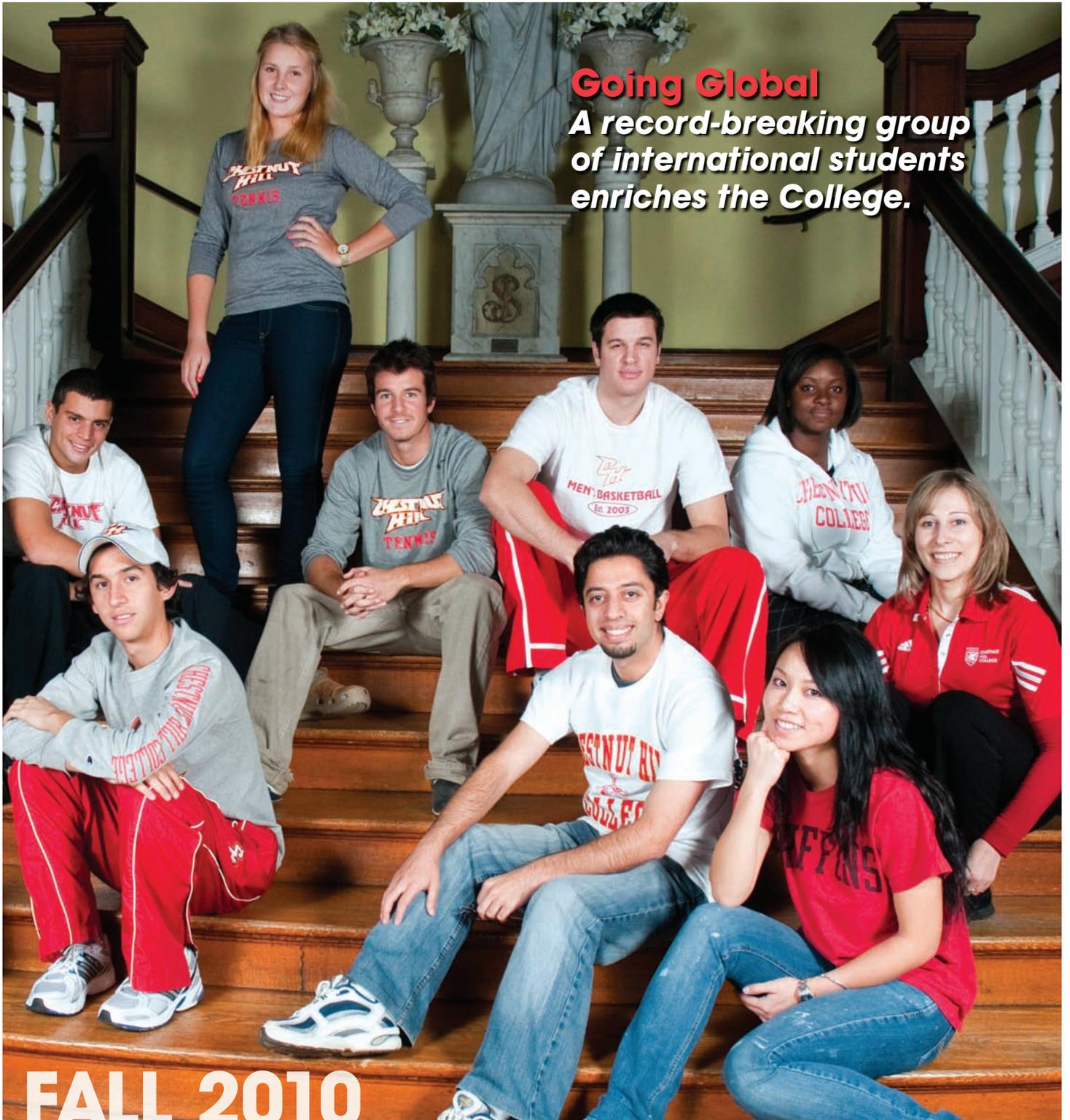


HILL CHESTNUT

the magazine of chestnut hill college



Going Global
A record-breaking group of international students enriches the College.

