

STAR GAZER > VIRAL SÉNSATION > LIFE SAVER

# CATHOLICU

Magazine of The Catholic University of America > Fall 2021

## THE SCIENCE OF THE SUN

NASA Awards Largest Research Grant in University History

THE BIG PICTURE

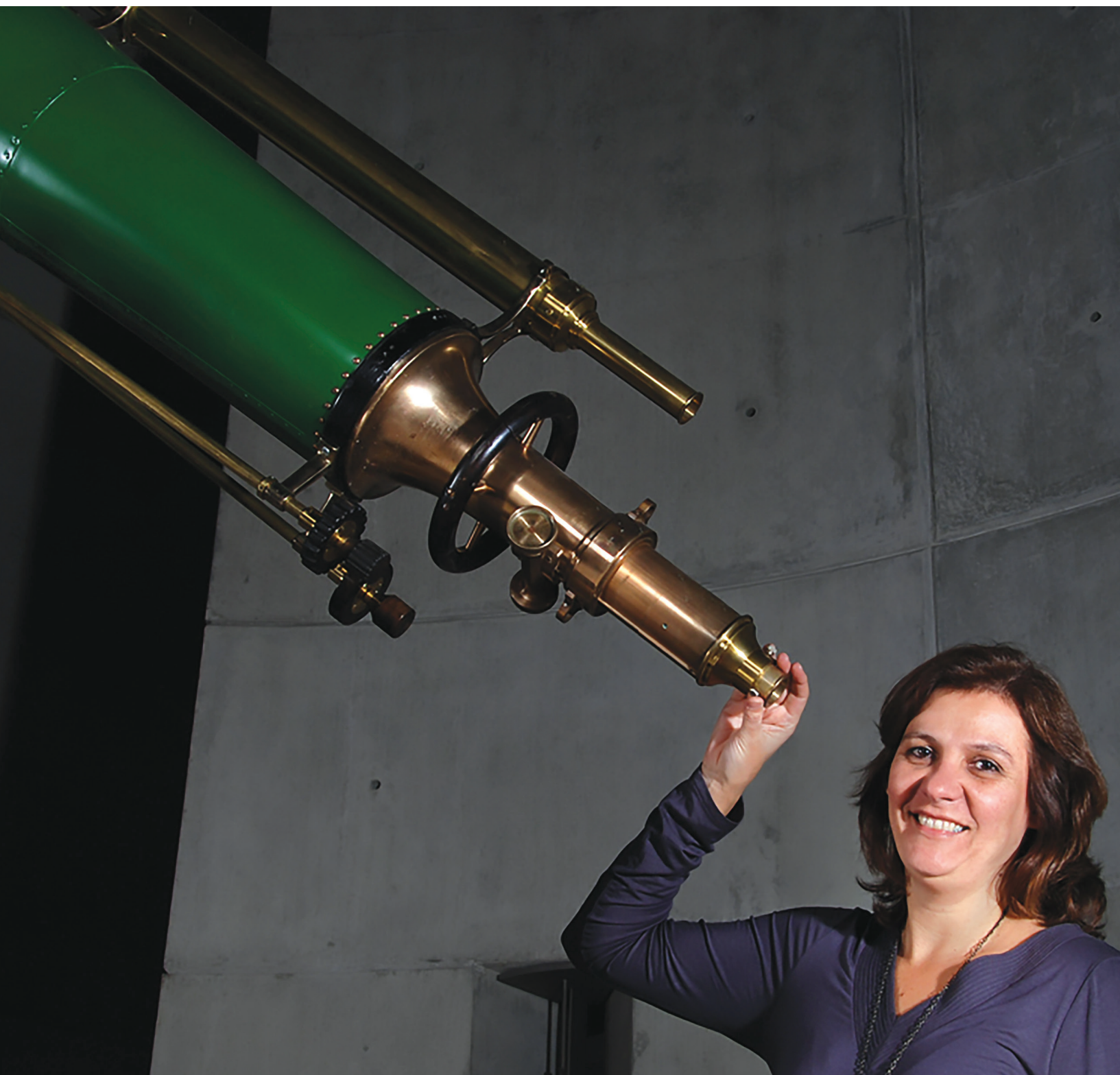
COMMENCEMENT 2021

FedExField, Landover, Md.  
See story, page 13.

Photo by Rui Barros



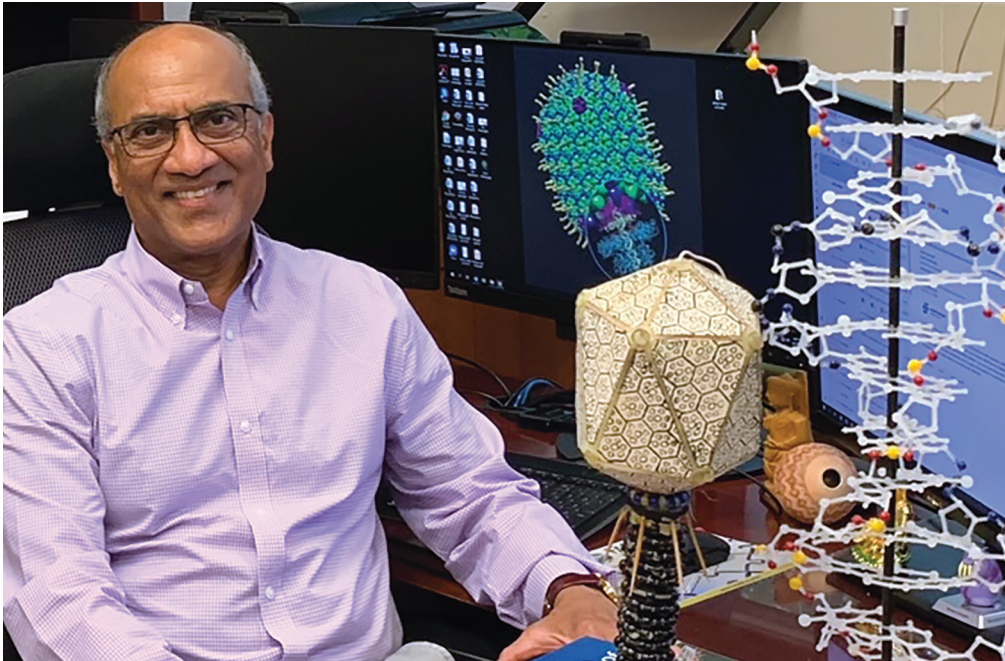




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**Star Gazer**

After years spent making discoveries about our universe, astrophysicist and Vice Provost Duilia de Mello is working to help young people discover a passion for science.



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## Viral Sensation

With the coronavirus raging in early 2020, Biology Professor Venigalla Rao brought 40 years of research on one tiny virus to bear in the urgent quest for a vaccine. His vaccine is now headed to clinical trials.



# 34

## Life Saver

Psychology Professor David Jobes has spent his career — more than 35 years — dedicated to suicide prevention. His groundbreaking clinical intervention, Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality, is saving lives.

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*University Archives*

**Front cover:** In July, Catholic University received a \$64.1 million research award from NASA to fund a cooperative agreement with Catholic University's Institute for Astrophysics and Computational Sciences and five other local partners. It is the single largest research grant in University history, and establishes the Partnership for Heliophysics and Space Environment Research (PHaSER). See story, page 9.

Kapook2981/iStock/Getty Images Plus via Getty Images with elements of this image furnished by NASA

### CORRESPONDENCE

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Garvey

# Commencements



A few years ago, we had an ad campaign that urged prospective students to “Discover Catholic University.” All of it — our beautiful campus, our prime location in the nation’s capital, our world-class research and academics, our faith-filled community.

It would be difficult to get through this issue of the magazine without considering the word “discover.” There is an interview with our provost, Aaron Dominguez, a world-class particle physicist who helped with the discovery of the Higgs boson; a news story about a \$64.1 million grant from NASA — the largest single research grant in University history — that will no doubt lead to discoveries in the field of heliophysics; and feature stories on three University professors who are credited with breakthroughs in their fields of study. One discovered a supernova; one has engineered a benign virus for therapeutic use; the third developed a clinical method that has proven effective in preventing suicide.

We place high value on the research enterprise at Catholic University. When it comes to higher education, discovery takes on meanings beyond research. College is where our students discover their callings, their faith, and sometimes a life partner.

In September, I announced that I would be stepping down as President in June 2022. As I said at the time, “I became President of The Catholic University of America in 2010 hoping I could contribute something to building up the institution. I did not foresee how much I would fall in love with it.”

I have been thinking about the many things I have loved (and will have several more months to love) about this job, and discovery is among them. The list of things I’ve learned is endless. After the numerous renovation and building projects that have revitalized campus in recent years, I have discovered a love for blueprints, elevations, and floor plans.

Even higher on the list is getting to know our students as they mature into adulthood. Two of my favorite days on campus are move-in day and graduation day, the bookends to those years of discovery. In late August each year Jeanne and I greet new students and their families, sharing their excitement and wonder. And nothing tops the bittersweet joy we all feel each May when we celebrate our graduates.

If someone had told me we would have a Commencement ceremony on an NFL football field, followed five months later by an October graduation ceremony for a class that left the University 18 months prior, I would not have believed them. But that’s what a pandemic does.

This past spring it became clear, because of pandemic-related restrictions in place in D.C., that we would not be able to include guests in any Class of 2021 Commencement ceremony we held on campus. So we decamped to FedExField in Maryland, home of the Washington Football Team. The size of the stadium allowed each graduate to invite four guests. It was an unforgettable day full of joy and gratitude — complete with fireworks.

Five months later, on another sunny day, we made good on a promise to bring the Class of 2020 back to campus for an in-person graduation. It was held on a Friday afternoon in October in conjunction with Cardinal Weekend (just as this issue of the magazine was headed to press). That ceremony, too, was filled with joy and gratitude for the simple pleasure of being able to gather and celebrate our graduates’ achievements as they closed one chapter and opened another. Like the graduates, I am preparing for a commencement. And like the graduates, it helps to know I can always return home.



Top to bottom: Class of 2021 graduation at FedExField; move-in day 2021; Class of 2020 graduation on campus, October 2021.

## IN YOUR WORDS

Comments from the University Community



### NAME THAT BUILDING

**Editor's Note:** In the spring 2021 edition of the magazine ["From the Vault," page 56], we asked readers to help us identify the location of a 1950s-era typing class. Below are a few responses.

The typing class in the photo ["From the Vault," spring 2021] must have been in the building called "The Sisters' College," located on the Varnum campus. My second guess would be inside the College of Education building [O'Boyle Hall] located on the hill behind Caldwell Hall. Or the very top floor of McMahon Hall. Those lead typewriters would be a strain to our fingers today. Very stiff action of those keys on the manual typewriters.

I have fond memories of life at CUA. I lived in the Franciscan Sisters' Duns Scotus House of Studies. Since then I earned two M.Ed. degrees in Edmond, Okla., and taught 33 years in one inner city middle school in Oklahoma City. I retired in 2016. I am so grateful for the foundation of my education at CUA.

— SISTER BARBARA BAAY, B.A. 1975

My guess of the electric typewriter class is St. John Hall. If the building is correct, it's a room on the first floor to the right. It's where we had third-year studio in 1978 and 1979.

When I attended Catholic (1976–1980), St. John was the home of the radio station and I believe the *Tower* publication. As an architecture student, we spent many hours in

"studio" completing our design projects. St. John became our "home away from home" due to countless all-nighters.

Some buildings may be gone, but the memories made at CU will be with me always. More importantly, it is the friendships I hold so dear, they have withstood the test of time and for that I am forever grateful.

— SUSAN Q. McNAMARA, B.ARCH. 1980

**Response from Archives:** Unfortunately, we do not have any photos of the interior of the Varnum Street properties. Other than exterior images of the Catholic Sisters College buildings (and one or two unlabeled classrooms there), there are no other photographs from that campus in our collections. It is highly likely that such a summer business class may have been held at the Catholic Sisters College campus.

At the time this photo was taken, O'Boyle Hall was known as Holy Cross College, an affiliated school with Catholic University, which didn't technically operate the property until 1965.

For the top floor of McMahon and St. John Hall, there was classroom space and those, too, are viable options for this photo location. The mystery continues.

The snap of "From the Vault" is the CU of my memories. As I thumb through the 2021 magazine, I marvel at the advance in service and dedication. Bravo CUA.

My years at the Speech and Drama Department paved the way for my fame and fortune today.

To be frank (actually I'm still Gino), my aggregate years at CUA working at the Speech and Drama Department pretending I could type, driving Father Hartke about town as his designated driver, participating in productions, class work, homework, and serving breakfast and lunch to the monks left me terminally exhausted. A perfect prelude to being an actor.

— GINO CONFORTI, B.A. 1954

### REMEMBERING A DEAN

I have just read the obituary for Jude Dougherty [spring 2021, page 53], who a long time ago was my dissertation director and who then became dean of the School of Philosophy. Dr. Dougherty, although I knew him as Jude, was instrumental in my choice of topics and my successful defense of my thesis. He was down to earth, student-friendly, a good thinker and a good administrator; and for me he was a model.

— TOM ROCCO, M.A. 1966, PH.D. 1970

### CORRECTION

I enjoyed your article on Cardinal Gregory ["A Cardinal Makes History," spring 2021] and overall layout of the magazine, but I would suggest you check the date for passage of "The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." I believe it's 2002 [rather than 2001].

— ELLEN MCCLOSKEY, B.A. 1975

**Editor's Note:** We regret the error, and appreciate our readers keeping us on our toes.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS. WRITE TO US AT  
cua-magazine@cua.edu





## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

In March 2021, architecture student Schola Eburuoh was working with her studio teammates on their senior project, designing a healthy aging center for seniors in Columbia Heights. Her phone rang. But not knowing the number, she let it go to voicemail. When she checked it, she heard “Harvard University,” and excused herself to call back.

The first words from an associate dean at the Harvard Graduate School of Design were “Congratulations on your acceptance.”

“It was one of the moments you never want to forget,” she says.

Just two months later, another of those never-forget moments came on May 15 when Eburuoh received the President’s Award at the University’s 2021 Commencement held at FedExField in Maryland (see related story, page 13). The award is given to a “student leader who is an outstanding scholar, had a positive impact on the community, and exemplifies the highest ideals of Christianity.”

During her four years on campus, Eburuoh served as a resident assistant, president of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students, and was a member of the President’s Society, Habitat for Humanity, and Pro-Life Hospitality. She holds the University record in triple jump, even though she was on the track and field team just one season. She earned her bachelor of science in architecture with minors in sustainability and economics, all with a 3.93 GPA.

“I loved the architecture program at Catholic,” she says. “It offered so many opportunities and perspectives from classical to modern to faith-based, with a strong emphasis on sustainability. I had so many faculty members who encouraged, challenged, and mentored me.”

Her peers looked up to her as a student leader. “Leadership is an act of self-giving and of service in any form and can be given by anyone,” says Eburuoh.

Receiving the President’s Award in an NFL stadium was overwhelming, she says. “I looked out at the field and saw my entire class. I could see my friends in every corner — smiling, crying, standing. I was really thankful for this class, for these friends who supported me, who are committed to service and faith. I also took a moment to savor how lucky we were just to have a graduation after a long year of being college students during a pandemic.”

— E.N.W.

# AROUND CATHOLIC



The newly funded cooperative agreement will support scientific research in the Heliophysics Science Division at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Heliophysics studies the transport of energy in the form of particles and radiation from the sun, as seen in this 1999 NASA image depicting a handle-shaped cloud of relatively cool dense plasma suspended in the sun's corona.

# The Science of the Sun

## NASA Awards Largest Research Grant in University History

**T**he Catholic University of America has received a \$64.1 million research award from NASA to fund a cooperative agreement led by CatholicU's Institute for Astrophysics and Computational Sciences and including five other local partners: University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), University of Maryland College Park (UMCP), George Mason University (GMU), Howard University (HU), and Universities Space Research Association.

The agreement establishes the Partnership for Heliophysics and Space Environment Research (PHaSER) with funding for the next five years. PHaSER will support the scientific and technical program of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Heliophysics Science Division (HSD).

"When executed, this becomes the largest single research grant in the history of The Catholic University of America," said University Provost Aaron Dominguez. He noted that the news comes soon after NASA extended funding for the Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology II (CRESST II) program through March 2027. That cooperative agreement, which started in 2017, created a collaboration between NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and four local universities — led by the UMCP and including UMBC, Catholic University, HU, and Southeastern Universities Research Association.

Dominguez noted that the two awards push the University's NASA-funded project total to more than \$90 million over the next five years.

Some of the guiding principles of PHaSER include nurturing early-career scientists by providing a broad range of opportunities for students and newly minted Ph.D. scientists, facilitating collaborations with the broader research community, strengthening diversity and inclusion efforts, and enabling productive integration of PHaSER scientific staff in heliophysics science planning, technology development, and all phases of mission implementation.

"The overall purpose is to enable scientific research in the Heliophysics Division at NASA Goddard," said Bob Robinson, director of PHaSER and research professor of physics at CatholicU. "The mission of the Heliophysics Division is to study the transport of energy in the form of particles and radiation from the sun through interplanetary space and its effects on Earth's atmosphere and ionosphere."

Cooperative agreements like PHaSER "help fulfill the University's mission in education, providing opportunities for CatholicU students and faculty to take advantage of the expertise and resources that we have at NASA Goddard," said Robinson. "I'm excited to see that connection continue and strengthen under the new agreement."

PHaSER continues and expands the ongoing support currently undertaken through two separate cooperative agreements: the Center for Excellence in the Physics of the Heliosphere and Sun (CEPHEUS), led by CatholicU with subawards to GMU; and the Goddard Planetary Heliophysics Institute, led by UMBC in partnership with UMCP.

Through CEPHEUS, researchers have been studying space weather — solar phenomena like flares, storms, and coronal mass ejections — that can adversely affect radio communications, satellite technologies, and power grids on Earth. As a part of this research, the Catholic University physics department opened a Space Weather Center on campus in 2016. In this center, students — both undergraduate and graduate — have access to solar monitoring feeds and equipment modeled after those found at NASA Goddard. — M.M.H.



The mission ... is to study the transport of energy in the form of particles and radiation from the sun through interplanetary space and its effects on Earth's atmosphere and ionosphere.

— BOB ROBINSON

# Conways Pledge Additional \$20 Million to Nursing Students

On April 30, Bill and Joanne Conway committed an additional \$20 million in scholarship support that will benefit 160 Catholic University nursing students over the next five years. With this most recent gift, their transformational support of the Conway School of Nursing has reached a total of \$80 million since 2013.

Thanks to the Conways and their Bedford Falls Fund, 82 student nurses have already received full or partial tuition scholarships. The first cohort of Conway Scholars entered the University in the fall of 2013. To date, 34 Conway Scholars have graduated and entered the nursing profession. They are now caring for patients in 16 hospitals across the country and practicing a variety of specialties, from pediatric oncology to surgical intensive care.

In addition to tuition support, the Conways' generosity has provided students with housing and stipends to complete internships, as well as preparation and review courses for the National Council Licensure Examination, which graduates must pass to be certified as registered nurses. To

date, all Conway Scholars have passed the exam during their first sitting; the national average for the same data set is 80%.

"Most of these students would not have achieved their dreams of becoming nurses if they had not been selected as Conway Scholars," said Conway School Dean Patricia McMullen. "This imprimatur distinguishes them amongst their peers. It motivates and guides them. Each will serve tens of thousands of patients throughout their careers, providing the superlative, compassionate care that is the hallmark of a Conway School graduate."

The Conways began supporting several nursing programs in the Washington, D.C., area in 2008. They wanted to educate aspiring nurses and help ease the country's nursing shortage; according to health care experts, the U.S. will need an additional one million nurses by 2025. Bill, a University trustee and the co-founder and co-chairman of The Carlyle Group, said he and his wife are focused on helping educate 20,000 nurses in the United States.

