

The Cardinal

FALL 2024

MAGAZINE OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

CREATING
CONNECTIONS

EXPLORING
DEPTHS

17 CENTENARY OF A VISUAL POET

24 ALUMNI IN DIALOGUE: CIVIL DISCOURSE AND FRIENDSHIP



FRONTISPIECE

In each issue, we present an illustration created by someone in our community both at the beginning of the book (on the page opposite) and at the end, on p. 57. Our hope is that these pieces will invite you to pause, enjoy the beauty of art as given by our Creator, and even reflect on the issue's theme — in this case, building connections. Thanks to Professor Mohammed Bilbeisi and Selina Donahue, for their artistic contributions this fall.



**"CHARITY IN TRUTH, TO WHICH
JESUS CHRIST BORE WITNESS
BY HIS EARTHLY LIFE AND
ESPECIALLY BY HIS DEATH
AND RESURRECTION, IS THE
PRINCIPAL DRIVING FORCE
BEHIND THE AUTHENTIC
DEVELOPMENT OF EVERY
PERSON AND OF ALL HUMANITY."**

*Pope Benedict XVI,
ENCYCLICAL CARITAS
IN VERITATE, JUNE 29, 2009*

Common Purpose

Each fall on a college campus is a new beginning, charged with potential and ripe with opportunities for discovery and growth for students and faculty alike. And every year, I try to make a point of reminding our students — and myself — of the responsibilities that come along with the privileges of being part of this remarkable community we call a university.

At the Mass of the Holy Spirit in August, I shared a reflection on unity. Unity, I am convinced, is a gift from God, and is essential if we are to live out our vocation to be a university. To commit to a common purpose and live with one another in charity is not something we can achieve (much less sustain) by sheer ingenuity, administrative ability, or persuasive power. Rather, we experience unity as the fruit of how faithfully we pursue the truth, the divine *Logos*, "in love" (cf. Eph 4:15).

In the pages that follow, you will find beautiful stories of our faculty, students,

and alumni finding ways to overcome the disharmony that seems to pervade modern life. Two alumni share their experiences of friendship, despite long careers on opposite sides of the political aisle (p. 24); a student writes of her transformative nursing immersion program in Peru (p. 31); and business students share how they found a sense of vocation in their career development (p. 40). They point the way beyond the alienation we often experience and toward the greatness we are made for.

We should certainly commit ourselves to fostering unity on our campus and in every place life takes us — but not as superficial conformity, or in simply being nice and compromising in our disagreements. Instead, we ought to discover it as the fruit of our fidelity to the truth in charity. Let us support one another in this pursuit, remaining open to wherever He leads. ♦

PETER KILPATRICK, PRESIDENT
THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Features



34

Into the Deep

The Catholic University of America is on a quest, a mission-driven research quest. What hurdles stand in our way, and where are we making great strides?

40



Connecting to Purpose

What are the unique ways our University is helping students concretely plot a map for their future careers? Careers that are truly vocations and are connected to meaning and happiness.

CONTENTS

Departments

1 / President's Note
6 / Catholic by the Numbers

TALK OF THE CAMPUS

7 / Athletics
How a champion lands peak performance for the national title

8 / Sustainability
Small spaces, big impact — the latest from Cardinal Closet

10 / Conversation
Solving the “Three City Problem” with the CLUNY Project

11 / Thoughts from Our Readers

12 / Service
The energetic University-Special Olympics connection

PORTTRAITS

14 / Neal's Zeal
New board chair sees University as light to the nation

17 / Centenary of a Visual Poet
Alumnus Fred Maroon's legacy and his iconic photography

20 / One Firm Goes Higher
Alumni accounting firm that hires and mentors University graduates

22 / A Culture of Engagement
Javier Bustamante and the Take Flight program for students

MISSIVES

ALUMNI IN DIALOGUE
24 / Connecting Across Differences
Peter Rescigno and John McCarthy talk politics, civil discourse, and friendship

FORUM
28 / The Poignant Question
What connection means to three alumni

LETTER FROM ABROAD
29 / Study Abroad
Two students on a journey of discovery — from Poland to Peru and beyond

HEARSAY
33



14

“This University, located in one of the most remarkable cities in the world, is a haven — a haven for grace.” — Rob Neal

47
Alumni Corner
Class Notes

53
In Memoriam

55
Bookshelf
Our top picks from recent CUA Press titles

56
Postscript
Letter from the Editors



56

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"It's an unbelievable partnership that benefits everyone...a bond that creates energy and connection with the community around sports."

Kevin Robinson, Athletics Director

PAGE 13



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TEAM**

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- » Be a voice for alumni
- » Contribute to the Cardinal legacy



How to Nominate:
Visit CatholicUAlumni.com/nominations or scan the QR code to submit your nomination.

CATHOLIC BY THE NUMBERS

A Great NEC Moment

You think things slow down from May to August? Think again! A team of 80 traveled to Indianapolis for Catholic University's sponsorship of the National Eucharistic Congress (NEC).

Here's a look at some stats:



50,000+

Attendees at NEC



100+

Hours of Eucharistic adoration prayers for Catholic University



250

Cups of coffee consumed by booth staff



1,000s

Pilgrims served by 4 University chaplains



80,000+

Communion hosts distributed in Lucas Oil Stadium



500

Squishy cardinals given away in less than two days!

7,000

Average # of steps per person per day

1

National TV co-host: VP of Ministry and Mission/University Chaplain Father Aquinas Guilbeau on EWTN

Briefings from the
halls to the Mall and beyond

"CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY'S ATHLETICS MISSION IS TO EMPOWER
OTHERS TO FIND THEIR GREATNESS THROUGH TEAMWORK."
— KEVIN ROBINSON, ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

P.13



ATHLETICS

Peak Performance: A Well-Prepared Champion

Pole vaulter makes adjustments and reaches new heights

BY JEFF JEZEWSKI

As pole vaulter Christian Di Nicolantonio awoke on the morning of May 23, it had been 33 years since Tom Caffrey's 1,500-meter victory in the 1991 Division III NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships. As the years passed, the distance felt greater and the pressure mounted.

Di Nicolantonio cleared his mind, thanks to prioritizing sleep in the buildup to championship day. The junior maximized studying for final exams earlier to make it happen.

"This allowed my body to sufficiently recover from the workouts, and I think the shift from

7–8 hours of sleep to 10 made a big difference," Di Nicolantonio said.

The plan paid off, as Di Nicolantonio's 5.19-meter vault was enough to capture that gold for the Cardinals athletic program.

"I think it's a great honor," said Di Nicolantonio. "Anyone who knows me understands the effort that went into this. Juggling the entire pyramid in college is already challenging enough, but seeing the fruits of my labor brings me incredible joy."

Entering the indoor season this academic year, Di Nicolantonio has competed at the NCAA

Championships five times. He has finished in the top 10 four times and earned All-American honors at the 2024 Indoor Championships. He is ready for what still may be the best days of his athletic career.

“His ability to maintain focus has helped him through the low points, including various injuries over the past few years,” said Ed Luthy, an assistant with the track and field programs, who has worked with Di Nicolantonio since high school.

“He is very aware that success does not come easily,” Luthy said. “Christian and I are both laser-focused on elite-level performances which require many years to develop.”

While an individual accomplishment, the championship night in May was the culmination of heavy training and heavy belief from those invested in Di Nicolantonio’s success, including Director of Cross Country and Track & Field Steve Rahn.

“In the fall of his freshman year, I was on the track with the cross country team and saw Christian out there putting in the work on his own,” Rahn said. “His level of dedication to his craft, plus the maturity and poise he showed early on, was a huge reason he grew into a national champion.”

The Virginia native’s career had seen him as a top seed heading into most of the championships where he competed. He was undercut by ill-timed injuries in four of the five NCAA appearances.

“That only inspired me more,” Di Nicolantonio said. “Knowing I could place in the top 10 multiple times and finish third on a bad hamstring helped me imagine what I could do if I was fully healthy.”

Rahn added that Di Nicolantonio’s legacy is connected with Catholic University greats forever.

“It is quite incredible to be able to put Christian’s name among our program’s greats: Mark Robinson, Carolyn Hughes, and Tom Caffrey,” said Rahn. “They etched their names into the history books and set a standard for future generations of Cardinals. Now Christian has done the same.”

Di Nicolantonio aims to make winning the next individual national title in a matter of months, not decades.

“The job’s not finished,” said Di Nicolantonio. “I want to thoroughly establish my name in the Division III record books and plan to train hard enough that the top marks in Division history are in danger. I know that it’s far above what I currently jump, but I believe that with my current training plan, training partners, and serious determination, I have a shot.” ♦



SUSTAINABILITY

Small Space, Big Impact

BY MARIANA BARILLAS

Gabrielle Choate, promoted to director of the Office of Campus Sustainability earlier this year, is all about out-of-the-box thinking.

That’s why she’s surrounded by nearly 20 large, heavy duty moving boxes at the Cardinal Closet, the campus thrift shop in Gibbons Hall. During the summer, she prepared to reopen the store for the academic year by sorting through the often overwhelming donations from this May’s student move-out.

The walls are lined with shelves filled with shoes, sweaters, and more — all from the community to give back to the community.

Choate moves around the room in a path she’s made between the boxes and clothing racks, hanging up a hot pink Barbiecore tulle skirt with butterfly appliqués. One person’s trash will soon become another person’s threads.

From suiting up students for interviews to supplying the Guadalupe Project — the campus’s initiative to support new moms — with maternity wear, the Cardinal Closet is about new beginnings.

She explains it all started in a course on sustainability she taught several years ago.

"The goal is for sustainability efforts to touch every part of campus. We want it to be everywhere because everyone benefits."

— Gabrielle Choate



Recycle, reuse, repurpose — Cardinal Closet has something for everyone.

Responsible Stewards

Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*, The Catholic University of America is a leader in environmental sustainability. The University is one of three postsecondary institutions nationwide to be named a 2024 Department of Education Green Ribbon School, which recognizes innovative efforts to create a greener world. This year, the University became the home of one of the region's largest solar arrays, a source for renewable energy for the campus and the wider community that was recognized with the 2024 Clean Energy DC Award from the city's government.

"The goal of the class was for the students to start a sustainability project on campus," she says. Two of them, Juliana Walsh, B.A. 2024, and Alyssa Galang, B.S. 2023, spearheaded the creation of the Cardinal Closet with Choate's guidance. They've since graduated, but their idea has grown into a cornerstone of the University's efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Each donated item is a glimpse into campus life. When asked what's the most unusual donation she has received, Choate pauses to think. But not too long, because she has work to do. She opens up another box and pulls out a solitary slipper that looks like it was made in Santa's workshop.

"That actually might be it," she says with a laugh, putting the elf shoe on a shelf nearby.

She explains that the long-term goal is for the

Cardinal Closet to share space with the Cardinal Cupboard, the campus food pantry, to create a "one-stop shop." In the meantime, Choate continues to build upon the campus's collaborative culture of sustainability.

The Cardinal Closet is one of the many ways — from the community garden to solar panels and more — the University is lighting the way for a greener future as a steward of God's creation.

"The goal is for sustainability efforts to touch every part of campus. We want it to be everywhere because everyone benefits," said Choate.

She recently had her first child with her husband, who has also made a career promoting sustainability. For Choate, it's about making the world a better place now and for future generations. And today, that's one box and one hanger at a time. ♦



CONVERSATION

Socrates, Saint Thomas, and Steve Jobs Walk into a Bar

BY LUKE BURGIS

What would happen? This is the question I asked myself in a literal DC bar after overhearing three young men discussing the merits and dangers of Bitcoin.

I ordered a gin martini, slightly dirty, and made up a story about the three guys as I often like to do when I'm people-watching, or people-listening. It's a game my wife and I like to play together while we're out.

Nearly all contemporary conversation about technology and progress falls flat because it lacks the philosophical and theological underpinnings to frame questions the right way, and the depth

to explore them. So I imagined a scenario in which it was a conversation I actually wanted to listen to: between Socrates, the father of Western philosophy; Thomas Aquinas, the preeminent theologian of the Middle Ages; and Steve Jobs, the visionary tech innovator of our time.

The question I can't escape is: What would happen if the three metaphorical cities of Athens (reason), Jerusalem (religious wisdom), and Silicon Valley (technological innovation) collaborated robustly rather than siloed themselves into parochial clubs and provincial ways of thinking? What if there was true cross-pollination between the best of what has been thought, the highest

aspirations of the soul, and the bold action required to build great and magnificent things?

At Catholic University, we have an opportunity to educate, support, and invest in an ecosystem of creators who drink from the well of the Catholic intellectual life, time-tested spiritual practices and wisdom, and a tradition of building that has made American innovation the envy of the world. In a recent Pew survey, 80% of Americans believe religion is losing its role in public life, and most think that's a bad thing. Because of this, many new ventures feel one-dimensional.

After I overheard the conversation in the bar, I laid out my thoughts on the siloing of the world in an article that was featured in *WIRED* magazine titled "The Three City Problem of Modern Life." This concept — the disconnection between our centers of reason, faith, and innovation — resonated with many, leading to a conference at Catholic University last year which brought together representatives from these three "cities." This year, on the strength of that event, we have received a \$2.5 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation to begin building a new architecture of engagement and collaboration.

This new initiative, the CLUNY Project, aims to be a modern-day nexus where the three cities of Athens, Jerusalem, and Silicon Valley can converge and collaborate. It takes its inspiration from the most famous abbey in medieval Europe, the priory of Cluny, founded in 910 A.D. in Burgundy, France. Cluny became the nexus of intellectual life, spiritual renewal, and innovation from architecture to agriculture to healthcare. It led to the Cluniac reforms, through which hundreds of monasteries were revitalized.

A similar opportunity lies before us. We can serve the thousands of businesses and organizations in our country where ethical frameworks are poorly articulated and confusion reigns, and in which people of good will struggle to find meaning and value in their work. We can help cultivate virtue. We can help build things in three dimensions.

In the next three years, CLUNY will be hosting events that bring together key stakeholders, launching a media initiative to model new forms of public engagement, and developing educational programs that teach frameworks for thinking about innovation and progress in a more philosophically and theologically robust way.

The truth is that Socrates, Thomas Aquinas, and Steve Jobs have never walked into a bar together, so we don't know what might have happened. But through the CLUNY Project, we will soon find out. ♦

Thoughts from Our Readers



Our Annual Fishing Trip

"It all began in a bar. My fellow alum JB (John Bold, Class of 1972) and I found ourselves at the end of the mahogany in a dive called Irish Eyes on Chicago's north side. Suddenly JB had an inspiration. Why not have a fishing trip, just the guys?...

From these humble beginnings, our annual fishing trip has grown. The first two years, we actually went fishing. JB, Ray Dido, and I made consecutive pilgrimages to Pymatuning Lake, Pa., where the locals claim that the fish are so numerous that 'the ducks walk on the fishes' backs.' They manage to say this with a straight face. As I recall, the catch of the day was hardly bigger than our bait, so there was precious little huddling around the campfire...