FALL 2010



SNAPSHOT

The "yarnbombing" of guerrilla knitter Jessie Hemmons '11 SGS recently brightened the cityscape of Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia. See page 5 for more on Hemmons and her anti-graffiti. Photo courtesy of Damon Landry of L Squared Studio.

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By Ryan Dougherty

>> GOING GLOBAL :: 12

The College welcomed its largest group of international students this fall, enriching its academics, athletics, and community.

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By Jarreau Freeman '11

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The primary objective of the trip to Tanzania was to teach others, but students from the College returned with some valuable lessons.

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ON THE COVER: Among the record-breaking number of international students enriching the College: Jelena Bogojevic '12, Hannah Campbell '11, Manuel Cenicerros '14, Esmael Darman, M.D. '11 SGS, Mario Gutierrez '12, Uros Kovacevic '12, Yiqing "Lilia" Miao '11 SGS, Nastia Shcherbakova '13, and Juan Pablo Farah Yacoub '14.

FALL 10

EDITOR'S NOTE

A Time of Harvest



Welcome back to the fall edition of *Chestnut Hill!* Fall marks the transition between summer and winter, and the season conjures images of leaves and harvest. As Rose Kingsley said, "Autumn is, indeed, the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil."

Hopefully, the months of thought and care and toil that went into this magazine connect you to this special place. It remains our goal to convey a sense of the College community — its academic excellence, spirituality, and service — in each issue of *Chestnut Hill*.

You'll meet the College's largest group of international students. Whether they came here for a specific major, an opportunity to be a student-athlete, or a big-city feel, each enriches the College community with a unique perspective. In another feature, alumna Colleen Tozer '10, says "Hey, who needs sleep?" to a question about waking up to get to the DePaul House shelter at 5:45 a.m. There, she and students and staff members run with Back on My Feet, an inspiring program that promotes the self-sufficiency of the homeless through running. Last but not least, you'll read the story of a student who traveled to Tanzania to teach others but returned with an unforgettable lesson.

On a special note, the President's Message details plans for the exciting transformation of the old gym below Clement Hall into a state-of-the-art fitness center. Expected to open in August 2011, the center will feature a mezzanine level with a café and clear view of a newly created extension of the piazza. You'll also hear about final touches to the SugarLoaf Mansion before it's formally welcomed into the splendid array of buildings on campus. With its dining and conference space and beautiful vistas, the mansion lends an environment of elegance and beauty to social events.

We invite you to submit story ideas and comments on any of the material that appears here. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we're doing.

Enjoy,

Kathleen M. Spigelmyer '98

CHESTNUT HILL

the magazine of chestnut hill college

FALL 2010

(Vol. 2, No. 2)

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT
KENNETH HICKS**

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, EDITOR
KATHLEEN M. SPIGELMYER '98**

**PUBLICATIONS MANAGER
RYAN DOUGHERTY**

**ALUMNI LINK EDITOR
PATRICIA M. CANNING '70**

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER
MICHAEL STUMPF & ASSOCIATES, INC.**

**PHOTOGRAPHY
LINDA JOHNSON
JIM ROESE**

NUMBERS TO KNOW

ADMISSIONS	215.248.7001
ALUMNI	215.248.7144
ATHLETICS	215.248.7060
CAREER DEVELOPMENT	215.248.7048
DEVELOPMENT	215.248.7137

WWW.CHC.EDU/MAGAZINE

Chestnut Hill
Office of Institutional Advancement
9601 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118
Phone: 215.248.7110
E-mail: magazine@chc.edu

The mission of Chestnut Hill College is to provide students with holistic education in an inclusive Catholic community marked by academic excellence, shared responsibility, personal and professional growth, service to one another and to the global community, and concern for the earth.

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>> COLLEGE CONTINUES TO INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The College was recently awarded \$250,000 from the Pennsylvania Conservation Works! grant program, allowing for the installation of a new integrated, efficient energy management system on campus.

Sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Conservation Works! is a \$22 million competitive grant program funded in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It is designed to help local municipalities and nonprofits achieve higher energy efficiency, decrease energy consumption, and reduce energy costs.

“We’re very grateful to DEP for its support of our energy management system,” said Bette Mammone, M.A., government and foundations advisor for the College. “It propels the College’s financial and operational capabilities as we become increasingly energy conscious and conservative.”

The new system will conserve energy via scheduling and monitoring of HVAC, lighting, and plumbing systems, reducing consumption and maintenance costs while increasing system reliability. It will save just under 700,000 kilowatt hours of energy and more than 29,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year.

The College was one of 99 projects out of 500 applicants in 48 counties in Pennsylvania to receive funding. Its receipt of the grant has led to other funding opportunities as well.

“With Conservation Works! support, we’ve been able to leverage funding from private donors, College resources, and the Philadelphia-based Reinvestment Fund to set the College’s long-term course for energy awareness,” Mammone said, adding that the College could become a model for similar-size colleges and nonprofits in need of capital infrastructure and energy upgrades.

In 2008, the College identified opportunities for energy savings and infrastructure upgrades to reduce its energy costs. An audit identified more than \$7 million of energy infrastructure upgrades that could save the College hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. The installation of this energy management system is the first phase of that process.

The College also switched to natural gas this year. With oil prices topping off at \$4 per gallon, the College met with Philadelphia Gas Works in 2008 to begin exploring natural gas options. Because the College installed dual-fuel boilers in 1998, natural gas was an option. The 3,000 square feet of gas main and service pipe needed for the conversion cost \$500,000, but the switch saves the College around \$175,000 annually. Together, these initiatives uphold the College’s mission of “concern for the earth.” 





>> PROFESSOR ORGANIZES LOCAL BRANCH OF THE SOLDIERS PROJECT

As the daughter of a World War II veteran, neighbor to teenagers who left for Vietnam and never came back, and first responder on 9/11, Nancy DeCesare, IHM, Ph.D., knows the ramifications of war.

Sister Nancy also knows that tens of thousands of veterans are returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that the Veterans Administration can't help them all. So when she heard about The Soldiers Project — whose volunteer clinicians offer free counseling to veterans and their families — she got involved.

"I noticed that the project didn't have a branch in Philadelphia or even Pennsylvania, so I contacted [program founder Judith Broder, M.D.] to see how I could help make that happen," Sister Nancy said. "These people are our dear neighbors, and some of them are right in front of us in our classrooms."

Sister Nancy hoped to find licensed social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, marriage and family therapists, and nurses from the Philadelphia area willing to volunteer, but the effort quickly went statewide.

"I got e-mails from all over the state asking, 'What can I do?'" she said. "Now it's just a matter of trying to capture all the goodwill to support our national heroes and their families."

The Soldiers Project is a private, nonprofit, and independent group that provides free counseling and support to military service members who have served or expect to serve in Iraq and/or Afghanistan, as well as their families and loved ones. Treatment is conducted in the private offices of clinicians and strictly confidential.

In 2004, Broder was a psychiatrist on the verge of retirement. But she came to feel it was her professional obligation to help

troops and their families cope with the gamut of war-related mental health issues. So, she started The Soldiers Project. Six years later, it features more than six hundred volunteer clinicians and seven locations across the United States.

"Countless service men and women will be returning to their communities," Broder said. "We need to have services readily available for them where they live."

This fall, Broder visited the College to meet with community-based clinicians. She also met with the deans of the College's three schools, its dean of the faculty, and College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., who offered their support of the project. The College also approved a spring sabbatical for Sister Nancy so she could focus on further developing the Southeastern Pennsylvania branch of the project.

Several of the College's students, staff members, and faculty members — including veterans and family members of veterans — have volunteered to help Sister Nancy however they can, and the e-mails and phone calls from around the state continue to come.

Indeed, finding volunteers is the easy part, Broder said. The trick is to find a central organizer in each community who can match her own passion and energy. Enter Sister Nancy.

