#### Can you tell us why?

As we look around at American culture in particular and at the state of the world in general, we see a lot of unease and division. Catholic education is a force not just for renewal in the Church, but for cultural and societal renewal as well. Catholic education shows young people a complete vision of the human person, to fully flourish as God has made them to be in this life and in the next. The antidote to today's fractured society is the formation of the next generation in truth and goodness and beauty.

### What are your thoughts on increasing enrollment in Catholic schools?

If I was going to design a recruitment poster, I would borrow from the Army and it would say “Be all you can be!” We provide education that is dedicated to the full flourishing of the human person, that is faithful, unconditionally Catholic and intellectually rigorous. If we are doing what we are supposed to do, the byproduct of that is increased enrollment.

### Now that we know about your passion for Catholic school education, tell us about your hobbies.

I absolutely love experiencing the beauty of nature, especially taking walks. I usually have a stack of books that I'm reading and appreciate the contemplative nature of study. I really appreciate a good cup of coffee and love to bake — the best part is sharing these treats with others — any opportunity to bring joy and light into someone's day is a gift.

— E.N.W.

## Research Day: Back in Person

The first university Research Day held in person since 2019 was a resounding success, based on the crowds at the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center and at presentations held across campus throughout the April 7, 2022, event.

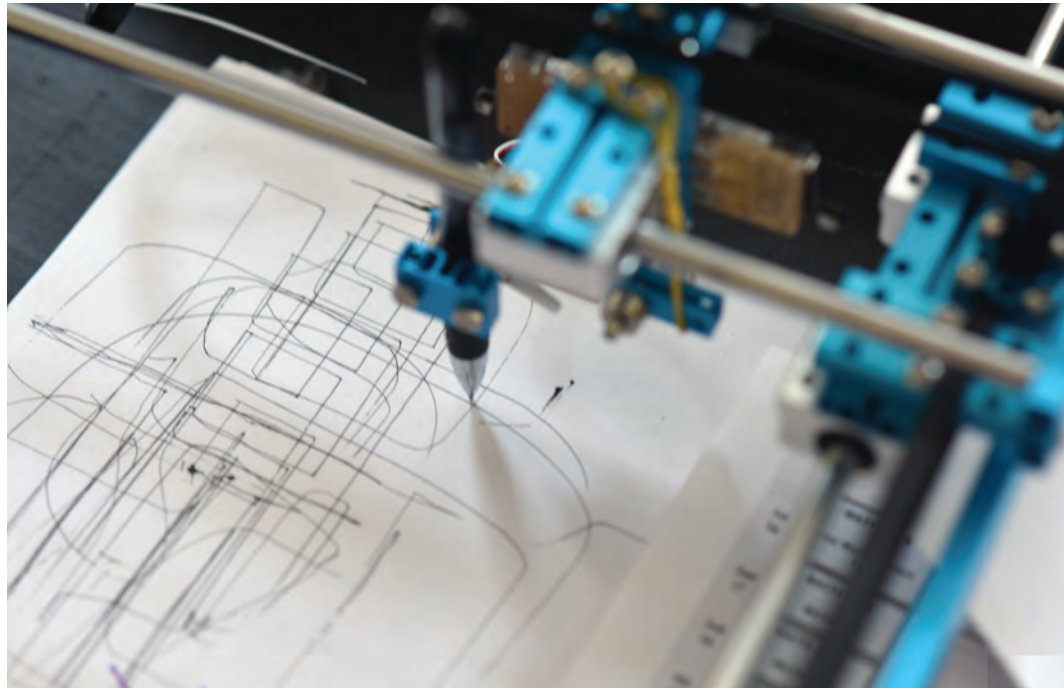
With 184 presentations of current research to choose from, plus live performances from students from the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art, and six food trucks, there was a lot to see.

Provost Aaron Dominguez opened the day. Huei Bui, assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science, and principal investigator of the Advanced Computing Laboratory, demystified DNA computing in his keynote presentation, “Progress in Bringing DNA Computers to Life.”

Awards were given to the best poster and best oral presentation by undergraduates, master’s candidates, and doctoral candidates. The poster winners were Joel Kreuzwieser, physics; Grace Polistina, psychology; and Rebecca LaCosta, psychology. The oral presentation winners were Luke Neely, architecture; Timothy Manion, law; and Stela Ishitani Silva, physics. The winning entries are online at [research.catholic.edu](https://research.catholic.edu). — S.G.

## AROUND CATHOLIC

Research



Photos by Rui Barros



## STEM Grant Encourages Equity

Catholic University’s School of Engineering has been awarded a \$750,000, three-year grant from the Office of Naval Research (ONR) to encourage equity in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education through programs for high school students from underrepresented groups. These include racial and ethnic minorities, students from low-income families, and women and girls.

Grant funds will support programs at Catholic University for 2,500 students from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. The Research and Innovative STEM Education (RAISE) program also is funding successful basic and applied research in support of the ONR.

“We are very pleased to have earned this grant, which is aligned with implementation of the Sister Thea Bowman Committee recommendation to provide funding to support faculty research and teaching on topics pertinent to the work of the Committee,” said Mel Williams, associate dean of engineering and special assistant to the president for diversity. The Bowman Committee was formed to address and strengthen diversity at Catholic University.

Jason Davison, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering and principal investigator for the RAISE initiative, said the grant will support research on wireless power transfer and additive manufacturing, plus scholarships to a week-long summer immersion program held annually by the School of Engineering, and two types of evening educational programs for high school students.

Single-session evening programs that start this fall include hands-on tutorials using 3D printers, and working with engineering faculty, graduates, and local professionals. Four-week, four-session cyber security workshops will engage high school participants in programming. — S.G.

## Partnering to Transform PK-12 Catholic Education

In the hope of encouraging others to support a vital new interdisciplinary initiative, Frank Hanna has provided a seven-figure lead gift to the University's Institute for the Transformation of Catholic Education (ITCE).

The ITCE was founded in October 2021 to serve PK-12 Catholic schools across the country, and developing a national accreditation program is its first priority. Accreditation is a quality assurance process through which a school works with an external body to help measure that school's effectiveness in fulfilling its mission. Currently, there is no national accreditation structure created specifically for Catholic schools.

"We wanted this accreditation initiative to be our lead project because it encompasses everything in the life of the school," said Sister Mary Agnes Greiffendorf, O.P., Ph.D. 2021, ITCE director. "So when you look at the single most transformative thing you can do for a school, that touches on all aspects of its operations, of the way it lives its mission, of the qualification of its teachers, or the quality of its leadership, it's all under the accreditation umbrella."

Enter Frank Hanna, University trustee and strong advocate of the importance of Catholic education. He has helped to co-found 13 new Catholic schools and educational institutions over the past 30 years, including the University's Busch School of Business.

"From an early age I have been interested in how society might be improved, whether through corporal works for one another, civic engagement, or education," Hanna said. "As a Catholic, I believe our faith informs us about the reality of the world. And if I believe that about our Catholic faith, then the most authentic education possible is that which is infused with the Catholic understanding of reality."

Thanks to Hanna's commitment, the ITCE has made great progress in less than a year. After a nationwide search for educational leaders, work began on the accreditation program in July. — K.H.B.



Former President John Garvey, left front; Dr. William Ayers, Institute for Technology in Health Care board president; and Scott Rembold, vice president for University Advancement, are joined by Conway School of Nursing and Catholic University faculty and staff for the signing of the gift agreement between ITHC and the University.

## The Institute for Technology in Health Care Funds the Cesar A. Caceres Simulation Center

A \$5 million gift to the Conway School of Nursing (CSON) was awarded from the Institute for Technology in Health Care (ITHC), a not-for-profit institute which supports organizations that develop technology in healthcare, HIV treatment, and clinical engineering. In honor of ITHC's founder, Dr. Cesar Caceres, the institute will establish the Cesar A. Caceres Simulation Center in the University's new nursing and sciences building. This gift will help CSON faculty prepare students for many scenarios they will face during their nursing careers.

"We realized how the mission of the nursing school in areas of simulation education really fit our mission," Dr. William Ayers, president of the ITHC board stated. So he reached out to Dean Emerita Patricia McMullen, who "immediately saw the overlap."

An initial, smaller, thrice-renewed ITHC grant provides equipment to help students learn to conduct telehealth visits and enables faculty to teach more students the ins and outs of telehealth.

"With online students, it's not physically or financially possible to perform [site visits] in person. People were starting to use video conferencing, and I thought it was a great idea," said Jeanne Moore, director of the graduate-level family nurse practitioner program. "Then the pandemic hit, and video healthcare visits became commonplace."

The new center will alter the quality of the experience Catholic University can provide its students. "It will allow us to construct not just a cutting-edge simulation center, but one that will serve to educate nurses and other healthcare providers for many years," McMullen said. — A.K.

To learn more about Dr. Caceres and the ITHC gift to the Conway School of Nursing, visit [engage.catholic.edu/caceres](https://engage.catholic.edu/caceres).





# Endowed Chair Kevin Walsh

Kevin Walsh, Knights of Columbus Professor of Law and the Catholic Tradition and the co-director of the Project on Constitutional Originalism and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (CIT), has had some impressive accomplishments in his legal and academic careers. He clerked for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and Judge Paul V. Niemeyer of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He's been a full-time faculty member at the University of Richmond School of Law, and he holds degrees from Harvard Law School, the University of Notre Dame, and Dartmouth College.

Walsh's recent appointment as the Knights of Columbus Professor of Law and the Catholic Tradition and the co-director of the Project on Constitutional Originalism and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition (CIT) have him excited about new possibilities he has always wanted to explore. "To integrate the study and the profession of law with the Catholic intellectual tradition is an opportunity of a lifetime," Walsh said.

Thanks to \$8.25 million in start-up funding for CIT and an endowment to fund his faculty chair, Walsh not only will teach subjects like constitutional law, he'll also work with faculty and students to dive into a subject that has long fascinated him.

"We aim to be the center of the conversation about the moral foundations of American constitutionalism," said Walsh. "In addition to focusing on law, it's part of my responsibility to integrate the perspectives of the Catholic intellectual tradition as part of teaching and scholarship."

This chair is the 12th to be established through *Light the Way: The Campaign for Catholic University*. Leonard Leo, a University trustee, directed a gift to establish the chair in partnership with the Knights of Columbus.

"Professor Walsh is among the most distinguished and rigorous originalist scholars in the country. I am certain his future work on the Constitution and the Catholic intellectual tradition at the Catholic University's law school will be quite impactful," Leo said.

"There is no better lens through which to develop a full respect of human dignity or to foster true human flourishing than the Catholic intellectual tradition, which provides a rich framework to understand the foundations of human civilization itself," said Patrick Kelly, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus. "With his impressive credentials and his passion for this work, I am confident that Kevin Walsh will add much to the Columbus School of Law and constitutional scholarship as a whole."

Walsh will work on projects that include fellowships and classes open to a range of students. "I'll be teaching a two-credit seminar called Law in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition that will be open to law students, but also to other students at the University. It's rewarding to teach and to have the perspective of people who are coming at it fresh."

"An endowed chair allows us to attract top scholars like Kevin Walsh," said Stephen Payne, dean of the Columbus School of Law. "Our students will be able to work alongside and grow with Kevin, an opportunity they might not have had without the chair."

For Walsh, the opportunity means both receiving and giving back. "I view this as a chance to go further down a road not taken in my formal education, and to then have it as part of my responsibility to teach the next generation of lawyers." — E.T.

## AROUND CATHOLIC

Advancement News

### Lighting the Way for Our Faculty

When the University launched its first comprehensive campaign in 2019, one of the primary goals was to sustain the excellence of our faculty through an increased commitment to scholarship, research, training, and engagement.

Thanks to the generous support of our community for Light the Way: The Campaign for Catholic University, we have surpassed our goal of establishing 12 new endowed chairs to attract and retain outstanding scholars from all disciplines.

These new endowed faculty chairs include:

- The Ascension Endowed Chairs in Acute Care Geriatric Nursing (2)
- Aaron and Alisa Barkatt Endowed Professorship of Environmental Chemistry Fund in the Department of Chemistry
- The Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary Endowed Professorship
- Dr. Louis Corvese Endowed Chair in Chemistry
- Dr. Louis Corvese Endowed Chair in Physics
- Centesimus Annus Della Ratta Family Chair
- Galasso Family Endowed Chair in Physics
- Mrs. Grace P. Hobelman Endowed Chair in Catholic Moral Theology
- The Knights of Columbus Endowed Professor of Law and the Catholic Tradition
- The Bishop Basil H. Losten Endowed Professor and Chair in Ukrainian Theology
- Nelson H. Minnich Endowed Chair in Early Modern Church History
- The James H. and Mary F. Moran Endowed Professorship in the Origins of Church Teachings

Endowed professorships are valuable on many levels. Not only do they attract and retain top scholars, but they help to support research. Endowing a chair also means that the position is funded in perpetuity, enabling a continuity of study.

"The value of these positions goes beyond the money invested in them," said Provost Aaron Dominguez. "The returns are made permanent by the spreading of knowledge and the enabling of discovery, which in turn attract both more students to the University, as well as other stellar faculty."

## AROUND CATHOLIC

Campaign News

### Second Annual 1887 Society Weekend Celebrates Donors, Garveys

From June 3 to June 5, Catholic University hosted the second annual 1887 Society Weekend. Over the course of three days, 202 members of the University community gained exclusive access to cultural sites and thought leaders throughout Washington, D.C. This special experience displayed the impact of the 1887 Society on the University and fostered a tighter sense of community among the University's leadership annual donors.

Nearly half of the annual revenue for The Fund for Catholic University is contributed by leadership annual donors — 1887 Society members. Thanks to their consistent generosity, the University has the funds needed to drive its mission forward, enhance the student experience, and respond to unforeseen emergencies and opportunities.

"People who give to the 1887 Society aren't doing a job, fulfilling duty, pursuing a goal, seeking a prize," said former University President John Garvey. "The appreciation we express for their actions is not praise but thanks. They have helped our institution and our students."

The weekend included a reception at the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See to the United States, also known as the Vatican Embassy; breakfast with University leaders at the historic Mayflower Hotel; and three options for excursions, including a tour and batting practice at Nationals Park, a discussion about the history of debate at Planet Word, or a fireside chat between Garvey and Samuel A. Alito Jr., associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, at the National Law Enforcement Officers Museum.

On Saturday evening, the group was the first to learn the name of the new dining commons, which will now be known as Garvey Hall in honor of Garvey and his wife, Jeanne Garvey. That was followed by a dinner honoring the Garveys and their legacy at Catholic University.

The event closed with a Pentecost Mass celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, University chancellor and archbishop of Washington, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, followed by brunch on Sunday morning.

— K.H.B.

To learn more about this special event and the 1887 Society, please visit [engage.catholic.edu/1887weekend-2022](https://engage.catholic.edu/1887weekend-2022).



At the Vatican Embassy, guests were welcomed by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio.



At Saturday's breakfast panel, Scott Rembold, vice president for University Advancement, moderated a discussion between Karna Lozoya, vice president for University Communications; Mark Ciolli, dean of undergraduate admission; and Mary Ellen Mahoney, dean of graduate admission.



On Saturday afternoon, President Garvey chatted with Samuel A. Alito Jr., associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, about his career.



Cardinal Gregory, University chancellor and archbishop of Washington, celebrated a Pentecost Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.



At Saturday's dinner, several members of the community toasted the Garveys' impact at Catholic University, including Gerry Mitchell, a member of the University's Board of Trustees; Andrew Abela, dean of the Busch School of Business; and Tony Crnkovich, a rising senior in the Class of 2023 and the new Student Government Association president.



An excursion group traveled to Planet Word, one of Washington, D.C.'s newest museums that explores the world of language.



At Nationals Park, Patrick Dwyer, B.S.B.A. 2007, senior director of relationship management for University Advancement and former student-athlete on the Catholic University basketball team (not pictured), led a discussion on the professionalization of collegiate athletics. Attendees heard a wide variety of perspectives, including those of Frank Coonelly, J.D. 1986, former president of the Pittsburgh Pirates; John Minadakis, president of Jimmy's Famous Seafood and sponsor of name, image, and likeness (NIL) deals for student-athletes; Julian Reese, forward for the University of Maryland men's basketball team; Faith Masonius, guard for the University of Maryland women's basketball team; and Mark Turgeon, Parent '22, former men's basketball head coach for the University of Maryland.