One or two other CUA friends heard about the trips and voiced some interest, so JB and I decided to host a get-together in Chicago. This time about five alums attended...and so it evolved (or degenerated, some may say). We continued to develop a very faithful core group, and over the years the number of participants have ranged from as many as 20 CUA alums to as few as three. From DC to Austin, the location remained secondary; the company was key...[And then there was COVID.]

The last few years several of us have attended the CUA reunions, most notably our 50th Anniversary in 2023. ...On reflection, what a blessing that a relatively brief period of four years at CUA could result in so many true friendships that withstand the rigors of time. And it all began at the end of the mahogany in a dive bar on Chicago's north side."

—Art Murphy, Class of 1973

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?
Email cua-magazine@cua.edu anytime.

Key Correction: University Pep Band

"On page 17 of the spring magazine, it reads: 'There wasn't music on the sidelines at Catholic University until there was Christopher Pearlberg.' In the fall of 1989, the Program Board helped a bunch of students fund the original Fighting Cardinal Pep Band and a related group of 'Bleacher Creatures' led by Robert Brokamp (Class of 1991). The Athletic Department outfitted the band with football jerseys; the Theological College let us use a large room for practice space; and the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music supplied us with sheet music, including the CUA Alma Mater and popular pep band songs.

We practiced weekly and played home football games and some basketball games. Fred Maroon included this photo in his book at the time. (See story on page 17.)

By 1990, we had designed rugby shirts and friends in the UVA band helped us with cheers and other spirit-making tactics. In the fall of 1991, the band under new leadership organized a road-trip when CUA played at the University of Chicago. Everyone had a great time, and we made friendships that lasted well beyond our years on campus!"

—Gustav Chiarello, Class of 1991





SERVICE

Connective Energy

BY MARIANA BARILLAS

McKenzie Plante, B.A. 2021 (on right in photo above) radiates joy in her work at Special Olympics DC. She's bright and cheery, even as raindrops keep falling on her head during a drizzly day at this May's Summer Games held at the Raymond A. DuFour Athletic Center.

"It is so awesome to come back to the fields that I once played on," said the former softball player, while looking out at the crowds filling the stands.

The rain also didn't dampen the spirits of the hundreds of athletes who competed. They're among 2,500 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in the District of Columbia who participate in sports, athletic training, and health programming year-round.

"You've got this!" cheered Plante, as several sprinted for the gold.

University President Peter Kilpatrick volunteered to present medals at several award ceremonies, an expression of support that Plante found especially meaningful.

“Having President Kilpatrick come out today shows our athletes the support of Catholic University,” said Plante. “To see such an inclusive event happening here...shows that Catholic University is an inclusive place.”

The University has hosted the DC Summer Games for two decades. Many Special Olympics athletes train on campus throughout the year, including in unified events where they compete alongside Catholic University athletes. Special Olympics DC and Cardinal Athletics also collaborate on fundraising efforts, such as the annual polar plunge that’s raised more than \$200,000 since 2017.

Plante discovered this special bond between the University and Special Olympics DC when she was an undergraduate, with an internship turning into a career of service. She’s the manager of development at the organization, where she fosters the friendship between two places so close to her heart.

“It’s been a treasured relationship for years,” said Special Olympics DC President and CEO Nicole J. Preston, explaining that continued collaboration with the University “goes a long way in fulfilling our mission as well as Catholic University’s role in the community.”

It’s been a game changer. The first-ever Special Olympics athlete to serve as coaching staff at an NCAA institution is

“This bond creates energy and connection with the community around sports.”



Malcolm Andrews with Catholic University’s women’s soccer team.



University President Peter Kilpatrick congratulates a medalist at a 2024 Special Olympics DC Summer Games award ceremony.

Malcolm Andrews, who as assistant coach for the University’s women’s soccer team brings his know-how and enthusiasm to practices and games.

“The team loves him,” said Casey Sommers, women’s soccer head coach. “He’s an essential part of the spirit and culture.”

Athletics Director Kevin Robinson explained that the longtime relationship with the Special Olympics is rooted in a shared commitment to building a better world that respects human dignity, values which the University aims to instill in each student. In fact, the chairman of the global organization, Timothy Shriver, M.A. 1988, is an alumnus.

“Catholic University’s Athletics’ mission is to empower others to find their greatness through teamwork,” said Robinson, with a focus on “leading with love through sports.” He said that Special Olympics athletes serve as role models for Cardinal athletes through their joy, determination, and passion for play.

“It’s an unbelievable partnership that benefits everyone,” said Robinson, a bond that creates “energy and connection with the community around sports.” ♦

\$200k+

raised by Annual Polar Plunge since 2017

2,500

children and adults with disabilities participate in Special Olympics DC each year

Dialed-in spotlights of the University's
most compelling figures

"NO PHOTOGRAPHER WITH AN OUNCE OF POETRY IN HIS
SOUL COULD TURN BACK FROM WHAT [WASHINGTON, D.C.]
AFFORDS." — FRED MAROON

P.17

Neal's Zeal

Board chair sees University
as light to the nation

BY MATT PALMER

As thousands of attendees made their way across the exhibit hall of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress this past summer in Indianapolis, Rob Neal worked his way through the University's booth and shook hands with staff members, introducing himself. There was a palpable joy in his greetings. He was a proud Cardinal.

Neal, 65, the new chair of the University's Board of Trustees, had no connection with the University until relatively recently. A conversation with former University President John Garvey proved life-changing.

"I didn't understand its special relationship to the Bishops Conference, and to the church in North America," he said. "When I heard all of that, I said, I want to be a part of that. I want that."

Faith and education are vital to Neal and his wife of four decades, Berni. They serve as stewards of the Papal Foundation.

Professionally, Neal is a managing partner at Hager Pacific Properties and oversees the firm's acquisitions and dispositions. He also holds or has held board positions with many Catholic nonprofits, including Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Leadership Institute, Magis Institute, the Orange County Chapter of Legatus International,

and the Christ Catholic Cathedral Corporation.

Once Neal visited campus after Garvey's invitation, he was a fan for life. In his free time, Neal races his 488 EVO in Ferrari challenges and has adorned his car's door with a sticker of the University's logo.

"They're hard to read at about 150 miles an hour, but they're there," Neal jokes.

Off the track, Neal has been a faithful donor to the University's Impact Scholarships initiative, which bridges the gap between tuition costs and what a student can afford. Students receive the gift of a University education and merit-based formation as a person who will give back — to the Church, the nation, and the world.

"It's an amazing program," Neal said. "These are great, talented kids, and they have a passion for Christ. They have a passion for the mission of the University. But they just can't make the ends meet. And it's not easy today, a lot of people are having problems. College is expensive."

Neal said being in the nation's capital affords University students with unparalleled opportunities to connect with church, business, and political leadership. Thinking back to his first visit to campus, Neal was cognizant of the



opportunities possible for generations to come.

“I was blown away,” Neal said of visiting campus. “First, to be in, frankly, the most powerful city in the world, Washington, D.C., and yet to have a campus that is a refuge, a beautiful, spiritual, holy refuge from all of the anxiety of the city. I think that’s what struck me most is how peaceful it was. And, obviously, God-centered and full of the Holy Spirit.”

Neal is involved because he sees the challenges facing many young people around the country. In the wake of the pandemic and economic uncertainty, some young people have deferred their time in higher education. Throughout the country, Catholic schools of all levels have struggled with enrollment numbers.

“Catholic education must lead the way in higher education,” he said. “For two millennia, the Church has led in education and art, in architecture and science. And it must not surrender those leads. We’ve been tasked with

“This University, located in one of the most remarkable cities in the world, is a haven — a haven for grace, a haven for religious freedom, a haven for intellectual freedom.”

this. This is our mission. We were given this mission by Christ to go forth to evangelize and to catechize. There’s no better sure way to do that than through education — rigorous, mission-centric education.”

Neal is diving head-first into his leadership of the Board of Trustees, bringing his executive, church, and secular experience together. He has a vision for the board and the University.

“It’s an awesome responsibility and one that I am humbly flattered to accept,” Neal said. “Our greatest responsibility is to ensure that all the work that’s been done before is built upon, not dissipated, but added to. We must be very shrewd, yet we must look over the horizon. What could The Catholic University of America be, what should it be, as it leads the United States in its great Catholic intellectual tradition?”

Although Neal has engaged with the University later in his life, he’s finding deep inspiration in its mission. And he wants others around the country to experience it as well.

“Oh, my goodness...come and see,” is his message for his West Coast brethren. “This University, located in one of the most remarkable cities in the world, is a haven — a haven for grace, a haven for religious freedom, a haven for intellectual freedom — all the while held to the standards of the Magisterium, fiercely devoted to the Magisterium, and engaged in Christ’s great mission and directive: to go forth and catechize.

“That’s what awaits you if you come and visit The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.” ♦





All photos in this article are courtesy of Fred J. Maroon.

A retrospective on photographer Fred Maroon

The shadow of Fred Maroon's legacy looms as large over the photography world as any of the iconic subjects he immortalized in his globe-spanning career. Maroon, B.S.Arch. 1950, who died in 2001 would have turned 100 in September this year.

PORTRAITS



Photo from 1950 yearbook: students at Curley Hall. Taken by Fred Maroon.



Photo from 1950 yearbook: students outside Caldwell Hall. Taken by Fred Maroon.





"When we photograph, it is a reflection of not just our talent but also of the values we have formed during our lifetime."

— Fred Maroon

He worked in the White House during an era when official photography was the only glimpse into the Oval Office. He chronicled the end of the Nixon administration with his portraits that were not published until 10 years after the former president left office in disgrace. In an era when politicians and staff shoot, edit, and curate their candidate's image to perfection on smartphones, Maroon's classic photography stands in a class of its own.

Perhaps his greatest gift to the University was the book he created for the centennial, *Century Ended, Century Begun — The Catholic University of America* (1990). It features a series of shots that capture the stunning architecture of the institution and provides behind-the-scene glimpses of students, leaders, performances, and seminal events. The work was published nearly 40 years after he graduated and to write it, he returned to a rapidly changing campus. The Raymond A. DuFour



Athletic Center and the athletic fields had recently opened on the east side of campus. And while many landmark buildings remained, Maroon captured a University poised for a new era of growth.

Ten years after the book's release and not long before he passed away, he returned to the University once again to receive an honorary doctorate in humane letters. By that time, his photography was world-renowned.

Maroon's accolades included Gold Medal awards from the Art Directors' Clubs of Metropolitan Washington and New York and exhibits in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art, National Gallery of Art, and Library of Congress.

Maroon's entire portfolio broke barriers and shed light on political figures and the average American citizen. And it all began with his role as editor of the original *Cardinal*. ♦

— To see more of Fred Maroon's work, please visit fredmaroon.com.

One Firm Goes Higher

BY KATHRYN MULLAN



Ryan & Wetmore, P.C. is a full-service accounting and advisory firm, founded by Peter Ryan (left) and Michael Wetmore (right) in 1988 to provide financial and accounting services. Since then, the firm has grown substantially as a top accounting provider in the DC metro area, with office locations in Bethesda, Md., Frederick, Md., and Vienna, Va. The firm has rapidly expanded in recent years, seeing 50% organic growth, and their practice focuses on government contractors, construction companies, and medical practices in the DMV. In 2023 and 2024, they were named one of the top 500 Accounting firms out of 46,000 firms in the United States by Inside Public Accounting.

“I was told when graduating from high school that the friends you make in high school set you up for college, and the friends that you make in college set you up for life. The contacts we have made through Catholic University have proven that.”

This is what Mike Wetmore, CPA, says about what the University means to him and his business partner, Peter Ryan, CPA, MBA, both from the Class of 1983. In their high-rise office building in Bethesda, Md., overlooking a growing commercial hub just outside Washington, D.C., business is booming.

These two accountants are not the typical introverted number-crunchers as they laugh and share stories about their college and career journey together. They shared the same residence hall at Catholic University and became friends via shared classes — there were only 23 accounting majors in their graduating class. They took different corporate jobs after graduation but stayed in touch, and in 1988, they decided to buy a small accounting practice together, expanded it over time, and the rest is history.

Now, 40-plus years later, their excellence in accounting growth and hiring and mentoring more than 100 Catholic University graduates continues to set a gold standard. They truly live out the mission of the school by connecting and engaging with the best and brightest of the next generation.

They each came to Catholic from different paths: Wetmore was from Gaithersburg, Md., and transferred in junior year. Ryan came from New Jersey and was recruited to play football as an offensive tackle.

“This was back in the days when many of the varsity sports were Division I — only football was Division III,” says Ryan. “My football coach was Joe Pascale...and wouldn’t you know, we still talk once a week.”

Because their accounting program was so small, they created a tight bond with both classmates and professors. One professor in particular, Dr. Frank Fraunhofer, had a profound effect on their careers, and they kept in touch until he passed away in 2006.

Ryan in particular stays involved with activities on campus and keeps up with various people he has met over the years.

“My wife is also a Catholic University graduate, and we’ve gone to 75% of the home football games in the last 40

years,” says Ryan. “I have known all the athletic directors, and Bob Talbot and I are good friends. I’m on campus a few times a month!”

Ryan and Wetmore stay engaged with the University’s alumni and athletic activities, in addition to career and networking nights, as a way to keep doors open for fresh talent, young interns or graduates with similar principles and ways of working, and a way to pay this goodness forward. They also rely on word-of-mouth and phone calls within their web of contacts.

“What Catholic University taught me was the importance of a moral compass,” says Wetmore. “In our business, people entrust you with their money and their personal family relationships, and that is a big responsibility. The moral compass I formed at Catholic has guided me in my practice. And this is what we look for in every new hire that joins our firm — and we know that when we hire a CatholicU graduate, we will get high quality.”

When they graduated in 1983, the accounting department was part of the School of Arts and Sciences. The ultimate goal was to get hired by the top six firms, but Catholic University wasn’t really on the map yet.

“In terms of how far Catholic has come, when I was getting ready to graduate, I applied to Deloitte, Haskins, and Sells and had to interview at Georgetown University — they didn’t even come to our campus,” says Wetmore. “I got rejected because they were looking for a certain type of student, but now, to the best of my knowledge, all four of those big firms interview on our University campus.”

But these two wouldn’t change a thing about the path that led them to where they are — owning their own firm that they have grown organically, with Catholic University squarely in the center of their multiplication model.

“Honestly,” says Wetmore, “Getting hired by the Big 6 was one of the best things that never happened to me. If it had, I would be stringing wire with my dad as an electrician now!”

“For Mike and I, it’s always been about taking advantage of the web of friendships and networking opportunities we have through Catholic,” says Ryan. “To other firms and alumni of all years, we would say reach out and leverage those opportunities wherever you can.” ♦

“The moral compass I formed at Catholic has guided me in my practice. And this is what we look for in every new hire that joins our firm — and we know that when we hire a CatholicU graduate, we will get high quality!”

— Mike Wetmore



Bustamante with a few first-generation students.