"She'd say us finding each other was divine intervention," Broder said, laughing. "And it does kind of feel like that."

For more information or to assist the The Soldiers Project, visit www.thesoldiersproject.org or contact Nancy DeCesare, IHM, Ph.D., at decasaren@chc.edu. 

>>GRADUATE STUDENT'S KNITTING BRIGHTENS CITYSCAPE

You couldn't blame passersby for stopping to gawk or snap photos.

After all, it's not every day you see someone perched on a friend's shoulders to wrap 15 feet of whimsically colorful knitting on a tree in Rittenhouse Square.

The artist was Jessie Hemmons '11 SGS, member of a growing cadre of "guerrilla knitters" who adorn their work to brighten the city — and its residents' days.

"Who doesn't want to see something bright and pretty?" asked Hemmons, a graduate student in clinical and counseling psychology.

The public display of such knit work is thought to have started about six years ago in America, and it has since spread across the world. Hemmons found out about it a year ago when she read "Yarn Bombing: The Art of Crochet and Knit Graffiti."

"I've always loved graffiti and seeing weird things in public that don't seem to fit with

their surroundings," she said. "Once I saw that people around the world were putting knitted pieces up in public, I pounced."

The piece she knitted for the tree in Rittenhouse Square took Hemmons nearly 30 hours to complete. After she finished wrapping it, she sat at the base of the tree to sew the final section. Among her other projects: wrapping bike racks in rainbows, tying crocheted flowers to lampposts, and giving the iconic "Rocky" statue a scarf.

Although "yarn bombing" has left some public officials concerned with property defacement, Hemmons said that she hasn't encountered resistance.

"The community really seems to enjoy it," she said. "Some people were worried about whether they'd hold up in the rain or snow, but they hold up well. And if they start getting haggard, someone can just cut them down."

When Hemmons isn't busy brightening center city Philadelphia and its

Fairmount section, where she lives, she sells her wearable works at Bambi Gallery in the Piazza at Schmidt's and on her Web site, Ishknits.com. She also finds time for her studies, and she expects to graduate with her masters in July.

"I'm eager to get started in the field of counseling adjudicated or at-risk youth," she said.

Don't expect her to put the needle and yarn down just yet, though.

"I hope to eventually combine my two passions, teaching at-risk youth to knit so that they can collaborate with me on future projects."

Asked whether one of those projects could surface at the College, Hemmons didn't hesitate.

"I've thought about putting knitted pieces anywhere and everywhere," she said. "Keep your eye out!" 🦁

Courtesy of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* © 2010

>>>



Jessie Hemmons '11 SGS (right) approaches the magnolia tree in Rittenhouse Square to which her knitting is adorned.

>> CLASS OF 2010 EMBARKS ON ITS FUTURE

The College celebrated its 83rd commencement May 15 on a beautiful day at The Hill, awarding 515 degrees and sending the Class of 2010 off to its future.

Monsignor Michael J. Doyle, Ph.D., the “Poet of Poverty,” delivered the commencement address. A tireless champion for the poor, Monsignor Doyle was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1959 and settled in Camden, N.J. — from which he never left. For more than 50 years, he has devoted his life to addressing and alleviating the neglect of the people of Camden, working to provide them the human dignity and living conditions they deserve.

The College awarded 293 bachelor degrees and 215 graduate degrees as well as seven doctoral degrees in clinical psychology during the ceremony. Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees were awarded to Monsignor Doyle and Patricia Kelly, SSJ, a member of the Chestnut Hill College board of directors



Monsignor Michael J. Doyle, Ph.D., delivered the commencement address.

for more than 20 years. Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees were awarded to Leona and Nelson Shanks, accomplished artists and the co-founders of Studio Incamminati in Philadelphia.

College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., honored four students with the President’s Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. The award goes to graduates of the School of

Undergraduate Studies who completed eight consecutive semesters at Chestnut Hill College, earned a grade point average of 3.9 or better, and are graduating *summa cum laude*. Receiving the honor were Jacqueline Nevius, Candice Thomason, Tammy Schaaffe, and Patricia Popelak.

