



2024-2025

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA







PRESIDENT'S LETTER

DEAR MEMBERS OF OUR CARDINAL COMMUNITY,

Compiling this report has given me occasion to reflect on the significance of this past year, one filled with both great challenges and great accomplishments. Each of you — whether esteemed faculty, hard-working staff, or loyal benefactors — has made unique contributions to the University. With your talents and gifts, you have truly helped to advance our mission during a particularly challenging time for all of higher education.

I am proud of what we accomplished together in the face of obstacles and uncertainty. With our shared commitment to excellence and to faithfully discharging the great and singular mission of our University, I know we can continue to lead with light in the landscape of American higher education.

This report shares a selection of some highlights of the year, capturing the essence of our work and the ways in which we recommitted to our founding principles while leveraging new opportunities. While these pages cannot contain every significant moment — whether in lecture halls and laboratories or in quiet acts of faith and service — each has shaped the tapestry of this year.

It is an immense honor and privilege to lead our University at this consequential moment in our history. With deep gratitude for what we have been given and with hope for what is to come, I look forward to another year of working with you in service to our Church, nation, and world.

Sincerely,



Peter Kilpatrick
President, The Catholic University of America

PROUDLY R1. BOLDLY CATHOLIC.





Catholic University was founded as a research university, with a strong focus on graduate programs. Indeed, in the first years of our existence, we were exclusively a graduate research University. Research is in our DNA and remains the foundation of the last 130+ years of discovery across every discipline.

In recent years, we have leaned into that strength, and this year we earned the coveted R1 designation, joining the top tier of American research universities. With over \$50 million in research expenditures and more than 90 doctorates awarded, Catholic University has secured its spot among the leading institutions of scholarship and innovation. Our distinctive approach to research integrates faith and reason, allowing us to explore the full breadth of the created order with both intellectual rigor and reverence for truth. This was a momentous occasion for our entire University community, and I am honored to help lead the continued growth of our research enterprise.

To build on this momentum, we will continue to grow our research infrastructure. H. Joseph Yost, our senior vice provost for research, is taking the lead on our strategy, launching a new innovation fund, increasing endowed professorships, and continuing to hire top-notch researchers.

Several significant projects contribute to our \$50M research expenditure portfolio and showcase our commitment to discovery across diverse disciplines. For example, in physics and astronomy, the Partnership for Heliophysics and Space Environment Research (PHaSER) supports the scientific and technical program at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, leveraging five laboratories that conduct research on the Sun, solar wind, geospace, ionosphere, thermosphere, mesosphere, and space weather. In the field of psychology, Dr. David Jobes' Suicide Prevention Lab work with NIMH funds has helped to launch a new Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) model that is becoming the standard of care for suicide treatment.

CHAIR INSTALLATIONS: ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

St. John Henry Newman

Endowed Professor of Law:

Marc DeGirolami, J.D., J.S.D. & LL.M.

(Donor: Leonard Leo)

St. Robert Bellarmine

Endowed Professor of Law:

J. Joel Alicea, J.D.

(Donor: Leonard Leo)

Newton-Bennett Endowed

Professor of Engineering:

Hanseok Ko, Ph.D.

(Donor: The late Randolph Newton,
The Newton-Bennett Families Endowment)

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



PHYSICS

Bob Robinson + Jeff Brosius

leads for PHaSER, grant
from NASA (\$60 million)



THEOLOGY

Jem Sullivan

lead for Welcoming Children
in Worship, grant from Lilly
Endowment (\$800,000)



BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Peter Lum

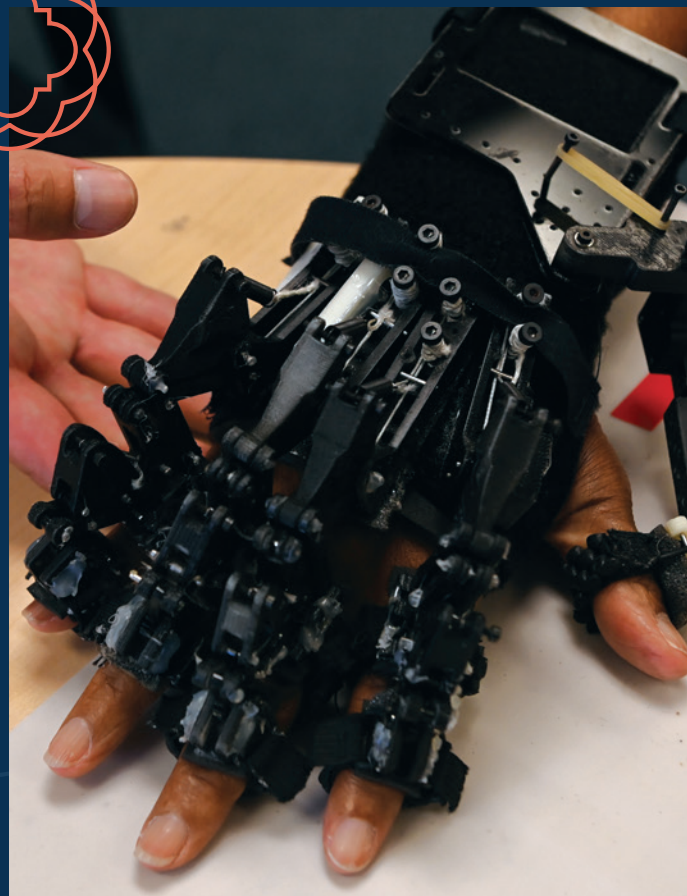
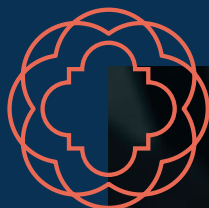
lead for Patient-centered, Home-based
Technologies to Assess and Treat
Motor Impairment in Individuals with
Neurologic Injury, grant from DHHS
— Administration for Children and
Families (\$4.6 million)