# LIGHT | THE | WAY

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

## Campaign Progress to Date: \$455.1M

(as of August 31, 2022)

In October 2021, we surpassed our initial \$400 million goal for Light the Way: The Campaign for Catholic University six months early. We then set a larger goal — \$500 million — and extended the deadline until 2023 in order to ensure we address emerging priorities across campus.

### Campaign Pillar Progress to Date

#### Academic Environment:

**\$149.4M** **100.9%**  
Goal: \$148M

We have expanded our academic spaces, including the renovation of Maloney Hall as the new home of the Busch School of Business; enhanced laboratory and classroom spaces; and broken ground on the new nursing and sciences building.

#### Faculty Excellence:

**\$105.3M** **87.8%**  
Goal: \$120M

We increased externally funded research and graduate student support and added 13 new endowed professorships.

#### Student Success:

**\$111.8M** **101.6%**  
Goal: \$110M

We provided scholarship assistance for current and future undergraduate students and enhanced our athletics, student life, and dining facilities.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this historic moment in Catholic University history! Visit [engage.catholic.edu](https://engage.catholic.edu) to learn more about the Campaign and add your light before it comes to a close next year.

## Fall 2022 Preview

Cheer on the Cards as they look to dominate in a competitive Fall 2022 season. Don't miss these key home matchups:

**Saturday, Oct. 1**

Volleyball vs. Drew — 11 a.m.  
Volleyball vs. Susquehanna — 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 15**

25 years of lacrosse celebration

**Monday, Oct. 17 (Senior Day)**

Volleyball vs. McDaniel — 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 22 (Cardinal Weekend)**

Football vs. Merchant Marine — 1 p.m.  
Field Hockey vs. Moravian — 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 29**

Swimming and Diving vs. Scranton — 1 p.m.

**Tuesday, Nov. 8 (season openers)**

Women's Basketball vs. Dickinson — 5 p.m.  
Men's Basketball vs. Stevenson — 7 p.m.

All Fall 2022 matchups and gameday information available at [www.catholicathletics.com](http://www.catholicathletics.com).



Courtesy of the Diocese of Arlington



## Pope's Cup

The Catholic University Cardinals triumphed over the Marymount University Saints to receive the first-ever Pope's Cup, a new annual award celebrating the rivalry between these Division III rivals.

Most Reverend Michael Burbidge, bishop of the Diocese of Arlington, gave the goblet to Catholic University Athletics Director Sean Sullivan at a ceremony in May.

Each sport in which both universities sponsor a team is worth one point. The university with more victories against the other in these sports in a given year is the winner of the cup. Teams are not required to compete against each other in every sport.

This past year, the Cardinals won 8.5 points to the Saints' 2.5 points. The half point was granted because the women's softball teams' series were split.

"I am delighted to see our two great area Catholic universities, Marymount University and The Catholic University of America, engaged in this activity," said Bishop Burbidge, who serves on Catholic University's board of trustees and leads the diocese in which Marymount is located. "The Pope's Cup celebrates the fine athletic traditions of these wonderful educational institutions and will be a welcome annual competition."

The Cardinals and Saints used to regularly compete against each other in the Capital Athletic Conference, but each later joined separate leagues. Marymount president Irma Becerra said, "The Pope's Cup provides a great opportunity for the two of us to build a new athletic tradition."

Catholic University and Marymount University are the only Division III Catholic institutions in the Washington metropolitan region. — M.B.

Portions of the content based on a story from the Arlington Catholic Herald at [www.catholicherald.com](http://www.catholicherald.com).

# Cardinal Athletics Year In Review

**Four conference champions. Ten teams represented in national championships. Inaugural Pope's Cup winner.**

The 2021–22 athletic year was one of the best in the history of Catholic University. During the 2014–15 academic year, Catholic had eight teams advance to national championships and six win Landmark Conference titles.

This year was one of repeat champions in the Landmark Conference as women's lacrosse won their eighth straight and 13 out of 14, while men's swimming & diving collected its sixth in a row. Men's soccer and men's lacrosse also went back-to-back.

While men's soccer, men's lacrosse, and women's lacrosse advanced to their respective NCAA championships, another seven teams were also represented in the postseason nationally. Men's cross country junior John O'Rourke and women's cross country senior Paige Wilderotter qualified as individuals for the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships.

An All-Landmark Conference and All-South Region selection in 2021, O'Rourke earned an all-region bid to the NCAA championships. The fourth Cardinal to earn all-region honors and the first since 2003, he is one of only two Cardinals to qualify for the national championship. He finished 96th in time of 24:49.6, setting a new school record.

Wilderotter, who also earned All-Landmark Conference and All-South Region honors, finished ninth at the NCAA Division III South Regional Championships, the highest for a Cardinal since 1984. She became the fifth woman in program history to qualify for the NCAA championships, and the first since 2007

As in the fall, Catholic had one team and two individuals qualify for their respective NCAA championships in the winter. Women's basketball was one of three teams to receive a bid from the Landmark Conference, the most of any league in Division III. The Cardinals have appeared in five of the last 10 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship tournaments.

Individually, men's swimming sophomore Nathan Ober became the 16th individual Cardinal to qualify for the national championship meet, and the first since 2018. He qualified in the 100 yard breaststroke and went on to finish 14th to earn All-America honors, becoming the fifth Cardinal to do so, and the first since 1996

Freshman Christian Di Nicolantonio was selected to compete in the 2022 NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships. The first Cardinal to compete indoors since 2004, he qualified by breaking a 41-year-old school record in the pole vault. The only first-year student among the 20 competitors at the national championships, he finished tenth

In the spring, men's and women's lacrosse swept both titles for the second consecutive season. In two seasons under head coach Jon Sax, men's lacrosse has posted a 21-6 record with a perfect 13-0 mark in the Landmark Conference. They have appeared in five of the last seven conference title games, winning four. Meanwhile, the women extended their Landmark Conference win streak to 51 games dating back to the 2014 season, and made their 13th appearance in the NCAA

Division III Women's Lacrosse Championship.

In just their fourth season of competition, the men's rowing team was nationally ranked for the first time, coming in at No. 12 in the Intercollegiate Rowing Association (IRA) Poll. The varsity four was one of 29 teams accepted to participate in the 2022 IRA National Championship, which is the oldest college rowing championship in the United States.

To cap off a stellar year athletically, the baseball team finished the season with a program record 34 wins, its first regional title, first Super Regional title and first appearance in the NCAA Division III World Series. The team was ranked at No. 10 in the final 2022 D3baseball.com Top 25 Poll and at No. 13 in the final Collegiate Baseball/ABCBA Poll.

As a result, Catholic University finished 68th in the final 2021–22 Division III LEARFIELD Directors' Cup standings, recording its second-highest finish in the 27-year history of the award, finishing in the top 15 percent of 443 Division III schools. The Directors' Cup is awarded for the most successful overall athletic program in each division of collegiate sports.

Also of note, the football team posted a record of 6-4, including a mark of 4-2 in the NEWMAC. The team's six overall wins were the most for the program since 2013, while it won four conference games for the first time since 2008

Men's track and field posted its best-ever finish at the Landmark Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships, and had its 4x400-meter relay team qualify for the Eastern final at the prestigious Penn Relays. In addition, both the men's and women's indoor track and field teams achieved their highest-ever regional ranking.

Not to be overlooked was the University's success in the classroom as well. The Cardinals had nine teams honored by their respective coaching organizations for their overall team grade-point average, and 277 student-athletes received conference academic honors, including six Landmark Conference Senior Scholar-Athlete of the Year winners.

The department also raised over \$36,000 for Special Olympics DC through the Polar Plunge, and \$313,000 for the Cardinal Athletics Giving Challenge. — J.E.

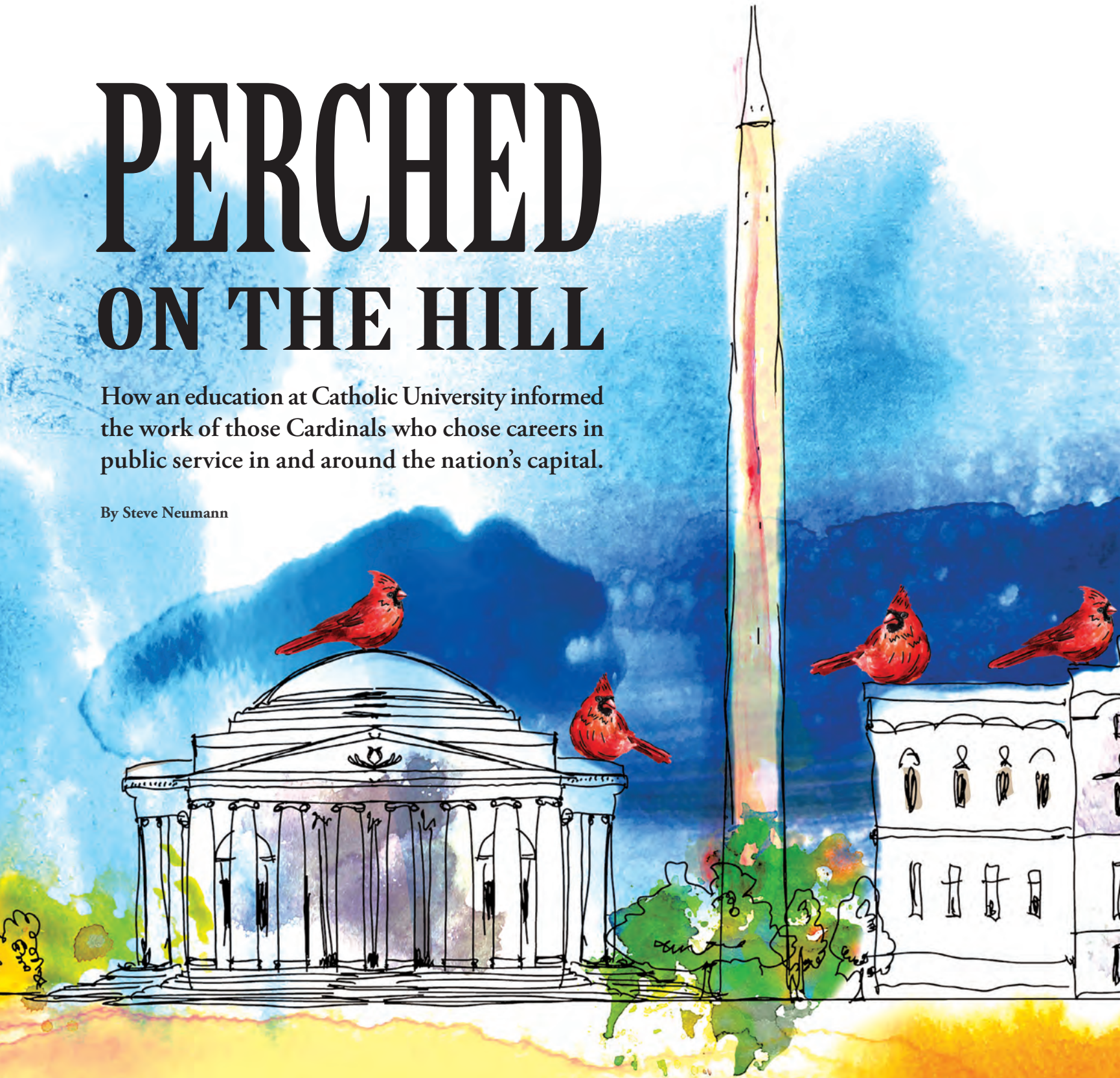
Cardinals won the Super Regionals and advanced to the Division III World Series in June.



# PERCHED ON THE HILL

How an education at Catholic University informed the work of those Cardinals who chose careers in public service in and around the nation's capital.

By Steve Neumann





**A**s the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States, Catholic University has been dedicated to advancing the dialogue between faith and reason for over 135 years. It recognizes that its distinctive character, and the success of its mission, ultimately depends on both the intellectual and moral qualities of its graduates. Catholic University alumni are professionally competent, and also prepared to contribute to the moral fabric of any organization or community they belong to.

The University's presence in the nation's capital makes it ideally situated to produce students who are not only challenged in the classroom but are able to apply what they learn through internships, campus activities, and general immersion in the political and cultural life of Washington, D.C.

While many Cardinals who have been steeped in this setting have gone on to establish themselves with professional competence and principled character throughout the nation, a significant contingent have dedicated themselves to public service in and around the nation's capital.



Hannah Chauvin

## Cardinals Fledged

One of those alumni is Hannah Chauvin, M.A. 2017, a professional staff member on the Senate Appropriations Committee since 2019. Chauvin began her career in the Capitol as an intern in the Office of Senator Patric Leahy from her home state of Vermont in 2016.

"I work for the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies subcommittee, and I love it," Chauvin said. "It's very bipartisan, because I think everyone agrees that farmers are important — with no farms, there's no food. And that is kind of a haven in a world that is becoming increasingly politicized."

Chauvin has an affinity for the agriculture committee because she grew up surrounded by small family farms in rural Vermont. And, raised Catholic, Chauvin started attending Catholic schools in fourth grade.

"When it came to Catholic high school, it was the range of courses I would have access to starting in freshman year, including religion and philosophy, that appealed to me," Chauvin said. "It really felt like a very well-rounded approach."

Chauvin was introduced to Catholic University while completing her undergraduate degree in American government and politics at Stonehill College. While there, the chair of the Department of Political Science and International Studies, Peter Ubertaccio, B.A. 1994, worked with politics professor John White at Catholic University to create a program that allowed seniors at Stonehill to spend the fall of their senior year on the Stonehill campus while completing their master's at Catholic University during the spring semester.

In January of 2016, Chauvin did just that: she moved to Washington, D.C., began her master's in international and public affairs at Catholic University, and started interning full-time in Senator Leahy's office.

"Catholic jumpstarted my career, and I wouldn't be in D.C. without it," Chauvin said. "I loved it for the same reasons I had chosen Catholic high school, which was that it's rooted in both faith and reason, and walking the line between those two in public service."

Another alumna walking that line in the Capitol is Jacqui Kappler, J.D. 2012, oversight counsel on the House Judiciary Committee. Kappler, who received her bachelor's degree in political science from Albright College in 2008, began her career on the Hill as deputy chief of staff and legislative director for Congressman Hank Johnson of Georgia in 2018 before moving to the House Judiciary Committee in 2021.

"When you're working for a personal office, it's very member-driven," Kappler said. "What does the member want and how do we get that done for them? But when you're working for a committee, there's also the question of how to get the best outcome for society in general."

One of the courses that had a particularly meaningful impact on Kappler while completing her J.D. at the Columbus School of Law was Social Justice and the Law, taught by law professor Robert Destro.

"I admit being skeptical, because the whole point of the law is not to be influenced by religion — it's supposed to exist on its own," Kappler said.





Jacqui Kappler

“Instead, I thought it was fascinating because, though I remember disagreeing with the professor on the application, I really appreciated the spirit of the issue, because the law doesn’t actually exist in a sterile bubble.”

Additionally, Kappler says her time at Catholic University in general helped her think about how the law and the people are intertwined at all times.

“We were encouraged to think about the law’s effect on people, and this social justice element was an undercurrent to my entire experience at Catholic,” Kappler added. “And I think that has made me not just a better lawyer, but a more thoughtful lawyer, especially as I think about policy.”

**M**ary Kate Cunningham, B.A. 2009, is another alumna with an affinity for public service, and how policy affects both individuals and society.

As senior vice president of public policy for the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), Cunningham leads the government relations team as the chief advocate for ASAE’s 45,000 members before Congress and other relevant policy stakeholders.

“The lessons I learned about equity and justice at Catholic really helped motivate me in my advocacy life,” Cunningham said.

Cunningham comes by her moral commitments honestly. Both her parents were involved in public service, with her mother running the Women’s and Children’s Division of the Arizona Department of Health Services, and her father working as an environmental lawyer and federal prosecutor. Cunningham felt she was almost destined to pursue a career in public service, and she knew Catholic University would provide a great foundation.