A Culture of Engagement

Javier Bustamante is all about helping students from all backgrounds succeed at our University

BY MARIANA BARILLAS

Javier Bustamante sits at his desk in an office filled with reminders of his identity as a Peruvian immigrant, father, husband, son, and Catholic. At the entrance is a small table with three figurines: St. Martín de Porres and St. Rose of Lima, saints from his home country known for their service to society's most marginalized; and St. Óscar

Romero, a social justice advocate and martyr who is a hero to the many Catholic University students of Salvadoran ancestry.

Bustamante is director of the Center for Cultural Engagement (CCE), where he works to create supportive spaces for students from all backgrounds and promotes the success of first-generation college students.

The Center is always filled with students, who treat it as a second home. They hang out on the couch, bond over their shared experiences, and look to Bustamante and his team to guide their campus journeys. It's a place where lifelong friendships are forged, successes are shared, and differences are bridged through dialogue.

The office decor is as lively, colorful, and inviting as the social scene. The walls are covered with everything from student artwork to woven Ethiopian fans to a photo of a Chinese dragon dance costume that often appears for performances at Global Fest, a major cultural celebration the Center organizes every year.

Another one of Bustamante's heroes is his

godfather, Román Revollar Aguilar, who brought him to the United States as a boy and supported him on his journey to becoming the first in his family to graduate from college. Bustamante is currently working on his doctorate in education at George Washington University.

Bustamante's faith and his commitment to paying forward what he has received drives his work at the University, especially the Take Flight program that is his brainchild. It's designed for first-generation college students, informed by lessons learned from his own experience.

The program is a cornerstone of the Center for Cultural Engagement's efforts to foster an inclusive campus community that helps students thrive.

"The first-generation experience cuts across cultures and identities," said Bustamante, explaining that it's a traditionally overlooked population with specific needs that come from a lack of previous experience with higher education in the United States.

Last year, Take Flight had a record of more than 65 first-year students, joining the hundreds who currently benefit from the one-on-one mentorship, social events, and professional

earn her degree. When she feared she was facing failure, Bustamante helped her see other opportunities and she switched majors.

"This whole entire place is built to help you become the best person possible," said Fuentes. "You're not alone."

Several other frequent flyers come in and share stories over sandwiches. Bustamante is used to serving others, not being in the spotlight. He steps out for a bit, while they talk about how he's touched their lives.

For the students Bustamante serves, he's like another father, a mentor, and a friend who's always there for them.

Psychological and brain sciences junior Khiya Kelly said her first year was particularly challenging because on top of her homesickness and stress over her studies, her grandfather became ill.

"I would tell Javier, 'I'm craving jambalaya,' and he would make it happen," said Kelly, recalling shared memories over meals at the Center. "I had a really good support system here...because I know they have my back."

She and social work junior Gabriela Pereira-Ruano have worked as Take Flight

For the students Bustamante serves, he's like another father, a mentor, and a friend who's always there for them.

development programming tailored to enhance their personal and professional growth throughout their University years. Whereas nationally first-generation students tend to have lower graduation rates than their peers, often by double-digit percentages, Take Flight students are on par with their Catholic University classmates.

Odalys Fuentes, B.A. 2023, who was in the first cohort to graduate, pops by the CCE to catch up with the crew. Bustamante recalls with fondness how she was the first to walk in the door for the first-ever Take Flight pre-Orientation, designed to familiarize students with campus and with each other leading into Orientation weekend.

Fuentes smiles as she remembers how far she has come from a nervous first-year student to a Take Flight student coordinator mentoring fellow undergraduates. She is now working full-time at the nearby Columbus School of Law, where she connects law students with employers.

Fuentes said she felt like a fish out of water when she first arrived on campus, afraid to raise her hand and draw attention to herself. Take Flight made her feel at home and that helped her boost her confidence. Bustamante played a pivotal role in getting her across the finish line to

student coordinators, where they've found mentoring students particularly rewarding.

Pereira-Ruano said they hear that "we give off big sister energy because the students feel welcome and comfortable around us."

While they finish their lunch, Bustamante works diligently at his desk prepping for the wave of students who will descend on campus with the beginning of the academic year. He's always thinking of new ways he can be of service to the community. Right now, he's working on expanding outreach to international students and commuter students — groups who have their own unique journeys when it comes to making the University feel like home.

How does Bustamante measure success? The CCE is in a wing of the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center called The Nest, designed to be a student social hub. So it's fitting that for Bustamante, the goal for Take Flight and the other CCE programming is for the students they serve to spread their wings and fly out of the nest.

"Through the office, we are connecting them to the wider University community," said Bustamante. "Here, they find themselves and find their people, to go out and do great things." ♦

Conversations and
correspondence of literary merit

"CONNECTION IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS, ESPECIALLY
HERE AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY."
— ANISA ELLIS, NURSING STUDENT

P.28

On Civil Discourse and Friendship

How can we maintain our bonds when we're
on different sides of the aisle?

BY KATHRYN MULLAN

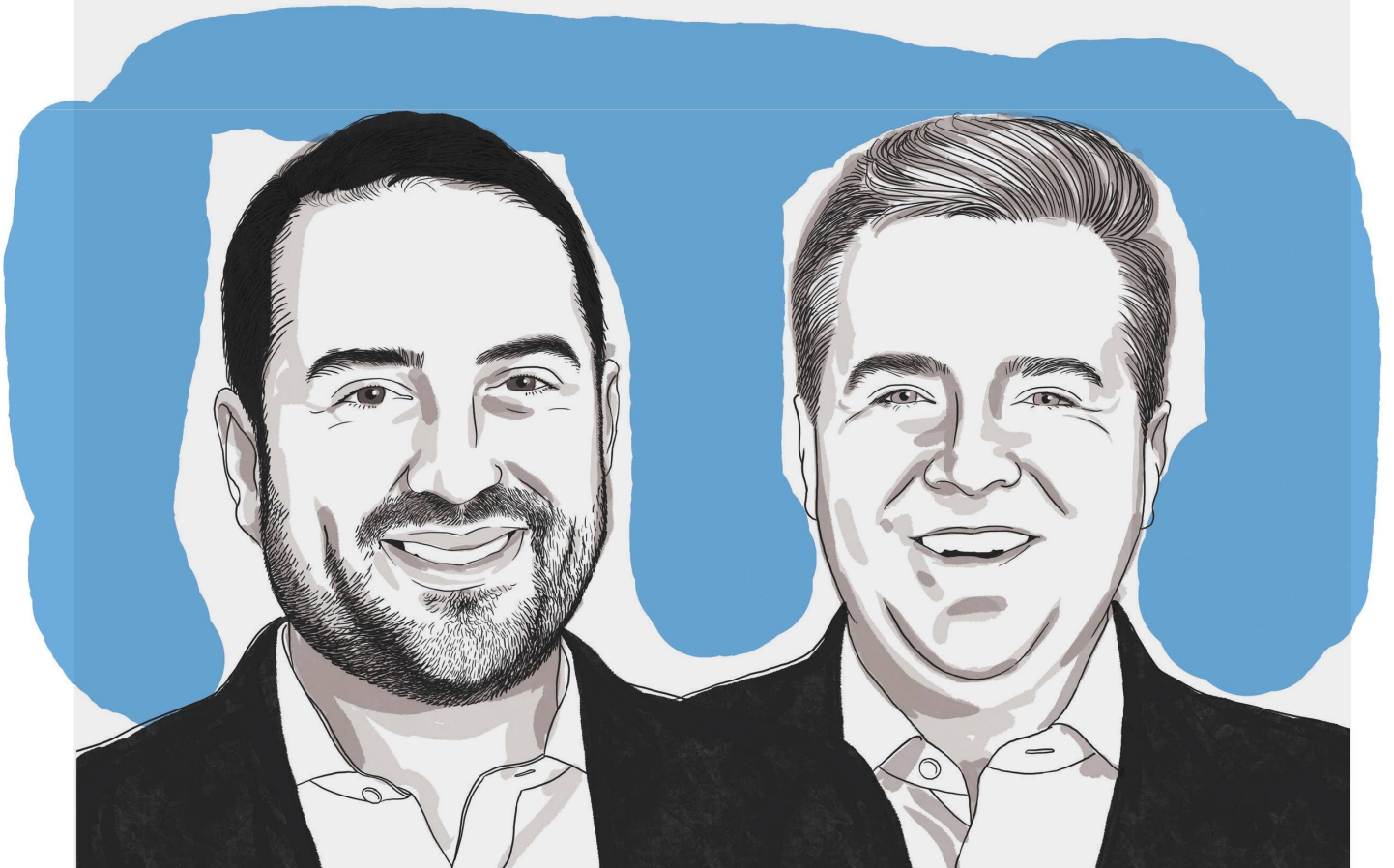


ILLUSTRATION BY MONICA HELLSTROM

Our editors touched base with two alumni, **Peter Rescigno** and **John McCarthy** (both B.A. Politics, 2013), to get their take on the current political milieu and how their friendship that began at Catholic University has grown over the years — despite their ideological differences. Rescigno is now the executive director of the New York Electrical Contractors Association and the New York City Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association, and McCarthy is President Joseph Biden’s senior advisor for political engagement.

This conversation has been edited for length and clarity — a full recording will be available on the magazine site.

John McCarthy: So we first met in Dr. White’s “Introduction to Politics” class our freshman year. There was a row of us who sat in the back — we were all politics majors. Pete and I stayed close through that whole first year, lived together after that, and were part of the College Democrats (CDs) and College Republicans (CRs) throughout our time at university.

Peter Rescigno: Yeah, I remember our classroom in Caldwell Hall. This was during the Obama administration and the mood on campus was interesting, especially as we were involved in active leadership of the CRs and CDs. Overall, studying politics at Catholic University helped me understand people — what motivates them and why people make decisions. Funny enough, I still read Dr. White’s op-eds that he shares with me on Instagram — even though he has retired!

McCarthy: Yes, so during that time when President Obama was president, we were learning about party realignment and things like that certainly prepared me from a technical perspective to think and analyze things. Today, I think that the CUA politics department has a very good, practically applied way of teaching politics. Where you actually learn how to both process data and analyze the intentions of voters and understand how people use power.

On campus, the mood from 2010–2013 felt like an earlier time in politics. I think that our CRs and CDs at the time, we generally wanted to be collaborative and help each other across the board. By our senior year, President Obama had

just gotten reelected. So I would say that for most of us involved with the College Democrats and Republicans, we were actively engaged on different campaigns, and it was still always cordial.

Rescigno: I always thought it was cordial, too. I vividly remember the RNC launching their “Fire Pelosi” campaign, as she was Speaker of the House at the time.

McCarthy: The bipartisan friendship that Peter and I have become somewhat of a novelty that was discovered when Osama bin Laden was captured. We went down to the White House that day, and by chance, one of the people who talked to us was Audie Cornish from NPR, and so we were on their “Drivetime” radio show the next day. And then the *Washington Post*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and others reached out because they thought that was interesting. And then we ended up doing “Fox and Friends” in New York a couple weeks after that.

I think that that’s one of the things that’s missing today from politics — at that time on college campuses, especially in DC, people could disagree on means but generally agreed on common values. Nowadays, it feels like the larger work that needs to be done is getting people back into that kind of common dialogue so they are able to agree that we’re all part of this common enterprise of a country versus being on separate teams looking for totally separate things. I think that that has been a very drastic shift in public life since we were at Catholic University.

On Civil Dialogue and Friendship

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Rescigno: The loud voices on opposite ends of the political spectrum tend to be the loudest, right? But all the work tends to be done at the center. So just because you're the loudest, you know, doesn't mean you're actually accomplishing things.

McCarthy: I would say it also probably helps that we come from the more moderate and centrist wings of our parties. So, to your point, Peter, I think extremists have kind of taken over both lengths in some ways, but, you know, that kind of certainly made things easier. And I do think that that was something that Catholic University cultivated — it was a place that fostered dialogue.

"I think that if everybody took a step back and listened a little bit more to find out where we each stand, we would have real discourse."

— Peter Rescigno

Rescigno: Political beliefs have never predicated any sort of relationship I've had with anybody. Otherwise I wouldn't be friends with John, and John would not have been the best man at my wedding, and John would not have been at my son's first birthday party this weekend, right? But thinking about the political environment in America right now, honestly, I think it's sad.

I'm not really sure how else to say it. It's just sad, you know, people have become so disagreeable.

McCarthy: I think that temperatures are certainly high, and to some extent, rightfully so. I think that some of the issues that we're discussing come down to fundamental rights, and people have strong feelings and fears on that, and I think that that is all legitimate. However, I think that kind of across the board, one of the things that the discussion is missing is kind of back to what I was saying earlier about the need to have a common project. I think the reason that tensions are so high on both sides, the left and the right, is because at the end of the day, people are feeling like they're not being heard.

I would also add that people are not as polarized as our politics suggest. I travel around with President Biden all the time, and when we're out in the States, I see this is true as we visit people in their individual communities,

in their towns, at their kitchen table, inside of their families. I think that we've become terrible listeners as a country, and we need to find ways to sit and say: "Okay, I can hear what you're saying and get what your endpoint is," and not instantly jump to the place of "you being a bad person."...Because again, though, in many ways, we are more connected than perhaps ever before, people feel less and less connected to each other. So it is obviously a big problem, but the next generation of leaders emerging in public life will tackle this question. And it won't be in the fancy marble buildings of Washington but in city councils and houses of worship and job sites all across America, that's where people will figure out how to do this.

Rescigno: I also think that people need to do a better job of listening. People are always quick to say what they think, what they believe should be going on, or what direction things should be heading. But I think that if everybody took a step back and listened a little bit more to find out where we each stand, we would have real discourse, you know? I think that politicians should *listen* first because their job at the end of the day is to represent people.

On Their Experience in Politics

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McCarthy: Also on a related note — Peter and I have both been part of this world, we both worked on Capitol Hill at the same time, in internships and after college. I feel like the Hill taught me more about how to be a professional than probably any place, just because to accomplish anything you have to do it with other people.

Rescigno: Having studied at Catholic, we had the luxury of being in DC and internships were easy to come by on the Hill. So I did some intern work on the Senate side, and then on the House side and then I worked for a congressman from Southern California for four years after I graduated.

McCarthy: I worked for a non-profit my first year out of college but then went to work on the Hill for a congressman from my hometown, Frank Malone. Peter's coworkers became some of my best friends at that time. We "cross-pollinated," I would go with them to Republican-leaning receptions and they'd come with me to a Democrat event. Your friends just became each other's friends, which is how this whole public service life is supposed to work. And there are some people I met through Peter back then that I still talk to and work with today.

Rescigno: And I am still connecting with these contacts years later. I was at an event in New Jersey a few weeks ago and I saw someone I met through John.

He had a real impact on my life. Turned out he was Republican, so there you have it!

McCarthy: For my favorite presidents, I would have to go with Kennedy and Johnson. Kennedy had a lofty vision for America and believed in a common enterprise like the moon landing. And LBJ, I liked his tactical skills in delivering to the people. Biden has been compared to LBJ for his record of accomplishment in the legislature.