Bill and Joanne have enjoyed getting to know the Conway Scholars, and they are proud to see these students make a difference in the world. "The quality of the nursing students at Catholic University is outstanding," said Bill. "With the increasing need for nurses nationwide, we are thrilled with the impact graduates are having in health settings here in Washington, D.C., and all over the country."

The Conways have been instrumental in the University's plans to expand the nursing school by providing two additional \$20 million gifts — half of the funding that will enable Catholic University to construct a new state-of-the-art nursing and sciences building.

The new facility is expected to open in 2024 and, at more than 102,000 square feet, it will double the size of the current nursing education facilities, provide space to double the current number of nursing students, and dramatically increase the number of faculty. The Conways' latest gift will help bolster the number of scholarships available for incoming students, allowing the school to grow and ensuring that the Conway Scholars program can continue to provide the highest quality health care providers.

"Our Conway School of Nursing has long been a source of great pride to the University. We are so grateful to Bill and Joanne for all they have done to contribute to its success," said University President John Garvey. "I am confident that the Conway School will become the gold standard for nursing education in this country."

This most recent \$20 million gift to support scholarships ties the Conways' two previous gifts toward the new nursing and sciences building as the largest single gifts ever given to Catholic University. In June 2019, the University celebrated the Conways as the largest benefactors in University history by naming the School of Nursing in their honor.

— K.H.B.



Dana Renee Bowler



Rui Barros

## Susan Wessel Installed as Inaugural Moran Chair

Susan Wessel was formally installed as the first James H. and Mary F. Moran Endowed Professor in the Origins of Church Teaching within the School of Theology and Religious Studies (STRS) this April. The endowed professorship was established through a gift from Alice Moran, a microbiologist who specified the position be named in honor of her parents.

“Studying this period of Church history sheds light on the origins and development of the foundational beliefs of the Catholic Church,” University President John Garvey said. “It’s a great honor to receive this gift.”

Moran’s connection to the University stemmed from a friendship with STRS Professor of Church History Nelson Minnich. They both participated in a Bible study that inspired Moran to research Church history between the years 100 B.C. and 700 A.D.

“Dr. Moran wished to probe more deeply into the origins of Church teaching,” Wessel said. “What were the words of Jesus, as he preached to his disciples and to the crowds? How did the earliest communities bear witness to Jesus’s ministry? These were the questions I had when I began to study the early Church a long time ago.”

Wessel joined the University in 2004. Her teaching focuses on Church history and historical and systematic theology.

“I am honored to be able to research important questions addressing the origins of Church teaching, and to be able to use the skills of 21st century historiography to help deepen this understanding,” she said. “I hope that my initial efforts will begin a long tradition of research and scholarship to continue the legacy of Dr. Moran in honor of her parents.” — A.K.

## \$3 Million Gift to Expand Online Nursing Programs

Over the next 40 years, the number of Americans over the age of 65 is predicted to double; while the population over the age of 85 — who require the most acute care — is projected to quadruple, according to a report from the Urban Institute. Medical professionals who serve these populations are critically needed.

Thanks to a \$3 million gift from Ascension, one of the nation’s leading Catholic and nonprofit health systems, the Conway School of Nursing will now expand its online offerings to include an Acute Care Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Program. This funding will help with programmatic expenses, such as curriculum development, student recruitment, and marketing.

In addition, this gift will support two full-time faculty positions and a full-time staff position for the program over the next 14 years. This is critically important to the program’s success, as nursing faculty shortages across the country have impacted the number of qualified nurses currently in the workforce.

“The Conway School of Nursing is ready to act. We will use our top-ranked, nationally recognized online nurse practitioner program to educate outstanding acute care adult and geriatric nurse practitioners,” said Patricia McMullen, dean of the Conway School of Nursing. “These graduates will, in turn, help to address the tremendous need for advanced practice nurses working in hospitals to care for adult and geriatric patients with acute and chronic illnesses, to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and to address future pandemics, all with a holistic perspective.”

“Catholic University is leading the way when it comes to educating the best, most qualified nurse practitioners in the country,” said Joseph Impicicche, Ascension president and CEO and University trustee. “Ascension is pleased to be able to invest in the education of the kinds of nurses that are most needed today, and for the future.” — K.H.B.



Patricia McMullen, dean of the Conway School of Nursing

# Jacqueline Mars Pledges Support for *Angels Unawares* Plaza

Jacqueline Mars has made a gift of \$1.25 million to help Catholic University create a fitting home for *Angels Unawares*, the 3.5-ton, 20-foot-long sculpture designed by artist Timothy Schmalz. It was gifted to the University in 2020 by an anonymous patron.

Mars is co-owner of Mars, Incorporated, and a generous philanthropist with a particular interest in supporting the arts and higher education. Growing up just outside of Washington, D.C., she always knew of Catholic University, although she didn't have a personal connection. In 2020, that changed when she had dinner with University President John Garvey and University Chancellor Cardinal Wilton Gregory, archbishop of Washington. After learning about the University's excellent arts programs, she was inspired to lend her support to the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art.

Then, she learned about *Angels Unawares* and its journey to Catholic University. The bronze sculpture is a second casting of a piece originally commissioned by Pope Francis; the first casting was installed in St. Peter's Square in 2019. The name of the piece comes from the Bible verse that inspired the work, Hebrews 13:2: "Be welcoming to strangers, many have entertained angels unawares."

The sculpture depicts more than 140 migrants and refugees from across history tightly packed onto a boat. It was created to embody the Church's

teachings on immigration, particularly the importance of welcoming the stranger and celebrating the many contributions of migrants and refugees to our society.

In 2020, Schmalz approached the University with an offer to permanently install his second casting on campus.

"I'm so glad it will be in the capital, where so many issues of immigration are being dealt with. I truly can't think of a better place for it in the country," Mars said. "We may not geographically be the center of the country, but we are definitely the heart of the country."

*Angels Unawares* will be permanently installed in a new plaza, located between Father O'Connell and Gibbons halls, that will include a reflecting pool and seating. The statue will be placed within the pool.

Both Mars and the University hope this plaza and *Angels Unawares* will become a destination for the University community and for the hundreds of thousands of faithful pilgrims who visit the adjacent Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception each year.

"I believe in the power of the visual arts, and what this sculpture represents," Mars shared. "And I'm very proud to have it as part of Catholic University, a place where it can speak to a lot of people, both young and old, from this country and elsewhere."  
— K.H.B.



## *Angels Unawares* Finishes Yearlong National Tour

In September 2020, *Angels Unawares* was unveiled and blessed in a ceremony on campus. Then, in November, the sculpture began a national tour; a pilgrimage that has allowed people across the country to share in its message of welcome and hope.

Over the past year, the statue has made stops in Boston; New York; Atlanta; Miami; New Orleans; San Antonio; Napa Valley, Calif.; Minneapolis; and Chicago. In October, *Angels Unawares* returned to Washington, D.C., to be permanently installed in its new home on campus.

To learn more about the national tour and see photos and videos from each location, visit [engage.catholic.edu/angelsunawares](https://engage.catholic.edu/angelsunawares).



When life hands you a challenge like this past year, you have to lean in and embrace the experience.

— JENNIFER PAXTON

AROUND CATHOLIC

Campus News

## An Unforgettable Commencement

After a year of social distancing, virtual classes, and limited capacity events, Catholic University's Class of 2021 was finally able to celebrate *en masse* during the 132nd annual Commencement Ceremony, which was held at FedExField in Landover, Md., on May 15.

Traditionally, Commencement has taken place on the University Mall, facing the east portico of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This year's change in location was necessary to allow for sufficient COVID-related protocols.

Students sat socially distanced on the field where the Washington Football Team plays. Instead of a procession, the students' names scrolled around the stadium's digital displays. Thanks to the size of the new location, each graduate was permitted to invite up to four guests. The event was also livestreamed for those who could not attend in person.

Among the students, faculty, and staff working to keep the day's event running smoothly was Jennifer Paxton, professor of history and director of the University Honors Program. Remarking on the day's location, she said it was "fitting that we're ending this unique year in a unique way.

"When life hands you a challenge like this past year, you have to lean in and embrace the experience," Paxton said. "It took some people with vision and they had to work really hard to pull this off. The amount of work that went on behind the scenes to make this happen was amazing and they did it all for the students and their families."

Nellie Adams, who received her bachelor's in theology, said she was thankful for the day's event, even with the change in location.

"We're so grateful for everyone who did this," she said. "Having the Basilica background for our ceremony would have been nice, but this will be unforgettable."

The Commencement speaker for the ceremony was William Chester Jordan, Dayton-Stockton Professor of Medieval History at Princeton University.

Jordan spoke of higher education as a "precious commodity" and shared the story of Robert of Sorbonne, who was born to a peasant family in northern France in 1201. Robert went on to study at prestigious universities and earn renown and the confidence of King Louis IX before establishing the Sorbonne as a college that would cater to the needs of poor families and others with few opportunities.

University President John Garvey delivered remarks about gratitude and how the practice of gratitude can teach us to be more generous to others.

In addition to Jordan, honorary degrees were presented to Pierre Manent, French political scientist and academic; Tommy Espinoza, president, CEO, and co-founder of Raza Development Fund, the largest Latino community development financial institution in the U.S.; Kathleen McChesney, former FBI executive assistant director and leading expert in addressing the Catholic Church's sexual abuse and coverup crisis; and Joe Carlini, CEO at McKean Defense Group, 1984 graduate of Catholic University, and outgoing chairman of the Board of Trustees.

— K.B.



## CatholicU Magazine Recognized for Excellence

The Division of University Communications was recognized with a total of 11 honors from the Catholic Media Association this spring, including prizes for graphic design, photography, multimedia packages, and writing. Eight of those honors were bestowed upon *CatholicU* magazine, including a second-place recognition in the category, Alumni Magazine of the Year.

*CatholicU* magazine received first place honors in the categories of Best Layout of an Article or Column for the summer 2020 article “On the Front Lines,” designed by Graphic Designer Kristin Reavey, and Best Photograph for University Photographer Patrick Ryan’s spring 2020 photo, “Sunrise Mass with Migrant Workers.”

Associate Professor of History Julia Young, B.A. 2001, received second place in the Best Essay category for “Drawn to Direct Action: Father and Daughter Stand with Immigrants,” which was published in the spring 2020 issue.

The series of articles, “Sharing the Journey,” in the spring 2020 issue earned third place in the category of Best Coverage of Immigration, competing against national magazines *America* and *U.S. Catholic*. The story received an honorable mention for Best Layout of Article or Column.

A first place in the category of Feature Writing was awarded to “Making the Case for Humanity,” written by Managing Editor Ellen Woods. News Editor Katie Bahr earned second place in the category of Best Profile for her article, “Fleeing for Her Faith.” Both articles were published in the spring 2020 issue.

The University was honored with three additional awards for web content and the 2020 annual report. The University’s Catholic Project podcast “Crisis: Clergy Abuse in the Catholic Church” was awarded second place in the “Best Podcast” category of the Gabriel Awards.



## Alexandria Center Blessed and Ready for Students

This summer, the University opened its new Alexandria, Va., location on the second floor of the Catholic Charities USA headquarters building at 2050 Ballenger Avenue. When the University Board of Trustees gathered for its annual meeting in Alexandria this June, it was an opportunity to take pride in the University’s newest expansion and participate in a blessing ceremony for the new office and education space.

“We are always working to attract more students to Catholic University,” said University President John Garvey. “Our presence here in downtown Alexandria will expose more people to the quality education we offer and help expand our profile and reach.”

In his blessing, Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge, a trustee, dedicated the center to “education and to progress of the sciences.” He prayed it will become a place “where students and teachers, imbued with the words of truth, will search for the wisdom that guides the Christian life.”

In 2021, the University also launched Catholic University–Tucson, which provides a new, Catholic-informed undergraduate option for business students in that region of Arizona.

Board Chairman Joseph Carlini, B.S.M.E. 1984, followed the Alexandria blessing with a toast. “The expansion of Catholic University through the opening of this new Alexandria campus, along with the growth of our Tucson program, makes it a truly exciting time for the Cardinal family.”



President John Garvey and University trustees Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington and Sister Donna Markham, O.P., president of Catholic Charities.





## Miss Willie Recognized as a Food Service Hero

“Miss Willie” Joyner has been working in University Dining Services for nearly 50 years — most recently as a customer service ambassador in the Eatery restaurant in the Pryzbyla Center. This spring, she was recognized by Food Management as one of 48 food service heroes nationwide who have made a difference this year.

“When Miss Willie returned to work this fall semester, her additional responsibilities included making sure the students feel safe in the dining space,” said Morgan Mantell Kearney, digital content and communications manager for Chartwells Higher Ed, the University’s food service management company, who nominated her.

“It is no surprise that almost every student who walks into the space greets Miss Willie by name and she warmly calls them all her ‘babies,’” Kearney said. “During our spring semester focus group, when we surveyed students and faculty about dining on campus, Miss Willie was called out by name, more than any other employee, as being a tremendously important and appreciated part of the dining team.”



## Finding Your Way Home Got Easier

The final step of a years-long process that was initially outlined in the 2012 Master Plan to improve wayfinding on campus was completed this past year with the installation of road and building signs.

Now, when a visitor arrives via Metro and asks how to get to the admission or alumni offices, the person giving directions no longer has to point toward the Basilica dome and say “Go up this hill, and continue straight toward the church — but to the left of the library — until you get to the stone building on your left.”

Visitors can reference new updated maps with directions to the most commonly visited spaces (the Pryzbyla Center, auditoriums, and chapels). To get to Father O’Connell Hall, they can easily see they should follow signs for Pope Leo Lane to Alumni Lane, and prominent signs in front of O’Connell Hall will lead them to the correct entrance of the building.

In addition to Pope Leo, other historically significant names were chosen for roads and major walkways. Fort Slemmer Drive runs behind O’Boyle and Marist halls, near the location of the Civil War fort it is named for. Observatory Way runs from Hannan Hall to Aquinas Hall, past the location of a former observatory on campus. And the lane by the Law School that will run in front of the Dining Commons is named for Sr. Thea Bowman, an alumna on the path to sainthood who is known for her work within the Catholic Church in America to break down racial and cultural barriers. — M.M.H.



Dana Renea Bowler

## Goodbye, Friend

After a few days of illness, Gus Garvey, first dog of Catholic University, died this July. Gus, who was adopted by the Garveys in 2011, was a beloved presence on campus who could be seen in attendance at move-in days and campus holiday traditions. In a letter to the community, President John Garvey wrote that, “Nugent Hall will be a quieter and sadder place without him. And we’ll miss the students who came to walk him for us.”

# Dorothy's Dress: It's Not in Kansas Anymore

In 1973, Catholic University's *The Tower* newspaper wrote about a gift to Catholic University meant to be a source of "hope, strength, and courage" to students. The gift was a dress that is believed to have been worn by Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz." It was given to Rev. Gilbert Hartke, illustrious head of the drama program, by actress Mercedes McCambridge, who served as artist-in-residence at CatholicU in 1972.

Jim Petosa, B.A. 1976, recalls that Father Hartke kept the dress hanging in a large closet in his office. He loved to show it off to visitors, Petosa says. "It was yet another artifact that proved his unique relationship with the professional theatre and film industries.

"I used to joke with him that having the dress was good, but with 'The Wizard of Oz,' what you really want are the shoes," Petosa says. "The ruby slippers, after all, are the driver of the plot. The dress, not so much. 'Child ... we have to be thankful for the gifts we actually receive, not the ones we wish we had.' After a brief pause, he muttered 'I wonder who got the shoes.' And we both laughed."

Carol Pearson, M.A. 1975, confirmed the story of Father Hartke storing the dress in his office closet. She worked for the priest organizing public affairs programs for the theater "for what he said were the two happiest years of my life," she says.

For many years, it was rumored that the dress was still located in Hartke, the building named after the priest, but no one knew exactly where. Matt Ripa, M.F.A. 2008, lecturer and operations coordinator for the Department of Drama, had heard those same rumors of the dress being in the building where he regularly works.

He had looked for the dress in the theatre's archives and storage closets, and was beginning

to assume the legend of Dorothy's dress was "a tall tale (of which many exist for Father Hartke)." But while preparing for some renovations to the building, Ripa noticed a bag on top of the faculty mailboxes.

"I was curious what was inside and opened the bag. Inside was a shoebox, and inside the shoe box was the dress! I couldn't believe it," Ripa says. "My co-worker and I quickly grabbed some gloves and looked at the dress and took some pictures before putting it back in the box and heading over to the (University) Archives. Needless to say, I have found many interesting things in Hartke during my time at Catholic University, but I think this one takes the cake!"

By the time McCambridge gave the dress to Father Hartke, Judy Garland had died. The University is unaware of how McCambridge acquired the dress, although it is known she was a contemporary of Garland and they were believed to be friends.

"As archivists, we were obliged to work on gaining additional documentation for this popular culture national treasure," says Maria Mazzenga, Ph.D. 2000, curator of the American Catholic History Collections at Catholic University. "We have several photos of Father Hartke holding the dress, and articles from *The Tower* and *The Washington Post* referencing it. So the circumstantial evidence is strong."

Mazzenga reached out to experts in cultural memorabilia at the Smithsonian's



Courtesy of The American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives

Rev. Gilbert Hartke (at right) is pictured showing the dress to student Carol Pearson in the 1970s. The handwritten “Judy Garland” label is one of several characteristics that make this dress verified as “probably authentic.”

National Museum of American History. The museum has several artifacts from the set of “The Wizard of Oz,” including a famous pair of Dorothy’s ruby slippers. Ryan Lintelman, curator with the Division of Cultural and Community Life and an expert in the museum’s Oz memorabilia, offered a wealth of information on the history of the film’s Dorothy dresses.

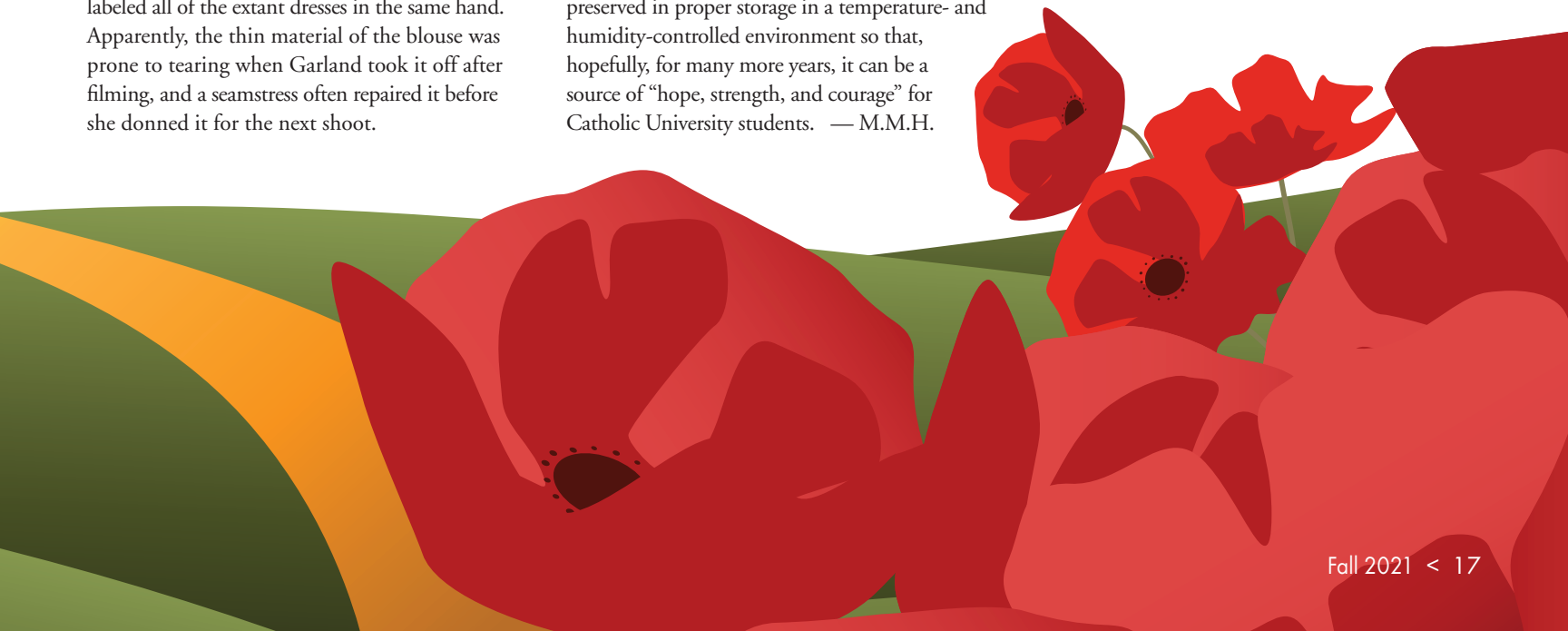
There were several of them, though it appears that five, excluding the University’s dress, have been verified as probably authentic. All of the dresses have certain verifiable characteristics, including, for example, a “secret pocket” on the right side of the pinafore skirt for Dorothy’s handkerchief, and “Judy Garland” written by hand in a script specific to a single person who labeled all of the extant dresses in the same hand. Apparently, the thin material of the blouse was prone to tearing when Garland took it off after filming, and a seamstress often repaired it before she donned it for the next shoot.