In addition to its emphasis on service, another reason Cunningham chose Catholic University is its proximity to the Hill, because it enabled her to intern there starting in her sophomore year.

“That’s the only reason I was able to graduate from Catholic on a Saturday



Mary Kate Cunningham

and start a full-time job on that Monday,” Cunningham said. “Those internships were the most important thing in my career.”

When Cunningham left the Hill, she went to work for a think tank, but soon realized that kind of work wasn’t for her.

“I really wanted to work with people and try to get legislation passed, so I moved over to ASAE,” she said. “I was actually hired by another Catholic alum, Robert Hay, B.A. 2004, M.A. 2005, and that was 10 years ago now.”

The two biggest policy issues Cunningham is working on right now at ASAE are centered on workforce development and the need for pandemic risk insurance.

“For workforce development, associations are the largest provider of post-secondary education for all areas of the workforce,” Cunningham said. “We have one bill to expand 529 savings accounts to enable them to be used for certifications — and that’s a bipartisan bill that we’re really hoping to get passed soon.”

For pandemic risk insurance, Cunningham and ASAE are looking to create a program modeled after the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program that’s backed by the federal government for claims and that can be deployed in the next pandemic.

“I have the best job in D.C.,” Cunningham said. “I love advocating for associations, because they’re unique organizations that can serve a specific need, and they’re uniquely positioned to drive change.”

Though Thaddeus Green, M.A. 2016, doesn’t currently work on Capitol Hill, he’s certainly no stranger to it. Now the development officer for the Housing Authority of Prince George’s County, previously he worked as the Walter Reed Development Manager for the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development.

Green got his start in government work through a bit of serendipity. When he finished his undergraduate degree at Lamar University in 2011, he taught journalism for a year, but didn’t really like being in a classroom, even though he liked working with students. But when he came to Washington,

D.C., from Texas in 2012 to visit a friend of his from high school, Caitlin McMullen, B.A. 2011, everything fell into place.

“I came to Catholic in 2012 and applied for an admissions counselor job,” Green said. “From there, I worked my way up to senior counselor and then to associate dean of undergraduate admissions.”

Green is proud of his work at Catholic University during that time. In 2015, his office took in the largest class that the University had seen since 2010, a significant accomplishment.

Also during that time, Green happened to audit a class called Politics and Planning, taught by School of Architecture and Planning professor Howard Ways.

“That was the class that made me decide that I wanted to be a planner,” Green said. “It was a really unique opportunity because while I was learning about creating equitable, walkable communities in the classroom, I was also seeing the outcomes while traveling and recruiting for the University.”

That experience inspired Green to get his Master of City and Regional Planning, which he completed in 2016. In another instance of serendipity, Green was introduced to Ryan Hand, M.C.R.P. 2010, another Catholic University alumnus, who was a community planner in the District of Columbia Office of Planning at the time.



Thaddeus Green

Hand convinced Green to apply for the Capital City Fellows Program, a mayoral initiative to attract recent graduates of master’s degree programs in public administration, public policy, urban planning, and related fields to work for the city of Washington, D.C. The fellowship was an 18-month rotation program between three different District agencies for six months each.

Green’s first rotation was with the Department of Transportation “I loved it,” Green said. “My second rotation was in the Department of General Services; and in both of those roles, I was still in the Office of the Director, which was really cool to be at a high level so young.”

After his stint in the Department of General Services, Green went on to the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

“I would not have gotten into the Mayoral fellowship program had it not been for my attending Catholic,” Green said, “and the fact that my professors were very adamant about us understanding the city in which we were learning.”

As important as those experiences were for Green, it was the University’s Politics and Planning class that inspired him the most, because it represented the intersection of the things he was passionate about and the things that he was actually good at.

“You have this unique set of skills,” Green said. “You can interpret data, you can read a map, you can understand designs, but can you make an informed decision about what’s going to do the least amount of harm and the most good?”

“That’s what drives me,” Green said. “Even when I’m not necessarily the decision maker on things, I can inform the decision makers to keep in mind what’s going to do the least amount of harm and the most amount of good.”

**D**uring his **Capital City Fellowship**, Green met and worked with Catholic University alumnus John Falcicchio, B.A. 2001, the deputy mayor for planning and development in the Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser in Washington, D.C.

Falcicchio has been drawn to politics ever since his first class trip to D.C. from his hometown of Jersey City, N.J. It also helped that, growing up, his father was politically active, always involved with various local political campaigns. Falcicchio says he and his brothers would frequently knock on doors and do literature drops with their father.

“I guess you could also say I’m part of the ‘West Wing’ generation — I saw it on TV and was swept away by it,” Falcicchio said. “And I was always in Catholic school, where service is a big component of what we do. I went to a Jesuit high school in Jersey City where we were taught to be ‘men for others.’”

During his time at Catholic University, Falcicchio took advantage of its location in the nation’s capital to do an internship every semester, even as just a volunteer. He worked in a congressperson’s office, a polling firm, think tank, and a lobbying group.



John Falcicchio


“I used my time at Catholic to get an understanding of the different aspects of politics and government,” Falcicchio said. “I always went to the Career Center to look through what was available, and I know at least two of those internships were because a Catholic student had done it before me and said, ‘Hey, you should give this a shot.’”

Falcicchio says he loves his job in the mayor’s office because of his fascination with urban politics, thanks in part to growing up a stone’s throw from Manhattan. Falcicchio also credits politics professor John Kromkowski for introducing him to Catholic thinkers like Geno Baroni, who is known for creating mixed-use communities that are now a model for how Falcicchio’s department seeks to deliver affordable housing, as well as vibrant neighborhoods in the District.

“His courses really did shape where I took my career,” Falcicchio said. “I think it drew me to local urban politics because you can see the impact you’re making. It is an opportunity to help people in real ways and actually see those outcomes.”

Because of his seminal experiences at Catholic University, Falcicchio feels it’s important to stay connected, whether that means coming back to speak to students in classrooms, or serving as a go-between when Mayor Bowser met with former President Garvey on various issues.

Additionally, Falcicchio says that while universities are major employers in the District, they’re also a pipeline of young people for employers in the District — a boon during extreme times like the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We feel like people come to Washington to change the world for the better, and Catholic University really helps us keep the economy going,” Falcicchio said. 



## Future Cardinals on the Hill

Recently, John Falcicchio has been working with Cheyenne Range, associate director of government and community relations at Catholic University, on a number of initiatives connecting students and alumni to work in the District.

“John is absolutely fantastic, and he’s been a really great friend of the University. We’re so proud of him,” Range said. “I’m really excited about engaging alumni like John who are actually in the government relations space.”

The University is also working on formalized partnerships on Capitol Hill for undergraduate students to have internships in congressional offices.

“We’re looking to effectively create a cohort that will be our brand in the nation’s capital,” Range said. “The first cohort will be small, around ten students, but I anticipate that it will grow quickly.”

The program will start in January of 2023 and, at the moment, won’t be limited to a specific major

“While you might have a student who is passionate about engineering, it’s still beneficial for that student to learn about the inner workings of government,” Range said. “And if anything, it would help to broaden their view of how the world works.”

“We’re looking to  
effectively create a cohort  
that will be our brand  
in the nation’s capital ...”



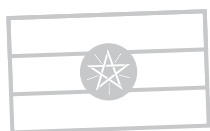
# CLASS OF 2026 SHINES BRIGHT!

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By Ellen N. Woods

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This fall, Catholic University welcomed the Class of 2026 — a high-achieving group of students who arrived on campus ready to take Washington, D.C., by storm as they start their journeys toward fulfilling careers and becoming engaged citizens. The class is strong academically and in extracurricular endeavors, and boasts significant increases from previous years in the number of African American, Hispanic, and first-generation students. Here, we introduce you to just a few to provide a snapshot of the next generation of proud Cardinals.



# AVA NICHOLLS

## A Future Social Worker Dedicated to Inclusivity

Ava Nicholls says the main theme of her college essay was, “If you want something bad enough, you have to make sacrifices.” By way of example, she shared her adoption story. She lived in Ethiopia until age 5, where her family lived in poverty without access to clean water and electricity. Her birth parents put her up for adoption for a chance at a better life.

Nicholls is full of gratitude for her American family who raised her in Exeter, N.H., where she’s developed a love of gardening with her mom and dad. She communicates with her family in Ethiopia through letter writing. Nicholls has two Newfoundlands that she adores. “They look like big brown bears,” she says. She named them Buna and Shayi, which in Amharic (a widely used language in Ethiopia) means coffee and tea. She likes to find small connections to her birthplace.

Amid her gratitude, she says, there can still be struggles. As the only Black student in a large public high school, she understands the feeling of not belonging. She was a standout on the field hockey and lacrosse teams, but her most valued extracurricula activity was serving as a Hawk (the name of her school’s mascot) Guide. “I gave tours and helped welcome incoming students. I wanted to help them feel like they belong,” she says.

Nicholls’ interest in inclusion and belonging led her to choose a social work major at Catholic University. “I think I’d like to focus on children and family issues, maybe work in the foster care system,” she says. “My life experience has taught me empathy.”

She toured many schools on her college search, and says that when she visited Catholic University last April, “I could see myself on the campus. I liked all the green space, but I really liked that it was in a major city. I want to experience that diversity.”

Nicholls’ grades earned her a merit scholarship. She enjoyed her English classes the most. “I had a favorite teacher who taught us that when you are reading and discussing books, there is not one right answer. He encouraged different points of view,” she says. “That’s something that excites me about being a college student — hearing different perspectives.”



### ONE MORE THING

Ava’s hobby is “doing hair, especially braids and extensions for my friends.” She had a summer job at Super Cuts, where she studied the hairdressers’ techniques.



# ANGELE PARRAL

## A California Girl on the East Coast

As a self-described “Valley Girl,” Angele Parral says it’s hard to keep her off the beach, out of the water, and away from the sun. The Los Angeleno loves all the Southern California beaches, but names her favorites as Will Rogers State Beach, Santa Monica, and Newport Beach. A cold day for her hovers around 63 degrees.

She knew she might be in for a rude awakening when she applied to all East Coast schools. “As much as I am going to miss my family, I’m very independent and I wanted something different,” she says.

Catholic University had everything she was looking for, including a Catholic mission, a criminology major, a swim team, and a chance for an FBI internship. Her end goal is to join the Navy.

Parral says the welcome she received from the coaches and the Cardinal swimmers made it clear “this has to be the place to go. They kept in touch throughout my senior year. I felt like I was already part of the family.” Belonging to an online group of incoming swimmers, where she met new friends, eased any uncertainty about coming across the country to start college. “It’s amazing to arrive on campus already knowing so many people,” she says.

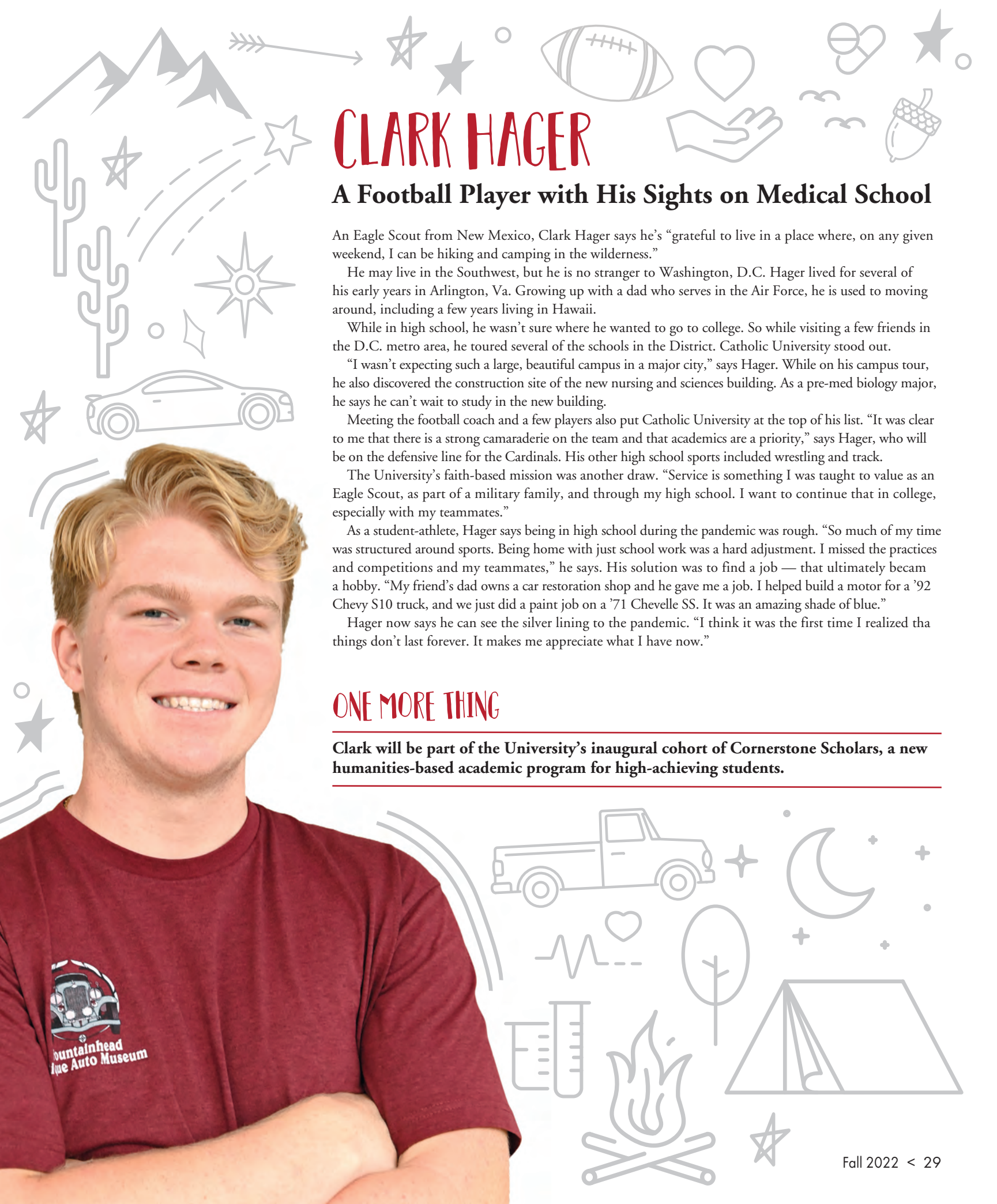
Parral, who excels at fly, breast, and individual medley, comes from a family of swimmers. Her mom and aunts and uncles all played water polo. She and her three younger brothers (triplets!) were on track and field teams before she switched to competitive swimming.

Parral says she appreciated the ability to live out her faith at Louisville High School, an all-girls Catholic college prep school on Mulholland Drive. She and her mom share a love of faith, daily Mass, and prayer. The two took a “girls trip” to Hawaii in July for some bonding time before she left for school. She says, “My plan for the next four years is to set the bar high, to excel, to make my mom proud, and to take time for prayer.”

## ONE MORE THING

**Angele loves music and calls her tastes “old school.” From her grandfather, she discovered a love for Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, and Chet Baker. And from her mom and uncle, it was groups like Hall and Oates, AC/DC, Metallica, and Van Halen.**





# CLARK HAGER

## A Football Player with His Sights on Medical School

An Eagle Scout from New Mexico, Clark Hager says he's "grateful to live in a place where, on any given weekend, I can be hiking and camping in the wilderness."

He may live in the Southwest, but he is no stranger to Washington, D.C. Hager lived for several of his early years in Arlington, Va. Growing up with a dad who serves in the Air Force, he is used to moving around, including a few years living in Hawaii.

While in high school, he wasn't sure where he wanted to go to college. So while visiting a few friends in the D.C. metro area, he toured several of the schools in the District. Catholic University stood out.

"I wasn't expecting such a large, beautiful campus in a major city," says Hager. While on his campus tour, he also discovered the construction site of the new nursing and sciences building. As a pre-med biology major, he says he can't wait to study in the new building.

Meeting the football coach and a few players also put Catholic University at the top of his list. "It was clear to me that there is a strong camaraderie on the team and that academics are a priority," says Hager, who will be on the defensive line for the Cardinals. His other high school sports included wrestling and track.