On Favorite Memories of College

On Favorite Presidents

Rescigno: And in terms of people in the public sphere who do civil discourse well, I think back to my college days. I really admired John Boehner and George W. Bush. They were amazing examples of people and elected officials who were willing to kind of put the country before their own personal ambition. And I think that that's something that is desperately missing from public life today. I also have respect for Joe Biden — I have his memoir on my desk as we have this conversation...It's there for you, John!

McCarthy: I love it, Peter! So now working in Biden's administration, I can tell you that I think that Joe Biden will be remembered as an incredible president. Our biggest triumph was the ability to pass the bipartisan infrastructure law. This legislation process re-energized the Republican and Democratic House and Senate members who worked on it and strengthened that connective tissue.

Rescigno: For me, my favorite president would be George W. Bush, for a couple reasons. I think that he deployed both a conservative approach and compassionate approach to his politics. As a human being, he was practical in his approach to dealing with Americans where they are. He was president when I was growing up and first started to like and follow politics.

Rescigno: I really have fond memories of our time on campus, doing campaign trips and having access to so much by just being in DC. In the fall of each year, College Democrats and Republicans would go knocking on doors and volunteer on campaigns, which built such camaraderie.

McCarthy: I agree! Being in DC for Obama's inauguration, and then the Pope's visit to Catholic University in 2015 was amazing. Also the speaker events on campus were a huge highlight — the University, just by virtue of where it is, offered these unbelievable opportunities.

Rescigno: I credit a lot of what I learned at Catholic and the people I met to where I am today.

McCarthy: What we have talked about here in this conversation was the need for a return to civility and a kind of convening. And I think that Catholic University best represents what that should look like in Washington. Convening a safe place where people are able to come together with common values and then discuss critical topics in a free and open way.

Rescigno: I think that sums it up perfectly — I have nothing further to add. *(Part of the reason why we're still friends is that I always give John the last word!)* ♦

"I do think that was something that Catholic University cultivated — it was a place that fostered dialogue."

— John McCarthy

We asked:

“What does connection mean in your life? How do you find and sustain it?”



Anisa Ellis
*Senior Nursing major
Class of 2025*

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Connection is essential to success, especially here at Catholic University. My freshman year, as I was struggling to fit in, my mom was constantly encouraging me to take the first step in seeking what was familiar to me. Starting with those of shared culture, similar beliefs, and even other students in my major, I was able to feel safe, even more welcome, and ultimately connected. I learned how much I took connection for granted, especially coming from such a strong support system. This lesson is my main motivation as I build and encourage connections with first-year students as an Orientation advisor!

Mary Catherine Hilkert, O.P.
*Dominican Sisters of Peace
M.A. 1979; Ph.D. 1984 (Theology)
Professor of Theology,
University of Notre Dame*

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Friendship with God, with one another, and with all living creatures is the greatest gift we can receive and give. It is a true participation in the very life of God — the trinitarian communion of love. Some of the many passages in the Bible which have sustained and challenged me through my lifetime are:

“A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; the one who finds one, finds a treasure” (Sirach 6:14).

“This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends...I no longer call you servants...I call you friends...” (Jn 15:12-15).



Grady Connolly
*B.S. 2021 (Business Strategy
Management & Operations)
Founder, Social Thomist*

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Working with Catholic creatives, I have witnessed the Lord not only use us but rely on us to fulfill His will on earth. This profound affirmation of God’s trust in His people is a call to use the technology of our time to bring souls closer to Him. At the heart of Catholic content creation lies the beauty of collaboration — each person’s unique charism reaching souls worldwide. Together, we become powerful evangelizers on social media and in the culture. The Holy Spirit works wonders through creatives united in prayer and mission. ♦



A Global Vision

Finding connection, bridging gaps

BY MARY MARGARET BRENNAN

Social chaos coexisted with political tyranny under the rule of the U.S.S.R. as the Sovietization of a once-culturally blossoming country squashed freedom and individuality. Poland was devastated socially, politically, and economically from the wreckage caused by the Holocaust. This is Kraków, Poland, a place that my grandmother returned to after she emigrated many years prior. Thirty-two years later, my passport contains the same ink that promised generations of my family both an escape from and a return to a land of our heritage.

On the morning of November 11th, I hesitantly joined hordes of Poles making the trek uphill to Wawel Castle, the residential structure of Polish royalty that has outlasted years of unrest. I felt out of place as I ascended through the castle walls with families and veterans charged with passion and pride in celebrating their independence. An elderly man handed me a large

Polish flag (pictured below) and spoke to me through a smile in words I could not translate. Returning his grin and a nod of my head were the only things I could offer to express my gratitude for the symbol of national pride. The

"In a world where fully understanding the mind of another can seem elusive or impossible, the choice to emulate joy and extend kindness becomes a bridge over constructed gaps and walls."

military procession began at Wawel Castle, continued through the old market square, and concluded with Independence Day demonstrations in front of the Grunwald Monument on Plac Matejki in Kraków. I felt I was an imposition on the festivities celebrating sovereignty, an undeserving stranger among a nation united through hardship.

The Wawel Castle Cathedral fills up for the Mass prior to the day of revelry. Traditional Polish hymns cut through the cold weather as the warm breath of singing souls heated up the square, but I stood there silently shifting between my feet. My pilgrimage felt insignificant compared to the tapestry of culture woven through the struggles and recovery of the Polish people. How can I justly partake in moments of solemnity and merriment when I only flew in on Thursday? There is a splendor to their struggle and survival that I cannot fathom.

Instead of letting me grovel in my uncomfortable emotions, the Poles handed me a red and white flag and put an arm around my shoulder as I struggled to match the indecipherable chorus of their anthems. We converged and headed toward the heart of the city, as the cadence of the Polish hymns reminded me of the universal language of the faith that binds Catholics worldwide.

I found camaraderie outside the stained glass windows of Wawel Cathedral as people knelt on the concrete to participate in the independence Mass behind the ornate walls. Groups of men, women, and children prostrated themselves on centuries-old stones, lowering themselves as the hidden Eucharist was lifted inside the cathedral. A stark contrast between the historical divisions in their society and the unity found in faith illuminated itself through stained glass windows. The words of Polish Saint John Paul the Great, "here beats the heart of Poland and my heart is beating here too," rang true among the hoisted red and white flags above the kneeling Poles. Their reverence toward God and country coexisted in the cathedral square as the shared devotions unified both locals and visitors. Kneeling in unison, hushed

reverence for the Eucharist in a city square, and the love between friends and strangers; there was an undeniable and indescribable unifying factor that prevailed despite hardships.

It is easy to reduce one's identity to being a tourist when placed in a foreign land, but this simplification obscures what commonalities are actually present. My spoken language and Wisconsin home are far away, but I don't lose these characteristics when the security officer stamps my passport and I begin to navigate unfamiliar airport signs. Profound connections may surpass geographical and cultural differences, as the universal community of believers transcends dissimilarities. Unfamiliarity does not equate to incompatibility, a lesson taught through the uninhibited fellowship offered by the Catholic community in Kraków.

Incongruity with my environment is not sequestered to Eastern European marketplaces. I continue to feel the pressing dissonance between my internal self and external surroundings every day while attempting to squash fears of incompatibility. I will never forget the kindness of the



Brennan carrying a Polish flag at Independence Day procession in Kraków

Polish people toward an outsider who struggled to look in, welcoming me into celebrations of their national triumph. The girl in the image does not speak the same language as the surrounding celebrators, and she cannot pronounce the name of the street she is standing on — yet she still manages to feel a sense of camaraderie and belonging due to the genuine goodwill of the Polish people and the universality of the Mass.

In a world where fully understanding the mind of another can seem elusive or impossible, the choice to emulate joy and extend kindness becomes a bridge over constructed gaps and walls. The dissonance between internal identity and external surroundings is a universal experience and remains a facet of my personal struggle for independence from my own doubts. However, I have learned to overcome fears of unbridgeable discrepancies between myself and others, as fostering human connection through faith is a blessing that transcends language and geographical barriers. ♦

— **Mary Margaret Brennan** is a senior English major at Catholic University. She studied abroad in Rome in 2023 and traveled to Poland while she was there.



Clarity in the Mountains

BY EMMA MACDONALD

“I was not prepared for this,” I thought to myself as I looked down at my sneakers slowly splitting at the seams, while the boulders shrank below with our increasing altitude. These were my feverish thoughts as our team of Catholic University nursing students arrived in Cusco, Peru, for some cultural experiences at the tail end of our international clinical and language immersion program. Perhaps we would wander around the colorful markets, explore the city, and indulge in some traditional meals while we

stayed in the ancient capital. Much to my surprise, however, I found myself standing halfway up a mountain a couple hours from Cusco, on a hike to Laguna Humantay, without proper shoes.

I’ve been lucky to spend the better part of my youth and early adulthood outdoors, yet on this hike in particular, I remember feeling exhausted from both our 4 am wake up call and the lack of preparation for this climb. In the distance, we could hear a loud commotion, and when we rounded the corner, we came face to face with a number of horses and handlers that were offering rides to the top; shortly thereafter, we found ourselves on horseback en route to Laguna Humantay.

Looking back, this was a moment of revelation for me; it reinforced the importance of recognizing when to ask for help. When sitting down to write about my Peruvian experience, I combed through my travel journal; however, I kept returning to that moment on the mountain as a tangible memory that clarified my understanding of a central theme of my experience in Peru: releasing the reins a bit and asking for help when needed. After all, as a non-native Spanish speaker, I felt completely out of my depth, and I had to learn very quickly that asking for help does not equate to weakness.

Studying abroad in Peru was not just an academic endeavor but a transformative journey that shaped my understanding of healthcare, language, and culture. As a candidate for the Spanish for Healthcare Professionals Certificate, I took numerous Spanish classes, but learning a language in the real world is vastly different from the classroom.

Arriving in Peru, the vibrant culture and warm hospitality immediately captivated me. Settling into the Universidad de Piura (UDEP) brought new challenges and insights as I navigated healthcare settings entirely in Spanish. From the bustling urban hospitals of Lima to the community-centered clinics on the outskirts of the city, the diversity of patient cases exposed me to a spectrum of medical conditions and treatment approaches, including traditional medicine. Working alongside Peruvian healthcare professionals, I honed my clinical skills and adapted to local practices. Language proved to be both a barrier and a bridge. While initially daunting, immersing myself in Spanish-speaking environments accelerated my language proficiency. Mastering medical terminology became essential as I communicated with patients and collaborated with multidisciplinary teams.

I found the most moving part of my experience not in the clinical setting, but in the community health fairs our student group facilitated. In impoverished neighborhoods where access to healthcare was limited, our team provided much-needed support, addressing emotional, psychological, and psychiatric weaknesses. The team conducted medical screenings, health education workshops, and supplied residents with resources for ongoing care.

These experiences underscored the disparities in healthcare access and reinforced the importance of culturally sensitive care. Building rapport with community members, despite linguistic and cultural differences, taught me the value of empathy and understanding in nursing practice. It was here that I more starkly realized that healthcare transcends clinical expertise — it requires cultural competency, as well as compassion and advocacy for underserved populations.

Living in Peru immersed me in a rich tapestry of traditions, cuisine, and celebrations. Whether exploring ancient Incan ruins or getting to know our Peruvian counterparts, every experience deepened my appreciation for Peruvian culture.

"This journey reinforced my commitment to patient-centered care and advocacy for health equity."



(Above) Macdonald takes blood pressure from a patient at a student-run health fair affiliated with Catholic University and UDEP. (Below) Catholic University and UDEP students at a simulation debrief at UDEP Medical School.



Emma Macdonald, Reyna Tannous (Class of 2025), and Nicole Stevens (Class of 2026) summit Laguna Humantay. (Left) Views along the mountain hike to Laguna Humantay.

Building friendships with locals and my fellow CatholicU students enriched my perspective and broadened my outlook.

Studying abroad in Peru as a nursing major and learning Spanish as a non-native speaker was more than an academic pursuit — it was a profound journey of personal and professional growth. Overcoming obstacles fostered resilience and adaptability, qualities that are crucial for a nursing career that demands quick thinking and problem-solving.

This journey reinforced my commitment to patient-centered care and advocacy for health equity. It expanded my worldview and my appreciation for the interconnectedness of global healthcare challenges. Returning home, I carry with me not only enhanced clinical skills and language proficiency but also meaningful connections and experiences that will shape my nursing practice for the rest of my life. ♦

— **Emma Macdonald** is a senior nursing major and Spanish for Healthcare certificate student who traveled to Peru with Professor Jennifer Maxwell.

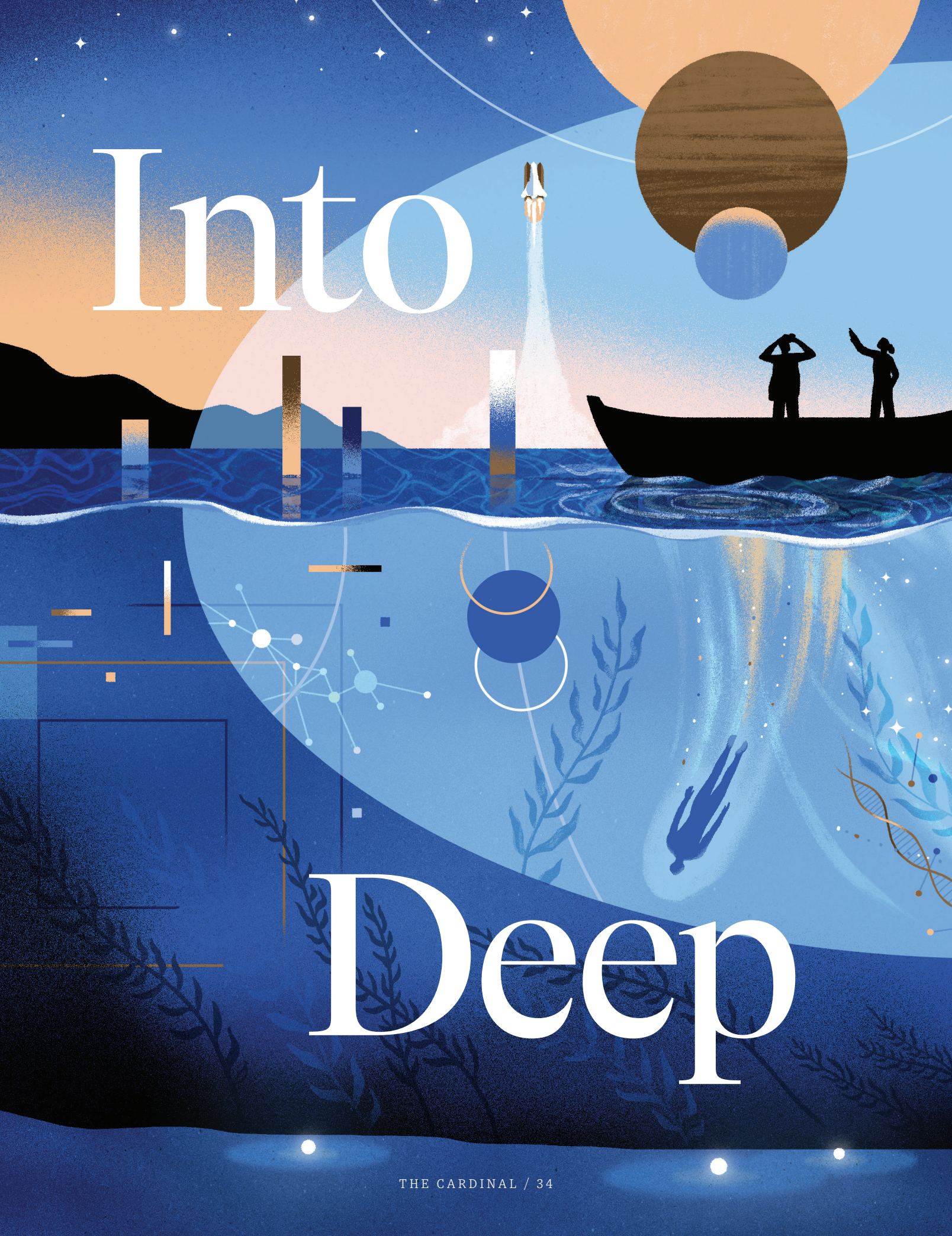
“There’s no temple in the heavenly Jerusalem because the whole city has become a temple...turned to the praise of God. That is the job of the laity... to bring the *lumen* to the *gentes*, bring the light of Christ out into the secular world. ¶ This great Revival will have been a failure if we don’t change our society, if we don’t stream forth from this place with the Light of Christ. Become the people you’re meant to be!”