The Hartke dress has all of these characteristics, including blouse tears where the pinafore straps sat on the shoulders.

Lintelman, along with his colleagues at the museum — Dawn Wallace, objects conservator, and Sunae Park Evans, senior costume conservator — paid a visit to Catholic University to view the dress shortly after it was discovered. Employees at the museum are not authorized to authenticate objects like this one, but they suggested that the dress was consistent with the other objects from the film, and that the evidence around the dress was strong.

Dorothy’s “Wizard of Oz” dress, once the province of myth, is now a real object in the University’s Special Collections. It can now be preserved in proper storage in a temperature- and humidity-controlled environment so that, hopefully, for many more years, it can be a source of “hope, strength, and courage” for Catholic University students. — M.M.H.

*At press time, University Advancement was working with the Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art to sell the dress at auction, offering the potential for a significant windfall for the school. (Another dress from the movie brought \$1.5 million at a 2015 auction.) The plan is to use the proceeds to create an endowed chair for the Department of Drama. “This was not an easy decision,” said Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw, dean of the Rome School. “The proceeds from the potential sale of the dress would directly benefit drama students at Catholic University for years and years to come. This would honor the legacy of Father Hartke, who so dearly loved the department and spent his many years here dedicated to making it a world-class program.”*



## CatholicU Ranked in “Best for Vets: Colleges” by *Military Times*

Catholic University has been ranked #27 in the mid-Atlantic region by *Military Times* for their 2021 Best for Vets: Colleges list.

“*Military Times* is an extremely well-respected name within the military-affiliated student demographic and I’m very honored by the recognition that we have from this publication,” said Stephan Murphy, director of military and veteran student services.

Earlier this year the University was named a military friendly school, earning the designation as a gold-level award winner by the Military Friendly Company.

“Over the last year I feel like we have made strides to improve the military-affiliated student experience at The Catholic University of America, and I am excited and hopeful for what we can accomplish in a more ‘normal’ upcoming academic year,” Murphy said. — G.O.



## Truss Project Brings Medieval Architecture to Campus

Catholic University’s School of Architecture and Planning partnered with Handhouse Studio this summer to build a full-scale truss of Notre-Dame de Paris — approximately 45 feet wide and 35 feet tall — during a 10-day workshop on the University Mall.

Traditional timber framers, carpenters, faculty, and students participated in the project using the methods and materials of the original medieval builders. The truss was then hand-raised on the University Mall next to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, before moving to a one-day raising on the National Mall and an exhibit at the National Building Museum.

Tonya Ohnstad, the school’s associate dean of graduate studies, taught a related summer course on the history and reconstruction of the cathedral, which included a public lecture series. Her students studied the architecture and building methods of the French Gothic church as well as general medieval timber framing techniques, and built 1:10 scale models of the trusses over the church’s choir. Class members also worked alongside the traditional carpenters on the University Mall to hew and cut 17 white oak logs into the structural timbers.

“The loss of the roof during the 2019 fire at Notre Dame was devastating, complete, and more than simply material,” Ohnstad said. “It destroyed a forest of trees, generations of building technology, and an unimaginable amount of human spirit and energy embodied in the timber structure. What an incredible opportunity to be able to be part of the reconstruction, demonstration, and passing on of tectonic knowledge.” — K.B.

## Associate Dean Mel Williams to Oversee Diversity Initiatives

Associate Dean of Engineering Mel Williams, Jr., has been appointed by President John Garvey to oversee diversity initiatives at Catholic University.

“I look forward to working together with Mel Williams this year to create at Catholic University a truly hospitable campus culture for all nations, peoples, and cultures,” Garvey said in a July letter to the community announcing the appointment.

As a special assistant, Williams will be accountable to President Garvey for the

execution of recommendations from the Sister Thea Bowman Committee, which convened in August 2020 to study all facets of University operations and make recommendations concerning racial equality.

He will serve as a member of the executive committee of the Staff Leadership Council, and will work collaboratively with the University’s administration, faculty, staff, students, and alumni to address matters of race and equality in University operations.

“With personal humility and mindful

respect for everyone in the Catholic University community, I look forward to remaining a servant leader who assists others in our collaborative pursuit of common goals,” Williams said. “My approach will be to listen intently, to advise, to add value by performing the needed work in support of cognizant University leaders and our community, and as President Garvey has indicated, to help create at Catholic University a truly hospitable campus culture for all nations, peoples, and cultures.”

# Aaron Dominguez

## Who We Are as a Catholic Research University

In addition to serving as University Provost, Aaron Dominguez is an experimental, high-energy physicist, studying the basic building blocks of nature. He is the recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER award, and was elected a fellow of the American Physical Society for his research and leading contributions to the measurements of B-hadron properties for top quark physics, and for the search for and discovery of the Higgs boson.

At Research Day this spring, Dominguez spoke about the University's work as a research university. This Q-and-A was adapted from that presentation.

### **What makes Catholic University a “research university”?**

We've been serving the Church and the nation in various ways as a research university — not only as a college, not just as a place where you go to study, but as a place where you go to create new knowledge. Simultaneously, we are committed to and take seriously our Catholic faith and mission. Here, we look through these unified dual lenses of faith and reason and integrate them into ourselves as one whole Catholic university. For me that's really beautiful.

Research is not just the domain of faculty, but of students, and it requires the participation and support of the whole community of staff, students, faculty, friends, donors, alumni, and families. It takes all of us. Research is our past, our present, and our future.

### **Why are you, personally, as a Catholic scientist, invested in raising the research profile of the University?**

This is the first Catholic university where I've worked. This is the first place I've worked where you can publicly integrate faith and reason together.

I think there's an artificial divide in the current culture: that faith and science are seen as incompatible or unrelated. For me, as a person, that's never been the case. The kind of work that I do in particle physics is studying God's creation at its most fundamental level. The greatest example of this is the Big Bang.

It's a scientific fact that the universe came into existence out of nothing. The whole thing. The entire universe came out of nothing. There was no time, no space, nothing. That's a scientific fact.

And at the same time, this can tell us something about God. This discovery is totally consistent with my understanding of who God is — as the creator of the Universe who existed before time, and who exists outside of the universe as its creator.

These are two pieces of information that strengthen my faith and strengthen my understanding of science, too.

I think there are many people who think like this, and we enjoy talking about it because it's cool stuff to think about, and there is still so much to learn. What I really love about CatholicU is that, here's a place where we can really have that kind of free discussion and exploration in the classroom and with our colleagues. We don't have to be afraid of crossing some line when we talk about God. We try to know and love God, and to understand His creation, our place in it, and our relationship with each other and to Him. That is our job. That's what I'm supposed to be doing! And that's what we're doing here.

I find this to be the most academically free and scientifically exciting place that I've ever worked.

— M.M.H.



## AROUND CATHOLIC

Cardinal Athletics



# "A Truly 'Team' Award"

## Catholic Wins Third Landmark Conference Presidents' Trophy

Catholic University was awarded its third Presidents' Trophy this June. The award is given each year to the Landmark Conference's best overall athletics program. The University was previously recognized with the award in 2013 and 2015.

The Presidents' Trophy is awarded based on a formula that rewards institutions for regular season conference standings as well as results in Landmark postseason competition. The point structure was revised in the summer of 2016 with different point hierarchies for team and individual sports, but the maximum number of points any team can earn is 15. The total number of points each institution earns is divided by the number of Landmark Conference-sponsored sports to determine the average.

Finishing the season with a total of 199 points and a 10.79 average, CatholicU became the first school to win the trophy with at least a 10-point average while also setting a new record for margin of victory after finishing 1.68 points ahead of second-place Scranton.

"Despite the many difficulties presented by the pandemic, earning this conference honor is testament to the creativity, patience, and team-first approach exhibited by every member of our department," said Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics Sean Sullivan. "Whether a particular team was able to complete a full conference schedule, or just the equivalent of a handful of out-of-season contests, every varsity program committed itself to working with one another to first discover, and then follow, a path to productive participation for all."

The Cardinals won six Landmark Conference championships this year in men's swimming and diving, women's swimming and diving, women's golf, men's golf, women's lacrosse, and men's lacrosse. With the exception of cross country and indoor track and field, 18 of the Cardinals' 22 Landmark Conference sports competed this year and won more than 64 percent of their games, posting a 76-42-1 record. They also combined for 101 All-Landmark Conference selections, including six players of the year and four rookies of the year.

Winter sports started things off in February with men's swimming and diving capturing its fifth straight conference championship and women's swimming and diving winning the second of back-to-back titles. In addition, women's basketball advanced to the conference championship game for the fifth time in the last seven years and men's basketball reached the conference semifinals.

In the spring, men's and women's lacrosse capped undefeated regular seasons by sweeping both championships for the third time, while both



Courtesy of the Washington Nationals



## Catholic University Day at Nationals Park

More than 1,000 members of the Cardinal community turned out for the first-ever Catholic University Day at Nationals Park on Sept. 3. Attendees received a baseball cap with Cardinals-Nationals cobranding and were treated to the National Anthem performed by the University's own Red Line and Take Note a cappella groups.

baseball and softball advanced to the Landmark Conference semifinals. Women's tennis played in the semifinals for the second time in the last three tournaments and men's tennis made its first conference tournament appearance since 2016. On the track, the Catholic men and women both finished fourth at the 2021 Landmark Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Even though men's and women's soccer, field hockey, and volleyball played four-game exhibition seasons, the teams combined to post a 9-5-1 record, led by the defending conference champion men's soccer team going a perfect 4-0 and outscoring its opponents, 13-2.

"I am tremendously proud of our larger Cardinal team," said Sullivan. "Our student-athletes, coaches, athletic trainers, administrative staff, and colleagues from across campus all deserve great credit and sincere thanks for building the approach that led to such on-the-field success. If there was ever a time for truly a 'team' award, this was, without question, it. Everyone was a part of making this happen."

Calling all Cardinal fans: Fill the virtual stands during the annual Cardinal Athletics Giving Challenge by **making a gift of any amount** in support of your favorite team!

Let your voice be heard and show your Cardinal pride! Prizes will be awarded to the men's and women's teams with the most donors overall and the highest alumni and player participation.

Visit [CUCardsCompete.catholic.edu](https://CUCardsCompete.catholic.edu) to see this year's prizes, get real-time stats and standings, and — most importantly — make your gift!





# Star Gazer

After years spent making discoveries about our universe, astrophysicist and Vice Provost Duilia de Mello is working to help young people reach for the stars.

By Katie Bahr

Astrophysicist Duilia de Mello is seen in front of a NASA image of Blue Blobs, nurseries of orphaned stars, that she discovered.  
Photo of Duilia de Mello by Tommy Wiklund. Photo of Blue Blobs courtesy of NASA.



De Mello poses with an image of a spiral galaxy.

**D**uilia de Mello has a passion for the stars. As an astrophysicist, she has traveled the world researching galaxies — including how they evolve and interact. She has made incredible discoveries like the supernova SN1997D, stellar nurseries known as blue blobs, and the largest spiral galaxy in the universe.

At Catholic University, she serves as a professor and vice provost for global strategies and she is charged with raising the University's international reputation as a research institution. In her home country of Brazil, however, de Mello's own reputation looms large — she is a well-regarded children's author and a sought-after public speaker who has spoken about space in front of stadium-sized audiences. One Brazilian brewery, Scientia Beer, even named a white IPA in her honor.

In 2013, de Mello was honored with a Professional of the Year Award of the Brazil Diaspora given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a year later she was chosen by Barnard College as one of the "10 Women Changing Brazil." In 2017, she was named by Universo Online as one of "17 Women Who Made a Difference in 2017." And last year, de Mello was awarded the Order of Rio Branco, one of the highest honors bestowed by the Brazilian government.

For de Mello, all of these accomplishments are but a consequence of a lifelong quest to satisfy her own curiosity. She learned the importance of education when she was just a young girl. Now, she works to share her wisdom and love of science with young people.

As part of her work, de Mello says she looks for "the Duilias in the audiences" and tries to encourage them to get excited about space and follow their dreams.

"If astronomy is what they want to do, I tell them they can do it," she says. "But the overall goal is just to bring curiosity and awareness into their lives, to teach them the importance of science, and reinforce that women can do whatever they want to do."

## Pursuing a Childhood Passion

The youngest of four children, de Mello grew up in Rio de Janeiro, in a family where education was highly valued. Her mother was a former elementary school teacher who always stressed the importance of curiosity and intellectual independence.

"She told me that higher education has this power of lifting your life and she wanted her daughters to be independent of their husbands," de Mello says. "She was very serious about that and my sister and I took it seriously too."

From a young age, de Mello enjoyed nature and gazing up at the night sky. "The full moons in the summer in Rio were just amazing," she says. "I always wondered about the universe and wanted to know more and more."

De Mello loved all things related to space, including science fiction like "Star Trek" and "Star Wars" and the TV show "Cosmos." She was fascinated by the early images of planets being transmitted by the NASA spacecrafts Pioneer 11 and Voyager 2 and she saw the universe as a fascinating mystery to solve.

"I had so many questions about space," she says. "I thought, if I became an astronomer, I would know all the answers."

De Mello's parents worked hard to give their children the best education they could provide. They sought out scholarships for Catholic schools and private schools and researched free public options and grants for higher education. When it came time for de Mello to go to college, she enrolled in the astronomy program at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. The experience was intense. Though she had always been good at math and science, she had trouble adjusting to the rigorous physics coursework. She also spent much of her time traveling back and forth between her classes on the main university campus and the observatory, which was in a different location.

Still, the more she learned about space, the more she wanted to know. Propelled by her love of technology and telescopes, de Mello continued

her studies to earn a master's in radioastronomy at the National Institute for Space Research in Brazil in 1988, and another master's degree from the University of Alabama in physics and astronomy in 1993. She then studied at the University of São Paulo, where she earned her doctorate in 1995. Her thesis included her research on the interactions between pairs of galaxies, and mixed pairs of galaxies.

Along the way, de Mello was always looking for her next opportunity to learn and grow. When the director of an observatory in Chile came to the University of São Paulo to give a lecture, she approached him and asked about fellowship opportunities. That conversation led to her postdoctoral fellowship at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Northern Chile and later at the National Observatory in Rio de Janeiro.

As part of that fellowship, de Mello worked at the ESO 1.5m telescope in la Silla, Chile. One night in January of 1997, she was observing by herself when she noticed something unusual.

"I was collecting the data, which is like taking a photograph, but letting the camera stay open for a long time," she says. "The computer will collect the light while you're waiting for the computer to finish the image. Once I got the visual, it was very different from what I had expected."

When she first saw the image, she thought it was an extra star in another galaxy, but then she realized that would mean it was 56 million light years away and too faint to see. Tommy Wiklind, an astrophysicist who now works as a Catholic University research professor, was also observing in Chile at that time. He had just finished a 12-hour shift and stopped by to bring de Mello a sandwich.

"I told him, 'I think I discovered a supernova,'" de Mello remembers.

It took another 24 hours, a visit to the library, and verification from an expert to confirm that she was the one who had discovered the exploding star. The discovery made front-page news in Brazil and was a reminder for de Mello of why she had wanted to study astronomy in the first place.

"I always loved the importance of supernovas for us, and for life," she says. "It is when a star explodes that it actually pollutes the universe with other elements that become new life."

In a similar way, de Mello's discovery breathed renewed life into her career. After years spent going through the grind of graduate school, she had begun to lose the joy that had brought her into the field.

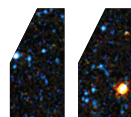
"You can sometimes end up forgetting why you became a scientist and why you're doing it," she says. "The supernova kind of brought the feelings back, all the emotions and dreams and the questions and curiosity I had since I was a kid."

## Exploring New Frontiers

A few months after discovering the supernova SN1997D, de Mello accepted a prestigious position that would change her life: a postdoctoral fellowship working at the Hubble Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Md.

During her time in the institute, de Mello worked 18-hour days with postdocs from around the world to study the Hubble Deep Field South, an image taken by Hubble that revealed thousands of previously unseen galaxies. She also helped to develop Starburst99, a web-based software designed to model spectrophotometric and related properties of star-forming galaxies.

It was a fruitful time in de Mello's personal life as well. She and Wiklind got engaged in the airport before Duilia moved to the U.S., buying their



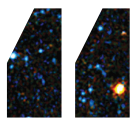
**The overall goal is just to bring curiosity and awareness into their lives, to teach them the importance of science ...**



De Mello (left) with college classmates at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in 1982.



De Mello and Wiklind's wedding in Baltimore, Md.



## She's using her career to inspire young people ... to actually move forward and be able to fulfill their dreams.

rings at an airport jewelry store. They were married in the summer of 1997 with her boss at the Hubble Space Institute, Claus Leitherer, as their witness.

Next came the opportunity to live with Wiklind in Sweden. De Mello accepted a fellowship teaching at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg. The couple stayed for three years, before de Mello was able to use her connections to find a new position at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., working on another Hubble project. Her position as a contractor was funded through Catholic University's Institute for Astrophysics and Computational Sciences.

At Goddard, de Mello continued to study interacting galaxies both near and far from Earth, trying to understand how galaxies and stars evolve. In 2008, she made news by using Hubble images to identify what her team nicknamed "blue blobs" — clusters of mostly young stars 12 million lightyears away.

That same year, she taught her first course at Catholic University, Physics for Architects, which led to her joining the physics department as a tenure-track professor. She started teaching an astronomy class for non-scientists, the popular Physics 103, which she taught for 10 years. De Mello, who says she has always had a knack for explaining scientific concepts to people who are unfamiliar with the topic, loved being in the classroom and passing on her passion to others. In 2016, she became the first woman to be promoted to an ordinary professor in the department.

Emmaris (Amy) Soto, Ph.D. 2017, first met de Mello when she worked as her teaching assistant in 2012. She says de Mello was instrumental in helping her find a summer internship at NASA Goddard and exposing her to different topics in astrophysics to study. To this day, they still work together on the ultraviolet team for the CANDELS (Cosmic Assembly Near-infrared Deep Extragalactic Legacy Survey) project. As part of that research, they have been collecting data from around seven billion years ago to learn about galaxy and star formation.

"She has been the most outstanding mentor I could ever have, in terms of providing educational support, finding opportunities for me, pushing me to succeed, and having goals and expectations for me," Soto says. "I'm very grateful that she is my mentor and friend."



De Mello helps students see Mercury through a telescope on campus in 2019.

Soto remembers how de Mello would throw star parties for her students, setting up a telescope between Hannan Hall and the Pryz so they could observe the skies for themselves.

"She's good at explaining things and she's very passionate," Soto said. "Her thought is, even if students don't become scientists, if we can convey to people why this subject is important, in the future, they will support this kind of work."