The University's faith-based mission was another draw. "Service is something I was taught to value as an Eagle Scout, as part of a military family, and through my high school. I want to continue that in college, especially with my teammates."

As a student-athlete, Hager says being in high school during the pandemic was rough. "So much of my time was structured around sports. Being home with just school work was a hard adjustment. I missed the practices and competitions and my teammates," he says. His solution was to find a job — that ultimately became a hobby. "My friend's dad owns a car restoration shop and he gave me a job. I helped build a motor for a '92 Chevy S10 truck, and we just did a paint job on a '71 Chevelle SS. It was an amazing shade of blue."

Hager now says he can see the silver lining to the pandemic. "I think it was the first time I realized that things don't last forever. It makes me appreciate what I have now."

## ONE MORE THING

**Clark will be part of the University's inaugural cohort of Cornerstone Scholars, a new humanities-based academic program for high-achieving students.**



# RUTH GULTIE

## A Nursing Student with a Love of Service

Attending Catholic middle and high schools in Portland, Ore., Ruth Gultie developed a passion for helping others. One volunteer experience with the Blanchet House, which serves those experiencing homelessness, lasted seven years.

“My service there opened my eyes to what it means to help others by treating them with dignity and respect,” says Gultie. “The people who run the organization have such a strong connection to the homeless community in Portland. They are not just there to hand out food, but to be present in their lives. It is very beautiful and meaningful.”

That understanding of service is what ultimately led Gultie to become a student in the Conway School of Nursing. “I didn’t think about what I wanted to do until my junior year when I started looking at colleges,” she explains. “I love science and I love helping others, and nursing jumped out. The more I read about the profession, I realized it offers so many different job opportunities in so many different areas. I liked that.”

Then she said she “stumbled” upon Catholic University and the Conway School of Nursing. The Catholic mission of the University and the values of the school spoke to her and she applied without visiting. It helped that she later learned one of her favorite high school teachers is a graduate of the University with a degree in theology.

“Connecting with people through faith is important to me,” she says. “I want being a nurse to be more than my job. I want to give back what I have received. And I believe I can do that as part of the Conway community.”

Although a bit too far from home for her close-knit family’s liking, Catholic University offers everything she is looking for. A Conway Scholarship made it possible, and learning about the new nursing and sciences building was the icing on the cake.

## ONE MORE THING

**Living in Oregon means “nature is everywhere; forests and waterfalls are my favorite,” says Ruth, who likes to camp and canoe. “It’s raining almost all the time, which is beautiful in its own way.”**





# NATHAN FORD

## A Swimmer Focused on Community Service

Competitive swimming was a big part of Nathan Ford's high school years at Malden Catholic in Massachusetts. He spent his summers as a youth swim team coach. About three years ago, he had an idea. He wanted to combine his love of swimming with his interest in community service.

The result was the Swim-A-Thon Team, Corp., a registered 501(c)3 organization he created in 2019 to raise money for Boston Children's Hospital. His fundraising events have brought together nearly 50 swimmers annually, who obtain pledges based on number of laps, along with raffles and sponsorships from local businesses. To date, the nonprofit has raised \$15,000 for the hospital

When considering colleges, swimming was top of the list for Ford, as was a strong biomedical engineering program and a Catholic mission. Those factors led him to apply, early action, to Catholic University, sight unseen. His acceptance brought him to Cardinal Preview Day last February, which sealed the deal.

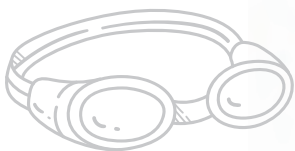
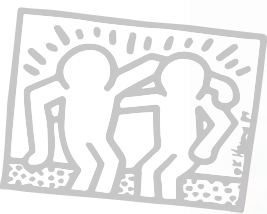
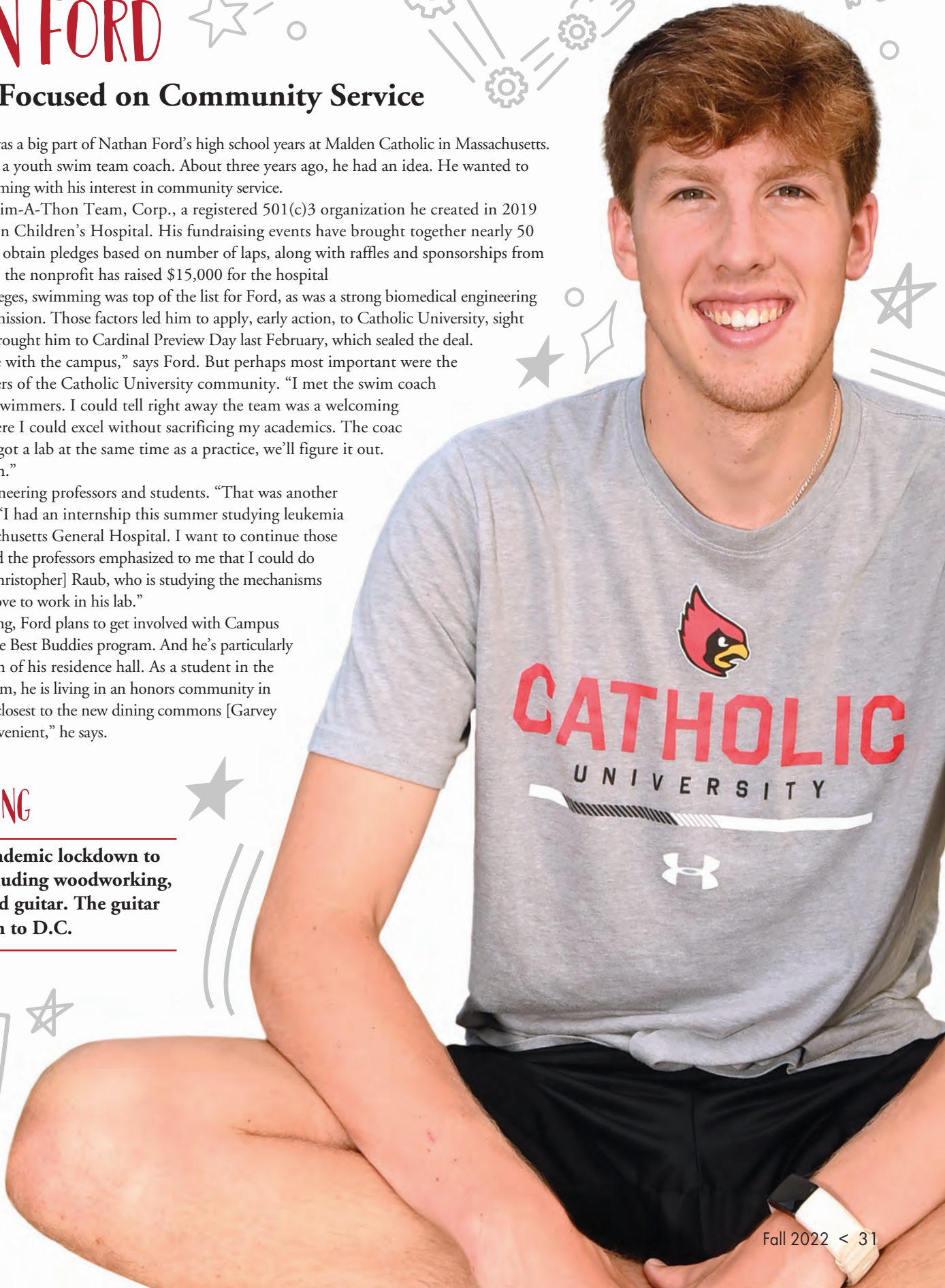
"I instantly fell in love with the campus," says Ford. But perhaps most important were the interactions with members of the Catholic University community. "I met the swim coach and several of the older swimmers. I could tell right away the team was a welcoming community and one where I could excel without sacrificing my academics. The coach even told me, 'If you've got a lab at the same time as a practice, we'll figure it out. That made an impression.'"

He also met with engineering professors and students. "That was another welcoming community. "I had an internship this summer studying leukemia growth at a lab at Massachusetts General Hospital. I want to continue those kinds of opportunities and the professors emphasized to me that I could do that. I talked with Dr. [Christopher] Raub, who is studying the mechanisms of tissue injury. I would love to work in his lab."

In addition to swimming, Ford plans to get involved with Campus Ministry, most notably the Best Buddies program. And he's particularly excited about the location of his residence hall. As a student in the University Honors program, he is living in an honors community in Unanue House. "It's the closest to the new dining commons [Garvey Hall], which is pretty convenient," he says.

## ONE MORE THING

**Nathan used the pandemic lockdown to learn new skills, including woodworking, running, surfing, and guitar. The guitar came along with him to D.C.**





# MAYSOON OBEID



## An Advocate for Tolerance and Understanding

Maysoon Obeid excelled in her IB (International Baccalaureate) studies at Justice High School in Falls Church, Va. A well-rounded student, she loves math as much as she loves philosophy. Her grades earned her a spot in the University Honors program.

Her goal is medical school, with an even longer-term goal of improving the health care system through innovation and science. A degree in biomedical engineering, Obeid believes, will set her on a path to achieve her goals.

She chose Catholic University for the academic reputation of the School of Engineering and the many internship opportunities in Washington, D.C. She had another, less obvious, reason for choosing the University. “As a practicing Muslim, I’ve spent my life around people just like me,” says Obeid, who is an avid volunteer at her mosque teaching Islamic studies to children. “I want to be exposed to people who are different from me — to get to know them and learn about their faith. And I’d like to be a good example that might help people see me and not the often negative stereotypes of Muslims portrayed in the media.”

In her college essay, she detailed an act of advocacy. “In junior year, we read a series of books aimed at teaching students about different cultures and countries,” she explained. “We read about people in places like South Africa, China, and the Dominican Republic, who were all portrayed favorably. The book about Iran was openly Islamophobic. It was an extremist, negative portrayal of the people. If this was supposed to represent me, it was not accurate. And then I thought about all the students for whom this might be their first introduction to Islam.

After a year of lobbying her principal and the school board, Obeid was able to get a new book introduced into the curriculum at her high school.

At Catholic University, Obeid hopes to form a Muslim student organization. The club would be focused on tolerance, appreciating differences, and perhaps most important, “finding our similarities as people.”

### ONE MORE THING



**Maysoon is the oldest of five children, with three younger sisters and one younger brother. “During the pandemic, my dad turned our basement into an office for us with one large table and we all had our own section. We all sat there on Zoom with our earbuds in as if we were classmates,” she says.**



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ON TRIP  
DIA

# SIERRA ELLEMBERGER



## A World Traveler from Alaska

Sierra Ellemberger says one of the biggest advantages of being homeschooled is the ability to travel any time of the year and for extended periods of time. She's been to 18 countries, including Mexico, Slovenia, the United Arab Emirates, Italy, Nepal, Thailand, Oman, and Egypt. In June, her most recent travels took her to Scotland, followed by Tanzania.

It would be hard to pick, she says, but if she had to name her favorite trip, it would be a tie between Egypt, where she toured the pyramids and cruised the Nile, and the U.A.E., where she rode a camel in the desert. She details her adventures in a travel blog aptly titled *Northern Girl Wanderings*, where she offers travel tips, international recipes, and history.

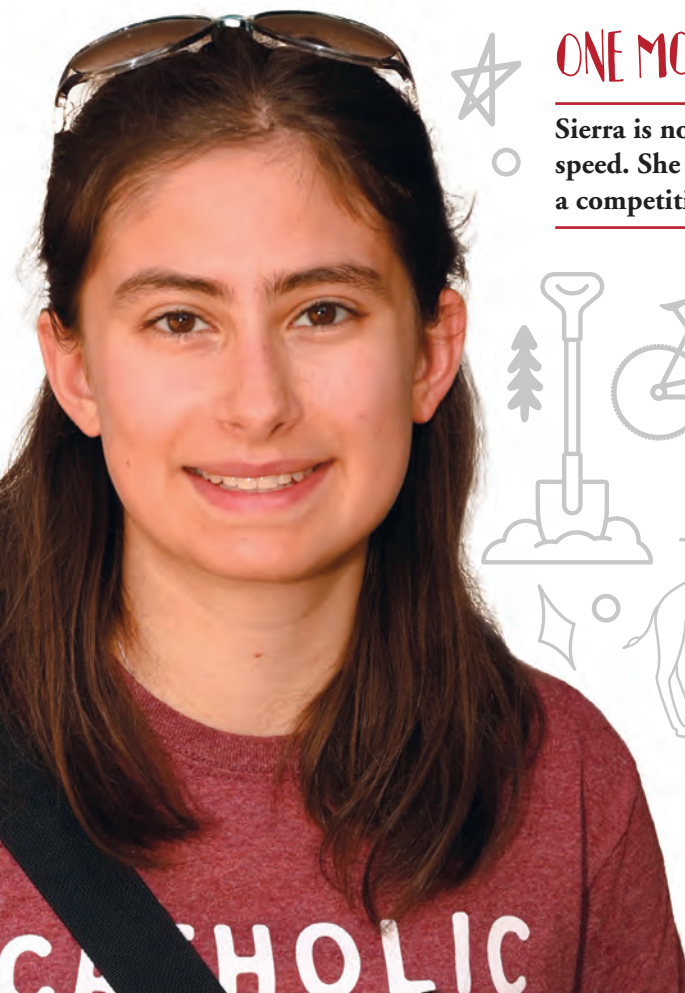
Ellemberger's parents are physicians and former military officers. Their last duty assignment was in Alaska, where the family of six settled 17 years ago, just outside Anchorage. Her parents' work schedules allow their family the flexibility to travel around the world.

Growing up in Alaska is an adventure all its own. "We've got the mountains and lakes and we are semi-close to the ocean," says Ellemberger. "I love all the weather variations. As you might expect, we have snow, but we have all the other beautiful seasons as well. And we are hiking, running, biking, and camping in every season."

In choosing a college, Ellemberger was looking for something a little different, like a big city on the East Coast. "I chose Catholic for the location, the academics, and its faith-based mission," she says. "When I visited, I liked the campus and all the museums nearby."

The University Honors student will indulge her "fascination with ancient history" by majoring in archeology, with room in her schedule to explore languages. "I'm taking Spanish 103, and then I can't wait to study Arabic," she says.

Not surprisingly, Ellemberger plans to study abroad. **CU**



### ONE MORE THING

**Sierra is not afraid of heights or speed. She is an aerial artist and a competitive figure skater.**



## OPENING THE DOORS FOR THE CLASS OF 2026

### CatholicU Trustees, Community Leaders Raise \$4.88 Million to Fund 235 Impact Scholarships

Last winter, the Catholic University Board of Trustees set a bold challenge: to help the University raise an additional \$4 million in order to fund 200 gap-filling Impact Scholarships for incoming first-year students.

Thanks to the leadership of the Board and the generosity of our CatholicU community members, the University didn't just meet that goal — it exceeded it by nearly \$1 million, raising enough to fund 235 new Impact Scholarships.

This ambitious effort was intended to increase the number of students in the Class of 2026. Impact Scholarships provide \$5,000 per year in additional financial aid to student with demonstrated need, for a total of \$20,000 over their four years on campus. That extra support has allowed 235 students to make their dream of pursuing a Catholic University education a reality.

"The initiative to increase need-based scholarships had a dramatic impact on our class and its cultural and economic diversity. Closing the gap on financial aid allowed a number of students to say 'yes' to us this year," said Mark Ciolli, dean of undergraduate admission.

The incoming class contains 793 students, an 11% increase over the Class of 2025. And because of this initiative, the University saw an 83% increase in students demonstrating the highest level of need among its applicant pool.

Fifty-six donors stepped forward to help achieve this success, including 26 members of the Board of Trustees. Their generosity is an investment in the University's future, but it has also played an important role in rebuilding the University's student population, which decreased over the past two years due to the pandemic.

"I supported the Impact Scholarship program because those scholarships are an effective way to enable students with financial need to receive the benefit of a Catholic University education and for the University to serve a more diverse student body," said Elizabeth Meers, University trustee.

Best of all, this initiative strengthened our community by making a Catholic University education accessible to a broad range of students from across the country who might not otherwise have been able to join this special community.