Bishop Robert Barron

(B.A. 1981, M.A. 1982, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER)

at the National Eucharistic Congress

JULY 2024



Into

Deep



the

A Mission-Driven Research Quest

BY JOANNE WELSH

ILLUSTRATION BY MATT CHINWORTH



The Catholic University of America is on a quest, a mission-driven research quest. As University Provost Aaron Dominguez, Ph.D., describes it, “Catholic University will focus on becoming who we are meant to be as a faithfully Catholic research institution.”

Dominguez, one of the University leaders who is helping drive and shape this initiative, is referring to the effort to grow and enhance the University’s research enterprise, which will be undertaken with a clear focus on enlivening our students’ education and putting our scholarship and research into service for the Church, the nation, and even the world.

Dominguez exudes confidence and enthusiasm as he talks about the project — about the unique role that Catholic University has in the American research ecosystem, the recent surge in the University’s research growth, and the plans underway to further develop and expand scholarship and research here.

The Mission

Modern research universities, like the colleges and universities that predate them, exist to preserve and pass on knowledge, but they also exist to *advance* knowledge through scholarship and research methods. Founded in 1887 as the nation’s first Catholic research university, Catholic University has intentionally pursued research and scholarship from a Catholic perspective since then.

Dominguez explains as *a* Catholic university, we understand reason in a larger and broader sense than most of academia does, and our inviolable respect for the God-given dignity of every human person undergirds everything we explore. As *The Catholic University of America* and the standard bearers for the Church’s higher education tradition, we conduct our scholarship and research from the heart of the Church. In short, we very deliberately connect reason and faith — and it bears fruit in a unique and beautiful way.

Discovery

Our scholars take delight in discovering the intelligibility, beauty, and harmony of reality. One reflection of that is our stellar physics programs and the partnership we have built with NASA that now includes more than \$100 million in grant funding to support NASA research and discovery. Another reflection of it is the scholarship of Professor Kevin White of our philosophy department. White was selected as a member of the ongoing Leonine Commission, which works to produce the critical edition of the *Opera Omnia* of St. Thomas Aquinas. Or to name another, Professor Brandon Vaidyanathan recently received a Templeton grant to conduct the world’s first large-scale study of the role of beauty in science; he found that beauty matters immensely to scientists and shapes their work profoundly.

The list goes on, but the point is that we are conducting breakthrough scholarship and research

“Many universities have become a collection of silos of disciplines that don’t provide students a full perspective on the big questions in life. We can best serve our students by exposing them to large disciplines, large questions in research in many areas.”

— JOSEPH YOST

— and now we are preparing the foundation for even more of this breakthrough work.

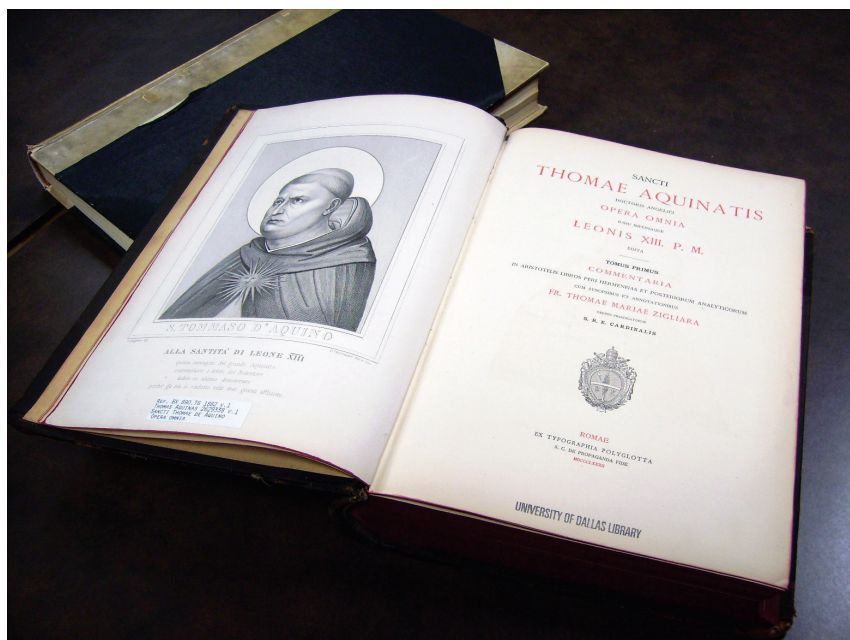
Tools for Navigation

Key to the preparation is H. Joseph Yost, Ph.D., who has been appointed as the University's senior vice provost for research, a newly created position. Yost began his new appointment in August of this year, coming to Catholic University from the University of Utah School of Medicine, where he was the Stimson presidential endowed chair, vice chairman for basic science research in the department of pediatrics, and professor of neurobiology and anatomy. He previously was an associate professor of cell biology and neuroanatomy at the University of Minnesota.

Yost brings more than three decades of teaching and research experience to his new position, which he will use to help the University achieve recognition as a top-tier research university. Importantly, he also brings with him a broad understanding and definition of research in keeping with the University's mandate.

Noting that all of us have a very natural God-given hunger for knowledge, he quotes from Saint John Paul II's *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* — “a Catholic university is distinguished by its free search for the whole truth about nature, man, and God” — to explain what sets Catholic University apart from most other research universities.

“This is a critical time both for Catholic University and for universities across the country. Many universities have become a collection of silos of disciplines that don't provide students a full perspective on the big questions in life,” Yost says. “We can best serve our students by exposing them to large disciplines, large questions in research in many areas.”



Opera Omnia: The Leonine Commission, established by Pope Leo XIII in 1880, continues its work to this day to produce the definitive text of the complete works (or “*opera omnia*”) of St. Thomas Aquinas.

He argues that Catholic University seeks “not just silos of the truth that we see at many universities, but the whole truth,” encouraging students to ask questions such as “What does it mean to be a person, and what does it mean to exist in this created universe?” and accompanying them on the search. And he believes that having this broad approach to research strengthens the university's educational mission and prepares students to continue asking and finding answers to these deep, important questions throughout their lives.

Motivated by a Catholic understanding of the purpose and beauty of research and scholarship, President Peter Kilpatrick, Dominguez, Yost, and Vice Provost for Research Ralph Albano are leading the effort to build the research infrastructure that will support faculty, staff, and students

as they go out “into the deep” in search of answers.

Yost believes that Catholic University's people are a huge nascent strength on which to build the effort. One of the ways that he hopes to enhance the University's research stature is by creating structures that can serve as bridges, bringing people together across different disciplines to create new research endeavors. He also plans to create or reorganize other administrative structures that will better support faculty and student research.

Referring to the reality of the “never-ending hunt” for new resources and new funding opportunities, Yost intends for his staff to help identify new research opportunities, assist faculty in applying for grants, and help manage and steward the funds once a faculty member is awarded a new grant. He is keenly

aware of the declining trust that the public has in research and scholarship produced in our nation's universities and wants to make sure people understand that the ethics we follow at Catholic University are "of the highest caliber and are in full accord with the Magisterium of the Church."

"It's important to make sure that our administrative structures promote our culture of research ethics. Sadly, increasing numbers of people in our society have come to see researchers and scholars as just another interest group. We hope that research at Catholic University can serve as a beacon of trust."

As Yost and his staff network to identify more research opportunities, they will look to increase collaborations on projects with faculty at other universities, both within and beyond the

Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. He is also especially eager to build partnerships with alumni, both to solicit their expertise and to learn how the University can help them.

He recognizes Catholic University alumni as "a huge resource for expertise;" he says he is impressed with the number of alumni who have already contacted him; and he looks forward to talking to more alumni to get their insights on building the university's research enterprise.

This is not a one-way relationship, however. Yost asks that alumni reach out to tell him "what we can do to serve your needs as you're building what you're building in your communities," and he offers an email address to use: research@cua.edu.

Mile Markers

As the University research stature continues to grow, we will have

plenty of indicators to help gauge our progress.

One of the biggest and most important of these is something called "R1 status." In short, the Carnegie Foundation and the American Council on Education maintain a "Research Designation" by which they classify American colleges and universities, and R1 is the highest designation a university can receive. The designation is reviewed every three years, and while the 2025 designation has already been determined, Catholic University is on track to receive the R1 designation in 2028, after the next review occurs.

Attaining R1 status would bring greater national prominence and more resources to the University, help showcase our exciting, creative research, and help us recruit outstanding students and gifted

A Rising Tide Reaches New Heights

STEM Research

Biology Professor **Venigalla Rao** received \$5 million from the National Institutes of Health/ National Institute on Drug Abuse Avant-Garde Award Program for HIV and Substance Use Disorder Research. Rao is the founder of the University's Bacteriophage Medical Research Center, where he spearheads research into gene therapies to open up new frontiers for the treatment of infectious and genetic diseases.

Physics Research Assistant Professor **Gioia Rau** is co-manager of a group of innovators who received a NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts award to create a proof-of-concept for the feasibility of building an array of telescopes on the Moon, in conjunction with the high-profile Artemis program that is returning humans to the lunar surface. The \$175,000 Phase 1 award, the initial step in the program,

will go toward designing a high resolution interferometer that can pick up visible and ultraviolet light to observe stars, black holes, planetary systems, and more. Rau also leads the team overseeing the scientific mission of the project. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Kenneth Carpenter, a frequent collaborator with University-affiliated researchers, is the principal investigator of the study. Physics doctoral student Jonathan Brashear, under Rau's supervision, is also part of the project.

Environmental Stewardship

The University's Vitreous State Laboratory (VSL) has received \$31 million to help the U.S. Department of Energy clean up the Hanford Site, a decommissioned nuclear production facility in Washington state that for decades supplied the federal government's atomic arsenal. The principal investigator for the project is **Ian Pegg**, VSL director and professor of physics.

Human Engagement

Luke Burgis, entrepreneur-in-residence and assistant clinical professor at the Busch School of Business, received \$2.5 million from the John Templeton Foundation for an initiative to create a framework for interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration that brings together leaders from three metaphorical "cities": Athens (academia), Jerusalem (religion), and Silicon Valley (technology). The goal is to create an international metropolis of engagement, where big ideas are fostered into solutions for the world's most pressing problems. To get involved, please contact Burgis at burgis@cua.edu.

“When some new technology is on the horizon, I want folks in Silicon Valley to ask, ‘I wonder what the folks at Catholic University think about this?’”

— AARON DOMINGUEZ

faculty. So R1 status matters — but only so far.

“R1 status is not an end in itself,” cautions Yost. “We’re using it as a mile marker to measure how we’re doing in helping build a well-formed and vibrant university. It’s just one of the many measures that we’re going to use to find that we’re successfully building a top-tier research university.”

Leading with Light

With Yost now in place, Catholic University is ready to move. And so is Provost Dominguez. After detailing the University’s recent progress — such as doubling research expenditures in only four years — he is quick to say that we have great potential and can do more.

And then he returns to focus on the unique contribution that Catholic University can make to big research questions. Using the example of an international conference on ethics and AI that the University will

co-host with the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in fall 2025, Dominguez argues that our Catholic understanding of human anthropology allows us to more deeply explore research questions, such as the intersection between the human person and AI, than others can.

“We can shine a light on this question in the way that big tech firms and others can’t, because they don’t even have the language to explore these questions. This will help plant a flag on the distinctiveness of Catholic University,” he states.

And as our faculty and students probe further in search of a fuller understanding and appreciation of reality, Dominguez hopes that others involved in national conversations on these big questions, such as ethics and AI, will look to Catholic University for insights.

“When some new technology is on the horizon,” says Dominguez, “I want folks in Silicon Valley to ask, ‘I wonder what the folks at Catholic University think about this?’”

Our oars are in the water. We’re moving out into the deep. ♦



CONNECTING TO PURPOSE

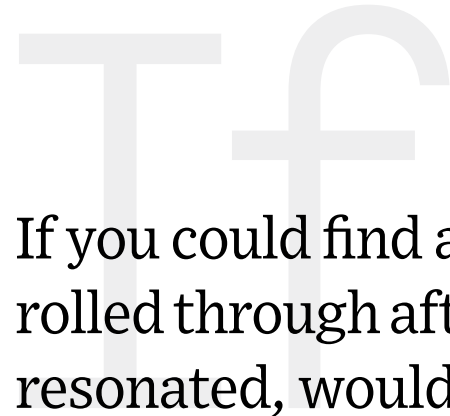


ILLUSTRATION BY NOÉMIE CÉDILLE

Plotting a map for the future

BY
KATHRYN
MULLAN





If you could find a shortcut around all those jobs you rolled through after college to find the one that *really* resonated, would you take it? If there were a way to nearly guarantee that you would not hate your first job “in the real world,” would you be curious about taking that path?

According to Gallup’s *State of the Global Workplace 2024* report, the percentage of engaged employees globally (those who feel involved in and enthusiastic about their work) was only 23%, with global engagement stagnant and overall employee well-being in decline. This same report indicated that 62% of the global population of workers did not feel engaged (i.e., they do the bare minimum and are uninspired by work), with an additional 15% actively disengaged. The result is that the majority of the world’s employees continue to struggle at work, with direct consequences for organizational productivity.

From a well-being perspective, this same Gallup report found that only 34% percent of employees were thriving in their lives in 2023 — a statistic that is also in decline. Also noteworthy: This decline was felt most by younger workers as a sense of well-being among workers under 35 fell from 35% to 31%.