Soto also admires the way de Mello pays attention to her students' experiences and can see how some have had more opportunities than others.

"Duilia's mindset is always that, 'We can do more,'" Soto says. "She listens to her students, sees problems — sometimes ones that others don't recognize — and she looks for solutions."

Eventually, it was that drive to do more for her students that inspired de Mello to step into an administrative role, first as a vice provost for research support and dean of assessment and then in her current role as vice provost for global strategies.

One of the big initiatives in her first year was working on a team to promote the University's research identity through the development of University Research Day, which has since become a University tradition.

As part of her work in the provost's office, de Mello was also placed in charge of overseeing the University's library system. She was asked to pay particular attention to the Oliveira Lima Library, a collection dedicated to the history and culture of Portugal and Brazil that had been closed to the public for a couple of years before reopening in 2018. The original collection of 40,000 volumes was the personal library of the Brazilian diplomat, historian, and journalist Manoel de Oliveira Lima, who died in 1928.

De Mello, who was charged with reopening the library and raising its profile, said she feels connected to the collection because it tells the history of Portuguese people all over the world. She also has grown to feel an affinity with Oliveira Lima and his wife, Flora.

"They were collectors and I myself am a collector," she says. "Seeing what they collected brings me closer to them in a way. They were very interesting for their time, they were travelers, they were explorers, they were curious, they were the influencers of their time."



De Mello and Soto at a Vatican symposium hosted by the physics department in 2015.

Though she never would have imagined herself being put in charge of a collection like the Oliveira Lima Library, de Mello feels it is just another adventure on her career path.

“I always tell my students, when they get really anxious about their future, you never know what’s going to happen,” she says. “You have to sometimes be prepared for some turns.”

## Finding the “Quilias”

Years into her career, de Mello now finds fulfillment in encouraging young people to follow in her footsteps. She has written two books for young readers, *Vivendo com as estrelas* (Living with the Stars) and *The Adventures of Pedro, a Space Rock*. In the former, de Mello recounts her trajectory to studying astronomy and gives advice for young people on how to enter the field.

“I talk about how you don’t have to be a genius to be an astronomer,” de Mello says. “I also explain the scientific method and what it means to discover something.”

The book turned out to be successful in a way de Mello could not have anticipated, turning her into a celebrity for Brazilian young people interested in space.

“I constantly receive messages from people saying, ‘I did this because you inspired me to do it.’ It’s very touching to have that kind of influence on people’s lives,” she says. “Someone once told me that, ‘Talking to you is like talking to Batman.’ I’ve been called Batman! Think of the implications of that — me being compared to this male superhero. Incredible, right?”

De Mello founded her nonprofit *Mulher das Estrelas* (Woman of the Stars) and began speaking at events across Brazil to inspire young people to enter the sciences. Since her organization began to take off in 2016, de Mello says she has spoken to more than 40,000 students. Her most recent in-person event in Brazil took place before the pandemic and included 6,000 high school students. In 2018, she says, she traveled to Brazil seven times for weekends filled with speaking engagements.



De Mello speaking to high school students at the Ibirapuera arena in São Paulo in 2019.

Livia Lopes works closely with de Mello as the associate director of both the Vice Provost Office of Global Strategies and Catholic University’s Institute for Latin American and Iberian Studies. She finds a lot of inspiration in the work de Mello does.

“If it’s an activity aimed at encouraging girls to study science or STEM, she will be there,” Lopes says.

Although Lopes is a lawyer by education, she shares many similarities with de Mello. Both grew up in Rio and studied in a public university in Brazil before moving to the U.S. to pursue their careers. Lopes believes de Mello is a good role model for other Hispanic or Latin American researchers trying to pursue careers in any field.

“Everyone sees, yes, she’s competent, she’s talented, she’s notable. We have a lot of other people in minority groups who are as competent, talented, and resilient as her,” Lopes says. “This opens doors for others to come after her.”

Wiklind also admires the work his wife does to help inspire others.

“She has a passion for connecting with people and letting others sort of take part in her achievements,” he says. “She’s using her career to inspire young people under sometimes very dire circumstances to actually move forward and be able to fulfill their dreams.”

When she speaks to young people, de Mello always tells them to pursue their goals, but to remember that goals can sometimes change.

“I tell them what a scientist does and teach them what it’s like to be a professor. And I tell them to really follow their dreams,” she says. “Dreams are not letting other people tell you what you should be doing.”

Throughout the pandemic, de Mello has brought her advocacy online, scheduling virtual presentations and meet-ups to talk to young girls about the possibilities in their lives. In June, de Mello gave one Zoom presentation for 1,500 participants. Soon after that, she had a memorable talk over Instagram Live with three young girls — one of whom was an eight-year-old amateur astronomer.

“That’s one of the nicest ones I’ve done,” de Mello says. “It was incredible to see their eyes shining and bright, and to give them a little bit of hope.” **CU**



# Viral Sensation

By Ellen N. Woods

With the coronavirus raging in early 2020, Biology Professor Venigalla Rao brought 40 years of research on one tiny virus to bear in the urgent quest for a vaccine. He found rapid success in animal studies. Now his vaccine is headed to clinical trials.

**I**n 2019, Biology Professor Venigalla Rao was working on an exciting project — development of a universal flu virus vaccine. He had submitted his grant proposal to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). “We were looking at designing a universal vaccine template that can be adapted quickly to any emerging pathogen,” says Rao. “We were going to use flu as the model.”

If it worked, this would be a game changer. The needle-free nasal spray would be easier to produce and administer, be more cost-effective, and have the potential to protect against most variants of the flu virus with long-term protection.

This was no pie-in-the-sky endeavor. Rao’s proposal was based on more than 40 years of research related to one tiny, complex, benign virus: bacteriophage T4. The virus is called a bacteriophage because it infects bacteria, namely *E. coli*, the harmless bacteria that live in our guts.

Rao’s work studying the genetics and atomic structures of the virus at its most basic level has led to significant breakthroughs in the discovery of the function, mechanism, and biomedical application of phage T4, ultimately leading to outcomes that show how this microorganism could be used as a vehicle to carry innovative new vaccines and gene therapies into the human body.

When word started to come from Wuhan, China, of a SARS-CoV-2 virus causing pneumonia-like symptoms, Rao paid attention. As the number of cases was increasing, along with the severity of illness, he knew he had to change the focus of his research project.

In early January 2020, the World Health Organization declared coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) a public health emergency worldwide.

“As a virologist, it was clear to me that this was a dangerous and highly transmissible virus,” says Rao. “It was very different from the previous SARS [Severe

He does not acknowledge  
a system of barriers.  
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research are as endless  
as his imagination.

Acute Respiratory Syndrome]. There would be no way its spread around the world could be stopped. We knew we needed to do something. We had the bacteriophage platform and the technology to incorporate any pathogenic material into a vaccine. We had also recently developed a powerful CRISPR genome technology that allows us to engineer the virus in an accelerated fashion.”

In late January, Rao assembled the members of his research team — Ph.D. students and post-doctoral researchers who share his passion for the study of bacteriophage T4 and its therapeutic value — in a meeting room on the third floor of the McCort-Ward biology building. Standing in front of a blackboard, Rao picked up a piece of chalk and, borrowing the line synonymous with the Apollo 13 space mission, wrote, “Failure is not an option.”

All were onboard with suspending their existing research projects and directing the resources toward designing COVID-19 vaccine candidates. Their quest would prove more intense than they could have imagined.

## “Machine” Biologist

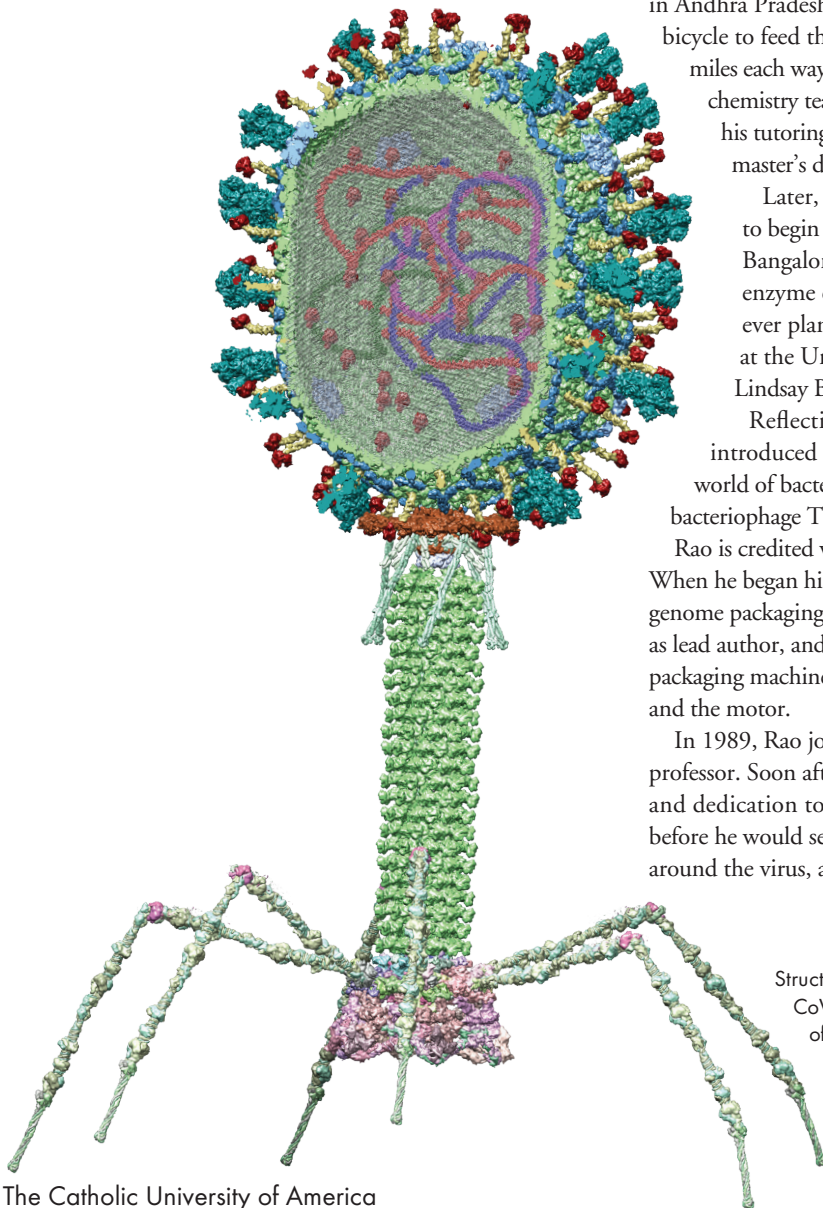
Rao’s love of science began at an early age. He was raised in Donepudi, a small village in Andhra Pradesh, India. His chore was to cut grass and haul it on the back of his bicycle to feed the buffaloes on his family’s small farm. He rode that same bike 10 miles each way to attend college, which begins after 10th grade in India. He had a chemistry teacher who recognized his aptitude for science and invited Rao to join his tutoring group. That mentorship helped him earn a scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in biochemistry at Andhra University.

Later, he would travel 500 miles by coal train from his family’s home to begin a Ph.D. program at the prestigious Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. Rao earned his doctorate in five years with a dissertation on enzyme engineering. The day after submitting his thesis, he took his first-ever plane ride, traveling to Baltimore to begin a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in the lab of Professor Lindsay Black, “an excellent mentor,” who was studying bacteriophage T4.

Reflecting on his nine-year fellowship (1980–1989), Rao says he was introduced to what would become his life’s work and passion, “the amazing world of bacteriophages.” He started with a challenging goal — to assemble the bacteriophage T4 virus in a test tube. It would take him seven years.

Rao is credited with discovery of the bacteriophage T4 DNA packaging machine. When he began his research more than 40 years ago, little was known about the virus genome packaging or the machinery involved in carrying out its complex process. Rao, as lead author, and Black published several key papers during that time describing the packaging machine, the capsid (protein shell of a virus, enclosing its genetic material), and the motor.

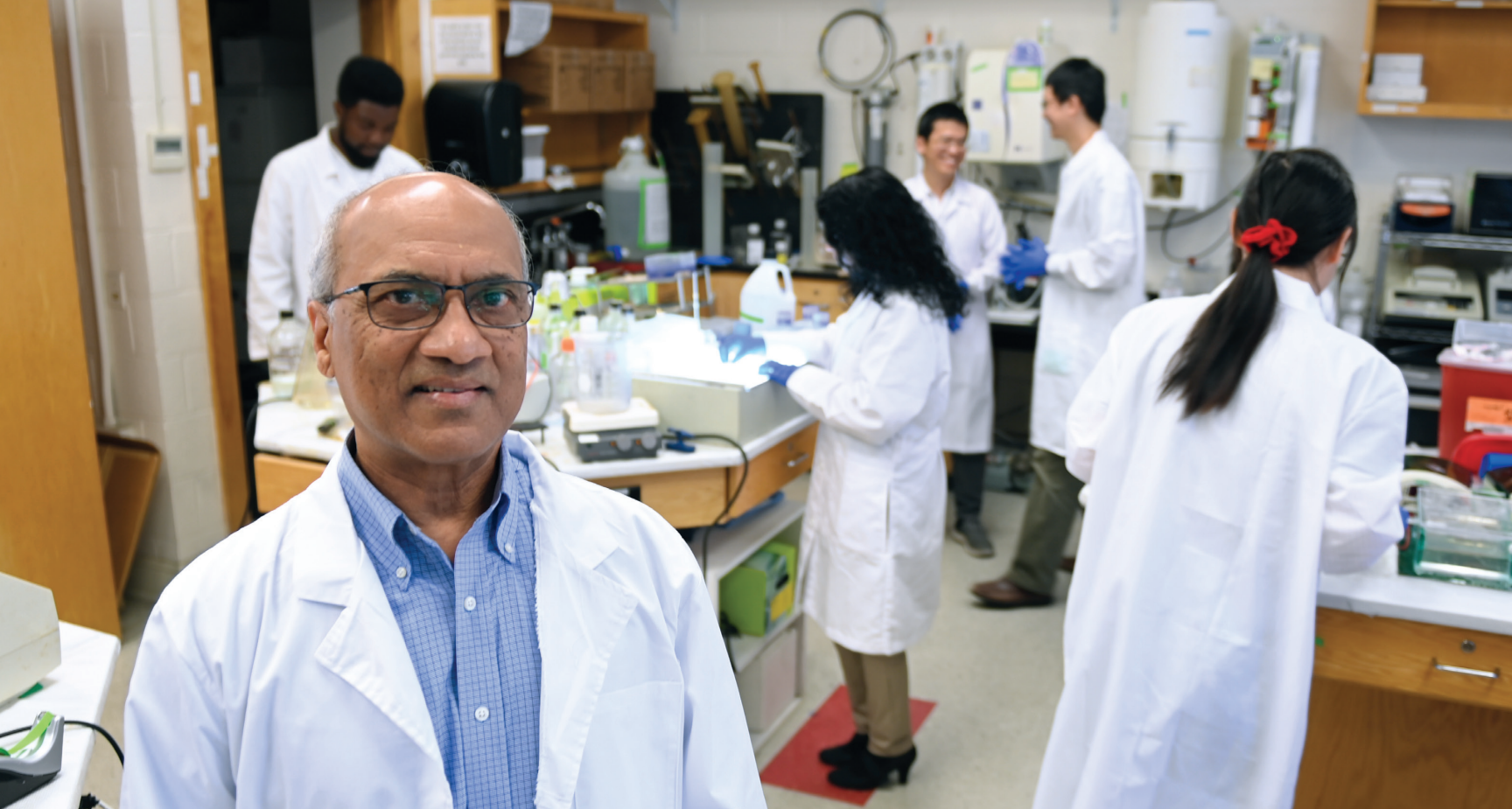
In 1989, Rao joined Catholic University’s Department of Biology as an assistant professor. Soon after, he received a Department of Energy grant. His curiosity about, and dedication to, T4 never wavered even though it would be a few more years before he would see another grant. He continued to publish and build a research lab around the virus, and the grants eventually followed.



Structural model of Catholic University’s COVID vaccine showing the SARS-CoV-2 viral components incorporated into T4 bacteriophage; genes (strings of blue, red, and purple), nucleocapsid protein (dark brown globules inside capsid), and spike protein trimers (cyan-colored spikes on capsid surface).

Image by Victor Padilla-Sanchez, Ph.D.





In addition to the discovery of the DNA packaging machine, Rao has continued to make history in the field of virology with the discovery of the functional motifs that power the packaging machine, the atomic structures of the machine, and the dynamic inner workings of single packaging machines in real time.

Rao and his collaborators established that the phage T4 motor is the fastest and most powerful packaging machine known. The motor would be twice as powerful as an automobile engine if it were scaled to that size. The actual size of the motor is 17 nm wide and 9 nm high. (One nanometer is equal to one millionth of a millimeter.) The bacteriophage's packaging machine allows it to reproduce within a host bacterium by rapidly pulling a long strand of DNA into a tiny shell the bacteriophage manufactures.

"These powerful engineering concepts have allowed us to develop T4 as a nanoscale device that can deliver pathogen antigens and gene therapeutics into human cells," says Rao. This is done by decorating the outer surface of the capsid with proteins and complexes, while the interior is packaged with therapeutic DNA molecules. The development of a CRISPR phage engineering strategy is one of Rao's most recent research achievements, allowing for the rapid construction of recombinant phages for vaccine and gene delivery.

"We are using the T4 virus's own strategies for beneficial applications, such as engineering it to mimic another virus or pathogen. Simply put, our immune system recognizes the engineered T4 virus as a pathogen and elicits immunity against it," says Rao. "We can also engineer the DNA-packaging nanomotor to make it deliver therapeutic molecules into targeted cells to treat genetic diseases such as sickle cell disease or cancer."

Rao, an elected fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Microbiology, has documented his work in 120 peer-reviewed articles in such respected scientific journals as *Cell*, *Science Advances*, *Nature Communications*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

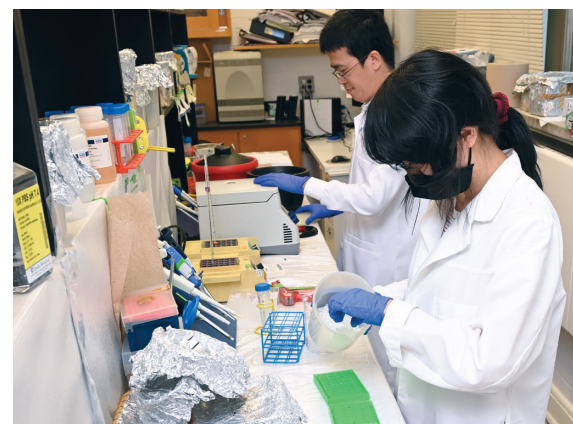
He has received more than 20 grants, most notably from the National Science Foundation, the NIH, and the Department of Defense (DoD). His discoveries have resulted in 23 patents for the University. The breakthroughs have led to biomedical applications of phage T4, including the design of a dual anthrax-plague vaccine, that affords complete protection against two deadly bioterror agents.

"Dr. Rao took the study of T4 to a new level. No one else has thought to reconstruct this infectious organism in such a way to use it for a whole variety of beneficial applications," says Frank Maldarelli, an NIH clinical investigator who heads the Clinical Retrovirology Section at the HIV Dynamics and Replication Program of the National Cancer Institute. He and Rao have collaborated on HIV vaccine research.

"To say that he thinks outside the box would not be accurate because for Rao, there is no box. He does not acknowledge a system of barriers. The possibilities for his research are as endless as his imagination," says Maldarelli.

## Standing on the Platform Ready to Go

A life's work of discoveries perfectly positioned Rao to join scientists around the world in the quest for COVID vaccines. With the platform well established, he would need the virus' genetic material to get started. In February 2020, Rao reached out to contacts and collaborators, including Anthony Fauci, director of the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Through material transfer agreements, he obtained the biologically safe nucleic acid codes for SARS-CoV-2 from both the NIH and the University of Texas, Austin.