"As donors, we feel our job in the nonprofit world is similar to that in the for-profit world — namely, that we be efficient allocators of capital," said Robert Neal, University trustee. "Impact Scholarships are a terrific step in that regard. They allow us to make the remarkable benefits of a Catholic University education available to highly qualified applicant who will not only add greatly to the diversity and academic rigor of the University, but also benefit from the great grace of a Catholic University education."



# FAREWELL, FRANCISCANS

Celebrating the Legacy of the Franciscan Friars Over Their  
24 Years of Service to the Catholic University Community

By Zoey Maraist



**A**lumni describe the Conventual Franciscan friars as funny, holy, approachable, and charismatic. They're known as authentic sons of St. Francis of Assisi who devote themselves to the poor. They're willing to get tacos with students in the middle of the night and enjoy jumping in a bounce house during Cardinalpalooza. They mentor, support, and tease. They don't lead from the front, but accompany students side by side. Above all, alumni say that the way the Franciscans live their lives has drawn students into a deeper relationship with Christ.

After 24 years of service, the Franciscans will no longer lead Campus Ministry at Catholic University. The Franciscans leave behind a robust Campus Ministry that gives students numerous opportunities to frequent the sacraments, attend retreats, go on service trips, and grow in friendship with God and one another.

Former President John Garvey thanks the friars for welcoming him as he was navigating being the third lay president of the University. He credits their work in growing Campus Ministry, in keeping the food pantry going, and attracting a record number of students to Days of Service. Vice President for Student Affairs Judi Biggs Garbuio is grateful for the way they kept the sacraments available during the height of the pandemic, how they served students in crisis, and how they ministered to faculty and staff.

"They've left an indelible mark that we don't even know the depth of," she said.

Though their work may be complete, the fruit of the friars' labor lives on, said alumni. What the Franciscans taught by their words and example still guides alumni today.



**"If I didn't end up at The Catholic University of America, I never would have met the Conventual Franciscans. I'm grateful to God for my vocation."**

— FATHER MATT FOLEY, O.F.M. CONV.

## A Vocation Inspired

Father Matt Foley, O.F.M. Conv., B.A. 2001, arrived at Catholic University a year before the Franciscans and a decade before his own solemn vows. He attended Sunday Mass, but wasn't involved in Campus Ministry. Then he met Father Bob Schlageter, O.F.M. Conv.

"He has a very dynamic personality, he was very welcoming, [and] he wanted me to be holy," said Father Foley. Soon enough, Father Foley was involved in all kinds of Campus Ministry activities — daily Mass, men's group, and retreats. "My relationship with God became something that was real as opposed to just something that I did," he said.

On Wednesday nights, Father Bob established adoration followed by socializing and snacks. Father Foley watched the event blossom. "By the time I graduated, there would be so many people there, the chapel would be overflowing and people would be kneeling on the stairs outside," he said.

Spending time around the friars gradually led Father Foley to religious life. "One of the things I was struck by [with] each and every one of them [was] their love of Christ, especially in the Eucharist, love of the poor, and the importance of community, and I think that was something I was looking for," he said.

In 2008, when Father Foley made his solemn vows, Father Bob was one of his witnesses, the equivalent of a best man. Today, Father Foley works as president of St. Francis High School in Hamburg, N.Y. "If I had 100 lives, I would want to live every single one as a friar," he said. "If I didn't end up at The Catholic University of America, I never would have met the Conventual Franciscans. I'm grateful to God for my vocation."

## A Privileged Time

Father Bob arrived with a mission. "We wanted to relate to the largest number of students that we could without ever compromising any principle of our faith," said Father Bob, the first friar to serve as the University chaplain and director of Campus Ministry (1998 to 2010). "I was hoping to find a way to invite the young men and women into a deeper relationship with our Lord and with each other."

Father Bob fondly remembers adoration followed by confessions, as well as retreats, the mission trips, and the 9 p.m. Mass that was always packed to the gills. He remembers the Easter Vigil baptisms and confirmations, how they hosted hundreds of high school students for the March for Life, and how student ministers started an end-of-year party that grew into an extravaganza with carnival rides and fireworks. He remembers going around at the start of each year blessing the residence halls. "Always an adventure — you'd never know what you'd find in those rooms," he said.

He remembers when Pope Benedict XVI visited campus. "What I loved most about that was when he came out of Pryzbyla Center, he got in his Popemobile and the kids and some seminarians started singing the *Salve Regina* over the P.A. system outside," he said. "When [the pope] heard that, he stopped his Popemobile and I think sang with them or gestured to them; [it was] very moving."

Father Bob's years with the students was storied time in his ministry, he said. "I loved just being with them," he said. "They were



Father Bob captivating students at the 2006 Freshman Retreat Mass.

full of life, they were passionate, they wanted to be the best they could be. They [were] a never-ending source of fun and surprises, and I found it very life-giving to be with them. It was a privilege to be with them.”

## A Place to Belong

It was the fall of her first year and Sally Santellano, B.A. 2003 wanted to go home. But her parents made her stay and, by Christmas, all that had changed. “I had totally built this group of friends in Campus Ministry, but definitely Father Bob and Father Mike helped me through that homesickness too,” said Santellano. “Really, we’re all just looking for a place to belong and once I found that, I didn’t think about going home ever again.”

One memorably homey moment was spent during the holidays on campus. “[Father Bob’s mom] would come down for Thanksgiving and cook a full Thanksgiving meal in the friary for anyone who couldn’t go home, so one of the years I didn’t go home, we all ate with Father Bob and his tiny little mom,” she said.

She remembers the friars’ ministry of presence — how they would interact with students at sporting events or in the cafeteria. “They would go to the dorms, knock on the doors and Father Bob used to say, ‘If I spray this holy water, is this room going to burst into flames? They just made even the quietest kid or the biggest party kid just talk to them,” said Santellano. And as they got to know the students, they would encourage them in the faith.

Through Campus Ministry, Santellano volunteered at what is now known as St. Ann’s Center for Children, Youth, and Families. Though she had wanted to be a drama major, the experience inspired her to major in social work instead. She now works as a principal at a Catholic grade school on the South Side of Chicago.

Ed Pfueller



Students unwind at Luaupalooza at the Pryz in 2010, one of many events on campus supported by the Franciscans.

Recently, before embarking on a road trip to Florida, Santellano learned Father Bob was a pastor of a church in Georgia. It was a little out of the way, but she couldn’t resist stopping to see him. “He hasn’t changed — he’s still loving and funny and welcoming. [The drive] was totally worth it,” said Santellano. “I’m just really grateful that they served while I was there. I know they really changed a lot of lives and they definitely changed mine.

## 9/11

Santellano knew something was wrong when she saw Father Brad appear in the girls’ hallway of The House. “You have to come downstairs right now,” he told Santellano and the others. “We watched the second plane hit the second tower on the big screen TV in The House.” Soon, Santellano was walking through residence halls checking on people and making flyers to advertise an impromptu Mass for peace.

That night, they could still see the Pentagon burning from the roof of The House.

Later, Campus Ministry hosted events such as an open mic night, adoration, and a candlelight vigil at which they read the names of everyone who had died and had a connection to Catholic University. “I remember Father Bob just saying, ‘Hey, we’ve got to bring people together,’” said Mike Tenney, B.A. 2005.

It was a scary time, said Father Bob. “No one really knew what to expect next. I remember on 9/11, there were a lot of kids who were requesting to go to confession so there were priests in Caldwell Chapel for hours and the students were coming to confession because you just didn’t know,” he said.

“I remember one of our students was sitting on the floor out in the hallway talking to her mother and she’s yelling, ‘I don’t know



Father Jude offers prayers after lighting the Paschal candle at the beginning of the Easter Vigil at St. Vincent de Paul Chapel.

where Gettysburg is, I don't know where Gettysburg is.' And her mother, who was as upset as she was, was yelling out of the phone, 'If something happens, just get to Gettysburg.' I just picked (the student) up and I said, 'We're going to take care of you, honey. Don't you worry. We'll take care of you.'"

## Hope for the Hopeless

From his marriage to his career to his faith life — David Lanetti, B.S.Arch. 2019, M.Arch. 2020, says that everything he has, he can credit to the support of his parents and the Franciscans. "Grateful doesn't seem like that strong of a word but really [I'm grateful] from the bottom of my heart," he said. "They helped me to develop the skills to succeed and get to where I am today."

His relationship with the Franciscans began when he was hired as a sacristan. "Father Justin gave me a shot and wanted me to help because he knew my faith was important to me and he wanted me to understand Mass in a different way," he said. "Everything flows from that."

The summer after his first year, Lanetti stopped to talk to Father Jude DeAngelo, O.F.M. Conv., after Mass. Lanetti's grandmother

had recently passed away, and he asked Father Jude to pray for her. "He said, 'Of course, and why don't you stop by my office and we'll talk about it?' We got dinner and just had this amazing conversation about life. That was the beginning of Father Jude's mentorship in my life. He really made a point to watch out for my faith life and watch out for me, which I can never thank him enough [for]."

Lanetti soon felt a call to the priesthood, and broke up with his girlfriend to discern. But with Father Jude's help, he realized he was called to marry his girlfriend after all. "Father Jude really has a way of saying very little and helping you to work through the problem yourself. Ultimately, he helped me to realize that really what I was missing was my now wife. We started dating again and two years after that we were married," said Lanetti. "Father Jude was such a big part of that that it was pretty obvious that he would be the celebrant."

Father Jude also gave Lanetti the confidence to pursue his dream of being an architect, and he now designs residential and sacred dwellings. "Father Jude always believed in me, that I would be able to do this career," said Lanetti. "He's helped me believe in myself."

Lanetti used to joke with Father Jude about the fact that the friar bears the name of the patron saint of hopeless causes. But over the years, Lanetti realized what a fitting name it is. "Students would come to him with seemingly hopeless causes and he would make it seem like it's not hopeless, and that everything is in God's hands."

## A Ministry of Accompaniment

Joe McQuarrie, B.A. 2015, said the trajectory of his life was changed by a CatholicU service trip to Jamaica, which inspired him to pursue a career serving others. Now, he works at Cristo Rey New York High School as a teacher and director of Campus Ministry. "That's really kind of been the 'aha' moment in my life — how to live most fully alive is to live for others," he said. "Instead of judging or trying to fix just accompanying them and loving them where they are. Whether I'm in a home for people with AIDS in Jamaica or a classroom in East Harlem, it's the very same thing I'm trying to do."

"That all stems back from those mission trips and how good of a job Campus Ministry did with making those intentional and purposeful and giving opportunities for people to go on those," he said.

As a House minister, McQuarrie helped host the Friday night events for students, whether it was laser tag, a ball game, or visiting the zoo. Toward the end of the year, when the budget was nearly spent, they had to get creative. "They let us put on this big movie mayhem house party event where every single room was an event — there was Disney karaoke and a Lord of the Rings adventure activity and a superhero wrestling arena in the basement. The friars were like, 'Go nuts, we trust you,'" he said.

Whatever the activity, "the intention behind it was always giving people space to get to know one another and build community," said McQuarrie. "So much of Church outreach can feel like, 'You come to us.' But the friars especially were like, 'Our door is open and we're standing outside the door (leading you in) or we're trying to be in a space where you already are and to bring that grace there.'"





## In the Peaks and Valleys

Pope Francis' visit during the second week Joe Basalla, B.A. 2019, was on campus is something Basalla will never forget. "I still think about it — people travel halfway around the world to Rome just to see the pope and here he [was] driving through my college campus," said Basalla.

The Franciscans helped Basalla and the other students prepare for the momentous occasion. "I remember the friars very much encouraging the students to take the visit of the Holy Father seriously, that this isn't just a photo op, this is a great spiritual moment that the vicar of Christ is coming. We should pray for him and his ministries, we should educate ourselves on what he has taught," he said. "A number of us fell in love with not just [the pope's environmental encyclical] *Laudato Si*, [but his message of] reaching out to people on the margin, [and] addressing the needs of the poor and the vulnerable."

While Basalla's college experience started on a high note, there were difficult moments too, such as when a student died unexpectedly of natural causes. The friars helped shepherd the campus through the tragedy. "Everyone on campus knew Father Jude to be a down-to-earth, approachable individual, someone whose heart and office was open for conversation as well as for spiritual direction, [and] the sacrament of penance. Because that was the known identity of Father Jude, when he would come to the University and issue statements about our need to pray and have hope in the resurrection, that [came] across more powerfully," said Basalla.

When the second wave of the clergy abuse scandal rocked the Church, the friars held informational and spiritual listening sessions, said Basalla. They spoke about how St. Francis received a call from Christ on the crucifix to rebuild his Church. Basalla, now a theologian,

**"Something Friar Santo [Cricchio] always used to say is, 'Your yes helps me say yes.' Basically saying that everyone is called to a life of holiness and service, a college student just as much as a priest, and to find encouragement in the face of one another."**

— MIKE TENNEY, B.A. 2005

teacher, still thinks about the message. "I talk with my students still, [telling them] Francis's call isn't just for Francis — all of us can share in the rebuilding of the Church in our own particular way," he said. "I don't know if I would have that if it wasn't for the Franciscans."

## A Community of Encouragement

The Franciscans were so normal and relatable, said Mike Tenney, but at the same time, they were so remarkably filled with joy and peace. "It made you stop and say, what is that — how do I get that?" he said.

Tenney joined Campus Ministry when he arrived on campus, and he got to know the friars especially as a resident minister. He was part of the first group of resident ministers, or student who live in the residence halls and spiritually serve students in upper classes.

"I remember one time the three friars were doing a late-night prayer service with all the student ministers right before the freshmen showed up. [Father Bob] gave each one of us a tiny stone to hold in our hand. He said, 'This year might be tough, but squeeze this rock in your hand. You're allowed to give up on each when that turns into dust.' That became a phrase through the year for us — until dust. God doesn't give up on you, so we're not allowed to give up on each other and this mission."

Another message of the friars has lingered, too. "Something Friar Santo [Cricchio] always used to say is, 'Your yes helps me say yes.' Basically saying that everyone is called to a life of holiness and service, a college student just as much as a priest, and to find encouragement in the face of one another."

If he could, Tenney would pass on a message of gratitude to the Franciscans. "Your yes still helps me say yes." **CU**

Franciscans were always supportive of the students during their life journey.



Ed Phuller

# ALUMNI CORNER



## Honoring the Best of Catholic University Athletics

On April 2, the energy and emotion were palpable within Maloney Hall's Della Ratta Auditorium, which was packed with a standing-room-only crowd gathered to cheer the long-delayed induction of the 2020 Athletics Hall of Fame honorees.

### The Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2020

- **James Blackburn, B.A. 1975, M.A. 1978; Joseph A. Fisher, B.A. 1975; Philip Homan, B.S. 1976; and J. Kevin Keating, B.A. 1973:** A band of brothers who excelled in many track and field and cross country events. Additionally, Fisher coached the women's track and field and cross country teams for 41 years, and helped establish the prestigious Thaddeus F. Aubry Jr. and Leon A. LeBuffe Scholarship Fund for minority students in the Washington, D.C., area.
- **Brian Cashman, B.A. 1989:** A leadoff hitter who held the Catholic University baseball record for most hits in a season (52) for 11 years. He is the general manager of the New York Yankees and a 1998 recipient of the University's Young Alumni Merit Award.
- **Angela Gloukhoff Wentling, B.B.E. 1994:** The 1993 Female Runner of the Year who competed in track and field, cross country, and soccer

- **Patrick Maloney, B.A. 2002:** The most valuable player on the 2001 Men's Basketball National Championship Team, which was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2018. Patrick is the first individual member of the team to be inducted.
- **Kevin Ricca, Class of 1998:** A four-year starting quarterback who finished his career with every major passing record for Catholic University football.

The ceremony was hosted by Tim Kurkjian, an ESPN baseball commentator and member of the MLB Hall of Fame who is the brother of alumni Andrew, B.A. 1975, a Hall of Fame baseball player, and Matt, B.A. 1978, a member of the 1977 Hall of Fame baseball team. In addition to the eight new alumni inductees, 15 existing Hall of Fame alumni and coaches were in attendance.