Reversing the Trends

So what’s the key to post-graduation success? How is an 18-year-old coming to college for the first time supposed to chart a path to meaningful work and a life of happiness?

For many first-years, college can be a lonely experience: leaving home, unsure of a path, needing to make new friends in a new city or town. It is a great responsibility that universities carry to create a friendly and well-structured environment that nourishes all types of people and encourages them to grow. And in a community like The Catholic University of America, it is a responsibility not taken lightly.

“It’s a monumental effort to lay the groundwork for your students to have an authentic Catholic education, to see clearly, to understand our world, to understand the truth about the human person and each person’s vocation from God,” said President Kilpatrick in a talk he gave on the renewal of Catholic education in 2023. “The joy of our profession and vocation as Catholic educators is to share this vision with our students to enable them to see that whatever their profession or their vocation, they can discover the handiwork of a God who loves them.”





**“We have found
the 1:1 coaching
approach to be
extremely powerful
in shaping the
personalized
element of the
vocation of each
student.”**

– HANNAH HIX

Finding the Way

There are many paths to follow and many means that a university can leverage to pave a way for success. The Center for Academic and Career Success (CACS) at Catholic University has guided many students through academic advising and walking students through the process of what it takes to land in a good career spot.

Anthony Chiappetta leads the CACS team and takes a keen interest in seeing its impact continue to grow and take hold in new ways. With networking events, career fairs, career coaching, resume-writing, and mock interviews, the student support options are numerous.

Beyond the typical career advising and support, Catholic University has an intentional approach to the process across the board. Several years ago, the University revamped how all majors need to address and include an “enduring questions” element to programming.

Those questions explore the traditional focal points of a liberal arts education — the human condition, knowledge and wisdom, freedom and justice, and the nature of God — but they also look at the individual and who s/he really is, why s/he was created, and how that aligns with what course of study to take.

This was the beginning of the shift to creating a more systematic curriculum to prepare each student for a life after University that would be vocational, connected to the individual’s greater purpose. Simultaneously, the Busch School of Business began to create a more formalized structure that would serve as a model for the rest of campus.

To receive accreditation, business schools need a career development office that offers credit-based courses with that particular focus. To meet that requirement, the Busch School built what they call the “99 Series,” a program that begins on day one of a first-year student’s journey.

“Our career development program was created when the School of Business was founded and truly is an extension of our mission and key principles,” said Caroline Bernard, director of career strategy development for the Busch School. “Our mission is to seek truth through teaching and research excellence in the light of the Catholic faith, promoting business as a force for good. Our key principles are taken largely from Church social teaching: human dignity, the common good, virtue, freedom... all key building blocks to our approach to each student’s vocational calling.”

With this program and the Career Development team, a prototype was born.

“What is unique about the Busch School,” said Chiappetta, “is the virtues-based curriculum they have that flows from their mission. This makes a discussion about career goals become vocation-based and really drives it to a higher level. As of now, this is a key differentiator between the Busch School career program and any others out there.”



Building a Foundation

The Busch School's career team aims to launch students on energizing and impactful career paths that resonate with who they are. This is no easy task and takes all four years to intentionally build, but it has yielded consistently positive results. Ninety-eight percent of graduates are placed in jobs, and 88% report being happy and thriving six months beyond graduation, far above the national average. What is their secret?

"From the beginning, our focus has been on helping each student navigate a discernment process," said Hannah Cundey Hix, manager of employer engagement and experiential learning. She also is a recent BSB graduate, Class of 2021, who returned to the school to continue its great mission.

The heart of the curriculum is the "99 Series," a series of four credit-based courses with a certain theme that are required each year. But the foundation on which all this is built is the Vocation to Business course, taught by Andreas

Widmer to first-year business students.

"At the start of this class, I have each person dive deep into the question: 'Who am I?'" said Widmer. "We do that through a process which eventually we call finding my moral compass, my true north, so they get to know their talents and then can truly ask when starting a business: 'These are my talents, how may I help you?'"

Widmer helps to coach them along a philosophy of work that he learned from Pope John Paul II, who said that: "When we work, we don't just *make* more, but we *become* more." Widmer goes further, saying: "Working like this is to partake in God's creative power and become co-creators with Him. Made in His image and likeness, we are called to imitate him as creators and thus become more like him as we do that. This way, work

becomes a critical part of our path to holiness."

He adds: "What sets Catholic University apart in terms of approach is our intentionality — what does our Christianity have to do not only with what we do at work but also how and why we do it?"

With that as the working premise, the 99 Series of courses builds upon each student's journey of self-discovery. In the first year, the 199 theme is **understanding** with a focus on: "What do you want your major to be? What really interests you, what motivates you?" Sophomore year, the 299 theme is **building**, with a focus on tactical skills needed to launch a career, like resume-building and cover letter-writing. Junior year, the theme is **application** and the course is all online and asynchronous. The goal for that course is to earn a certain number of points by attending

networking events, campus lectures, and recruiting sessions, as well as conducting several informational interviews with alumni and people in the community.

"The final senior-year course, 499, has really become my 'baby,' as I wanted to resurrect what I had in my final year as a business student," said Hix. "The course used to focus on presentation skills but I have pivoted the theme to **launching a career**, preparing for a meaningful opportunity that you are excited to begin."

In that course, Hix leads them through offer letters, 401(k) plans, health insurance, salary negotiation, and how to create a budget. She also facilitates a vocational class with Dean Andrew Abela and his wife on the call to marriage and what work-life balance looks like with a career and a family. She leads a "notable alumni panel" session with Busch School graduates who share what they wish they knew before launching their early careers. Students also have the opportunity to introduce themselves and make connections that expand their options for the future.

One key element throughout this program is the personalized approach to each individual, which happens concurrently over the four years.

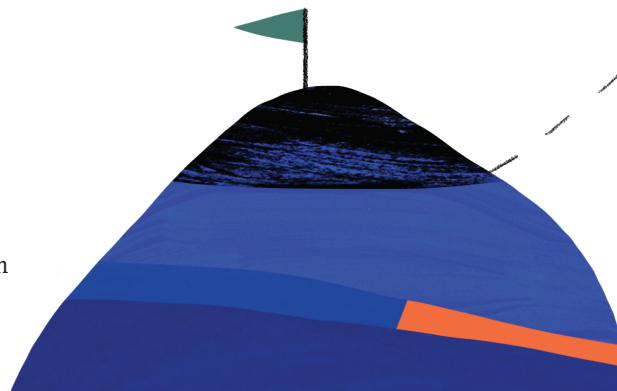
Hix said: "We have found the one-on-one coaching approach to be extremely powerful in shaping the personalized element of the vocation of each student. So much so that at the beginning of the 2023–2024 academic year, each of the three people on the career team took 30–40 seniors and became their designated career coach to ensure they landed placement after graduation."

This yielded record returns and also forged closer connections with the newest University alumni class.

"I now know one-third of that student class even better and can personally invite them to a career networking event, an interview night, or to be on a panel," said Hix. "These are real long-term relationships that are so important and mutually beneficial to our whole community!"

"Made in His image and likeness, we are called to imitate Him as creators...this way, our work becomes our path to holiness."

— Andreas Widmer



But no good news stays hidden for long. Members of this career development team now sit on a Career Development Council, led by Ryane Cheatham, who stood up this initiative after joining the CACS team in 2019.

“When I first came onboard, I identified a need for a cross-campus team who were working with students toward the same career development goals, and so I created the Council,” said Cheatham. “This Council has been a great way to share resources; access to survey data that we collect; technology like Handshake which helps run events, registration, report data; and much more.”

Members of this council meet regularly to share lessons learned and what is working in their events and outreach or employer relations programs. Cheatham and her CACS team works with deans to continually grow this group, as new hires join various Schools and begin to build out this work.

“I will say that the Busch School has done a fantastic job of being a trailblazer on this front and really showing how we can integrate and support each other...and everyone is seeing its success and wants to keep building on that,” said Cheatham. “You can feel that momentum across campus!”

A Rising Tide

The idea of starting these types of embedded career development teams and credit-based programs is starting to pop up across campus, as evidenced by the recent career development hire in the School of Arts and Sciences. Lisa O’Quinn (B.A. 1986), Ed.D., who is the new Assistant Dean for Community Engagement, Outreach, and Experiential Learning, is one of the newest members of the Council.

“The Career Development Council pulls everyone together to share best practices and templates — what works and what doesn’t,” said Chiappetta. “The BSB team shares their resources so we are able to provide services together across the university.”

Much more progress will happen on this front as programs like the Busch School’s start to stand up. It’s a great trend that, in the end, will be evident in positive, engaged alumni across so many disciplines in the workforce.

What does such an aspirational goal have to lose except the possibility of many more vocational paths for happy, thriving individuals? And if happiness is the highest good, as Aristotle asserts, the University cannot go wrong in creating more of these moments of self-discovery.

With this approach, the University will be elevating our students on their way after graduation — sending forth many more lights into our world to multiply this great work. ♦



What Is Happiness?

*by Jonathan A. Buttaci, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor of Philosophy*

Philosophers have long grappled with the nature of human happiness, both what it is and how it can be achieved. Besides what we know about these questions from divine revelation, from its earliest days the Church has also drawn on the human wisdom of ancient Greek philosophy. This is why Plato and Aristotle form the foundation of our core philosophy courses at Catholic University.

For Aristotle, happiness cannot consist in wealth, though it does require some material resources. And it is not merely an emotion or feeling, though the happy life is pleasant. Rather, happiness is when we are fully flourishing as human beings. He highlights virtuous activities that fulfill our distinctive nature as rational, social, and political animals: temperately enjoying food and drink; bravely facing danger to protect loved ones; generously (yet tastefully) hosting a party; prudently ordering domestic affairs while justly dealing with others. Aristotle insists, then, that we cannot be happy without friends, in large part because the activities of a happy life cannot be done alone. We also fulfill our rational nature by appreciating and seeking to understand the natural world. By inquiring into the mysteries of the universe, we can participate in even a divine life of contemplation.

Since we all share a common human nature, then, we do not each define happiness in our own way: all happy people share similar marks of human flourishing. Even so, each person cultivates friendships and the virtues in unique life circumstances, discovering our own way of living out and fulfilling the human nature that we all share in common.



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THE CATHOLIC
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Alumni Corner



Honoring Cardinal Seán's Impact on Hispanic Communities

The University has launched a fundraising initiative to establish the Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley Endowed Chair for the Study of Hispanic Catholics in America, which will reside in the School of Theology and Religious Studies.

The endowed position, which was announced to celebrate Cardinal O'Malley's 80th birthday, honors his robust contributions to the University and reflects his decades of leadership in Hispanic and Latino ministry. A Cardinal in all senses of the word (with an M.A. in religious education and Ph.D. in Spanish/Portuguese Literature), Seán O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., served many years as executive director of the Centro Católico Hispano in the Archdiocese of Washington.

"We are confident that this chair, once fully funded and established, will have a

lasting impact on the scholastic excellence of our School of Theology and Religious Studies," University President Peter Kilpatrick said. "We also believe it will generate greater evangelical fervor and pastoral expertise in the care of the Hispanic and Latino Catholic communities in the United States for generations to come."

As of September, 20 donors had pledged nearly \$1 million for this endowed chair position.

A former member of the Board of Trustees (2005–2024), Cardinal O'Malley recently retired from the Archdiocese of Boston. ♦

Class Notes

Moving Up

Milton C. Lee, Jr., J.D. 1985, has been designated by the The District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission to serve as chief judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Judge Lee assumed the office on October 1. A DC native, he has devoted his legal career to serving the citizens of the District of Columbia. Following law school, he joined the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia as a staff attorney, representing indigent persons in the Family, Misdemeanor, and Felony Divisions of the Superior Court. He also argued a number of cases before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Amy Joyce, B.A. 1996, along with co-owner Gayle Weiswasser, is opening a community bookstore, Wonderland Books in Bethesda, Md., in October 2024. Wonderland Books will carry a wide range of books across genres, as well as a curated selection of cards and gifts; the store will also host author readings and other events to bring readers together. Joyce is a journalist, editor, and writer who spent 28 years at *The Washington Post*, most recently as editor of *On Parenting*.

Reynold Hoover, J.D. 1997, has been named chief executive officer of the LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games, leading the organizing committee's staff through the planning and execution of the Games. He comes to LA28 following leadership positions in the U.S. military, along with senior civilian roles in the federal government, and brings significant experience in planning, operations, and logistics to help deliver the world's largest peacetime gathering — the Olympic and Paralympic Games. With little more than four years until the 2028 Opening Ceremony, Hoover will direct the day-to-day work and report to LA28 chairperson and president Casey Wasserman.

Natasha Vij Greiner, J.D. 2001, formerly the deputy director of the division of examinations at the Securities and Exchange Commission, became director of the SEC's division of investment management in March. She has been with the SEC for 22 years in various roles.

Travis P. Nelson, J.D. 2001, has joined the newly-established Philadelphia, Pa, office of Polsinelli, P.C. He is also adjunct faculty at Villanova University School of Law and Temple University School of Law, where he teaches a course on financial institutions regulation.

① Kimberly Kavanagh, B.S.Arch. 2001, M.Arch. 2003, was promoted to vice president at Marshall Craft Associates (MCA). She becomes one of the three corporate officers poised to lead the firm into its fourth decade of providing exceptional architectural, planning, interior design, and facilities services in the mid-Atlantic region. She joined MCA in 2021, having successfully led many complex, large-scale healthcare design projects for nearly 20 years. As an architect specializing in healthcare design, Kavanagh has built a reputation for consistently delivering quality, user-centered healthcare design work. She also actively mentors the next generation of architects and designers, especially those from traditionally underrepresented groups in the design field. She also serves on the board of directors of the Women in Healthcare, Washington, D.C., chapter.

Nina McHale, M.A./M.S.L.S. 2002, has been appointed associate dean for Student & Scholar Services at the University of Denver's University Libraries. Beginning this fall, she will also serve as adjunct faculty in DU's Morgridge College of Education Library & Information Science program. She and her husband **David McHale, M.A. 2000**, live in Centennial, Colo., with their three children.

Pawel Z. Binczyk, J.D. 2011, joins Bernstein Shur as a shareholder in the labor and employment, litigation and dispute resolution, and food and beverage practice



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groups. He is a litigator, advisor, and crisis response professional representing organizations in Maine, New Hampshire, and throughout New England. He brings over a decade of experience advising and aggressively defending organizational clients in a broad range of contexts. In addition to his civilian practice, he serves part-time as a uniformed general counsel for the Maine Army National Guard, where he advises the command team on the variety of legal considerations that shape operations.

Accolades Abound

② **Rev. James B. Flynn, B.A. 1960, S.T.L. 1964**, celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination on June 9 at St. Matthew Parish, Southborough, Mass., where he has served as pastor for the past 31 years. He was an instructor in the department of religious education at the University from 1964 to 1967 and went on to teach at Boston College School of Education, Regis College, and Laboure School of Nursing. Currently, he is adjunct professor of philosophy of education at Framingham State University.