Members of the T4 vaccine research team at work in their labs: Swati Jain, Himanshu Batra, Jingen Zhu, and Xiaorong Wu. Members of the team not pictured are Neeti Ananthaswamy and Wei-Chun Tang.

As the team geared up by designing several different constructs for vaccine candidates, Rao wanted to find a way to be of immediate assistance during the crisis. He worked with the provost's office on a plan through which the University offered royalty-free licenses to the vaccine delivery-related patents resulting from his research to scientists embarking on their own urgent COVID vaccine research.

"In the race to mitigate the spread and devastating death toll, the generosity and sharing within the scientific community was a bright spot," says Rao.

Collaboration with researchers in complementary areas of study has been "one of the most joyous aspects of my career," says Rao. He has had long-standing relationships with researchers at The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), Purdue University, the University of California (San Diego), the National Cancer Institute, and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (where he collaborates with his wife, Mangala Rao, who is chief of Adjuvant and Antigen Research at the Military HIV Research Program).

One of his most cherished collaborators passed away in 2019. Nobel-Prize nominated scientist Michael Rossman was Purdue's Hanley Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences. Among his discoveries, he solved the structures of many viruses and proteins using X-ray crystallography. In an instance of serendipity, one of Rossman's grants that was active at the time of his death allowed NIH to provide emergency funding for Rao's COVID vaccine research with the support and cooperation of Purdue University.

## A Scary, Yet Golden, Time

By spring 2020, the virus was spreading in the United States and the Catholic University research team was working 12- to 14-hour days, seven days a week. The researchers, consulting with University administration and using their knowledge of infectious disease, instituted a set of safety protocols — in effect creating their own bubble within the third-floor lab spaces. The six-member team worked in a socially distanced model. Even though they were on the same floor working in their labs, their interactions took place via Zoom.

As the country went into lockdown and fear became as rampant as the virus, the team had a moment of questioning the safety of leaving their homes and traveling to campus every day.

"It was a scary time," recalls Rao. "It wasn't so much concern for themselves,

but their families were understandably worried about their safety. Ultimately, we concluded that we could not afford to put the experiments on hold."

"Teamwork is powerful," says Swati Jain, Ph.D. 2020, a doctoral student of Rao's who completed her dissertation during the pandemic, and stayed on in the lab to work on the COVID vaccine project. "We all had a role to play, and we were committed to keeping each other safe. With Dr. Rao as leader, it was very motivating. He has a never-give-up attitude. His love of science and his care for his team are inspiring."

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime chance as a scientist," says Jingen Zhu, a post-doctoral fellow who worked on the design of the vaccine, specifically engineering the major components of the T4 phage. "The ultimate purpose of science is to serve people. We worked with an incredible sense of urgency, heart, and passion."

"It is a golden moment when you know that you have the right skills and knowledge and the right platform to solve a problem that is happening around you in real time," adds Jain.

## Success, a Bumpy Ride, and Celebration

By October 2020, the team had found success. They had a vaccine candidate that produced strong antibody titers in immunized mice that completely blocked the infection of cultured cells by SARS-CoV-2 virus. Once they had this immunological data, the vaccine's effectiveness needed to be tested with a lethal challenge to the mice with live SARS-CoV-2 virus, which would require a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) facility.

Rao reached out to Ashok Chopra at the UTMB campus in Galveston, a researcher with whom he collaborated on the anthrax/plague vaccine. They worked out a plan to execute the challenge in Chopra's BSL-3 laboratory.

Rao called it a "logistical nightmare," and at the same time "a most generous act from fellow scientists." The mice had to go through a series of protocols, including being tested for parasites, before UTMB could take the risk of accepting them. And a one-of-a-kind courier service had to be employed that had the expertise to ship 75 mice across the country. This meant keeping them healthy, warm, hydrated, and fed in a sterile, climate-controlled environment.

“It was one of the most anxiety-producing experiences of my life,” says Jain, who, with Himanshu Batra, Ph.D. 2020, worked directly with the mice throughout the study. “If anything happened to the mice, our entire study would be compromised.” On Nov. 20, the mice were in flight. When word came that they were diverted to Houston rather than the expected direct flight, the researchers held their breath, letting out a collective sigh of relief the next morning when the mice arrived at Chopra’s lab in good condition.

A few weeks later, Rao received the call he had hoped for. The immunized mice had survived the lethal challenge and were healthy. The weight of the control group of mice declined rapidly and within five days, 80% of them had died.

Adaptive Phage Therapeutics (APT), a clinical-stage biotech company focusing on advancing therapies to address drug-resistant infectious diseases, took note of Rao’s work. In August 2020, the company was awarded a \$9.8 million DoD grant for research development of multiple high-priority, bacteriophage-based vaccine candidates against SARS-CoV-2. APT has partnered with Catholic University, conducting its own independent study of Rao’s platform, which confirmed the results.

Calling Rao “a pioneer in the use of phage as a vector for delivery of therapeutics and vaccines,” Greg Merrill, APT’s CEO says, “We are focused on translating Dr. Rao’s amazing research into broad commercial availability. We believe the pre-clinical data is extremely promising and not just for COVID-19. His platform can be leveraged for other emerging variants and viruses as well.” (At press time, APT, working closely with Rao and his team, was expected to take the Catholic University vaccine to clinical trials in early 2022.)

In September 2021, “A Universal Bacteriophage T4 Nanoparticle Platform to Design Multiplex SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Candidates by CRISPR Engineering” was published in *Science Advances*.

The article, published in record time in the world of scientific publication, documents the ways in which the T4 COVID vaccine differs from the vaccines that had come on the market in early 2021 through FDA emergency authorization. According to the abstract, the vaccine stimulated strong immune responses, blocked virus-receptor interactions, neutralized viral infection, and conferred complete protection against viral challenge. The T4 vaccine focuses on more proteins within the COVID-19 virus than do other vaccines, thus providing a broader and more robust immunity against the virus, and potentially against current and future variants.

In addition, the multi-component vaccine is adjuvant free (no chemicals), highly stable (possibly even at room temperature), cost-efficient to produce, and is being developed as a needle-free intranasal vaccine. These factors would make the vaccine especially useful in remote and disadvantaged countries, and for vaccinating children.

A few months prior to publication, when the research team members learned their paper had been accepted, they gathered in McCort-Ward Hall. With the availability of vaccines, they were just getting used to being together again. Rao brought a chocolate cake. Others brought homemade dishes. They celebrated in the room where the guiding words “Failure is not an option” have remained on the blackboard for 17 months. They don’t plan to pick up an eraser any time soon. **CU**



## A New Center for T4 Research

Rao calls 2020 “a year of heartbreak” due to the unprecedented spread of the coronavirus and the tragic worldwide death toll. In 2021, he experienced triumph. In addition to his research success, publication of the COVID vaccine paper, and the partnership with APT, he learned that a long-time professional dream would come to fruition.

In April, Catholic University’s Office of the Provost established the Bacteriophage Medical Research Center with Rao as founding director.

“The Rao intellectual property is among the University’s most valuable assets,” says Ralph Albano, vice provost for sponsored research, research compliance, and technology transfer. “The center allows us to leverage that property in a number of ways. Sure, there’s the potential revenue for the University, but it’s so much more — reputation, prestige, and increased opportunities for funded research and commercial backing.”

Teaching and mentoring are as important to Rao as his research. He served as chair of the Department of Biology from 2001 to 2019. During that time, he established a new master’s program in biotechnology, established several new endowment funds including the million-dollar Biology Research and Development fund, and built a state-of-the-art molecular biology laboratory for undergraduate students. From 1995 to 2019, he served as director of the Microbial and Cell Biology Graduate Program, and since 1997 he has been director of the biology department’s Center for Advanced Training in Cell and Molecular Biology.

The new center, says Rao, allows him to accelerate his research in the new frontier of gene, cancer, stem cell therapies, and precision medicine, using bacteriophages, most recently applying the technology to find a cure for sickle cell disease. Just as important, he says it means “leaving something lasting to the University. Catholic University has been an incredibly supportive home, allowing me the academic freedom to focus on the study of T4 for more than 30 years. There is nothing like this center anywhere, and now Catholic University will always be at the forefront of this research.”

“Rao understands the University’s mission so well,” says Albano. “We are here for the common good. He is an incredible teacher, training students to leave here and do good things. For Rao, the research and, therefore the center, is not about him. But about the next generation.”



# Life SAVER

By Catherine Lee

Psychology Professor David Jobes has spent his career — more than 35 years — dedicated to suicide prevention. He has developed the widely used clinical intervention, Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality, which was recently deemed highly effective by an independent meta-analysis.

*E*n route to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., Stephen O'Connor, Ph.D. 2010, and fellow Catholic University doctoral student, Melinda Moore, Ph.D. 2011, met at the airport in Minneapolis. O'Connor says they were "pinching themselves," marveling at their good fortune. Psychology Professor David Jobes had invited them to join him at the famed hospital for trainings in the assessment, treatment, and prevention of suicide.

It was July 2007, and O'Connor's wedding was just a week away. But he wasn't going to miss the opportunity to watch Jobes train clinicians in his approach to working with patients who are suicidal. As part of the training, Jobes interviewed a woman who had scarred herself extensively and attempted suicide many times. O'Connor says he was "blown away" by the conversation.

Jobes interviewed the woman with the chief of psychiatry and other clinicians watching on the other side of a two-way mirror. Jobes had never met the patient before. O'Connor describes the interview as "a high-stakes training experience," noting that it's not easy, while other clinicians watch, to have that kind of conversation with a patient who clearly struggles and could easily become defensive.

"He was very respectful, very gentle, and very honest with her in eliciting her story," says O'Connor, who is now chief of the Suicide Prevention Research Program at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). "Somehow Dave was able to get through to her. I don't think a lot of trainers would put themselves through that. It takes a special kind of bravery and a willingness to be critiqued. But he does it because he cares about people."

Jobes, associate director of clinical training and director of the University's Suicide Prevention Laboratory, has been talking to suicidal patients for more than 35 years while developing his evidence-based clinical intervention — the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS). This past spring, he marked a significant milestone: A rigorous meta-analysis of CAMS showed that his approach is “well supported” for reducing suicidal ideation per Centers for Disease Control criteria.

It also showed that the intervention — developed and tested in Jobes' Suicide Prevention Laboratory at CatholicU — significantly lowers general distress, decreases hopelessness and increases hope and treatment acceptability for people with serious thoughts of suicide.

“This independent meta-analysis shows that CAMS provides highly effective care for the largest challenge we face in suicide prevention today: the massive population of people who struggle with serious suicidal thoughts,” says Jobes.

Conducted by a team of psychology researchers at Idaho State University, the meta-analysis investigated nine national and international studies — primarily randomized controlled trials — with data from 749 patients who were suicidal. CAMS was compared to treatment as usual or, in one study, with Dialectical Behavior Therapy, a type of psychotherapy used to treat chronically suicidal individuals and people with borderline personality disorder. The study focused on ideation in response to a sobering reality: In the United States, 12 million adults struggle each year with suicidal thoughts.

Globally, approximately 800,000 individuals die by suicide each year, according to the World Health Organization. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, where in 2019, there were 47,511 deaths by suicide and more than 1.4 million adults tried to take their lives.

## A POWERFUL APPROACH

Lanny Berman, Ph.D. 1970, a renowned expert in suicide, describes Jobes' contribution to the field as “extraordinarily powerful and impactful.”

Berman was an American University (AU) psychology professor when he first met Jobes in the mid-1980s; Jobes was a graduate student in his department. Jobes worked on several research projects with Berman who became his advisor and mentor and later a friend and professional colleague. These days, the two suicidologists meet at professional conferences and swap stories about their research.

Berman, now an adjunct professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, says that to truly understand the mind of a person who is suicidal, “you have to peel back the layers to get to the root of their distress, not just see them as someone on a ledge who intends to jump.

“Dave has run with that better than anyone else in the field,” says Berman. “He's also investing in training — which is crucial in suicidology — trying to get clinicians to better understand that what they're [used to] doing is insufficient to treat suicidal patients.”

Jobes has presented his research at psychiatry grand rounds at Oxford University, the University of Michigan, and several Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers. Close to 20,000 clinicians have been trained in CAMS worldwide. CAMS-care, a company created in 2014, provides training and educational materials for clinicians who work with suicidal risk. The company has developed a training hub in England as part of a National Health Service network of community services. Other potential hubs are being considered in China, Mexico, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, and the Netherlands.

**“This independent meta-analysis shows that CAMS provides highly effective care for the largest challenge we face in suicide prevention today: the massive population of people who struggle with serious suicidal thoughts.”**





**CAMS SUICIDE STATUS FORM-4 (SSF-4) TRACKING/UPDATE INTERIM SESSION**

Section A (Patient):

1) RATE PSYCHOLOGICAL PAIN (hurt, anger, or misery in your mind, not physical pain)

2) RATE STRESS (your general feeling of being pressured or overwhelmed)

3) RATE AGITATION (emotional urgency; feeling that you need to take action, not just think about it)

4) RATE HOPELESSNESS (your expectation that things will not get better no matter what you do)

5) RATE SELF-HATE (your general feeling of disliking yourself; having no self-esteem; having no self-respect)

6) RATE OVERALL RISK OF SUICIDE

Section B (Clinician):

Resolution of suicidal thoughts and effectively managed suicidal thoughts/feelings

TREATMENT PLAN UPDATE

Problem #	Problem Description	Goals and Objectives	Interventions	Duration
1	Self-Harm Potential	Safety and Stability	CBT	12
2	self hate	↓ self hate	B.A. insight	12
3	hopelessness	↑ hope	Hope kit, choosing to live, CBT	12

Jobs' passion for suicidology is intense and infectious. "For Dave, suicidology is far more than just teaching and research," says Tara Kraft Feil, B.A. 2009, who worked in his lab her entire time at CatholicU and now serves as a clinical psychologist at a medical center in Bismarck, N.D. "For Dave, it's a deep life purpose."

## THE COLLABORATIONS BEGIN

As an undergraduate at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Jobs was interested in existentialism and had planned to major in philosophy. But his favorite professor steered him toward psychology. His interest in existentialism — the view that humans define their own meaning in life and try to make rational decisions despite existing in an irrational universe — would later inform CAMS and Jobs' belief that a patient who is suicidal can play a critical role in their own treatment.

During his time in graduate school at AU, Jobs embraced the field of suicidology. He learned from the experts who had mentored Berman, among them psychiatrist Robert Litman and psychologists Norman Farberow and Edwin Shneidman. Widely considered the founders of modern-day suicidology, they established the LA Suicide Prevention Center in 1958 — the first center of its kind in the country.

Jobs worked with Berman on a psychological autopsy project that looked at national data from medical examiners in order to improve the procedures for certifying suicide as a manner of death. At the time, coroners and medical examiners relied on a range of criteria from suicide notes to medical records to interviews with survivors to determine if suicide was the manner of death. The criteria were inconsistent from one jurisdiction to the next; the project resulted

in the creation of consistent empirically based standards for more valid and reliable certifications.

Eager to get into clinical work, Jobs took

a job in 1987 at the Catholic University Counseling Center as a staff psychologist, joining the psychology department part time as an assistant professor. The director of the Counseling Center — psychologist Peter Cimboic — was determined not to lose any students to suicide. His mandate to Jobs: Don't let any students fall through the cracks. Together they published a book in 1990 on issues related to suicide among young people.

Early in his career, Jobs received small grants that funded the preliminary development of CAMS. Later, larger grants funded clinical trials of CAMS to prove the efficacy of his approach, including numerous grants from the federal Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to support studies involving active-duty service members and veterans who were suicidal.

In the late 1990s, John Drozd, B.A. 1992, now a psychologist and neuroscientist, was serving as a captain at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, where he attended a continuing education workshop on clinical suicidology led by Jobs.

Early on in his clinical training, Drozd had been taught to hospitalize patients with suicidal thoughts. By the time he attended Jobs' workshop, Drozd was seeing three to four airmen a week with suicide ideation — an alarmingly high rate. Within a week of the workshop, Drozd had started using an early version of CAMS — a radical approach at the time with an emphasis on keeping patients *out* of inpatient care if possible.

“When you provide a safe space where patients can talk about what’s driving their emotions, it’s a profound experience,” says Drozd.

The patient engages in metacognition — the ability to think about the way they think — and becomes the observer of self, as writer and spiritual teacher Eckhart Tolle notes. This process “leads to enlightenment, a transcendence,” says Drozd. “In a similar way, CAMS provides people with a tool that often for the first time in their lives allows them to look at their suffering through a different lens.”

Realizing the value of CAMS, the defense department awarded Jobs a \$3.4 million grant for the Operation Worth Living study at Fort Stewart in Hinesville, Ga. Plagued by a dramatic increase in suicides — fallout from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — the Army was desperate to find a remedy, explains Jobs. The study found that CAMS participants were significantly less likely to have suicidal thoughts three months after treatment in comparison to soldiers who had received typical clinical care.

## A CAMPUS FAMILY

On a June morning earlier this year, Jobs stops at his lab in the basement of O’Boyle Hall to pick up some files. The lab is quiet and empty. But conference posters and group photos of Jobs and his students show signs of the work that’s normally done there by a close-knit, inquisitive community of researchers.

Jobs, dressed in a crisp white shirt and jeans, his silvery-white hair combed neatly back, gestures toward a sofa and laughs. “A student might catch a quick nap there, but normally this place is bustling,” he says. Typically, 20 to 30

students ranging from undergraduates to master’s and doctoral students work in the lab each semester. The graduate students are encouraged to mentor undergraduates, offering advice about academic posters and research papers.

Undergraduates help with data coding, which involves entering information such as research questionnaire results and interview transcripts into computers for statistical analysis. Graduate students are trained in the lab to watch videos of clinicians conducting CAMS in clinical trials to rate them for adherence to the CAMS process.

Blaire Ehret, Ph.D. 2017, was volunteering at the LA Suicide Prevention Center when she first learned about CAMS. Then a senior at a university in Los Angeles, she discovered Jobs’ book, *Managing Suicidal Risk: A Collaborative Approach*, while researching graduate psychology programs. “When I applied to graduate school, there weren’t a lot of people doing this kind of research,” says Ehret. “I read Dave’s book in about 24 hours and thought, ‘This is a really good fit for me.’”

Ehret, now a clinical psychologist for the VA San Diego Healthcare System in California, notes that Jobs treats students in his lab and classroom “as junior colleagues.” In his ethics course, Jobs would present complex case scenarios “and the whole class would just erupt” with a range of opinions. “It’s the way I imagine a law school course would be, really making you think for yourself,” she says.

But it’s not all work in the lab. Ehret, who’s still in touch with Jobs, describes him as “a school dad. We’re all part of Dave’s family. He creates that type of environment.” In fact, most students who have worked with Jobs have met his wife, Colleen Kelly, J.D. 1993, two sons, and dog Bailey at summer barbecues and holiday parties that he hosts at his home in Bethesda, Md.





## NO BETTER APPROACH

Traditional mental health approaches to treating suicidal risk see suicidal ideation as a symptom of major mental disorders, Jobes says. To rid someone of these thoughts, clinicians commonly treat the disorder. In contrast, CAMS focuses specifically on suicidal ideation and patient-identified “drivers” — the issues that compel them to consider suicide. Typical drivers might include a faltering marriage, intense self-hatred, or an inability to hold down a job.

In a 2016 interview with [psychalive.org](http://psychalive.org), Jobes noted that the interaction between a patient and a clinician who is not properly trained to treat suicidal risk often turns into a power struggle. When the clinician asserts that they are not going to let the patient take their life, patients become wary and defensive. For a patient who sees suicide as a way out because life has become unbearable, such a clinical approach “undermines the idea that they can actually work together constructively,” says Jobes.

In contrast, the beauty of CAMS is “the strength of the alliance” that develops between the patient and therapist as they work together, says Jobes. At their first meeting, the therapist asks if they can sit next to the patient. The patient thus becomes “a co-author of their treatment plan,” notes Jobes. The clinician’s job is “to climb into the skin of the patient and see their suicidal struggle through the eyes of the patient,” he says.