"We can count up the wins, the championships, the personal bests, and the school records, and it's highly evident that our eight inductees absolutely made a difference in the trajectory of their programs. Each of you is undoubtedly among the very best to ever don a Catholic University jersey ... in any sport," said Sean Sullivan, associate vice president and director of Athletics. "Seeing all of the faces here in the audience today, choosing to come and celebrate with you, is testament to how you eight have made so many of us feel. You definitely made a difference. You definitely left mark upon this department and school. A mark that current and future Cardinals, even that uncertain freshman upon first arriving in Brookland, will aspire to reach themselves one day."



Photos by Rui Barros

To read more about the attendees and see photos and videos from the event, please visit [engage.catholic.edu/hof2020](https://engage.catholic.edu/hof2020).

## ▶ 1940s

**Charlotte E. Olson, B.S.N.**

**1949, M.S.N. 1956**, celebrated her 100th birthday with friends, neighbors and relatives at Gadsby's Tavern in Old Town Alexandria in February. She spent her entire career as a nurse at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C., retiring in 1980 as the associate director for nursing. She was on campus in the spring to speak to a class of graduating seniors about her experience rising through the ranks in the nursing field

## ▶ 1950s

**Rev. Don Richards, B.A. 1958,**

**M.A. 1963**, retired from the Milwaukee Common Council after four terms, but is still active in Milwaukee politics and peace work. He is grateful for the national and worldview nurtured at Theological College and Catholic U.

## ▶ 1960s

**James Edward Carlos, M.F.A.**

**1963**, is depicted in a documentary film *Carlos: Being of Light* — an art film by director Tyler Stalling of Orange County, Calif., about Carlos' creativity and the close encounters he experienced throughout his lifetime. The film is being shown in art film festival through 2022. His art exhibitions, *Biblical Proportions*, were featured at Firefly Gallery in Iowan, Tenn. At 85 years old, Carlos

continues to create daily at his studio and art center for seasonal-based presentations of other fine art creators — IONA: Art Sanctuary, in Sewanee, Tenn. In January, his essay "Speculation On Being, Wrestling With Angels: Considering Language and Encounter-Beings' Communication and Code System" was published online in three installments in *Alternate Perceptions Magazine*.

**Sister Isabel Fierro, D.C., M.S.N.**

**1967**, has dedicated her life to the twin vocations of the religious sisterhood and nursing, primarily in the area of maternal health. She volunteers as a medical office translator for Spanish-speaking, New Orleans-area mothers-to-be.

**Sister Frances Smalkowski,**

**C.S.F.N., B.S.N. 1968**, director of pastoral care at St. John Paul II Center in Danbury, Conn., was presented with a special Saint Augustine Medal of Service in March at Saint Augustine Cathedral by Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, bishop of Bridgeport, in recognition of all clergy and religious serving in hospitals and nursing homes in the diocese during the pandemic.

**Thomas J. Wieckowski, M.A.**

**1968, Ph.D. 1975**, has published his latest book, *Hitherto Invincible: How Three Generations of Barkers Helped Build America* (Palmetto Press, August 2021). It chronicles important events of the 19th century and the development of America in that era, focusing on the lives and contributions of three generations of the influential Barke family of New York, New Orleans, and Philadelphia.

## ▶ 1970s

**Stephen Paul Holowenzak, M.A.**

**1970, Ph.D. 1974**, professor emeritus of the University of Maryland Global Campus, was honored with inclusion in *Marquis Who's Who in the World*. He celebrates a 40-year career dedicated to bringing the mission of higher education to members of the United States Armed Forces stationed throughout the world. In addition, he served as an independent contractor, trainer, and evaluator for various private-sector leaders, including Ford Aerospace, and was appointed to the Japan-U.S. Education Committee's Candidate Selection Committee. He is a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus and a past grand

knight, chief executive officer and faithful navigator of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Assembly 386.

**John T. Aquino, B.A. 1971, M.A.**

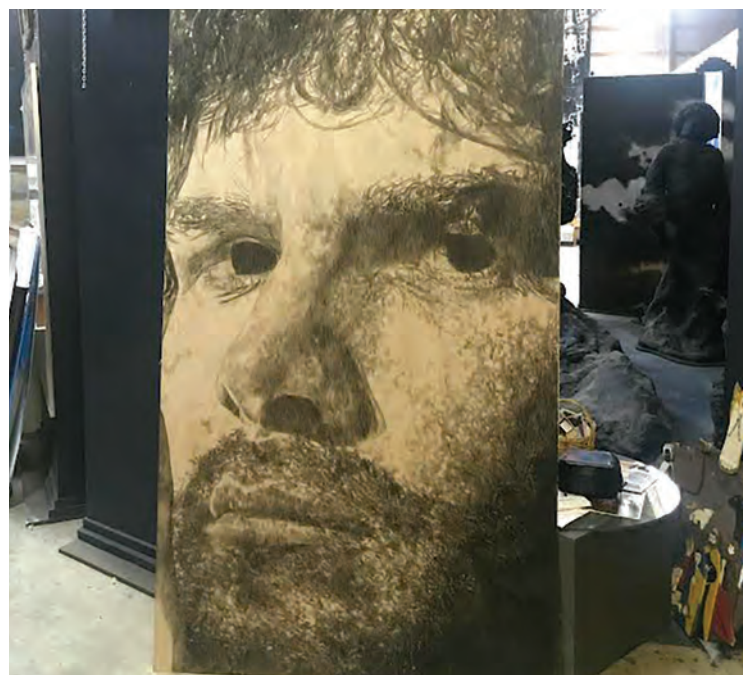
**1972, J.D. 1994**, has published a second edition of his book, *Truth and Lives on Film: The Legal Problems in Depicting Real Persons and Events in a Fictional Medium* (McFarland & Co., July 2022).

**James B. Ewers Jr., M.A. 1972,**

was named to the board of trustees at Morris Brown College, one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Atlanta.

**Deborah T. Curren-Aquino,**

**M.A. 1973, Ph.D. 1977**, taught adult education classes for Somerset



"Abraham" in Carlos' IONA: Art Sanctuary, Sewanee, Tenn., where the rest of "Biblical Proportions" are exhibited publicly by arrangement with Carlos (ecarlos@sewanee.edu).

House in Chevy Chase, Md., on two Shakespeare plays: *The Merchant of Venice* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. A CatholicU faculty member in the Department of English from 1977 to 1986, she sends her love to all her former students.

**Michael A. Pascale Jr., B.A. 1978**, managing director—investments of Wells Fargo Advisors in Washington, D.C., was named to the 2022 *Forbes* “Best-in-State Wealth Advisors” list.

## ▶ 1980s

**Carmen Rodríguez-Peralta, M.M. 1980**, released a recording entitled *A Peruvian Sojourn: Music Inspired by Andean Indigenous Melodies, Rhythms, and Traditions* on the Albany Records label in April. It includes piano solos and works for flute and piano by Peruvian and Peruvian-American composers. In January, she held the New York premiere of six preludes and fugues for piano by Larry Bell, at Merkin Concert Hall in New York.

**Catherine Gaddy, Ph.D. 1982**, retired from working in psychology and user experience at Human Factors International. She worked for a number of companies, organizations, and agencies over 40 years.

**James J. Ryan, B.A. 1983**, has been hired as executive vice president of marketing for Oceanview Life and Annuity Co.

**Betsy Cerulo, B.A.G.S. 1984**, CEO of AdNet, advocates for workplace excellence and equality,



## ▶ Work Hard. Live Carefully. And Add a Bit of Travel.

Centenarian Charlotte Olson, B.S.N. 1949, M.S.N. 1956, kicked off the Conway School of Nursing Alumni Speaker Series during a lunch with students in early April.

Born during a blizzard in Jamestown, N.D., on February 22, 1922, Charlotte was inspired to become a nurse after being treated for measles at the Mayo Clinic as a young child. In 1941, she was recruited by St. Elizabeths Hospital to join the Cadet Nursing Corps in Washington, D.C.

Charlotte told the students about the long train trip to D.C. from North Dakota. The hospital paid for her B.S.N.E. at Catholic University, and she received a small stipend, but it was still very difficult to be a student during World War II. Food and supplies were rationed, so students were often hungry and cold. At the time, most of the students at Catholic University were nuns and priests. Fifty students started the nursing program with her, but only 28 graduated. Many left to get married and were not allowed to continue their studies. She remembers Eleanor Roosevelt coming in a plain car to speak at their graduation.

Charlotte then discussed her 40-year career at St. Elizabeths, where she rose to the role of associate director of nursing and oversaw a 1,000-bed unit. Her starting salary was \$1,263 per year, which was less than the city’s garbage collectors were making at the time. She and her fellow nurses found the employment flier for garbage collectors, took it to the hospital’s leadership, and successfully demanded a raise. She became a supervisor early in her career, which led her back to Catholic University to get her master’s degree.

At the time, diagnosis and treatments for psychiatric disorders were limited. The students were shocked to hear that at one point during the war, they were receiving 80 patients a day. All were the same age as Charlotte. She told the students about the use of insulin shock therapy and lobotomies — common treatments at the time. “We had our hearts, heads, and hands, and that is all we had. We were as helpful as we could be and tried to keep them comfortable, but it was a long, hard time for them and for us.”

A student asked how Charlotte coped when her options were so limited and she ran out of patience. She explained, “You had to bury your own emotions to be able to deal with the patients’ emotions.” Charlotte told a frightening story of a large, violent patient who was breaking the windows out of the inpatient unit with a ping pong paddle. Using the only tool at their disposal, persuasion, she and her colleagues bravely talked the young man into a calmer state. When asked if she had ever thought of quitting, she exclaimed, “Oh, heavens no! I never even considered it!”

She shared a few other stories with the students, including her memories of riding on the back of a fire truck down F Street banging pie tins together in joy at the end of the war. When asked the secret to aging well, Charlotte said she “worked hard, lived carefully and well, and still does a bit of gadding around.” — K.M.

## Fall Presidential Receptions

In the coming year, the Division of University Advancement will hold receptions to introduce President Peter Kilpatrick to our Cardinal community. Please save the dates below, and visit our Presidential Tour page to see where else we'll be traveling!

### Boston

October 12, 2022

### Philadelphia

November 30, 2022

### New York

December 1, 2022

### DMV

December 14, 2022

### Baltimore

December 20, 2022

Check our Presidential Tour page for specific details and online registration, and to stay up to date as we schedule additional events:

[engage.catholic.edu/presidentialtour](https://engage.catholic.edu/presidentialtour)

## Share Your News!

Do you have news to share with your classmates? Submit a class note to [cua-classnotes@cua.edu](mailto:cua-classnotes@cua.edu).

If you moved or changed your email address or phone number, you can easily update your information: fill out a form a [engage.catholic.edu/subscriptions](https://engage.catholic.edu/subscriptions), email [cua-alumni@cua.edu](mailto:cua-alumni@cua.edu), or call 202-319-5608.

received the 2022 Small Business Administration Maryland Women-Owned Small Business of the Year Award.

**Karen Francis, B.A. 1984**, was appointed vice president and chief diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) officer at the American Institute for Research (AIR) in Crystal City, Va., where she leads AIR's global DEI efforts. She served as an expert panelist for the revision of the 2021 Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Benchmarks. After graduating from CatholicU, she received an M.A. in sociology from American University, and a Ph.D. in medical sociology from Howard University.

**Mary (Trincheria) Celia, B.S.N. 1985**, completed her master of education in school health services with a physician assistant supervisory certification. An elementary school nurse for 22 years, she has been named the chairperson of the health services department for the Northampton (Pa.) Area School District, beginning with the 2022–2023 school year.

**James Christopher Garner, B.E.E. 1985**, was ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Washington on June 26, 2021. He is assigned to St. Edward the Confessor parish in Bowie, Md. He and his wife, Laura, have been married for 35 years and have four children. Chris retired in 2019 after a 42-year career as an electrical engineer and research scientist with the federal government.

**David Mead, B.S. 1985, M.A. 1987**, a Merrill Lynch wealth

management advisor, was named to the 2022 *Forbes* "Best-in-State Wealth Advisors" list. He and his wife, Sheila, live in Vienna, Va., with their three children, Caroline, Owen, and Riley.

**Bill DelGrosso, B.A. 1986**, has joined the emergency management team at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He will guide emergency preparedness and response for any incident impacting its patients, locations, and research labs.

**Rev. Michael J. Knipe, S.T.B. 1987, J.C.L. 1989**, successfully passed his defense at the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca, Spain, an earned a doctorate in canon law with the dissertation, "A Canonical Historical Study of Chapter Two of the Reform of Marriage at the Council of Trent." He serves as pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Tulsa, Okla., and judicial vicar of the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma.

**Letitia A. Long, M.S.E. 1988**, will be the recipient of the 2022 Arthur C. Lundahl-Thomas C. Finnie Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of her myriad achievements and community leadership, presented by the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation at their gala in December. With more than four decades of exceptional service in government and industry, she has been a trailblazer and steadfast advocate of the GEOINT tradecraft and the Intelligence Community.

**Rev. Frank Donio, S.A.C., B.A. 1989, M.A. 1993, D.Min.**

**2012**, is the recipient of the 2022 Leadership Award given by the board of directors of the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators. He is the executive director of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and founding director of the Catholic Apostolate Center.

**Marie T. Nolan, Ph.D. 1989**, professor and scholar, assumed her new role as the dean of Catholic University's Conway School of Nursing in May.

**Kevin Ryan, B.A. 1989**, announced his retirement later this year as president and CEO of Covenant House International, more than 30 years after he first joined the charity. Covenant House is now the largest nonprofit organization across North and Central America focused on helping unaccompanied children and youth who experience homelessness and human trafficking. Each year, Covenant House reaches tens of thousands of young lives

across the United States, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. During his tenure as president, he presided over the largest period of expansion in Covenant House's history. He co-founded the Broadway Sleep Out, which has raised millions of dollars to house youth, and has emerged as one of the Broadway community's largest annual charitable fundraisers. He joined the Broadway community this summer as one of the producers of the current Broadway revival of *Into the Woods*. This fall, he is co-producing a Broadway revival of August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*, starring Samuel L. Jackson.

## ► 1990s

**Jane Cournan, B.A. 1990**, a wife and mother of three boys, is the founder and CEO of Pageview Media, a publishing and marketing company, which publishes *South Shore Home Life & Style Magazine*.



NACPA Board President Liz Allen, Father Donio, and NACPA Executive Director Regina Haney

Courtesy of AVA Independent



## The Road Not Yet Taken

What if the road not yet taken is the one that leads you back home? For filmmaker Joe Hall, B.A. 1988, his first feature film *The Road to Galena*, released in select theaters and via streaming in July, is about finding the courage to forge your own path even if it threatens the trappings of success. The protagonist, Cole Baird, follows his family's great expectations for him and rises through the ranks at a high-powered Washington, D.C., law firm yet he yearns to return to his rural hometown of Galena, Md., to farm.

"*The Road to Galena* is life. It's messy, it's complicated. Everyone is pursuing their own path; sometimes those paths are parallel, sometimes they intersect, sometimes they grow apart," said Hall, a New Jersey native from a large Catholic family who came to Washington, D.C., for college and never left.

Hall, like Cole, quickly climbed the corporate ladder but had his own dreams of making movies. So, 15 years ago, Hall started a production company and began shooting short films during his "off" time. For *The Road to Galena*, Hall filmed for six weeks on location in Washington D.C., and Maryland. He said he found great support from his close-knit Cardinal alumni community.

Actress Audrey Wasilewski, B.A. 1989, appears in *Galena*, and Hall's wife Catherine, B.A. 1990, M.S.W. 2017, along with their four kids, make cameos.

"This picture, as with so many things that I've done ... has been the result of a community," said Hall. "None of these things could I have done solo."

After wrapping production, Hall gathered with fellow Cardinals for a preview party on campus. Nora Burke, B.C.E. 1989, who attended the viewing with her husband and college roommates, said they all "really enjoyed" the film.

"The cinematography was really lovely and showcased a part of the Eastern Shore of Maryland that I hadn't explored before," said Burke.

As for what's next for Hall's journey, *The Road to Galena* will be premiering in Europe at a festival in Prague mid-September. And he has two films in pre-production: a thriller, and a sci-fi family feature based on a bedtime story he used to tell his children when they were younger. — M.B.