SOCIOLOGY

Brandon Vaidyanathan

lead for Global Research on the Aesthetic
Dimensions of Science, grant from
Templeton Religion Trust (\$2.2 million)





PHYSICS/ VSL

Ian Pegg

lead for DFHLW Melter Feed Development, grant from Department of Energy through Bechtel (\$5.2 million)



PHYSICS

Tommy Wiklind

lead for Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology (CRESST II), grant from NASA (\$27 million)



BUSINESS

Luke Burgis

lead for Solving the Three-City Problem, grant from John Templeton Foundation (\$2.5 million)



BIOLOGY

Venigalla Rao

lead for Bacteriophage T4 as a Targeted Gene Therapy Drug for In Vivo HIV Cure, Avant-Garde grant from NIH/NIDA (\$5 million)

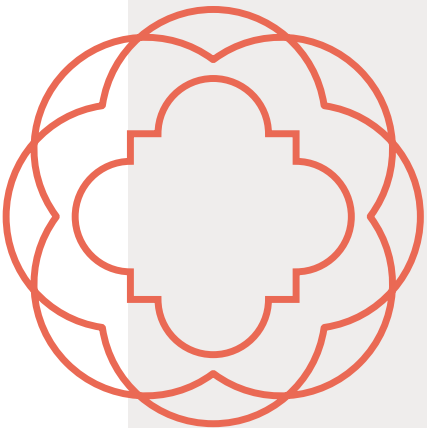
*** AWARDED THIS YEAR**

BECOME WHO YOU ARE MADE TO BE

Where the typical university may train students for a post-graduate life based on a successful career, Catholic University takes a different tack and seeks to form them in these most critical years of development.

More than just training for a specific job and role in society, our curriculum and campus offerings go well beyond the classroom to form in a more holistic way, for every dimension of their person: spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially, and, yes, intellectually.

Our efforts this past year have been underscored by a new investment in virtues-based curriculum development via a new project, “Cultivating Virtue in All Catholic University Undergraduates,” which is funded by a \$1 million grant from Wake Forest’s Educating Character Initiative and led by Dr. Gregory LaNave. The goal is to engage all undergraduates in the practice of 11 core virtues (building on efforts already in place) and ultimately to develop a campus-wide model of cultivating virtue that can be shared with other universities, secular and faith-based. Faculty submitted course proposals for virtue development this past April, with a rollout of 90 approved courses in fall 2025.



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Beyond the classroom, our student-athletes have had a remarkable year with many outstanding achievements. Our athletes, who make up 20 percent of the student population, exemplify a level of all-round excellence and represent a true spirit of what it means to be a Cardinal.

Several programs have had stand-out years — namely, men's and women's basketball, men's baseball, women's golf, and the men's swimming & diving team. Here are the top-line stats from these teams this past year, as well as some star players.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Received at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, marking their 7th all-time appearance
- Chosen to host the first two rounds of the tournament for the second time in program history

Anna Scoblick Accolades

- WBCA Honorable Mention All-American
- D3hoops First Team All-Region
- Landmark Conference Defensive Player of the Year
- All-Landmark First Team



20%

of Catholic University
undergraduates are
varsity student-athletes.





MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

- Won 9th straight Landmark Conference Championship, tying Merchant Marine for most championships in conference history
- Most consecutive championships in Catholic Athletics history, surpassing Women's Lacrosse
- Charles Connolly — Landmark Diver of the Year
- John Bodden & Staff — Coaching Staff of the Year
- 7 1st Team All-Conference Selections | 11 2nd Team All-Conference Selections | 6 Honorable Mention All-Conference Selections

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Third trip to the Elite Eight in program history and first since 2001
- Defeated Franklin & Marshall 84–50 in the first round, #6 Randolph-Macon 79–67 in the second round, and #20 Roanoke 95–91 (OT) in the Sweet 16

Sean Neylon Accolades

- NABC Third Team All-American (6th player in program history to be named an NABC All-American — 15th player in program history to earn any All-America honor)
- NABC First Team All-District
- D3hoops.com First Team All-Region
- Landmark Conference Player of the Year
- All-Landmark Conference First Team
- Landmark Conference Senior Scholar Athlete

Other Accolades

- Head Coach Aaron Kelly — D3hoops Region 5 Coach of the Year
- Brian Herbert, Dan Buckley — All-Landmark Second Team



FORWARD-THINKING REVENUE STRATEGIES

This year, as we strove to remedy our structural deficit, we have also capitalized on numerous opportunities for growth. In the face of serious challenges to undergraduate enrollment across the nation, we enjoyed our highest-ever number of applications in our University's history. We are happy to report that more than 820 students will join us as the Class of 2029.

Additionally, we have created new academic programs and pathways for investment in order to reduce our dependence on revenue from tuition. These efforts underscore our collective ability to adapt with purpose and innovate with confidence, all while honoring our commitment to provide the finest Catholic education possible.

THE TECH EDGE

This spring, we announced a new AI initiative that includes two new degree programs and new scholarship opportunities. With the **School of Engineering's new B.S. and M.S. in artificial intelligence**, Catholic University is taking a unique approach to AI education that places human dignity at the heart of technological innovation. The curriculum is designed to push the boundaries of innovation while staying grounded in ethics, ensuring that our graduates are not only skilled engineers but also responsible leaders who understand AI's impact on society. Other new exciting developments include the Multimodal AI Lab, which advances research in AI/ML, multimodal signal processing, and human-machine interaction and is led by Professor Hanseok

Ko. Many more innovations to come on this front of human-centered innovation!

FUNDING INNOVATION

To promote new research, a fundraising initiative (the Bridge Fund) helped to launch The Catholic University of America Innovation Fund, which will help University researchers progress innovations to the next level, by accelerating further investment and development by the marketplace. Trustee Tim Connors made the initial investment of \$1 million to help kick-start this Fund.

This innovation investment — along with the potential alignment of a venture funding vehicle providing early-stage capital, strategic guidance, and industry connections — will further maximize the societal and economic impacts of the University's research enterprise. Look for many exciting developments on this front!

NEW COURSES OF STUDY

Looking at the landscape of growth, Catholic University has committed to growing three new graduate programs in business, nursing, and theology.

The Busch School of Business is launching **a new MBA** in the fall of 2025, to form business leaders who act as a force for good and guide others with knowledge, skills, and virtue. Rooted in Catholic social teaching, the MBA program offers flexible options and customizable course pathways, including a 4+1 program, a 9-month program for emerging leaders, and hybrid learning options. This program is fully accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and we are proud



to be one of the smallest universities to earn this competitive distinction.

The **new Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN)** at the Conway School of Nursing is a 12-month, full-time program designed for individuals with a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing field who want to transition into the nursing profession. This intensive three-semester program provides students with the knowledge, clinical experience, and skills needed to become a registered nurse (RN), combining online coursework with hands-on clinical training for a total 650 hours of clinical experiences with simulation. There are several scholarships also available for support.

In the works for fall 2025 is Catholic University's exciting **new partnership with the Word on Fire Institute: the M.A. in Evangelization and Culture**. This program will offer academically rigorous engagement with the thinkers, ideas, and practical methods necessary to proclaim the Gospel in a secularized and tech-saturated world.

Anchored in the eight principles of Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire movement — with special emphasis on identifying the “seeds of the Word” in the world — this program teaches students how to employ the Church's rich philosophical, theological, moral, and artistic traditions to evangelize the culture and draw individuals into or back to the Church. All courses will be taught live online, with an optional intensive in-person summer residency on the University's campus. An awesome, dynamic addition to our already rich theology degree options!



TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD



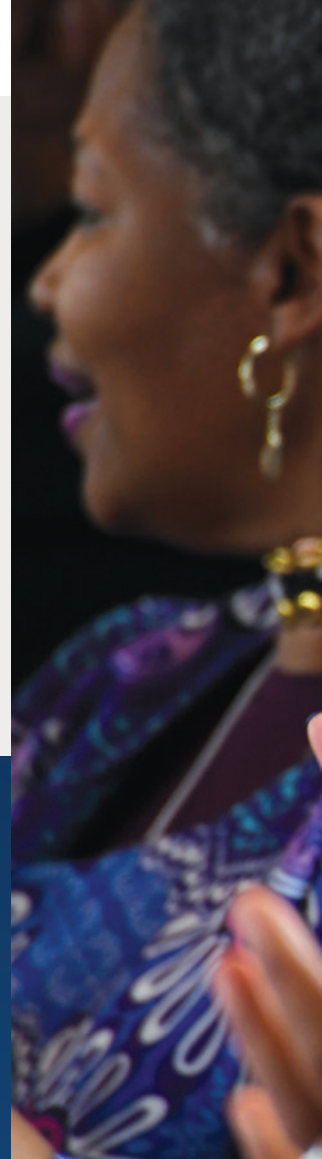
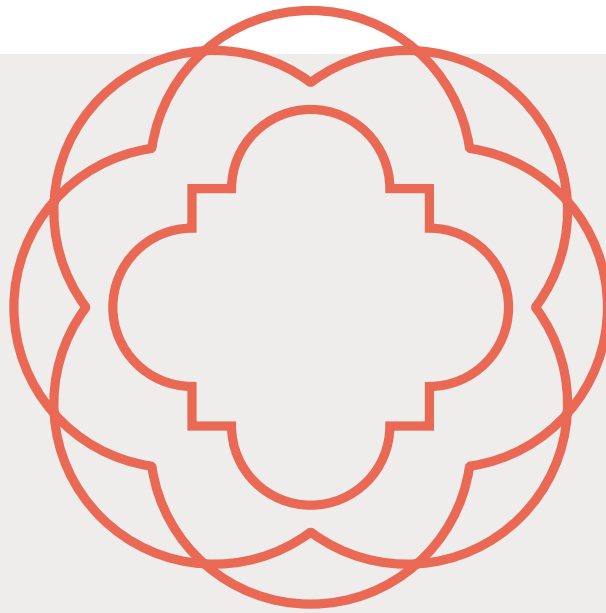
NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

With a fearless commitment to mission, we take seriously our role as leaders for the nation, the Church, and the world. Positioned in the heart of Washington, D.C., as a hub of Catholic thought, we have a unique opportunity to engage the realms of politics, culture, faith, education, and much more.

From large conferences to podcasts, members of our community have helped to shape some of the leading conversations of our time. Last summer, Catholic University was the Premier University Sponsor of the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis — with a large-scale booth, more than 100 staff members onsite, alumni keynote speakers, leadership roles on panels, and our priests' spiritual presence at Mass and confession. It was a powerful experience to come together as a nation, united around Christ in the Eucharist and witness to His redeeming power in a world that needs such grounding in grace.







This energy propelled us into the academic year as we hosted numerous important gatherings across every discipline on our campus. A few standout events included the “Rethinking Migration Narratives” conference in March 2025, in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of Migration & Refugee Services, Catholic Charities USA, and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network. This has become a critical issue in the wake of a new administration, as Pope Francis challenged our nation to embrace a more humane and just approach to immigration.





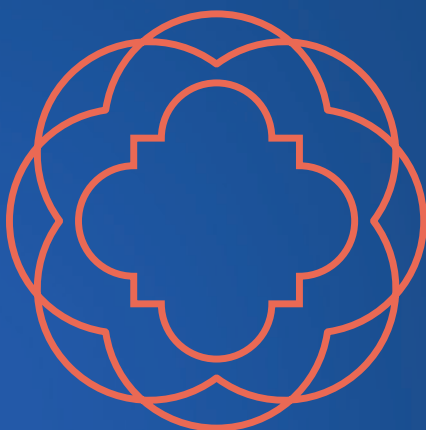
Another highpoint of engagement with the American Church was the inaugural Sister Thea Bowman Conference, “I Bring My Whole Self,” which we were proud to host on campus. An event that honored the life and legacy of Servant of God Sister Thea, a graduate student and professor at Catholic University, this conference brought nearly 300 people together to celebrate the gifts she gave to Black Catholics and the entire Church. A powerful day of prayer, music, testimonies, and stories, the spirit of this alumna on her way to sainthood inspired and challenged all who gathered to continue the fight for justice and equality for all.

Lastly, every spring, we send our newest alumni out into the world to build up the common good across in every field as business leaders, attorneys and judges, teachers, conductors and composers, healers, economists, priests and bishops, fine artists and screenplay writers. This year, with one of our most prominent alumni, Bishop Robert Barron, as commencement speaker, we have once again charged hundreds of graduates to go forth with God as their Light — armed with hope and the great task of continuing the work they began here on Michigan Avenue.



“All of us are in God’s hands.
So, let us move forward,
without fear, together,
hand in hand with God
and with one another!
We are followers of Christ.
Christ goes before us.
The world needs
his light.”

— Pope Leo XIV, APOSTOLIC BLESSING
“URBI ET ORBI,” May 8, 2025







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