The treatment process begins with the patient filling out parts of the CAMS Suicide Status Form and rating their psychological pain, self-hate, and hopelessness, among other factors, on a 1-5 scale. The patient also lists their reasons for living and their reasons for dying.

Additional specific details are added to the form that include their suicidal history, thoughts, planning, and preparations. The patient and clinician discuss drivers and revisit the form at each session, revising the treatment plan as needed depending on how the patient has been feeling since their last session.


Typically, CAMS reduces suicidal ideation in six to eight sessions. “There’s no better approach for treating suicidal ideation than CAMS,” says Jobes. “And if we’re better at identifying and treating serious suicidal thoughts upstream, we’d have fewer attempts and completions downstream.”


## A LIFE WORTH LIVING

On sabbatical for the 2021–2022 academic year, Jobes is working on the third edition of his book. His current research projects include an \$11 million study funded by NIMH of 700 students with suicidal ideation at Oregon, Nevada-Reno, Duke, and Rutgers universities — reportedly the largest ever campus-based suicide study funded by the federal agency. He is also working on an ongoing clinical trial of CAMS at the San Diego VA Medical Center. He won’t be teaching in the fall, but he will work on CAMS research with several master’s candidates and two new doctoral students.

A new emerging area of research focuses on helping patients who were once suicidal figure out how to live. “We’ve proven that we can clinically help people with suicidal thoughts who have hit rock bottom to pivot and consider how they might live,” says Jobes. “If we can help them cultivate love and work, we can help them develop a life worth living with purpose and meaning.”

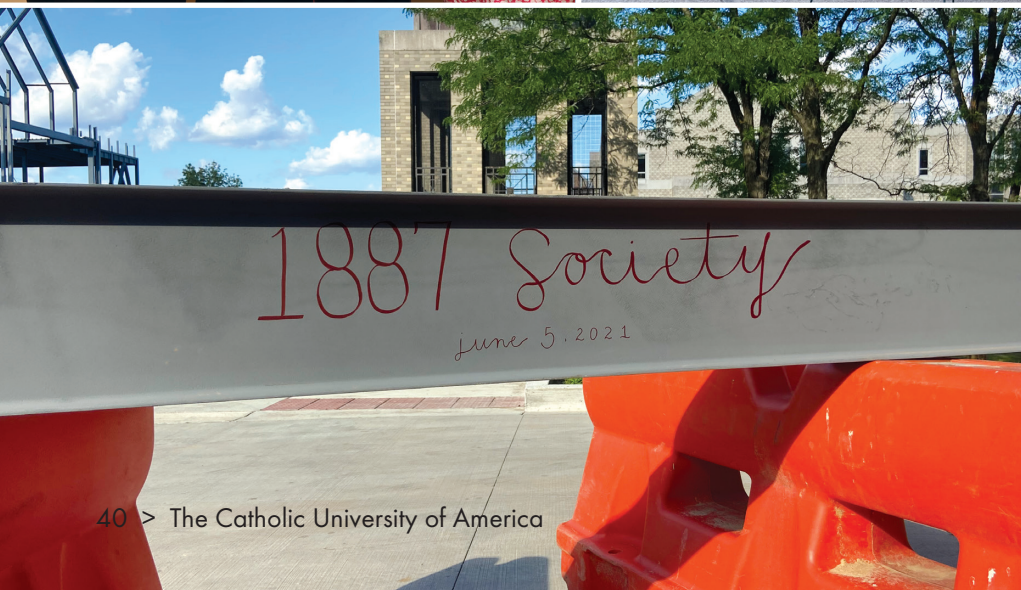
Last May, Jobes did a Facebook Live interview for a video podcast called Suicide ‘n’ Stuff, a platform for the “lived experience” community — people who have suffered with suicidal thoughts and attempts. The community is increasingly vocal in its criticism of traditional ways of treating suicidal risk. The two women who co-host the podcast are highly supportive of CAMS as a better patient-centered approach.

“I’ll go anywhere and do anything to talk about suicide prevention,” says Jobes. “I’m humbled by the work I get to do. It’s a blessing that I never take for granted.” 



**“We’ve proven that we can clinically help people with suicidal thoughts who have hit rock bottom to pivot and consider how they might live.”**

# ALUMNI CORNER





## University's Inaugural 1887 Weekend was Packed with Fun and Fellowship

From June 4–6, more than 150 members of the Catholic University community gathered for the inaugural 1887 Society Weekend. The experiential weekend celebrated this dedicated group of donors, who have consistently supported The Fund for Catholic University and individual school annual funds. Their gifts provide much-needed support to enhance the student experience and drive the mission of the University forward.

The event began Friday night with a reception at the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See, where guests were welcomed by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio. On Saturday morning, a campus tour allowed guests to view upcoming changes to campus, including the new dining commons that is currently under construction. They had the opportunity to sign a support beam that will be part of the finished building.

At lunch, Judi Biggs Garbuio, vice president for Student Affairs; Rob Specter, vice president for Finance and Treasurer; Aaron Dominguez, Provost; and President John Garvey updated everyone on the state of the University. They discussed how the community coped with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and worked toward a recovery process, which included this fall's full return to campus.

"We were killing it just before COVID arrived," Garvey said. "Our plan is to return to that state of affairs."

The Society's first co-chairs, Eileen and Jim Rullo, P '20, were also introduced during the luncheon.

"We are a vast number of individuals, all from different areas, but we have one thing in common: we love the Cardinals," Jim said.

The group then split for three excursions featuring deans and faculty experts: a cruise along the Potomac River, a lecture on the University's contributions to coronavirus research held at the U.S. Navy Memorial, and a chance to hear about University programming while at the International Spy Museum — complete with demonstrations by a sketch artist and handwriting analysis expert. Thomas Smith, M.A. 1988, the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, also gave a talk on "The Art of Adulging."

Saturday evening, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, M.A. 1981, Ph.D. 1985, was the keynote speaker during a dinner at the Museum of the Bible. "From 1887 to 2021, here we are, folks. I'm delighted to be with allies and colleagues who love our University as deeply as I do," Dolan said.

The weekend came to a close with Mass and brunch on Sunday.

Plans are already in the works for next year's 1887 Weekend, to be held June 3–5, 2022, in Washington, D.C. For more information, and to learn more about the 1887 Society, visit [engage.catholic.edu/1887leaders](https://engage.catholic.edu/1887leaders).

— A.K.

The inaugural 1887 Society Weekend took place at various locations across Washington, D.C.

## ALUMNI CORNER

### Class Notes



On July 15, more than 125 members of the Cardinal community reconnected at the Spring Lake Bath & Tennis Club in Spring Lake, N.J. President John Garvey is front and center.

## ► 1960s

**Rev. Richard Wzykiewicz, SCH.P., B.A. 1966**, celebrated his golden jubilee, 50 years of priesthood, in June. He is parochial vicar and director of religious education at St. Helena Church, the Bronx, N.Y.

**Walter Carson, J.D. 1968**, retired in May after 53 years practicing law, including 44 years representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Columbia Union Conference, as vice president and general counsel. During his career, he represented various government agencies and worked in private practice but found the greatest sense of purpose in working for the church. He plans to play more golf; join a senior softball league; spend more time with his wife, children, and three grandchildren; and actively participate in the community life of Chesapeake Conference's Frederick (Md.) church.

## ► 1970s

**Garwood Whaley, M.M. 1970, D.M.A. 1977**, was inducted into the Percussive Arts Society 2021 Hall of Fame.

**James B. Ewers Jr., M.A. 1972**, was inducted into the 2021 class of the Black Tennis Hall of Fame in January. He is a member of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Louisiana and sits on the diversity committee. He was appointed to the USTA southern schools and after-schools committee in 2019. Ewers is a life member of the NAACP and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha. He and wife, Deborah, have three children and six grandchildren.

**Peter Payack, B.A. 1972**, has written his 20th book, *The Migration of Darkness: New and Selected Science Fiction Poems 1975–2020* (Assembly Line Studio, August 2020). He is an award-

winning science fiction poet and has published more than 2,000 poems, stories, prose poems, photos, and articles, including multiple appearances in *The Paris Review*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, *The Cornell Review*, *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, *Creative Computing*, and the *Boston Globe*. He and his wife, **Monica-Hynes Payack, B.S.N. 1973**, live in Cambridge, Mass.

**Mary (Walton) Dixon, B.S.N. 1976**, completed her doctor of nursing practice degree from the University of Virginia in May. She also received the Daisy Lifetime Achievement Award from the Daisy Foundation due to her constant commitment to providing the highest quality of care to patients by nurses. She served as the chief nursing officer at UVA Health in Charlottesville, Va., from 2017–2021 after a long and progressive leadership history with the Inova Health System in Northern Virginia.

## ► 1980s

**Peter Wilcox, S.T.D. 1980**, had a private practice as a psychotherapist for more than 20 years. Since his retirement in 2011, he has had seven books published. His most recent book, *I Was Gone Long Before I Left*, was published in 2020.

**Michael Alfano, B.A. 1980, M.A. 1981**, a judge with the New Hampshire Circuit Court, was named editor of the Massachusetts continuing legal education publication, *A Practical Guide to Divorce in New Hampshire*.

**Thomas "Cool Cat" Favret, B.A. 1980**, retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in November 2020, and is now the managing director of parish operations at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown.

**Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, M.A. 1981, Ph.D. 1985**, archbishop of New York and member of the University board of trustees, wrote *I Am with You: Lessons of Hope and Courage in Times of Crisis* (Loyola Press, January 2021), offering a universal message on God's grace and the healing power of Jesus to see us through tough and turbulent times. Drawn from sermons and writings offered during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the book provides solace, hope, and healing for anyone suffering through illness, grief, job loss, isolation, or anxiety.

**Adriana Davis, B.A. 1982**, runs a production company called D-Squared Media and co-directed

*continued on page 44*



Courtesy of Anna Stumme

## Student-designed Beehive Monitoring System Helps Local Beekeeper

A beehive tracking device designed by Catholic University engineering alumni while they were graduate students has now been in use by a local beekeeper for more than two years. The monitoring system, which was built by Anna Stumme, B.E.E. 2017, M.S. 2019, and Brett Padula, B.M.E. 2017, M.S. 2019, was part of a project for the pair's Social Innovations course, taught by Greg Behrmann, Ph.D. 2009, a clinical associate professor of engineering, with part-time associate professor and Ciocca Center Fellow Chris Danek, B.M.E. 1989.

Every year, students in the course are tasked with building a company around a product and reaching out to consumers who would be willing to share their feedback. The goal is to design something user-friendly that will solve a real-world problem.

The idea for a project related to beekeeping came from Behrmann, who was interested in beehive monitoring after learning about the dangerous decline in bees around the world. He suggested Stumme and Padula take up the challenge and encouraged them to reach out to the D.C. Beekeepers Association for more guidance.

Both Stumme and Padula had previously earned their bachelor's degrees in engineering from CatholicU while also competing as student-athletes. The students connected with Frank Linton, an engineer-turned-beekeeper who lives in Maryland. Linton was interested in learning more about the hive temperature because healthy bees naturally keep their brood at a certain temperature.

"You can tell quite a lot from the temperature," he said. "If you had a whole array of temperature sensors in the hive, you could tell more about the brood, including how large it is, how much it is growing or shrinking, and where they are in the hive — are they up by the honey or down below?"

The system designed by Stumme and Padula consists of a grid of 36

temperature sensors embedded in a wooden panel. The setup, which runs 24 hours a day and records data to an SD card, is designed to slide between beehive components and is in place all year long.

Linton checks the sensors every two weeks to collect the data and change the batteries. While there are other places that sell sensors, Linton believes the system designed by Stumme and Padula might be the best one. Linton presented his findings using the sensor system as part of a three-part series in the *American Bee Journal* and at an international conference.

"It really is a groundbreaking system that has the potential to give a lot more detail of what's going on in a beehive than conventional systems do," Linton said.

Even though they have both since graduated and now work full time (Stumme at the Naval Research Laboratory and Padula at the Army Research Laboratory), Stumme and Padula continue working on the project. They check on the system a few times a year to make updates and ensure that it is still working properly. Stumme, who is in a doctoral program in electrical engineering at Penn State, says she enjoys being able to work creatively on a project that is so different from her day-to-day work.

"I've done more of the programming for the microcontroller we use for the temperature sensor, which hasn't always been my strong suit," she said. "It's something I wouldn't have seen myself doing, just rolling with the unknown like this."

Padula said he's also enjoyed the creative aspect of working with the beehive monitoring system.

"It's different from what I do at work," he said. "It's interesting to see how you might build a project from the ground up." — K.B.

## ALUMNI CORNER

### Class Notes

a feature-length documentary, *Saving the Iraqi Jewish Archives: A Journey of Identity*. It traces the discovery, restoration, and uncertain fate of more than 20,000 personal, cultural, and religious items discovered in the basement of Saddam Hussein's secret police headquarters in 2003. Viewers will meet members of the Iraqi Jewish community as they come face to face with remnants of their cultural history, stripped from them as they escaped Iraq.

**Joan L. Gelrud, M.S.N. 1982**, is the new chief quality and population health officer for Luminis Health, responsible for the system-wide function of quality.

**Jim Moriarty, J.D. 1982**, a former partner at Fulbright & Jaworski and Locke Lord, is executive vice

president, general counsel, corporate secretary, and chief policy and risk officer of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, a NYSE-diversified energy company.

**Patricia Randell, M.F.A. 1982**, a stage and screen performer, appeared as the nurse in Nathan Darrow's adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* in outdoor performances in South Orange, N.J., this summer.

**Monsignor Stephen Rossetti, M.A. 1982, D.Min. 1984**, research associate professor in the School of Theology and Religious Studies and chaplain to the Washington Nationals, was honored with a John Carroll Society award. Previously, he served as president and CEO of St. Luke Institute in Silver Spring, Md., an education and treatment

center for clergy and religious that helps them deal with challenges like addictions, depression, stress, and burnout. The John Carroll Society honored him "for the care you have given to your fellow priests and religious, the wisdom and insight you have provided the Church, and the guidance you have provided in the community, including the Washington Nationals team members."

**Paul DePonte, B.A. 1983**, was selected as executive director of the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC). His career has focused on developing nonprofit public education and advocacy efforts that have won national attention and awards and have led to important policy reforms to improve the public's health

and safety. He replaces **Ann M. Harkins, B.A. 1974, M.A. 1978**, who retired after 15 years with NCPC, which included almost 12 years at the helm.

**Stephen P. Fogerty, B.A. 1983**, launched a new law firm, FLB Law, PLLC, in Westport, Conn., at which he is one of the managing partners.

**Siobhan Fallon Hogan, M.F.A. 1985**, wrote, produced, and starred in the film *Rushed*, distributed in theaters in the U.S. and Europe in August by Vertical Entertainment. It is a film about Barbara O'Brien (Hogan), an Upstate N.Y., Irish Catholic mother whose life is ruined when her son Jimmy, a

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On June 20, the CatholicU community in Philadelphia gathered in person for a special Mass with Archbishop Nelson Perez at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, followed by brunch at the Logan Hotel.



Russell Shiger

## ALUMNI CORNER

### Alumni Spotlight

## Eminent Astrophysicist with a Passion for Inclusion

In the fall of 1956, William Jackson, Ph.D. 1962, walked onto the CatholicU campus and into the chemistry department with a hand-lettered list of his grades to see how he could sign up for a night school Ph.D. program. At the time, CatholicU didn't offer a night school program, so he spoke with the chair. Jackson came out of the meeting not only enrolled as a graduate student, but also offered an RA position. Jackson went on to have a legendary career marked by pivotal scientific contributions to the field of astrochemistry.

"The most fortunate thing that happened to me in my academic career was going to Catholic University during that period," said Jackson. "The University sent students to government laboratories. I remember people doing experiments that are still being done today because they were at the forefront of the field."

Jackson is a distinguished researcher, mentor, and advocate for minorities in science; one of the founders of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers; and Distinguished Emeritus professor of chemistry at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis).

"The University has a special place in the history of this country in terms of preparing African Americans who went to grad school and received Ph.D.s," said Jackson. "I don't know if the University knows how much they have impacted chemistry and physics in their Ph.D. programs."

After receiving his Ph.D., Jackson spent time at Martin-Marietta Co. before rejoining the National Bureau of Standards as a National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council postdoctoral associate. A year later he joined the astrochemistry branch with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. This is where Jackson came up with a calculation for the International Ultraviolet Explorer (IUE) satellite to show that the telescope could be used to obtain a spectrum of comets in a spectral region unobservable from the earth.

"One of the designers of the IUE satellite told me that it wouldn't work for comets because the satellite was designed to look at stars and comets

are diffused objects, so you wouldn't be able to collect enough light in the telescope to see anything," said Jackson. "So I sat down and made a calculation that showed in fact you would and predicted how big the signal would be. The observations of the IUE satellite provided us with more information over a 10-year period than we had ever obtained on comets before."

Jackson has also made contributions to the field of laser chemistry by developing laser technology using the Tunable Dye Laser to determine the properties of free radicals that are observed with telescopes in astronomy.

While serving as a professor at Howard University in the 1970s, he also testified before the House and Senate Authorization and Appropriation Committees in the U.S. Congress advocating for a bill to increase funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This bill supplied multimillion-dollar grants to these schools that served underrepresented minority (URM) students. It also led other government agencies that funded university science — such as NASA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy — to provide larger grants for colleges and universities that educated URM students in the STEM fields.

In the 1980s Jackson left Howard to go to UC Davis, becoming the first African American faculty member in the chemistry department. There, he doubled the graduate student population and increased the minority student population in the department.

"I want to see us have more representation in the STEM fields. I have worked hard to try to get minorities in the field, and I have worked equally as hard to try to set an example of being successful in the field. I think I have achieved both of those goals but I can't do it by myself," Jackson said.

Jackson was recently awarded the NSB Public Service Award and the prestigious Julius Edgar Lilienfeld Prize from the American Physical Society. He is the first African American recipient in the prize's 33-year history. He still serves as a distinguished researcher at UC Davis. "I don't think I'll stop researching until I physically can't do it anymore," Jackson said. "I have a passion for what I do, and I have fun doing it." — G.O.

Lilian Thomas Burwell at  
Berry Campbell Gallery,  
New York, May 24, 2021

## ALUMNI CORNER

Alumni Spotlight



### Artist Lilian Thomas Burwell: “More of a Teacher and a Preacher”

Any other serious artist would have leapt — lock, smock, and easel — at the opportunity: a solo show at a leading private art gallery in Manhattan. But at 94, Lilian Thomas Burwell, M.F.A. 1975, was comfortable taking her time.

“Well, I didn’t know who they were,” said Burwell of Christine Berry and Martha Campbell, owners and purveyors of the eight-year-old Berry Campbell Gallery.

“I never had an orientation to working [at art] to make money,” confided Burwell, who made her living as an art teacher. “So, I needed to know ‘Who are these people and what are they trying to do? Can I trust them?’ And at this age, I have to be realistic about what happens to my work. I may have never thought of it as a way to make money, but I don’t believe in just throwing it all away, either,” added Burwell.

Despite a long and productive career as both a two-dimensional painter and creator of innovative three-dimensional wall sculptures, the longtime Maryland-based artist had never had an exhibition in New York City. Her paintings have been exhibited at The National Museum of Women in the Arts and are included in the permanent collections of prestigious museums such as the Phillips Collection, both located in Washington, D.C.

“I’m more of a teacher and preacher than anything else,” said the grandchild of a Baptist minister, who married a Catholic and arrived at CatholicU to study the foundations of catechism.

“If I can bring something out in [a student] that [they] didn’t know existed before, that’s like I’m throwing a pebble in the water,” she said. “It’s starting something I have no idea where it’s going to go. But to this day I hear things

from students that I had decades ago telling me one or two things I taught them that started them on a completely different line of exploration. That’s worth 200 paintings to me.”