## ALUMNI CORNER

Alumni Spotlight



### From Parish Priest to Religious Freedom Honoree

When Monsignor James Shea, Ph.B. 1997, Ph.L. 1998, arrived to start philosophy studies at Catholic University, his future seemed clear: complete theology studies in Washington, D.C., and Rome, Italy; get ordained; and become a parish priest for the Diocese of Bismarck — where he had grown up on a grain and dairy farm, the oldest of eight children. That is exactly what he did, for a time.

Seven years after his 2002 ordination, Monsignor Shea, then 34, was appointed president of the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D. — making him the youngest college president in the United States.

He found that this new role increasingly drew him into efforts to uphold the conscience rights of Catholic ministries, including healthcare organizations. This past May, he received the Canterbury Medal from the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a national non-profit, public-interest legal and education institute, in recognition of his leadership.

This prestigious award is presented annually to an individual in the public square who “has fought for and defended the basic human right of religious liberty.” It is named after St. Thomas Becket, the 12th-century archbishop of Canterbury who was martyred for defending the rights of the Church.

Shea told CatholicU that religious liberty is important because it “creates the space so we are able to do with clear and healthy consciences the work we believe we are called to do, the work of loving according to the Gospel of Jesus. We believe the Lord ... has asked us to labor in the midst of a broken

world for charity and hope, to feed the hungry, to instruct those in need of education, to provide care for the sick, to help the poor, to go, as Pope Francis has said, into the margins.”

He feels that the current cultural environment can be challenging for Catholic higher education. “There is an idea that Catholic universities are places to be indoctrinated. Not true. We take seriously the dialogue between faith and reason,” he said, adding, “The one thing the Church needs to insist upon is that Catholic teaching be treated in a dignified way and have its say in an institution of higher learning. The loss of religious freedom threatens freedom of expression and thought. When reason and faith are in dialogue with each other, each can come into its own.”

“The mission of Catholic apostolates is connecting not only to the advancement of the Church’s mission but to advance the common good of all humanity. We are not able to do that without the freedom to follow our faith,” Monsignor Shea said.

Catholic University gave him a sense of the broader vision of the Catholic Church than he had when he was growing up on a farm. “To have an institution of higher learning in all of its dimensions in the middle of the nation’s capital is a commitment that is very impressive, not just to the Church, but to the nation,” he said, adding, “I’m proud to have degrees from Catholic University. I’m so grateful for everything I received.” — S.G.



**David V. Calviello, B.A. 1991**, joined as a partner at Calcagni & Kanefsky, LLP in Newark, N.J., after 25 years in public service as a chief assistant prosecutor in the Bergen County, N.J., prosecutor's office

**Monsignor Joseph Grimaldi, J.C.L. 1992**, was named the new vicar general of the Diocese of Brooklyn by Bishop Robert Brennan.

**Claire Noonan, B.A. 1992**, has been appointed vice president for Mission Integration at Loyola University Chicago.

**Lynn Weinstein, M.S.L.S. 1992, M.S.M. 2017**, research and reference specialist in the science, technology, and business division, Library of Congress, was honored to be selected as the 2022 recipient of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) Rose L. Vormelker Award for mentoring students and young professionals.

**Jamet Pittman, B.M. 1993, M.M. 1994**, a member of the professional choir of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, N.Y., participated in the annual New Year's Eve Concert for Peace that was live-streamed online.

**Stephanie Bohan, B.A. 1994**, is the new CEO of Hope Cottage, a nonprofit that transforms lives with the love of family through adoption, foster care, education, and parenting support, based in Dallas, Texas.

**Laura C. Brutman, J.D. 1994**, has joined as a shareholder at Banner Witcoff, a national intellectual property law firm, in their Washington, D.C., office.



Petralia-Archer Wedding



Waldron-Byers Wedding

## ALUMNI CORNER

Class Notes

Emma Flanagan Photography



Ceraldi-Schleimer Wedding

**D. Michael Lyles, J.D. 1994**, city attorney for Annapolis, Md., was selected by the Catholic University Columbus School of Law as one of three recipients of the Diversity Leadership Alumni Award. He was nominated for recognition by the Black Law Students Association.

**Cynda Hylton Rushton, Ph.D. 1994**, nurse and bioethicist, was honored by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) with its 2022 Marguerite Rodgers Kinney Award for a Distinguished Career. She receives the award for her exceptional contributions that enhance the care of critically ill patients and their families and the nurses who care for them, and further AACN's mission and vision.

**Maribeth Spellman, J.D. 1994**, has joined Vermont Federal Credit

Union in the new role of Chief People Officer.

**Most Rev. Gary Janak, J.C.L. 1995**, an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, received a 2022 Distinguished Alumnus Award from University of Houston-Victoria.

**Rev. Jeffrey M. Fleming, J.C.L. 1998**, a priest of the Diocese of Helena (Mont.), was named by Pope Francis as the coadjutor bishop of Great Falls-Billings.

**Constantine P. Lizas, J.D. 1999**, former lead counsel at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for bank secrecy and anti-money laundering, and former trial counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice, is joining Harris Beach PLLC as partner.

## ► 2000s

**Monsignor John Zuraw, J.C.L. 2000**, has been appointed as a vicar general by Bishop David J. Bonnar of the Diocese of Youngstown (Ohio). His responsibilities include external operations of the diocese and serving as moderator of parish, school, and ministerial leadership.

**Bryan Webster, J.D. 2001**, of Oakland, Calif., has joined Meta as an associate general counsel on the WhatsApp product team.

**Dennis Hermonstynne Jr., J.D. 2002**, has joined Freddie Mac as senior vice president and chief compliance officer

**Robert W. Moran, B.A. 2002**, has been appointed principal of

Bishop Shanahan High School in Downingtown, Pa., effective July 20.

**Evelyn L. Remaley, J.D. 2003**, joined Wilkinson Barker Knauer as a partner in the Washington, D.C., office. She worked in many roles at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), most recently as acting assistant secretary of commerce for communications and information and acting NTIA administrator.

**Tirzah (O'Beirne) Weiskotten, B.A. 2004**, and husband Chip Weiskotten, announce the birth of their daughter, Isla Taylor Weiskotten, on March 17. Isla joins her brothers Everett and Hudson. The family lives in Washington, D.C.

**Raymond N. Woitkowski, B.S.B.A. 2005**, has been promoted to head



Isla Weiskotten



Jackson and Izabel Rice

catering and deli manager at Pasta Vera in Greenwich, Conn., working with top hedge fund companies, and enjoys the daily hustle. He lives in the suburbs of New York City, and enjoys his boat and the beach.

**Sam Lynn, J.D. 2007**, has joined Gomez Trial Attorneys in their San Diego office, specializing in litigating catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death claims.

**Justin Faulb, J.D. 2008**, has joined the Federal Communications Commission as wireline and national security advisor.

**Kristin Davison, B.A. 2009**, of Axiom Strategies, was awarded “Most Valuable Player of the Year” for exceptional leadership as a senior strategist on Glenn Youngkin’s campaign for Virginia Governor at

the American Association of Political Consultants Campaign Excellence Awards.

**Kelly (Alt) Garcia, B.A. 2009**, was appointed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis to a four-year term on the board of trustees of Florida Virtual School.

## ▶ 2010s

**Vincent Joseph “Vinnie” Petralia, B.A. 2012**, married Erica Archer on April 23. Vinnie is the service manager at PoolTek in Rockville, Md. They live in Fairfax, Va.

**Justin Rice, B.B.E. 2011**, and **Suzana (Saric) Rice, B.C.E. 2011**, welcomed their twins Izabel Marie and Jackson William on Jan. 4.



## ▶ Alumna’s Childhood, College Dreams Came True

Mary Bruton Sandifer, B.A. 1975, lives in the Bordeaux region of France, where she, her husband, and their children run the family winery, *Domaine La Tourbeille*. She also recently published her first novel, *Jeanne: Seeds of Infinit*, a multi-generational, coming-of-age story about a young French girl who is introduced to the powers of nature.

This summer, Sandifer visited the U.S., to explore additional marketing options for the vineyard’s wines, but to catch up with family and friends and hold a book reading at The Writer’s Center in her former home town of Bethesda, Md. She also spent an afternoon on campus, reminiscing about her time at Catholic University.

Mary, whose father, John Bruton, B.E.E. 1935, and sister, Ann Kennedy, B.A. 1978, are also University alumni, nearly didn’t choose the University, but her friend Bernadette Driscoll Engelstad, B.A. 1974, persuaded her. Aided by a scholarship, Mary discovered wonderful professors.

“Dr. Joseph Williman was our French professor. He also taught French literature, old French, and medieval studies. He helped me do an interdisciplinary degree,” she said, although such a thing didn’t really exist at the time. Mary’s senior thesis was a comparative study on the influence of medieval literature and art on 19th century literature and art especially the pre-Raphaelites.

She lived in Ryan and Cardinal (now O’Connell) halls, competed on the University’s co-ed gymnastics team, was a member of the fine arts club, and earned a literature degree before traveling in Europe and taking a job with the National Endowment for the Arts. It was there she met her husband, John Sandifer.

Writing a novel had always been in the back of Mary’s mind. She said it went back to playing games of pretend when she was a child. “I used to make up stories and imagine all sorts of characters and plots.” Her inspiration for *Jeanne* was a conversation at the vineyard about 15 years ago. In talking to local farmers, she learned of laws prohibiting farmers from buying certain seeds.

She started writing *Jeanne* in 2015, waking up in the predawn hours on winter mornings to take advantage of the early silence. She’s considering a sequel, although “my son jokes we need to sell more wine” first

While at Catholic University, Mary had no idea she would one day live in France. “I always had a dream of living in a castle in France,” she said, even as a child. “I went to an ordinary Catholic school, where I had French lessons in kindergarten and I learned French songs and French poems. It’s funny how dreams come true.” —A.K.

## ALUMNI CORNER

### Class Notes

Justin is a certified financial planner working for Personal Wealth Strategies in N.J., and Suzana works with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District as senior coastal engineer. The family lives in Cliffside Park, N.J.

**Amanda Ceraldi, B.A. 2014**, married Frank Schleimer on Nov. 20, 2021 at Fordham University Church, Bronx, N.Y. Their wedding was celebrated by former chaplain and director of campus

ministry, Rev. Jude DeAngelo, O.F.M. Conv. Many alumni and staff of Catholic University were in attendance. Amanda is associate campus minister for women's ministry and pro-life hospitality at Catholic University, and Frank works in the Office of Residential Living at Georgetown University. They live in Washington, D.C.

**Kevin Harvey, B.S. 2014**, has completed his emergency medicine residency at Reading Hospital and

is now an ER attending physician with the Geisinger Health System.

**Katie Elizabeth Irvine, B.S. 2014**, and **Bryan Thomas Wade II, B.S. 2013**, were married on Oct. 10, 2020. Fellow alumni in attendance: **Christine Cline, B.S. 2013**; **Michael Beatson, B.S. 2013**; and **Kayleigh Hill, B.S.N. 2015**. The couple lives in Richmond, Va.

**Anastasia Almerini, B.S.B.A. 2015**, and **Craig Peterson Jr., B.S.B.A.**

**2015**, were married on Sept. 2, 2021. They live in Red Bank, N.J.

**Anna Lammers, B.M. 2015**, married Jackson Shumaker on June 18, 2021. Anna is an elementary school music teacher in Fairfax County, Va. The couple live in Springfield, Va.

**Jackie Waldron, B.A. 2015**, and **Daniel Byers, B.S.B.A. 2015**, were married on June 4, surrounded by many CatholicU alumni. They live in Massapequa Park, N.Y.

**Caitlin Boyle, B.C.E 2017, M.S. 2018**, and **Daniel McLaughlin, B.A. 2017**, were married on March 12 in Sarasota, Fla., surrounded by their bridal party, including several CatholicU alumni and many lifelong friends. Caitlin is a structural engineer at AECOM, and Danny is completing his doctorate in psychology at William James College.

**Mairiad Ferguson, B.S.N. 2017**, and **Scott Grinnan, B.A. 2017**, were married on Dec. 4, 2021. The bridal party included **Siobhan Ferguson, B.E.E. 2021**; **Janeclare McCann, B.S.N. 2017**; **Morgan Gluck, B.S.N. 2017**; **Caroline Coffey, B.S.N. 2017**; **Maddie (McGrath) Walraven, B.S.N. 2017**; **Eddie Pfaeffle, B.M.E 2017**; **Ryan Shiel, B.A. 2017**; and **Andrew Moldawer, B.S.B.A. 2010**.

**Lauren Werling, B.A. 2017, M.A. 2019**, and **Joseph Longo, B.C.E. 2017, M.S. 2018**, were married on April 2 in Cleveland, Ohio, surrounded by their families, friends, and many other CatholicU alumni. Lauren is a project coordinator for

Lindsey Lyons Photography



Irvine-Wadey Wedding



Almerini-Peterson Wedding

Kate Capato at Visual Grace Photography



Ferguson-Grinnan Wedding

a healthcare non-profit, and Joe is an assistant project manager at The Whiting Turner Contracting Company.

**Rafiqur “Rafi” Rahman, Ph.M 2018, Ph.D. 2022**, began teaching this fall as assistant professor of religious studies at Florida A&M University (FAMU), the highest-ranking public Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in America. On a significant historical note, he is the first Black Catholic to be hired within the FAMU Religious Studies department.

## ► 2020s

**Alaina N. Furman, M.S.L.I.S. 2020**, entered religious life with the Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in July. For the past eight years, she worked for the Certified Humane Raised and Handled® program, an international non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of farm animals raised for the food industry. She hopes and prays that many others will hear and answer the call to work in the Lord’s vineyard as priests and consecrated/religious.

**Vania M. Smith, J.D. 2020**, is a new associate with Friedlander Mislner PLLC, in the firm’s real estate and commercial transactions practice groups.

**Mariele Courtois, Ph.M. 2021, Ph.D. 2022**, has joined the faculty of Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., as an assistant professor of theology.



## A Serendipitous Friendship

In the four years they spent together (1957–1961) at Catholic University pursuing their undergraduate degrees, Mauricio J. Siman, B.Arch. 1961, (left) and Charles J. Cassini, B.A. 1961, (right) never personally met one another. It took six decades for that serendipitous encounter to happen — at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Kendall (Miami), Florida, in late 2021. At a weekday Mass, the battery of Charles’ motorcycle went dead. He asked some parishioners who were socializing if any would be kind enough to give him a ride to retrieve a charger at his townhouse development, which coincidentally is the same one where Mauricio lives. Mauricio quickly volunteered to drive Charles home. On the way, they compared the respective high points of their lives.

“Where did you go to college?” Mauricio asked.

“Washington, D.C.”

A bit struck by the response, Mauricio followed by asking, “What school?”

“Catholic University,” Charles answered.

Mauricio was now really taken aback. “So did I. I graduated in 1961 — and you?”

It was Charles’ turn for his jaw to drop. “Me too! Imagine that. We’re college classmates.”

Much had happened to them in the intervening 60 years. Mauricio returned home to El Salvador, opened an architectural and construction firm, and even added an interior decoration unit to his business. In 1980, in response to political events in his native country, he moved his family to South Florida, where he set about to reestablish himself in his business. Instrumental in the chartering of Global Bank, an FDIC-insured bank, he went on to earn a master’s degree in finance and banking. Still, he did not completely sever ties to Central America. Even the entrepreneur, he opened Dunkin’ Donuts stores in El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, and founded The Siman Corporate Group, which provides professional services in real estate and international trade.

As for Charles, after spending several years discerning a vocation with the Dominican Order, he returned to lay life and began a career in academia, teaching philosophy at Barry College (later University). He taught there from 1967 until his retirement in 2010, having acquired advanced degrees in education, philosophy, and practical theology throughout that span of years. He did not, however, forget his original interest in drama, occasionally teaching public speaking and acting, and being involved in plays on the university, community, and semi-professional level. He did voice-overs on nationally distributed training videos for Miami-Dade College, and in TV commercials. After retiring, he substituted and taught part-time at St. Andrew’s School and Palmer Trinity School, covering subjects such as philosophy, history, religion, and literature.