Paul Noble, D.M.A. 1974, a master arranger of music for concert/wind bands, established a website www.bandmusicpdf.net in partnership with Oxford University Press (OUP), to offer over 400 band arrangements by some of the world's greatest composers. Fortunately, OUP held copyrights of many major composers who represent a genre of music known as British Light



①



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Music, among which are composers such as Gustav Holst, William Walton, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Edward Elgar, Gordon Jacob, Alun Hoddinott, David Willcocks, Philip Lane, and Sir John Rutter. Clients can search the extensive collection, and arrangements are offered in two ways: instant downloads from the website or through J.W. Pepper Midwest Sheet Music, and several others distributors in print form.

③ **Sister Mary Catherine Hilkert, M.A. 1979, Ph.D. 1984**, a member of the Dominican Sisters of Peace and professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame, is the recipient of the John Courtney Murray Award for Distinguished Achievement in Theology from the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA), its highest mark of achievement. The award was announced at the CTSA's annual meeting in Baltimore, Md., on June 15. Sister Hilkert's scholarly career has yielded three books: *Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination*; *Speaking with Authority: Catherine of Siena and the Voices of Women Today*; and most recently *A Time to Keep Silence and a Time to Speak*. In addition to her many scholarly accomplishments, she has served on two international theological commissions of the Dominican Order of Preachers and has lectured and preached in Catholic and ecumenical contexts around the world.

Kevin M. Ryan, B.A. 1989, won two Tony Awards, one for producing *The Outsiders* (Best Musical) along with his classmate and co-producers

Al Gough, B.A. 1989 and his wife, Beth Corets; and *Merrily We Roll Along* (Best Musical Revival). In the fall, he is producing *Gypsy* on Broadway, starring Audra McDonald.

John Kearns, M.A. 1994, was nominated for four awards at Origin Theatre's 17th annual 1st Irish Theatre Festival in New York City for his play *Boann and the Well of Wisdom*, and won for best play.

Richard G. Poulson, J.D. 1997, a partner with Willig, Williams & Davidson, has been recognized as a 2024 Pennsylvania Super Lawyer. He is one of the top public-safety union lawyers in the country. The son of a Philadelphia firefighter, Rick has spent more than 20 years advocating for police officers, firefighters, paramedics, corrections officers, and other public-safety professionals throughout the United States.

④ **Jeffrey A. Clay, B.A. 1998**, was honored as Homicide Detective of the Year by the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C.

Kate Moran, B.A. 1998, was named 2023 Living Legend of Alexandria (Va.) a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to identify, honor and chronicle the lives of individuals who have contributed to the community in an exemplary and lasting way. Kate and her mother, Patty Moran, were honored for their duo-work on many of the community events — especially for their contributions to the Nancy Dunning Memorial Garden Committee. The Nancy Dunning Garden was created as a peaceful place to honor Kate's aunt, Nancy Dunning,

after her murder in 2003. Kate has spent 25 years working in special education and is now at the U.S. Department of Education in the Office of Special Education Programs.

Cristina D. Ramirez, M.S.L.S. 2005, was interviewed for the BBC Radio documentary called “Journey to Sepharad” by BBC journalist and broadcaster Michael Goldfarb. The documentary is based on *Sepharad*, the Hebrew word for Spain and Jews who trace their ancestry there are called Sephardic Jews. Five hundred years ago, they were expelled from Spain; their exile created new communities stretching from Brazil to Amsterdam to Istanbul and today, Israel. As one of six people interviewed from around the world, Ramirez recalls being raised a Catholic but was drawn to study Judaism, converted in her early 20s, and is now studying to be a rabbi.

Walter “Wally” Avellaneda, B.M. 2007, made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut with the John F. Kennedy High School Wind Symphony in April 2024.

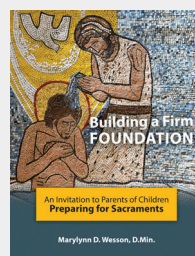
Brandon Pettit, B.A. 2007, M.A. 2012, has successfully earned his Certified Special Event Professional (CSEP) designation from the International Live Events Association (ILEA). The CSEP recognizes event professionals who have successfully demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and ability essential to perform all components of a special event. Brandon currently serves as the director of special events for UCP of Central Florida, where he plans the nonprofit’s signature fundraising

events benefiting the more than 3,500 children and families served by the agency annually. He lives in Melbourne, Fla., with his wife and two daughters.

Gregory Collins, M.A. 2014, Ph.D. 2017, lecturer in the Department of Political Science and the Program on Ethics, Politics, and Economics at Yale University, is the 2024 recipient of the Buckley Institute’s Lux et Veritas Faculty Prize. The faculty prize honors faculty who go above and beyond to stimulate open discussion and debate in the classroom, creating an environment where all perspectives can be heard. He was chosen from around 90 nominations submitted by Yale students, faculty, and alumni.

Regis Komperda, Ph.D. 2016, wrote an editorial for the *Journal of Chemical Education* as part of the Festschrift, honoring Diane M. Bunce, professor emerita, Department of Chemistry. Festschriften are included in the *Journal* to honor academics who have been instrumental in the field. The July issue features articles and books Professor Bunce has published and some of those works were co-authored by: **Katherine Havanki, Ph.D. 2012**, **Ashlie Wrenne, Ph.D. 2016**, **Patrick Daubenmire, Ph.D. 2004**, **Jessica VandenPlas, Ph.D. 2008**, **Kelly Neiles, Ph.D. 2012**, **Elizabeth Flens, B.A. 2003, M.A. 2004**, and **K.D. Hutchinson**, post-doctoral student.

① **Marylynn Wesson, D.Min. 2019**, won two awards for her book *Building a Firm Foundation: An Invitation to Parents of Children Preparing for Sacraments* (Our Sunday Visitor, May 2023), which is



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based on her doctoral thesis. She was presented with the Association for Catholic Publishers, 2024 Excellence in Publishing Awards, “Resources for Ministry” category: 1st place; and Catholic Media Association, 2024 Book Awards, “Pastoral Ministry Catechetical” category: 3rd place.

② **Sister Mary Agnes Greiffendorf, O.P., Ph.D. 2021**, celebrated 25 years as Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in July. Over the course of her religious life, Sister Mary Agnes has taught at all levels of Catholic education and served in numerous administrative positions, including as elementary school principal, director of education and coordinator of new evangelization initiatives for the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, and president of Aquinas College in Nashville, Tenn. Most recently, she was director of the Institute for the Transformation of Catholic Education and associate professor in the Department of Education at The Catholic University of America. She is currently the vice-principal of St. Gertrude School in Madeira, Ohio.

Tying the Knot

③ **Ximena Alejandra Pereira Cañas, B.A. 2015**, and Nicholas Dennard, U.S. Marine veteran and George Mason University graduate, were married on May 25, 2024, with Rev. John Benson (Ph.B. 2014; B.S.Th. 2019) presiding. The wedding took place at St. Peter’s Pro Cathedral in Richmond, Va., surrounded by family, friends, and alumni. Ximena is a senior consultant at

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (DTTL), and Nic works for the Department of Defense. They plan to relocate to Germany in October to pursue new career goals.

④ **Peter Spence, B.A. 2022**, and **Emma Wilenta, B.A. 2022**, were married on April 6 at St. Peter's Church in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J., surrounded by family, friends, and many alumni. They live in Arlington, Va.

Future Cardinals

Christopher Snodgrass, B.M.E. 2003, and wife, Anna Dvorchak Snodgrass, welcomed their first child, Joseph Edward, on Feb. 22. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

⑤ **Katy (Monaghan) Berlenbach, B.A. 2013**, and **Tom Berlenbach, B.M.E. 2012, M.S. 2013**, announce the birth of their second son, Ryan, on Aug. 12, 2023. Jake is enjoying his new role as big brother. The family lives in Cohasset, Mass.

Cardinals in Print

Jon Frederickson, M.S.W. 1982, published his sixth book, *Healing Through Relating: A Skill-Building Book for Therapists* (Seven Leaves Press, May 2023). He is on the faculty of the New Washington School of Psychiatry.

⑥ **Carrie Maslen, B.M.E. 1982**, a tech-executive turned author has written and illustrated *Breaking Bread with Jiddo* (Stirred Stories, April 2024). Inspired by her childhood summers in Wisconsin, where she

"She finds solace in attending services at the Basilica, which holds special significance for her."

— from *Mildred (Zelinski) Kashmere, M.S.N. 1979*



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spent cherished moments baking Arabic bread with her Lebanese grandfather, the book is a delightful tale that celebrates the bond between grandparents and grandchildren. Through colorful illustrations and engaging storytelling, she invites readers to join her on a journey of family traditions, recipes, and the sense of accomplishment and agency that comes from learning and connecting with one's heritage. She is a member of the School of Engineering Board of Visitors.

Kristen (Durfee) Kramer, B.A. 1993, has written, illustrated, and published her second children's book, *God's Gifts Are...* (October 2023), for children between the ages of three and six. This book captures the simple things the Creator has given to humanity and highlights the pure joy and gratitude for all that life has to offer.

William T. Ditewig, Ph.D. 2003, former executive director of the Secretariat for the Diaconate at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has published a new book: *Courageous Humility: Reflections on the Church, Diakonia, and Deacons* (Paulist Press, 2022).

Sister Allison Regina Gliot, F.S.P., B.A. 2016, published *The Book That Changed Everything* (Pauline Books & Media, August 2023). It was nominated for an Excellence in Publishing Award by the Association of Catholic Publishers. Sister Allison hopes this book, written for children ages 3–7, will help them discover why the Bible is so special.

Thriving in Their Nineties

Raymond F. Gregory, B.A. 1955, recently turned 97 years old and is a retired New York City civil rights attorney residing in Easton, Mass. He is the author of six books; *Age Discrimination in the American Workplace*, *Old at a Young Age* (Rutgers University Press, February 2001); *Women and Workplace Discrimination, Overcoming Barriers to Gender Equality* (Rutgers University Press, November 2002); *Unwelcome and Unlawful, Sexual Harassment in the American Workplace* (ILR Press, March 2004); *Norman Thomas, The Great Dissenter* (Algora Publishing, July 2008); *Encountering Religion in the Workplace, the Legal Rights and Responsibilities of Workers and Employers* (ILR Press, January 2011); and *The Civil Rights Act and the Battle to End Workforce Discrimination* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, August 2014).

Dale A. Masi, Ph.D. 1965, president and CEO of Masi Research Consultants, Inc., a Boston company specializing in Employee Assistance Program (EAP) design, implementation, training, and evaluation, has published her 13th book, *The Fifth International Employee Assistance Compendium* (Masi Research Consultants, Inc., April 2024). The Compendium is an account by professionals all over the world covering how the pandemic affected the mental health of people; how technology has been utilized in providing EAP services; and the present status of the post-pandemic period.

Wish Granted

① **Mildred (Zelinski) Kashmere, M.S.N. 1979**, a resident at Elancé at Alexandria (Va.) community, was granted her wish to return to her alma mater at Catholic University, and to attend services at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. This moment was made possible through the company-wide WOW Moment initiative making personalized moments for residents that celebrate their life, check adventures off a bucket list, or reminisce on times past. With 55 years of nursing experience, she has served in various roles, including assistant and director of nursing in hospitals and long-term care facilities with impeccable surveys. She also served on the Maryland State Board of Nursing for licensing and certification for 12 years. Currently, she coordinates Catholic Church services rosary hour, and actively engages with resident council and community events at the Elancé at Alexandria community where she resides. Mrs. Kashmere's life is deeply intertwined with her Catholic faith, and she finds solace in attending services at the Basilica, which holds special significance for her.



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Timothy Vance Blair, D.M.A.

1988, court-appointed administrator of the J.M. Blair Family Trust, has established a generous annuity to benefit The Kennett Symphony of Chester County, Pa., in perpetuity. This gift fulfills Dr. Blair's wish to provide lasting support for the Symphony's work. He has been a champion of Chester County charities for decades, including the Kennett Symphony, where he serves as board president.

The Latest from Faculty Alumni

John McCarthy, M.A. 1982, Ph.D. 1988, having served the past 14 years as the dean of the School of Philosophy, has stepped down and received the title of dean emeritus effective July 1. After taking a sabbatical, he will continue to teach in the School of Philosophy.

Jeffrey Dirk Wilson, Ph.L. 2004, Ph.D. 2009, research associate professor in the School of Philosophy, gave an open lecture, "A Catholic Philosophy of Writing," at The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków, Poland, on June 3. He then traveled to Dublin, Ireland, and presented a paper, "Panofsky and Kidson on Suger's Reading of the Dionysian *Celestial Hierarchy*," at the annual conference of the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies on June 19.

Appointments

Thomas J. Wallen, B.Ch.E. 1977, Howard University professor of chemical engineering and law/ethics since 2012, has been elected to Tau Beta Pi as an eminent engineer.

Erin O'Connor, B.A. 1998, has been named chief counsel to the Montgomery County (Md.) Ethics Commission.

Michael Minnaugh, J.D. 2002, has been appointed general counsel of Moon Valley Nurseries, the nation's largest fully-integrated nursery, effective March 18. He will lead all aspects of the legal function for the Phoenix-based nursery, including corporate governance, compliance, and risk management.

Monsignor John McDermott, J.C.L. 2004, has been appointed by Pope Francis as the bishop of the Diocese of Burlington, Vt.

Gerard "Jerry" Joyce, Ph.D. 2009, began his term on July 1 as the 27th president of America's oldest independent Catholic university, Mount St. Mary's University, a liberal arts university in Emmitsburg, Md. He has worked in higher education for more than 30 years and most recently served as executive vice president of DeSales University in Center Valley, Pa.

David P. Long, Ph.M. 2015, J.C.D. 2022, has been appointed by President Peter Kilpatrick as the new dean of the Metropolitan School of Professional Studies (MSPS), effective June 1.

Teaching Abroad

Rachel Lucas, B.A. 2021, has received a Fulbright U.S. Student program award for an English teaching assistantship to Jordan for the 2023-2024 academic year from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Laura Jacoby, B.A. 2023, will be teaching English in Japan as part of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. She was selected for participation in this competitive program that offers a unique cultural exchange opportunity to meet people from all around the world, living and working in Japan. ♦

➡ Share your news

Submit a class note to cua-classnotes@cua.edu. If you have moved or changed your email address or phone number, you can easily update your information: fill out a form at engage.catholic.edu/subscriptions, email cua-alumni@cua.edu, or call 202-319-5608.