Berry and Campbell were able to convince Burwell they wanted to represent post-war American artists that they consider overlooked or neglected, often because they are women and other times due to race or geography. Berry’s introduction to Burwell came in 2017 via the artist’s inclusion in the acclaimed *Magnetic Fields* touring exhibition, the first U.S. presentation dedicated exclusively to “the formal and historical dialogue of abstraction by women artists of color.” But she was pushed further to meet Burwell when a client of hers who collected African American art said he had to see her work, including “these fabulous wall sculptures.”

After a roughly yearlong courtship of Burwell by Berry and Campbell, what resulted was “Soaring,” which showcased 15 examples from Burwell’s portfolio in April and May. The exhibition centered on the pivotal painting *Skybound* (1984), which marks the first time the artist cut into her canvas to create positive and negative space, eventually leading to her now signature style of three-dimensional, painted wall sculpture.

“I think Lilian could have been a full-blown professional artist 100 percent,” said Berry. “But, she loves teaching. I think she was simply overlooked. [But] I don’t feel that there’s any missed opportunity here. As a woman, as a sculptor, as an African American, she fits in a lot of categories, and we have people walking in here saying to us, ‘Who is this artist? Why have I never heard of her? These are fantastic!’ I think this is the right time for her.”

— Kevin Burke

*Visit [magazine.catholic.edu](http://magazine.catholic.edu) to read a longer story on Burwell, her recent donations to the Smithsonian, and her connections to the late acclaimed artist David Driskell, M.F.A. 1962.*



college freshman, is involved in a fraternity hazing incident. Barbara resorts to extreme measures when she encounters empty promises in Washington, D.C.

**William Picher, D.M.A. 1987**, director of music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, Orlando, Fla., has recorded music on the new 86 rank Schoenstein pipe organ that has been released by Stemik Music. Composers include Holborne, Buxtehude, Gigout, Debussy, Gershwin, Verdi, Sousa, and more. The Basilica Choir joins him on the recording. He has served at the Basilica for 20 years and, before that, he held a similar position at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle in St. Petersburg, Fla., and at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, Maine. He was also a member of the United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C.

**Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.L. 1989, J.C.D. 1992**, bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, was appointed by Pope Francis to be a member of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura — the Vatican’s highest court. The appointment is for a five-year term, and he will continue to serve as bishop of Altoona-Johnstown.

**David Kenney, B.A. 1989**, was named new head of school at St. Anthony School in Wailuku, Maui. He is concluding his fifth year as a district educational specialist with the Hawai’i Department of Education-Maui District. Throughout his nearly 30 years in education, he has served in various

administrative roles, including school psychologist, early childhood coordinator, and district-wide executive leadership roles.

## ► 1990s

**Minnie Baylor-Henry, J.D. 1990**, was named to the board of directors of Paratek Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

**Brian T. Daly, B.A. 1991**, a leading advisor to hedge fund managers and private equity fund sponsors, has joined Akin Gump as a partner in its investment management practice in New York.

**Maryjo Charbonnier, B.A. 1992**, was appointed chief human resources officer for Kyndryl, the new, independent public company that will be created following the separation of IBM’s managed infrastructure services business.

**Joseph Petrizzo, M.S.W. 1992**, was ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Washington. He has been a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Silver Spring, Md., since 2000. He and his wife, Mary, have been married for 27 years and have four children. He is a trained family therapist and a licensed certified social worker. He has been employed for 19 years at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring and is currently the director of behavioral health at the hospital.

**Michael Roche, B.A. 1992**, directed, filmed, and edited the latest music video “Getting Old Sucks” for the Grammy-nominated band Bowling For Soup.

**Holly Schepisi, B.A. 1993**, took the oath of office in March to become state senator for New Jersey’s 39th legislative district. She is the first Republican female senator from Bergen County and the first female to represent District 39 in the legislature.

**Michael J. Desmond, J.D. 1994**, has joined Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher LLP, as a partner in the Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., offices. He recently served as the chief counsel of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and assistant general counsel in the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

**Jennifer Bess, Ph.D. 1995**, assistant professor of peace studies at Goucher College in Baltimore, has written a book, *Where the Red-Winged Blackbirds Sing: The Akimel O’odham and Cycles of Agricultural Transformation in the Phoenix Basin* (University Press of Colorado, April 2021). The book examines the ways in which the Akimel O’odham (Native American “River People”) and their ancestors, the Huhugam, adapted to economic, political, and environmental constraints imposed by federal Indian policy, the Indian Bureau, and an encroaching settler population in Arizona’s Gila River Valley.

**Todd H. Gazda, J.D. 1995**, has been named executive director of the Collaborative for Educational Services, a nonprofit based in Northampton, Mass.

**Laura C. Baucus, B.A. 1996**, was promoted to director of the automotive industry group at Dykema, a Detroit-based national law firm, after

more than two decades at the firm. She will continue to work out of the Bloomfield Hills office.

**David Kelley, M.L.M. 1996, M.M. 1997**, earned second-place honors from the prestigious University of Notre Dame Magnificat Choir Competition for his composition on the Meditabor. For the competition, composers write new works to be sung by women’s voices, especially during worship services. Kelley has been composing music for decades, and this is his first award. He is minister of music at Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna, Va.

**Thomas G. Allen, B.A. 1997, J.D. 2002**, joins Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in the Washington, D.C., office as a partner in the firm’s nationally recognized construction and infrastructure team. He will act as global lead for international disputes.

**Angela McKay Knobel, B.A. 1997**, associate professor of philosophy at the University of Dallas, has written *Aquinas and the Infused Moral Virtues* (The University of Notre Dame Press, October 2021), providing a detailed examination of Aquinas’s theory of infused moral virtue, with special attention to the question of how the infused and acquired moral virtues are related. As a former philosophy faculty member at CatholicU for 16 years, she acknowledges several School of Philosophy colleagues in her book.

**Richard G. Poulson, J.D. 1997**, of Willig, Williams & Davidson, has been named among the 2021 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers.

## ALUMNI CORNER

### Class Notes

**Denise Whisenhunt, J.D. 1997**, has been appointed the new president of Grossmont College in El Cajon, Calif., effective July 1.

## ► 2000s

**Rev. Timothy J. Cusick, S.T.B. 2000, S.T.L. 2020**, was appointed academic dean of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Fla.

**Rev. Andrew Small, O.M.I., S.T.L. 2000, S.T.D. 2010**, has been appointed Secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors by Pope Francis.

**Theodore Whapham, M.A. 2001, Ph.D. 2007**, has been appointed vice president of academic affairs at Avila University, Kansas City, Mo.

**Matt Hanka, B.A. 2002**, associate professor of political science at the University of Southern Indiana in

Evansville, Ind., published *What is Happening in Your Community? Why Community Development Matters* (Lexington Books, May 2021). The book examines how community development changes a community and why that change matters, while also examining the relationship between community development and social capital.

**Philip Harold, M.A. 2002, Ph.D. 2004**, was appointed dean of the Constantin College of Liberal Arts at the University of Dallas.

**Jon Nass, J.D. 2002**, was selected as CEO and executive director of the Port of Gulfport. For the past two and a half years, he has been CEO of the Maine Port Authority, where he helped develop Northern New England's only container terminal.

**Rev. Ronnie P. Floyd, B.A. 2003**, was named the parish priest (canonical administrator) of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he will be

leading one of the fastest-growing Catholic schools in the U.S. For the last two years, Sacred Heart Academy, a classical education school, has been in the top 10 schools in the nation for the classical learning test.

**Trevor Albertson, M.A. 2004**, was named superintendent/president of Lassen Community College (LCC), Susanville, Calif. He started at LCC in 2018 as dean of instructional services and was named acting president in late December 2019.

**Catherine Gates, B.M. 2005, M.M. 2008**, has moved to Lakewood Ranch, Fla., and opened the Lakewood Ranch Violin Studio. She and her husband, Brian, have two daughters, Elena, 10, and Julia, 7.

**Jacqueline (Serratore) Langley, B.M. 2006**, is one of 219 music teachers from 204 cities who have been announced as quarterfinalists for the Music Educator Award™ pre-

sented by the Recording Academy® and GRAMMY Museum®. She is choral director at Haverford Middle School, Havertown, Pa.

**Justin Markiewicz, B.S. Arch. 2006**, was promoted to lieutenant in the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia.

**Rev. Matthew S. Ernest, S.T.L. 2008, S.T.D. 2010**, was appointed academic dean of Saint Joseph's Seminary (Dunwoodie) in Yonkers, N.Y.

**Stanley E. Woodward Jr., J.D. 2008**, was recognized during Catholic University's 132nd Law School Commencement Ceremony for his dedication and commitment to Columbus School of Law. He has served as alumni council president since 2016 and concluded his term in the spring of 2021.

**Rev. Damian Ference, Ph.L. 2009**, a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland



On August 26, Catholic University celebrated legacy students and their families at a lunch hosted by the Alumni Association.

and assistant professor of philosophy on the formation faculty at Borromeo Seminary in Wickliffe, has been appointed by **Bishop Edward Malesic, J.C.L. 1998**, to the new position of vicar for evangelization for the diocese.

**Joseph L. Grabau, M.A. 2009**, and wife Raelyn announce the birth of their son, Giuseppe, on April 8. Joseph was promoted to associate professor of philosophy and theology at the Mexican American Catholic College, San Antonio.

**Paula Caruselle Heller, B.A. 2009**, and **Alwin Charles Heller III, B.S.Arch. 2009, M.S.Arch. 2012**, welcomed their first child, Alwin Charles Heller IV, on Dec. 25, 2020. The family lives in Hoboken, N.J.

**Sister Mary Rose of the Pure Heart, O.P. (Chelsea Allen) B.S.B.A. 2009**, made the solemn profession as a Dominican cloistered nun on April 24, at the Dominican Monastery of St. Jude in Marbury, Ala. **Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi, J.C.L. 1986**, presided, with concelebrating priests including **Rev. Ambrose Little, O.P., B.A. 2007, Ph.L. 2014; Rev. John Koziol, O.F.M. Conv., D.Min. 2005**, associate chaplain from 2005 to 2007; and **Rev. James Brent, O.P.**, assistant professor of philosophy from 2011 to 2016. Other alumni in attendance: **Kristen (Kennedy) Zacha, B.B.E. 2009, M.B.E. 2009; Kelly Hope (Nawrocki) Ugolini, B.A. 2009; Leah (Sedlacek) Quigley, B.A. 2009; T.J. Lee, B.C.E 2008**; and associate dean for undergraduate studies in the School of Theology and Religious

Studies **Susan Timoney** and her husband. Additionally, of the couple of hundred who watched virtually via livestream, several dozen were alumni, friends, and professors from Sister Mary Rose's happy years at Catholic University.

**Joshua McElwee, B.A. 2009**, the *National Catholic Reporter's* longtime, award-winning Vatican correspondent, has been named the publication's national news editor. He also has served as NCR's international news editor since 2020.

## ▶ 2010s

**Angelica Brooks, M.M. 2010**, has been selected for the Cleveland Institute of Music's Future of Music Faculty Fellowship. The career development initiative will engage 35 Black and Latino music professionals who are pursuing or considering academic careers, preparing them with the skills, insights, and networks to flourish professionally and influence generations of musicians.

**Ryan Keebaugh, D.M.A. 2010**, was selected as a guest composer for the 2021 American Choral Directors Association National Conference in March, under Composer Exhibition/Meet the Artists Series with MusicSpoke, Inc. Selected choral compositions were also a part of the National Conference Reading Sessions. He is assistant professor of music and director of choral music at Bridgewater College.

**Rebecca Greene, M.S.W. 2011**, has written a children's book,



## Who is ... A Two-Time Jeopardy Champion: Jamie Logan, B.A. 2009

In May, Jamie (Carter) Logan, B.A. 2009, fulfilled a lifelong dream of appearing on the game show "Jeopardy!" Logan, a public relations consultant and writer from Augusta, Maine, said she has tried out for the show "more times than I can remember." She received a callback for a live audition five of those times, twice while a student at CatholicU and three times since graduating.

Her most recent call for an audition came a few weeks before the death of long-time host Alex Trebek. After his death in November 2020, Logan's audition was moved to the winter of 2021.

"Having grown up watching Alex Trebek as the host of 'Jeopardy!' nearly every weeknight for my entire life, it was bittersweet making it onto the show but without Alex there," she said. "Bill Whittaker was a wonderful host, though!"

Logan's run on the game show lasted for three days, and she walked away a winner of more than \$50,000. "In a dream world, I'd be spending my winnings to open a bookstore along the river here in Augusta," she said. But in reality, she'll use the money on more practical expenses.

Logan, who majored in politics and minored in philosophy and theology and religious studies, said that her time in CatholicU's honors program — especially living in community with honors students in Regan Hall — "was a wonderful way to be surrounded by knowledge and other people who loved to read, loved to learn, loved to play games, and never seemed to mind when 'Jeopardy!' was on in the dorm lounge. Those friendships and conversations certainly played a big part, and still do, in my love of knowledge and lifelong learning."

Logan's run on the quiz show ended with a question about Shakespeare. For other alumni who dream of appearing on the show, she advised, "Keep trying! Learn your Shakespeare! And when you do audition, have fun, show your personality, and keep smiling." — M.M.H.

## ALUMNI CORNER

### Class Notes

*My Perfect Cupcake: A Recipe for Thriving with Food Allergies* (Tabby Cat Publishing, April 2021), for children who are either coping with food allergies themselves or have a friend who may need their support. This is the first book in *The Fearless Food Allergy Friends*, a new series she was inspired to write because of her own young son's multiple food allergies.

**Leslie Griffin, M.S.L.S. 2011**, has been selected as library director for Caldwell County, N.C. She began her career with Caldwell County Public Library in 2017, when she accepted a position as adult services librarian. In 2019, she was named technical services librarian, and she was appointed interim library director in 2020.

**Emily Kogut, B.A. 2011**, a first grade teacher at St. Mary's School in Landover Hills, Md., is one of 10 Golden Apple Award-winning teachers for 2021 in the Archdiocese of Washington. The annual award recognizes a teacher's professional excellence, leadership, commitment to Catholic values, and devotion to teaching in Catholic schools.

**Chris Pierno, B.A. 2011, M.S.M. 2017**, was elected the state deputy of the Knights of Columbus in the District of Columbia in April, beginning his term on July 1. **Rev. Frank S. Donio, S.A.C., B.A. 1989, M.A. 1993, D.Min. 2012**, will serve as the state chaplain. Also elected were **Nicholas Shields, B.A. 2014**, as state advocate, and **Joshua Bryant, B.M.E. 2015**, as state warden. There are more than 3,000 Knights in the District of Columbia serving their parishes and local communities.



From left to right, Nicholas Shields, B.S. 2014, and his wife Alyce; Rev. Alex Boucher, B.A. 2014; Rev. Andrew St. Hilaire, B.A. 2014; Rev. Frank Donio, S.A.C., B.A. 1989, M.A. 1993, D.Min. 2012; Timothy McEvoy, B.S. 2013; Lauren Scharmer, B.S.W. 2014; Rev. Brett Garland, B.A. 2013; Rev. William Tarraza, O.F.M. Cap., B.A. 2011; and Steven Serafin, B.A. 2012.

**Tommy Shaw, B.S.B.A. 2011**, has joined Adams & Knight, an integrated marketing agency in New England, in the newly created role of vice president of media and analytics. He joins CEO **Jill Adams, B.A. 1981**.

**Jason Ingram, J.D. 2012**, was appointed deputy chief operating officer of business and administrative services by Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms. Prior to joining the Atlanta administration, he served as chief policy advisor and executive director of the civil service commission for the City of Baltimore Department of Human Resources.

**Quentin Wodon, Ph.D. 2012**, helped to launch the Global Catholic Education (GCE) project in November. The project, entirely

volunteer-based, is co-sponsored by the four organizations that represent Catholic education at the international level. One of the deliverables of the project is its annual report. The GCE Report 2021 is on education pluralism, learning poverty, and the right to education. Another recent publication from the project is a directory of Catholic Colleges and Universities in the U.S. (with the National Catholic Education Association and the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities). He received a third-place Catholic Media Award, in the Best New Website category, and a Porticus grant to disseminate key reports.

**Timothy R. McEvoy, B.S. 2013**, (pictured) professed simple vows as a member of St. Mary's Abbey

in Morristown, N.J., on March 22, taking the religious name Brother Finnbar McEvoy, O.S.B. He will be teaching theology and serve as assistant director of mission and ministry at Delbarton School.

**MaryRose Depperschmidt, B.A. 2014**, a theology teacher at St. Mary's Ryken High School in Leonardtown, Md., is one of 10 Golden Apple Award-winning Catholic school teachers in the Archdiocese of Washington for 2021.

**Anthony J. Purcell, M.S.W. 2014**, has been elected as board secretary of the Delaware Stonewall PAC. He works with AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies in Washington, D.C., and Delaware as a clinical care coordinator.

He also is the owner of Purcell Therapy in Washington, D.C.

**J. Christopher Clements, M.Arch. 2015**, was promoted to senior staff architect in the Virginia office of Hoffmann Architects, an architecture and engineering firm specializing in the rehabilitation of building exteriors.

**Alejandra Rossi, B.S.Arch. 2015**, has written *I Am Loved* (United House Publishing, April 2021) to inspire young readers to discover and learn about God and His love for all His children.

**Matthew Dugandzic, M.Phil. 2016, Ph.D. 2018**, and **Audra (Nakas) Dugandzic, B.A. 2015**, welcomed their first child, Joseph Kazimieras, on April 4. They live in Baltimore, where Matthew is assistant professor of moral theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University and Audra is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at the University of Notre Dame.

**Mallory Nygard, B.A. 2016**, published her first collection of poetry, titled *Pelican* (April 2021). Written partly in response to the clerical sex abuse crisis in the Catholic Church, the poems in this collection are an exploration of what it means to have faith, membership, sin, expectation, freedom, and culpability.

**Jane O'Hagan, B.A. 2016**, and **George Townsend, B.A. 2017**, were married on Nov. 11, 2020. The couple lives in Scaggsville, Md.

**Lois Lacey, D.Min. 2017**, has been named the executive director

of operations for the Diocese of St. Petersburg by Bishop Gregory Parkes, effective June 21. She will supervise the ministerial outreach of the diocese including the Catholic schools and centers, stewardship and development, construction, real estate, Calvary Catholic Cemetery, and the Bethany Retreat Center, in addition to serving on the bishop's executive leadership team.

**Peter Bayer, B.A. 2018**, presented a 40-minute organ recital at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C., as part of the recital series celebrating the second anniversary of the completion of the Cathedral's Lively-Fulcher Great Organ. He is pursuing graduate work in classics at the University of Toronto.

**Mary Pereira Fesalbon, B.A. 2018**, and **John Paul Ryan, B.A. 2018**, were married on July 10, 2020. Mary just finished her first year in George Mason University's clinical psychology doctorate program and John entered CatholicU's clinical psychology doctorate program in the fall.

**Rev. Steven Burr, D.Min. 2019**, has been named 14th rector and president of Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit. Previously, he served as vice rector and dean of seminarian formation.