Both men married, raised families, and became grandfathers. They now cooperate as facilitators in programs at St. Catherine of Siena Church, and in outreach programs in the area. — Charles Cassini

## ALUMNI CORNER

### In Memoriam

**Helen M. Connor**, B.S.N. 1947, March 8, 2022.

**Phyllis Green**, B.A. 1947, J.D. 1992, volunteer in the Columbus Community Legal Services clinic for 15 years, March 26, 2022.

**Patricia Ann “Pat” Carroll**, attended the University spring 1949, July 30, 2022.

**Mary C. O’Neil**, B.S.P.H.N. 1950, March 19, 2022.

**Mary Weyand Quinn**, attended the University from 1951 to 1952, Feb. 26, 2022.

**Helen Higgins**, B.A. 1952, M.F.A. 1955, Dec. 22, 2021.

**Mary Catherine “Mary Kay” (Fisher) Pfordresher**, M.S.W. 1952, March 5, 2022.

**Rev. Joseph G. Riedman**, attended the University from 1952 to 1956, March 4, 2022.

**William B. Houston Sr.**, B.E.E. 1953, May 22, 2022.

**Norman F. Curran**, B.S.E. 1954, B.Arch.E. 1954, June 7, 2022.

**John “Jack” Donald Galligan**, attended the University from 1954 to 1957, June 24, 2022.

**Rev. Peter A. Fiore, O.F.M.**, M.A. 1955, April 17, 2022.

**Brother Benilde J. Loxham, F.S.C.**, B.A. 1955, M.R.S. 1965, March 5, 2022.

**Rev. James A. McCauley**, M.A. 1955, June 8, 2022.

**Eugene A. Pyfrom**, B.Arch. 1955, Feb. 18, 2022.

**Rev. Gerard J. Steffener**, B.A. 1956, April 13, 2022.

**Rev. Thomas W. Buckley**, S.T.L. 1957, June 16, 2022.

**Frank B. Duchesne Jr.**, B.C.E. 1957, March 2, 2022.

**Rev. Daniel G. Gambet, O.S.F.S.**, M.A. 1957, Feb. 28, 2022.

**Martin P. Kelly**, M.A. 1957, July 9, 2022.

**Edward J. Shaughnessy**, B.A. 1957, April 2, 2022.

**Leonard Cosby Simmons**, D.S.W. 1957, Jan. 13, 2022.

**Robert F. Comstock**, B.A. 1958, J.D. 1964, served on the University’s board of trustees and board of visitors, March 17, 2022.

**John L. Crowley**, B.C.E. 1958, May 26, 2022.

**Alfred R. “Fritz” Ganther Jr.**, M.Arch. 1958, June 17, 2022.

**Monsignor Joseph D. Harrington**, M.S. 1958, Ph.D. 1960, July 7, 2022.

**Barbara J. Barlow**, B.A. 1959, June 15, 2022.

**Brother Paul T. Cullen C.F.X.**, B.A. 1959, May 29, 2022.

**Susan Powers Kennelly**, B.A. 1959, June 5, 2022.

**Elizabeth M. Kilbride**, B.A. 1959, Feb. 7, 2022.

**Rev. John Catoir**, S.T.B. 1960, J.C.B. 1961, J.C.D. 1964, April 7, 2022.

**Sister Elaine M. Charters, R.S.M.**, M.A. 1960, Ph.D. 1963, April 11, 2022.

**Robert “Bob” McCarthy**, B.A. 1960, Ph.D. 1965, April 24, 2022.

**Joan Helene Blakeslee**, M.S. 1961, May 19, 2022.

**Sister M. Ronan Degnan**, M.A. 1961, May 9, 2022.

**Sister Elvira Dicerbo, M.P.F.**, B.A. 1961, M.F.A. 1963, March 2, 2022.

**Paul Louis Meunier Jr.**, B.A. 1961, M.A. 1962, Aug. 3, 2022.

**Monsignor Robert A. Roh**, B.A. 1961, M.A. 1962, March 14, 2022.

**John D. Sherman Sr.**, B.E.E. 1961, M.N.E. 1963, March 4, 2022.

**Mary Ann A. Borla**, B.A. 1962, June 13, 2022.

**Matthew J. Mullaney**, B.A. 1962, J.D. 1964, May 22, 2022.

**Most Rev. Emil A. Wcela**, S.T.L. 1962, J.C.L. 1963, retired auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre (N.Y.), May 21, 2022.

**Lee Ann Hoff**, M.S.N. 1963, May 6, 2022.

**Sister M. Marcine Klemm, O.P.**, M.S. 1963, March 22, 2022.

**Rev. Daniel J. Maloney**, M.A. 1963, March 10, 2022.

**Most Rev. Robert M. Moskal**, S.T.L. 1963, bishop emeritus of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat (based in Parma, Ohio), Aug. 7, 2022.

**Sister Elena Francis Arminio**, M.A. 1964, July 6, 2022.

**George W. Dishong**, M.E.E. 1964, J.D. 1983, Feb. 8, 2022.

**Sister Margaret A. Babione, O.S.U.**, M.A. 1965, May 31, 2022.

**Raymond J. Clough**, M.A. 1965, June 30, 2022.

**J. Paul Molloy**, J.D. 1965, June 11, 2022.

**Richard L. Bernini**, B.A. 1966, May 2, 2022.

**Paul E. Hulsman**, M.S. 1966, Feb. 28, 2022.

**Sister Monica (Gloria) Mai, O.S.B.**, M.A. 1966, March 5, 2022.

**Robert J. Heckman**, B.M.E. 1967, April 13, 2022.

**Rev. David P. Reid, SS.CC.**, S.T.L. 1967, April 19, 2022.

**John J. Slezak**, attended the University from 1967 to 1971, July 10, 2022.

**Edward Krappmann**, B.A. 1968, April 6, 2022.

**Priscilla M. Tapley**, M.S.L.S. 1968, April 3, 2022.

**James E. Van Horn**, M.A. 1968, Feb. 8, 2022.

**Julie A. Cirillo**, M.S. 1969, Jan. 27, 2022.

**Dennis J. Gallagher**, M.A. 1969, April 22, 2022.

**Rev. John M. O’Neill**, B.A. 1969, M.A. 1973, July 9, 2022.

**Sister Mary Barry, R.S.M.**, M.T.S. 1970, April 20, 2022.

**John J. McGarraghy**, M.A. 1970, May 21, 2022.

**Sister Agnes H. Murphy, C.S.J.**, M.S.N. 1970, Jan. 28, 2022.

**Thomas D. Price**, M.S.N. 1970, Feb. 6, 2022.

**Edward A. Feiner**, M.Arch. 1971, July 1, 2022.

**Lawton R. Metcalfe Jr.**, B.M. 1972, M.M. 1975, May 13, 2022.

**Hector S. Sanchez**, M.S.W. 1972, Feb. 20, 2022.

**Lucia A. Bonno**, M.S.W. 1973, March 2, 2022.

**Carmen Lancis Fernandez**, M.S.W. 1973, Sept. 17, 2021.

**David A. Hurdis**, Ph.D. 1973, May 31, 2022.

**Rev. James H. Sexstone**, M.A. 1973, May 19, 2022.

**Mary Davidson Swift**, M.A. 1973, April 24, 2022.

**Joseph B. Durkin**, M.A. 1974, May 17, 2022.

**John L. Benn**, M.A. 1976, March 13, 2022.

**Charles P. Rufe**, M.S.L.S. 1976, July 5, 2022.

**James “Jay” Stegmaier**, B.A. 1976, Jan. 20, 2022.

**Monsignor Andrew G. Varga**, S.T.L. 1976, D.Min. 1982, March 7, 2022.

**David L. Rutherford**, J.D. 1977, May 12, 2022.

**Rosemarie Laque**, M.M. 1979, July 29, 2022.

**Sue A. Rice**, M.A. 1979, Ph.D. 1988, April 28, 2022.

**Sister Marylita Friia, S.S.N.D.**, M.R.S. 1980, Feb. 11, 2022.

**Elizabeth G. Hinkley**, B.S.N. 1980, March 23, 2022.

**Claudia L. Koutoulakos**, M.A. 1980, March 4, 2022.

**Rev. G. Michael Gribble**, M.Div. 1981, Aug. 3, 2022.

**Patsy J. Hemp**, M.S.W. 1982, May 4, 2022.

**Robert D. Rogalski**, M.M.E. 1983, M.S. 1984, Feb. 9, 2022.

**Meredith (Minter) Dixon**, M.S.L.S. 1987, Dec. 17, 2021.

**Christine M. Imgrund**, M.A. 1988, May 18, 2022.

**William K. Bean**, J.D. 1989, Feb. 13, 2022.

**John James McKenna Jr.**, J.D. 1990, Feb. 26, 2022.

**Katherine P. Cadwallader**, M.S.N. 1992, Feb. 3, 2022.

**Kristine (Connelly) O’Connor**, B.A. 1992, May 31, 2021.

**Maureen Geralyn Dowd Schillinger**, B.A. 1993, July 15, 2022.

**Joel E. Burns**, B.M.E. 1994, March 30, 2022.

**Manuel A. Lubian (Rodriguez)**, B.A. 1996, April 21, 2022.

**Diane C. Carey**, J.D. 2001, June 19, 2022.

## ▶ FACULTY/STAFF

**William Wood Bassett Jr.**, J.D. 1972, associate professor of canon law from 1967 to 1973, Feb. 23, 2022.



## Robert F. Comstock

### Chairman Emeritus, Board of Trustees

Robert F. Comstock, B.A. 1958, J.D. 1964, who served as a member of the University’s Board of Trustees from 1987 to 2014, including several years as chairman, died on March 17, 2022, at the age of 85.

A native of Lincoln, Ill., Bob attended Catholic University on a scholarship and was a standout athlete in basketball, baseball, and track. After graduation, he served a tour of duty as an air targets officer in Japan for the United States Air Force, then returned to campus for law school.

After a break, when he was recalled by the Air Force to serve as an F-104 Starfighter pilot during the Berlin Crisis, Bob returned to

complete law school. He then began a career in banking and law, including serving as managing partner of Comstock & Reilly, LLP, in Washington, D.C.

Between 1983 and 1986, he served as an organizer and chairman of the board of First Continental Bank of Maryland. He was director and chairman of the board of the Metropolitan Federal Savings and Loan Association from 1986 to 1987, and chairman at Baltimore Bancorp and Bank of Baltimore from 1988 to 1991. He was a member of the board of the National Capital Bank of Washington for 15 years, serving as chairman of its Executive Committee several times and as chairman and chief operating officer from 2013 to 2016.

Bob was head coach for the University’s track and cross country teams for several years before bringing his love for the sports to the Catholic Youth Organization, where he volunteered and then became the founding meet director for the National Invitational Indoor Track Meet from 1968 to 1976. The event drew Olympians and world-record holders. He also led the United States Track and Field team in international competitions, and directed the USA-USSR Track and Field Dual Meet in 1976.

Stephen Payne, dean of the Columbus School of Law, said that Bob’s life “was characterized by a spirit of service, not only to the University he loved, but also to the greater D.C. community, in which he established deep roots. We also revere Bob’s memory for his loyal service to the Church and for wearing our country’s uniform in times of crisis. May he rest in God’s peace.”

In addition to serving on the Board of Trustees of Catholic University, Bob was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and he supported Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, and the Saint John Paul II Seminary. He was named a Knight of Saint Gregory the Great in 2019. Bob is survived by his wife, Jean Joyce Comstock, five children, 1 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

As Monsignor Walter Rossi, homilist for Bob’s funeral Mass said, “Bob was a friend to all, especially to those in need, and he never turned his back on anyone.”

2022

## ALUMNI GIFT GUIDE

*We wish you a Cardinal Christmas!*

**This year, shop small and support Catholic University alumni!**

Our gift list showcases products, services, and businesses owned by Cardinals — learn about three of them here, and find the full list online at [engage.catholic.edu/giftguide](https://engage.catholic.edu/giftguide)

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[www.strassburgersteaks.com](https://www.strassburgersteaks.com)

For five generations, the Strassburger family — including Suzanne Strassburger, B.A. 1989 — has provided meat lovers with superior quality and legendary flavor. From their new, state-of-the-art facility located just outside New York City, they provide the highest-quality burgers and top prime steaks with the best marbling, texture, and color, all handpicked to give a special experience to savor and share. Meat lovers love them!



See the full list and shop small at [engage.catholic.edu/giftguide](https://engage.catholic.edu/giftguide).

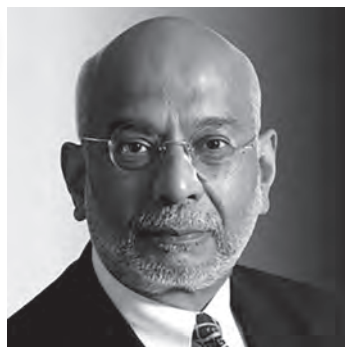
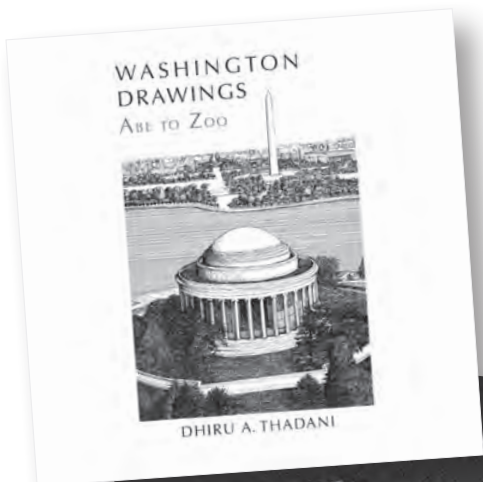




## Grassini Family Vineyards

[www.grassinifamilyvineyards.com](http://www.grassinifamilyvineyards.com)

Grassini Family Vineyards is an estate winery in Santa Barbara's Happy Canyon. Started by Larry Grassini, J.D. 1970, P '06, and his wife, Sharon, P '06, and run by their eldest daughter, Katie Grassini, J.D. 2006, the 50-acre vineyard and winery are nestled on 200 acres of wilderness. Specializing in the handcrafted production of Bordeaux wines, you can visit their tasting room in downtown Santa Barbara or make an appointment to visit the winery.



## Dhiru Thadani, Artist

[dthadani.com/drawings](http://dthadani.com/drawings)

Dhiru Thadani, B.S.Arch. 1976, M.Arch. 1978, is an architect, urban designer, author, and educator. His book "Washington Drawings: Abe to Zoo" represents two loves — a love of drawing and a love for Washington, D.C. This collection includes 26 pen-and-ink drawings of his favorite places and moments, one for each letter of the alphabet. It makes an ideal gift for all who have fond memories of their time in Washington, D.C.

## FROM THE VAULT

University Archives



Courtesy of The American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives

## CAP-TIVATING CARDINALS

The fall semester marks the arrival of a new class of Cardinals taking their first step toward earning their cap and gown at the end of their studies. Few know that, for years, first-time students began their Catholic university journey with another type of cap.

On their first day, all first-year lay students were given a brimmed beanie in bold Cardinal colors that made them easy to spot on campus.

The University Archives has a handful of the hats donated by alumni who were required to wear them throughout their first year. First-year students also wore button pins with their name and major.

“It was a way of socially integrating students who were new to the school,” said Maria Mazzenga, curator of the University Libraries’ American Catholic History Collection.

It’s not clear when the custom started, but archival photos show students wearing the wool beanies as far back as the early 1920s. “We believe the practice stopped after the early 1970s, as we no longer see photos of students wearing them after that, but we aren’t certain of the exact dates,” said Mazzenga.

The beanies may have long since disappeared from campus, but there’s no reason to be without a Catholic University hat, as there are more Cardinal gear options than ever.

— M.B.

# CARDINAL CONNECT

## Join our new industry groups!



## CARDINAL CONNECT

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PODCAST:**

## **CARDINAL CONVERSATIONS**

Have you listened to the University's new career podcast, Cardinal Conversations? It features alumni sharing their career stories, helpful advice, and reflections on their time as students at CatholicU. Join the conversation, hear some great stories, and find pearls of wisdom to help you advance your career and grow professionally.

**HOSTED BY:**

**Brett LaPrad, M.A. 2019**  
Director of career development  
and professional networking  
for the Office of Alumni  
Engagement

**Ryane Cheatham**  
Associate director, employer  
relations and assessment for  
the Center for Academic and  
Career Success

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