In Memoriam

Sister Annina Scharper, D.C., B.S.N. 1950.
 F. Victoria Tresansky, B.M. 1950.
 John C. Vaughan, B.A. 1950.
 Bernard V. Wolski, B.E.E. 1950.
 Brother Eugene L. Behenna, C.F.X., B.A. 1952.
 Loretta T. Zderad, M.S.N.E. 1952.
 Marie A. Holmes, B.S.N. 1953.
 Mayme Wilkins Holt, M.A. 1953.
 David M. Phelan, B.A. 1953.
 Ann G. Murphy, B.S. 1955.
 Carole S. Reardon, B.A. 1956.
 Rose Marie E. Bommer, M.S.N. 1957.
 Marie Patricia Heinz, B.S.N. 1957.
 Sister Jeanne M. McNally, B.S.N. 1958, M.S.N. 1963,
 Ph.D. 1969, J.C.L. 1990.
 Theodore Salazar, B.A. 1958, M.F.A. 1963.
 Harry A. DeFerrari, B.M.E. 1959, D.Engr. 1966.
 Robert E. Galvin, B.A. 1959, M.A. 1968.
 Rev. Frank R. Haig, S.J., Ph.D. 1959.
 Rev. Thomas H. Hicks, S.T.B. 1956.
 Kathleen "Kay" Smith, B.S.N. 1959.
 Frederic D. Weekes, M.E.E. 1959.
 Richard Wirth, attended the University from
 1959 to 1964.
 Antoinette Babb, B.S.N. 1960.
 Sister Marian Rita Powell, R.S.M., M.A. 1960.
 Antoinette Rolph, B.A. 1960.
 Mary Sophia Vitkovitsky Durr, M.S.W. 1961.
 Mary B. Rothwell, B.S.N. 1961.
 Monsignor John J. Rowan, S.T.B. 1961, M.A. 1964,
 Ph.D. 1967.
 Carl Thomas Zovko, Ph.D. 1961.
 Francis Kelly, B.A. 1962, Ph.D. 1967.
 Richard Smith, (Ret. Col. USMC) M.A. 1962.
 Maxine L. LeMay, B.S.N. 1963.
 Sister M. Ellen Black, O.S.B., M.T.S. 1964.
 Themistocles D. D'Silva, Ph.D. 1964.
 Charles D. Gill, J.D. 1964.

Margaret Mary Kane, M.A. 1964.
 Donald W. Farley, B.A. 1965, J.D. 1969.
 Rev. Roman Galadza, B.A. 1965.
 John J. Keegan, Jr., B.E.E. 1965.
 Jean Stephano Scalessa, B.M. 1965.
 Alice Buckley Caldwell, M.S.W. 1966.
 Mary Lynn Pollack Canon, B.A. 1966.
 Mary Jo D. Ibáñez, B.A. 1966.
 Alice Mandanis, M.A. 1966, Ph.D. 1971.
 Madeleine Mathiot, Ph.D. 1966.
 Elizabeth Harmatys Park, M.S.W. 1966.
 Shelia A. Smyth, M.S./M.S.L.S. 1966.
 Mary O. Collins, Ph.D. 1967.
 Rev. Richard A. Laurick, Ph.D. 1967.
 Edward T. McCarthy, M.S.W. 1967.
 Rev. Roland Mullen, S.T.L. 1967.
 Suzanne C. Peraza, B.S.N. 1967.
 Lowell V. Youngs, M.M. 1967, D.M.A. 1970.
 Philip F. Arnoult, M.A. 1968.
 Barbara Krupczak Bennett, B.A. 1968.
 Brother Campion Eckert, C.F.X., B.A. 1968.
 William Eugene Gimblett, M.S.W. 1968.
 Michael J. Madigan, J.D. 1968.
 Sister Maria S. Gross, O.S.F., M.A. 1969.
 Marsha L. Hughes, M.A. 1969.
 James Sinclair, M.A. 1969.
 Claire Dalrymple, M.S.W. 1970.
 Rev. Donald E. Donahugh, M.A. 1970.
 William L. Fallon, J.D. 1970.
 Sister Rose A. Kordick, M.A. 1970.
 Mary Louise Oswald, M.S.W. 1970.
 Moon-Jhong Rhee, Ph.D. 1970.
 Sister Maureen T. Cannon, O.P., M.A. 1971.
 Richard Licata, B.A. 1971.
 Ralph W. Snodgrass, M.A. 1971.
 Michael J. Cefalo, J.D. 1972.
 William David Dolan, III, J.D. 1972.
 Judith A. Evans, M.S.N. 1972.



LOSING A GREAT UNIVERSITY FRIEND

Frank Persico, B.A. 1974, M.A. 1976, who served the University in many leadership roles, including as vice president for University Relations and chief of staff, died May 14.

Hailing from Hazleton, Pa., Persico earned his bachelor's degree in drama in 1974 and his master's degree in education in 1976.

While a student, he was a member of Alpha Delta Gamma, the yearbook staff, and student government, and he played football.

Persico also served as associate dean for external and student affairs at the Columbus School of Law, dean of students, and special advisor to the president. He also led University Advancement during a vice presidential transition. He retired from the University in 2018.

"When I speak about the unique community here on campus, it's because of people like Frank, who endeavored to know as many people as possible and to listen to them," University President Peter Kilpatrick said. "He fostered a sense of belonging that remains and thrives today."

In last spring's edition of this magazine, Persico talked about the desire to connect generations.

"I know five decades of people that I can say I have friends in each decade," he said in an interview. "And they are friends that I could call today and tomorrow."

He is survived by his wife, Stephanie, and their family. ♦



REMEMBERING A CARDINAL GREAT

Joseph Della Ratta, B.A. 1953, who was generally regarded as the greatest Catholic University athlete and a passionate donor, passed away in September 2024. The last four-sport star at the University, Della Ratta was raised in Long Island, New York.

He earned varsity letters in basketball, baseball, track, and boxing. He was the first Cardinal to score 1,000 points in basketball. After graduating, he served our country in the U.S. Army. In 1970, he founded Della Ratta, Inc., a leading commercial development services organization.

Della Ratta served the University as a Trustee from 1981 to 1986 and played a pivotal role in fundraising for the construction of the Raymond A. DuFour Athletic Center, which opened in 1985. In 2015, he and his family established the Centesimus Annus Endowed Chair in the Busch School of Business. His support for the renovation of Maloney Hall gave Della Ratta Auditorium its name. Joe and his family have also given very generously to the Impact Scholarship program, offering many young people the opportunity of a Catholic University education.

"We are very grateful for Joe's life and his many decades of contributions to the University community, and we extend our sincerest condolences to his family," University President Peter Kilpatrick said. ♦

Kenneth Krohn, M.M. 1972.

Sister Jeanette A. McCarthy, P.B.V.M., M.A. 1972.

Rev. Dennis A. Reardon, S.T.B. 1972.

James Patrick Sweeney, attended the University from 1965 to 1974.

Susan Blackburn, M.S.N. 1973.

James Castonguay, M.A. 1973.

Sister Margaret M. Deegan, R.S.M., J.C.L. 1973.

Cathy (Roberts) Sweeney, B.A. 1973.

Gordon L. Geller, J.D. 1974.

James A. O'Connor, Ph.D. 1974.

Patricia J. Baldwin, Ph.D. 1975.

Mary S. Von Euler, J.D. 1975.

Dennis J. Collins, B.E.E. 1976, M.E.E. 1985.

Maxine Rudin Haberman, M.S.W. 1976.

John P. McLaughlin, J.D. 1976.

Jane Reese, J.D. 1976.

Lt. Col. Morton D. Sims, M.A. 1976.

Sister Anne F. Tardiff, C.S.C., M.A. 1976.

H. Patrick Donohue, J.D. 1977.

Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., S.T.D. 1977.

Sister Mary Poole, R.S.M., M.M. 1977.

Marie E. Koczela, B.A. 1979, M.A. 1981.

Elizabeth Bell LeVaca, B.S.N. 1979.

Douglas Stuart, M.A. 1979.

Kathleen Wallman, B.A. 1979.

Rev. Kenneth W. Haydock, M.A. 1980.

Kevin M. McCoy, B.S.Chem.E. 1980.

Roberta E. Cozens, M.S.N. 1981.

Jane Filerman, M.S.N. 1981.

Judith Koltz Treanor, M.A. 1981.

Thomas V. Martinez, Jr., J.D. 1982.

Joanne T. Crotts, M.S.L.S. 1983.

John Ralston, J.D. 1983.

Sister Audrey Straub, J.C.L. 1985.

Barbara Bloom Gutshall, B.S.N. 1986.

Sister Margaret A. McCabe, S.N.D.deN., M.S.W. 1987.

Ana Mejia-Dietche, J.D. 1988.

Phyllis Satterfield, B.S.N. 1988, M.S.N. 1990.

Avril J. Madison, M.S.L.S. 1989.

Monsignor Philip A. Behan, J.C.L. 1992.

Karin Christian, J.D. 1992.

Rev. Nathan J. Munsch, O.S.B., S.T.B. 1992.

Sister Catherine Higley, O.S.B., M.S.N. 1994.

David M. Shiflet, B.A. 1999.

John F. Concannon, III, M.A. 2002.

Rev. Cyprian R. Rosen, O.F.M.Cap., J.C.D. 2009.

Paul Dela Cruz, B.A.I.T. 2015.

Faculty/Staff

Sister Mary Collins, O.S.B., Ph.D. 1967, professor of religious studies, School of Theology and Religious Studies, who served for 28 years.

Marguerite Ann Leonard, staff member in the Department of Psychology in the 1950s; administrative assistant for CUA Press from 1993 to 2000.

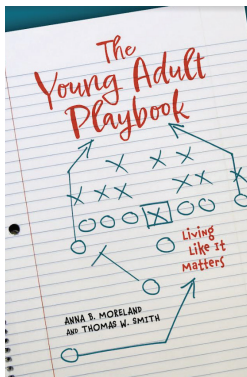
Frank G. Persico, B.A. 1974, M.A. 1976, who served the University for 44 years, in many roles including executive director of alumni relations; associate dean of the Columbus School of Law; vice president/chief of staff, Office of the President; vice president, university relations/chief of staff, Office of the President; special assistant to the President.

Bridget Ellen Sheridan, who served for 19 years as an administrative assistant in several departments, principally in the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering.

What's on Your Reading List?

Some of the top reads from CUA Press in the last year — written by faculty and alumni. Across a wide spectrum of topics, here are some top-of-mind topics from members of our community:

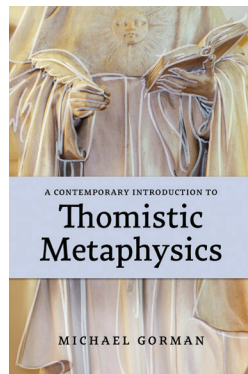
Learn more: www.cuapress.org/books



***The Young Adult Playbook:
Living Like It Matters***

By Anna B. Moreland and
Thomas W. Smith

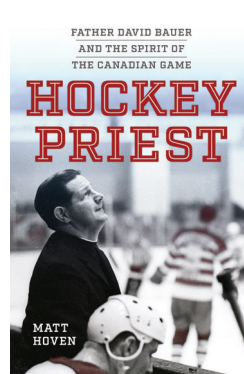
This book goes where other life design books refuse to go — it asks deep questions about what constitutes a happy life. After decades of listening to their students, Anna B. Moreland and Thomas W. Smith name the underlying desires in young adults: while searching for a lucrative career, they long for meaningful work; their social media and gaming practices point to a deeper yearning for intimacy; and their leisure habits have been crushed under the productivity machine. This book offers practical strategies to improve habits and offers much needed models of hope, providing a concrete map through unprecedented challenges. Journal exercises throughout the chapters tailor the strategies for each individual reader.



***A Contemporary
Introduction to Thomistic
Metaphysics***

By Michael Gorman

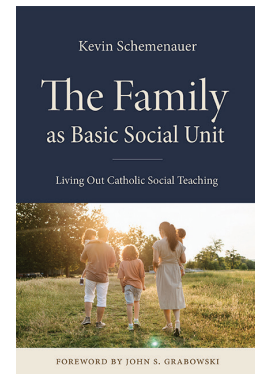
This book provides the reader with an introductory presentation of key themes in Thomistic metaphysics. There are many such books, but this one is, to use a phrase Michael Gorman has adopted, “analytic-facing,” presenting things in dialogue with analytic philosophy. *A Contemporary Introduction to Thomistic Metaphysics* begins by explaining what philosophy is, what metaphysics is, and how these relate to other kinds of thinking. It then moves through a series of topics, ending with a brief look at applications of metaphysical thinking in theology.



***Hockey Priest: Father
David Bauer and the Spirit
of the Canadian Game***

By Matt Hoven

Born in Waterloo, Ontario, in 1924, David Bauer attended St. Michael's College-School and after serving in World War II, he joined the religious community and coached its St. Michael's Majors to a national championship in 1961. Influenced by philosophers like Jacques Maritain, Bauer tried to find solutions to problems created within elite hockey and thus founded Canada's first ever National Team program. This team countered the cut-throat ideals of hockey's power brokers and set out to return Canada to international glory. The team represented the nation at several global tournaments and three Winter Olympic Games. Bauer was posthumously inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1989.



***The Family as Basic Social
Unit: Living Out Catholic
Social Teaching***

By Kevin Schemenauer

This publication provides a theologically rooted account of the family's social roles and responsibilities. Reflecting on the family's internally social character, Schemenauer proposes that Catholic social teaching applies to family interactions. Working from the family outward, Schemenauer describes how family commitments can motivate broader social service, but then employs the example of families involved in the Catholic Worker Movement to reflect on the joys and dangers of balancing commitment to one's family with social ministry focused on the urgent needs of those outside of one's household. ♦



Transformations

**"To live is to change,
and to be perfect is to
have changed often."**

— St. John Henry Newman

You probably noticed that we've completely redesigned our magazine: *CatholicU* is now *The Cardinal*. Why the new (or old, if you're familiar with the yearbook) name? As we rolled out the University's new branding this past year, with the tagline "Lead with Light," we took the opportunity to reevaluate and refresh all our communications.

We want this publication to be an extension of our campus, a space for elevated conversation — between alumni and students, the University and the larger world. And we want to give you something beautiful, a product that deserves its place on your coffee table and that you'll want to share with family and friends.

We are incredibly grateful to our colleagues at Journey Group who guided us through this process. Their respect for our mission and attention to beautiful design are evident in these pages.

In keeping with the theme of this fall 2024 edition — overcoming disconnection — the process of a new approach to content has connected us more than ever to members of our community.

As we take *The Cardinal* to new heights, we invite you to join the conversation, and to help build the community through which Catholic University continues to grow. We invite you to take pride in the work we are doing and get involved in practical ways:

- Contribute to our research initiatives, as Joe Yost invites you on p. 38: research@cua.edu.
- Take part in our ongoing Advancement initiatives like #GivingTuesday (coming soon on December 3) and Founders Day (April 10, 2025). There's also the new Cardinal Ambassador program, a way you can share the good news about our University with potential students, fellow parishioners, and your larger communities. Learn more at engage.catholic.edu/alumni.
- Email us feedback on this redesigned magazine! What resonated with you? cua-magazine@cua.edu.

We look forward to collaborating with you and exploring ideas in future editions!

Change is constant but transformation is intentional. We invite you to help us write the next chapter of the Cardinal legacy. ♦ — Editors



Sky of Unity / Selina Donahue (B.A. 2017) / 8" x 10" / 2024



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“Darkness can only
be scattered by light;
hatred can only be
conquered by love.”

– St. John Paul II