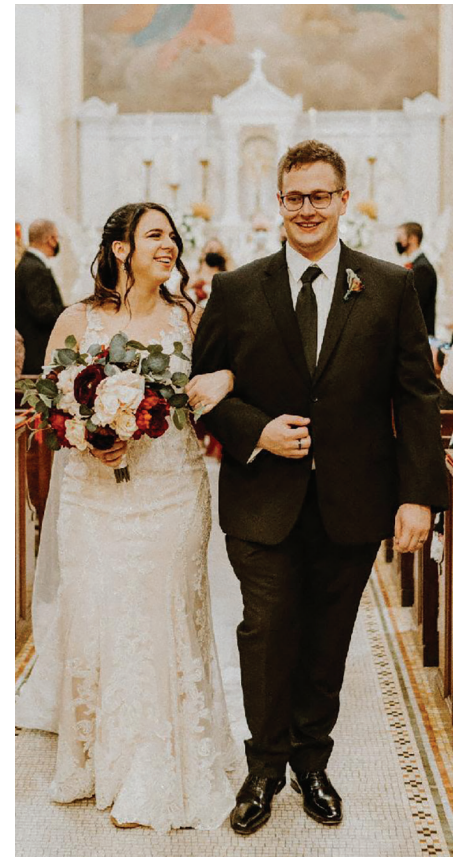
## ► 2020s

**Izzy Gholh, B.M. 2020**, was the assistant director/assistant stage manager in her first production with Solas Nua, D.C.'s award-winning

Irish arts organization, which presented a live theater production of *In the Middle of the Fields* this summer. In this same production, **Jessica Lefkow, B.F.A. 1985**, played the role of Eithne, who is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer and steps out of her house and into the nearby fields, wondering what her life will be like on the other side of recovery from a deadly disease.

**Rev. Jason Allan, S.T.B./M.Div. 2021**, received the Rite of Ordination from **Bishop Michael Olson, B.A. 1988, M.A. 1989**, on May 22, in Vietnamese Martyrs Church in Arlington, Texas, and the same day, celebrated his first Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller, Texas. He will serve as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Denton, Texas.

**Mary K. Ryan, B.A. 2021**, has been named director of faith formation and youth ministry at Our Lady of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church, Woodbridge, Conn. She is a member of her family's praise and worship band, Hands & Feet.



O'Hagan-Townsend wedding



Fesalbon-Ryan wedding

## Share Your News!

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## ALUMNI CORNER

In Memoriam

**Sister Rita Buddeke, S.N.D.**, M.A. 1939, Ph.D. 1960, March 25, 2021.

**Sister Jerome M. Corcoran, O.S.U.**, B.A. 1942, M.A. 1949, June 6, 2021.

**Sister Eloise M. Pulskamp**, B.S.Ed. 1948, May 18, 2021.

**Donald J. Sommers**, B.E.E. 1949, April 27, 2021.

**Cornelius W. Heine**, B.A. 1950, M.A. 1951, March 11, 2021.

**Henry Caldwell “Harry” Clark Jr.**, B.M.E. 1951, July 12, 2021.

**Jack Irvin Hope**, B.A. 1951, June 10, 2021.

**Charles A. Lewis**, B.M.E. 1951, June 17, 2021.

**Robert V. Hallock**, M.A. 1952, July 23, 2021.

**Nathaniel M. Abrahms**, B.Arch. 1953, Dec. 29, 2020.

**Joan M. Smith**, B.S.N. 1953, Feb. 12, 2021.

**Joan A. Hozza-Query**, B.A. 1955, June 6, 2021.

**Mary Ann Sheehy Kiley Shugars**, B.M. 1955, April 2, 2021.

**Catherine M. Greene**, B.S.N. 1957, M.S.N. 1963, June 3, 2021.

**Rev. Richard S. Sturtz**, M.S.L.S. 1957, May 19, 2021.

**Rev. Andre M. Gariepy**, J.C.B. 1958, May 25, 2021.

**Clare Coyle La Place**, B.S.N. 1958, March 16, 2021.

**J. Edward Cuddy**, M.A. 1959, June 22, 2021.

**Rev. Charles A. Heskamp, S.V.D.**, M.A. 1960, Jan. 28, 2021.

**Thomas P. Kelly Jr.**, M.A. 1960, April 7, 2021.

**Thomas P. Martino**, M.A. 1960, Ph.D. 1967, Feb. 23, 2021.

**Sister Mary D. Bruck**, M.A. 1962, April 1, 2021.

**Dennis J. Hayes**, M.F.A. 1962, Jan. 9, 2021.

**Rev. Gerald Bartko, O.S.F.S.**, B.A. 1963, May 16, 2021.

**Paul F. Curran**, M.A. 1963, Ph.D. 1965, April 19, 2021.

**Sister M. Carolita Hart, C.S.C., (Vivian Berneice)**, M.S.N. 1963, May 22, 2021.

**Elizabeth C. Arnold**, M.S.N. 1964, April 19, 2021.

**Sister Elizabeth M. Brell, O.S.U.**, M.A. 1965, March 29, 2021.

**John F. Lippert**, B.A. 1965, April 12, 2021.

**Biagio V. Musto**, M.A. 1965, May 5, 2021.

**John J. Coughlin**, J.D. 1966, April 20, 2020.

**Donald E. “Don” Frericks**, M.S. 1966, May 14, 2021.

**Brian P. Murphy**, J.D. 1968, May 18, 2021.

**F. Dana Winslow**, J.D. 1969, May 15, 2021.

**Sister Mary Karen Hill**, M.M. 1970, June 13, 2021.

**Richard P. Waido**, B.A. 1970, March 10, 2021.

**Sister Catherine J. McIntyre, R.J.M.**, M.A. 1971, April 21, 2021.

**Juan C. Devinenti**, B.Arch. 1973, Feb. 25, 2021.

**Dennis L. Parnell**, B.A. 1973, M.A. 1976, Dec. 16, 2020.

**Marvin A. Blizard**, M.S.E. 1974, June 9, 2021.

**Rev. Anthony F. Krisak**, M.A. 1974, S.T.L. 1986, June 3, 2021.

**Gregory K. Lohse**, B.S. 1975, May 19, 2021.

**Wayne A. Keup**, J.D. 1976, March 28, 2021.

**Shirley Brown**, M.A. 1977, Dec. 16, 2020.

**Victor R. Fernandez**, M.R.S. 1977, March 22, 2021.

**Robert O. Goff**, Ph.D. 1977, June 6, 2021.

**Per Axel Kullstam**, Ph.D. 1977, April 20, 2020.

**Louis D. Rockecharlie**, M.A. 1977, March 13, 2021.

**William R. Hall**, M.M. 1980, June 9, 2021.

**Gregory J. Zoltowski**, M.F.A. 1981, May 18, 2021.

**Jeffrey W. Hyatt**, M.F.A. 1984, July 28, 2021.

### Sister Mary Vincencia Joseph, Social Work Professor

Sister Mary Vincencia Joseph, M.S.W. 1958, Ph.D. 1974, professor emerita of the National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS), passed away Sept. 14. Born Marie Antoinette Joseph in Queens, New York, she graduated from St. John’s University in 1948 and entered the Community of the Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Trinity (MSBT). In 1984, she entered the Sisters for Christian Community.

She worked for 18 years as a social worker with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) providing direct family and child services. In 1974, she joined the NCSSS faculty, becoming an ordinary professor in 1989.

She was a member of the Catholic Charities USA Code of Ethics Committee that formulated one of the first organizational codes of ethics in 1983. She was a key member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) committee that revised the social work Code of Ethics in 1997, and she served on the committee that revised and updated the Catholic Charities organizational code of ethics, promulgated in 2007.

Under her leadership NCSSS was the first school of social work in 1975 to offer a course in the religious/spiritual dimensions of social work practice, which Sister Vincencia developed and taught. Her work resulted in the establishment of the Society for Spirituality and Social Work.

In 2003, the NASW Metropolitan Chapter named her Social Work Educator of the Year as well as Social Worker of the Year. In 2007 she was named a Social Work Pioneer by NASW.

**Martin J. Holleran III**, B.A. 1986, March 22, 2021.

**Kimberly Burke Hoover**, B.A. 1990, June 23, 2021.

**Kevin Hogan**, M.A. 1991, Ph.D. 2002, March 1, 2021.

**Rev. Ralph C. Verdi, C.P.P.S.**, Ph.D. 1991, May 10, 2021.

**Rev. William H. Wysong**, J.C.L. 1998, June 7, 2021.

**John Beetham**, M.A. 2002, May 10, 2021.

**Lonel Woods**, M.M. 2004, May 16, 2021.

## ► FACULTY/STAFF

**Mayra Addison**, adjunct faculty in the Department of Economics, who served for nine years, Aug. 2, 2021.

**Edward C. “Big Ed” Cassidy Sr.**, special police officer, Department of Public Safety, who served for 13 years at the Raymond A. DuFour Athletic Center, June 13, 2021.

**John M. Gramatikos**, former carpenter, who served for 39 years, April 14, 2021.

**Beverly Banks Isom**, B.A. 2016, Office of Enrollment Management, who served for 20 years, June 9, 2021.

**Rev. David Knight**, lecturer in theology and assistant chaplain from 1969 to 1970, March 21, 2021.

**James W. Loewen**, former adjunct professor of sociology, who served for more than 12 years, Aug. 19, 2021.

**Benjamin Mintz**, professor emeritus of the Columbus School of Law, who served for more than 32 years, April 15, 2021.

**Thomas N. Tentler**, former adjunct professor in the Department of History, July 21, 2021.

**M. Halo Wines**, M.A. 1964, lecturer in the Department of Drama from 1989 to 1993, June 15, 2021.



## Lucy Cohen, Anthropology Professor Emerita

Lucy Cohen, professor emerita of the Department of Anthropology, passed away on July 2, 2021.

Cohen earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles and later pursued a Master's degree in Social Work at Catholic University's National Catholic School of Social Service (NCSSS). After graduating from NCSSS, she worked as a clinical social worker at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C.

She returned to Catholic University for her doctoral work in Anthropology, graduating with a Ph.D. in 1966. She then spent two years as the Chief of Program Evaluation at the Community Mental Health Center in Washington, D.C.

In 1969, Cohen began a joint appointment as an associate professor of Social Services and Anthropology at Catholic University, switching exclusively to Anthropology in 1972. She was a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology until her retirement in 2012, and remained a lecturer in the department through 2016. She served as department chair from 1985 through 1988 and from 1996 through 1999.

Cohen dedicated her academic career to Catholic University. She was also a volunteer for the Spanish Catholic Center, and served on both the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Social Development and World Peace, and the Community Humanities Council in Washington, D.C. It was this merging of social science research with mental health care and policy that became a hallmark of her career.

Cohen was instrumental to the development of several major anthropological paradigms in the 1960s and 1970s. She co-founded the subfield of medical anthropology in the late 1960s, which investigates cross-cultural understandings of health, illness, and care in order to advocate for ethical, effective, and sustainable approaches to well-being. Medical anthropology is today one of the largest anthropological subfields, and emerged directly out of Cohen's professional experience as a social worker at mental health facilities in D.C.

Cohen's department colleagues described her as an academic whose career was “defined by this inseparability of faith from reason, academics from advocacy, and compassion from clinicality. Her devotion to her students, to her University, to her discipline, and to her faith made her an ideal figure in exemplifying our University's mission to reveal God's work through the twin pursuits of faith and reason.”



## Two Decades After 9/11 A Peacebuilding Expert Reflects

By Maryann Cusimano Love

**T**uesday, Sept. 11, 2001, was a brilliant, blue-sky morning in Washington, D.C. I set out to teach class in the Pentagon, as I did every week. Our Catholic University politics class that semester was about terrorism and non-state actors. My students were military and government officials in our politics off-campus graduate program in international affairs. A dead car battery kept me out of harm's way that morning. My students were not so lucky. Our class studying terrorism found itself under terrorist attack.

I prayed and scrambled to reach my students, but phone and email connections were down.

Over the next hours and days my students checked in, one by one. Miraculously, although they lost colleagues, they themselves escaped, saved by the position of a water cooler or desk or some other unexpected protection. After emerging from the burning building, many of them turned around and went back to help others. Nathan

Freier, a veteran, helped the first responders, then began planning the U.S. response. Chaplain Col. David Colwell blessed human remains as any were recovered and offered pastoral support to grieving families. Lt. Col. William Zemp briefed President George W. Bush.

Their actions represented a pattern of selfless service to be repeated in the days that followed. Themselves the victims of terrorist attacks, they were now charged with carrying out the U.S. war against terror.

I asked if we should cancel our class as the students were now at war, but they disagreed, noting they needed this information on terrorism now more than ever. So despite the pressing tasks to be completed before deployment, Sept. 11 was our only class that was interrupted. Greg Brady, now General Brady, missed class to attend the funerals of his colleagues.

Department of Defense civilian Brad Millick (who subsequently earned his Ph.D. in Politics

at Catholic University), was determined to return to his fire-damaged and barricaded office to retrieve his copy of my book *Beyond Sovereignty* that he left behind on his desk when he evacuated. I told him I'd get him a new book, but he was insistent. He snuck behind the barricades and returned to his office. His smoke- and water-damaged copy of the book was on the conference table every week, a reminder of resilience.

We continued to meet on the site where 189 people had died, walking past the emergency vehicles (modified golf carts) that lined the hallways outside our classroom, holding stretchers and body bags ready for the next attack. Crayon drawings lined the walls from grade school children all over the country: "Our hearts are with you. Hope you find your friends. You are in our prayers."

Our meetings became a safe haven not only to assess the wisdom of various policy responses without worry of what others might say, but also to vent and process the events. Some students expressed that although they were veterans with combat experience, this attack shook them up more than the war zones they had served in, because this was supposed to be a safe assignment. They had to transition from a combat stance by day, to playing with their kids at night.

You might expect these military men would be first in line calling for the use of force. You would be wrong. Like General Colin Powell,



Maryann Cusimano Love is pictured at the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in July 2021.

then-secretary of state, they argued that combating terror should have only a limited military component. He noted that military response is a “blunt instrument” that should be “kept to a minimum.” Instead, effective counter-terror tools were political, diplomatic, legal, and financial. Countering al Qaeda was not a war against Islam, yet inevitable, unintended civilian casualties would make it seem that way.

The soldiers in our class voiced similar, realistic and prescient concerns. Starting a war would be easy, but accomplishing lasting good by the use of force in the region would be hard. Military attacks would “rearrange the rubble” in Afghanistan, already impoverished and reeling from a decade of civil war and the prior Soviet invasion. Yet protracted war would unleash further cycles of violence and retribution.

Officials who had long advocated for re-invading Iraq lost no time in tying their case to the Sept. 11 attacks. The U.S. was attacked by a non-state group of terrorists primarily from Saudi Arabia. The U.S. responded by invading two countries, Afghanistan and Iraq. The CIA and intelligence community found no connection between Saddam Hussein and either al Qaeda or the Sept. 11 attacks. Many career military spoke out against the invasion, such as Gen. Anthony Zinni and Lt. Gen. Gregory Neuboldt. Yet on Oct. 7, 2001, the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan began, followed by the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

I serve as a lay consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Holy See. After 9/11, many officials urged setting aside just-war moral and legal constraints in war against terrorists. St. John Paul II and the U.S. Catholic Bishops disagreed, urging us to retain just-war limits, while working to build a just peace, even against adversaries who so blatantly violated these norms.

In their letter “Living With Faith and Hope After 9/11,” the bishops noted the costs of military action on civilians, the inadequacy of a military response to addressing the root causes of terrorism, the need to abide by just-war limits, while working to create more sustainable just peace. St. John Paul II urged President Bush not to invade Iraq but to pursue a just peace. The U.S. invasion would destabilize the entire region, cause worse bloodshed, and endanger minority communities. Unfortunately, all these sober warnings came to pass.

When military and religious leaders agree about the limitations of military force and the importance



## Starting a war would be easy, but accomplishing lasting good by the use of force in the region would be hard.

of retaining just-war constraints while building more sustainable just peace using non-military means, we ought to notice.

I recount this story not to say, “We told you so,” but to point out that it’s never too late to do the right thing. Peace is breaking out around the world today, in places where conflict has reigned for decades — such as Ireland and Colombia. A just-peace approach is slowly ending these previously intractable conflicts.

After 9/11, when terrorists sought to weaponize religion, the Catholic Peacebuilding Network was founded to help strengthen the peacebuilding capacity of religious actors in war zones. Catholic University, the Holy See, and the USCCB have collaborated in this work. I’ve spent these years documenting the ways religious actors work to build just peace in war zones around the world, and I’ve been working to help the U.S. government better understand religious actors and factors in world politics.

All wars end. Whether they end well, with a sustainable just peace, or badly, in continued cycles of violence, depends on engaging in just peacebuilding. The principles of just peace recognize the sacred dignity of all people, even those who have blood on their hands. No one is beyond redemption, beyond engagement. Just peace requires the participation of all — including women, youth, and religious actors — in creating right, respectful relationships. Reconciliation and restoration of the human beings and communities — not just roads and bridges — are key to creating a sustainable peace.

This is not “pie in the sky” theology, but practical guidance for transforming war-torn communities, with a track record of success. The number of wars around the world has drastically declined from the early 1990s to today, even while the global population and numbers of countries have increased. Peacebuilding works.

Our students worked hard to build peace. Lt. Col. Zemp promoted respect for and cooperation with the local communities among his troops, minimizing civilian casualties, earning the Bronze Star and Purple Heart and implementing peacebuilding partnerships with local populations.

In a deadly area of Iraq known as the “Triangle of Death,” he worked with civilians, NGOs, and military authorities to bring together tribal leaders to a reconciliation conference. As Zemp described it, the peacebuilding work of civilians was transformative. “They’re necessary to any success that can happen in any of these conflict areas... In the end, the impact that it had on the Iraqi population was substantial. We went from it not being uncommon for people within the urban areas to be beheaded, for mass gravesites to be discovered ... to actually open markets, and bringing commerce in from the villages surrounding.”

Chaplain Col. Colwell worked to expand the ministry of military chaplains to also include peacebuilding and interfaith dialogue with faith leaders in conflict areas. In Afghanistan, Colwell practiced interfaith dialogue, including an innovative program in which the Jordanian and U.S. military partnered to identify key Afghan community leaders, including former Taliban, and helped them to make the Haj pilgrimage to Mecca and interact with Islamic leaders outside of Afghanistan. For these Afghans, it was pivotal. Experiencing learned views of Islam helped them to move away from the manipulations of their faith offered by the Taliban.

Everywhere these just-peacebuilding tools have been used, they have improved conditions for war-torn communities. Everywhere these tools have been ignored or underutilized, they still remain available to us. U.S. troops have left Afghanistan after 20 years of war. But U.S. citizens and the Church, including Catholic Relief Services and Jesuit Refugee Services, work to build peace in Afghanistan. Religious actors work on long time lines. We accompany war-torn communities in the work of expanding peace.

Inclusion and participation, right relationships, reconciliation, restoration for sustainable peace — it is never too late to do the right thing.

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## CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY'S FIRST RESIDENTS A "GROTESQUE" HISTORY

Since the very opening of the University, every generation of Cardinal has studied under the watchful eyes of Caldwell Hall.

And we do mean eyes, as the exterior of the building is home to dozens of stone faces. Walking along the west façade, you can find numerous "grotesques" peering out. Grotesques, similar to gargoyles, are stone faces adorning a structure. While gargoyles are specifically designed to serve as water spouts, grotesques are primarily decorative.

On March 9, 1888, the Baltimore-based architectural firm of Baldwin and Pennington contracted the stonework of the building to Bryan Hanrahan. Presumably, artisans hired by Hanrahan made the decisions on the designs, likely with consultation with University officials. But as is often the case with gargoyle or grotesque designs, the artist may have drawn inspiration from the faces, stories, and people that surrounded him.

While we can't say for sure what inspirations there may have been for any of the visages, this author has a sneaking suspicion that one of the faces was inspired by then-President Grover Cleveland. After all, Cleveland attended the cornerstone-laying of Caldwell Hall in 1888, giving ample opportunity for the artist to see him up close (and providing a connection to the building).

Some of the highlights of faces on Caldwell Hall include a figure sticking out its tongue and a person hiding behind a book. While the interior of Caldwell may appear more dignified — with only a few stern faces holding up the columns in the main stairwell — the exterior is a "grotesque" landscape!

*Shane MacDonald, special collections archivist for University Libraries*





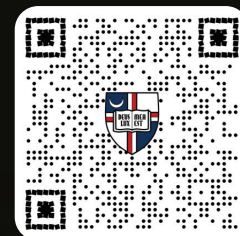
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at Nationals Park a huge success.

*See you next year!*