Student Lynnette S. Bishop received an honorary Bachelor of Science degree and the Medal of Valor at the ceremony. Despite a life-threatening illness that required hospitalizations and surgeries since she was a small child, Bishop inspired her friends, family, and the College community. She overcame various obstacles in her pursuit of a teaching career, maintaining excellent grades while holding down a job and volunteering her time for children in need. This year, she qualified for membership in *Kappa Delta Epsilon*, the education honors society. Bishop passed away three weeks after commencement, but the example that she set for others — best captured in her commonly used signature, “yours in service” — lives on. 🦁



Former board member Patricia Kelly, SSJ (left) received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Accomplished artists Leona and Nelson Shanks received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

The Class of 2010 proceeds to the ceremony.



>> PHI BETA LAMBDA TEAM SHINES AT NATIONALS



The Little Team
That Could did
it again.

Seven students from the College reached the finals of the *Phi Beta Lambda* National Leadership Conference in July. This marks the fifth consecutive year that the College qualified for nationals — a remarkable achievement for a school of its size.

“Chestnut Hill College has set the standard for smaller colleges in this competition,” said Robert Durney, M.B.A., team advisor and associate professor of business at the College. “Our students are justly proud of their performance.”

The conference, held in Nashville, Tenn., July 9-12, pitted more than 2,000 students from 40 states and featured high-profile schools such as Stanford and UCLA. The following students from the College’s *Phi Beta Lambda* team received awards at the conference:

- Web Site Development [Fifth Place]:
Anitra Babic '10
- Business Ethics [Eighth Place]:
Chris Cordaro '09 and
Bill Gardiner '11
- Sales Presentation [Ninth Place]:
Laura Mraz '11

Durney was particularly gratified to see the team place in the Business Ethics competition for the third time in four years. This was the second time it placed in Web Site Development, the first in Sales Presentation.

Students who received first and second place awards at the *Phi Beta Lambda* Leadership Conference in Harrisburg were eligible to compete at the national conference. *Phi Beta Lambda*, the collegiate chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), is the largest student business leadership organization in the country. 



>> COLLEGE HOSTS SEPCHE FACULTY ART SHOW

The College once again hosted the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE) Faculty Art Show this fall, dazzling attendees with a wide array of creativity. The work of faculty members from the SEPCHE consortium (consisting of Chestnut Hill College, Arcadia University, Cabrini College, Gwynedd-Mercy College, Holy Family University, Rosemont College, Immaculata University, and Neumann University) was displayed from late October through late November in the Dwight V. Dowley Gallery on the fifth floor of St. Joseph Hall. Among the works were paintings from adjunct professor Andrea O’Driscoll, associate professor Margaret Thompson, SSJ, and professor Therese B. McGuire, SSJ. 

>> MUSIC PROFESSOR HONORED BY INDUSTRY GIANT

As far back as he can remember, Ed Strauman, Ph.D., had to have a Yamaha. Recently, Yamaha decided it had to have Ed Strauman.

The piano and keyboard giant endorsed Strauman as an Artist/Educator, an honor it bestows to musicians who represent the elite of their field. Criteria include the artist's loyalty to the brand and his or her teaching credentials.

Strauman submitted an in-depth application, a *curriculum vitae* of academic experience, letters of recommendation, and recordings of his work. Then, he crossed his fingers and waited — and waited — until he received the good news.

Particularly gratifying to Strauman was that the company wanted *him*, not just a name.

“It’s not like I’m [jazz pianist] Keith Jarrett sitting in front of 5,000 people with tons of YouTube uploads,” he said. “I’m in front of maybe 50 people when I perform. [Yamaha] focused on my credentials and who was recommending me for the award. It means a lot that they recognized me and wanted me to be a part of their family.”

Strauman has been an assistant professor at the College for six years, teaching music theory, counterpoint, and orchestration.

He also founded the Jazz Improvisational workshop at the College and has created several new courses and a jazz performance minor.

Meanwhile, Strauman has maintained his successful career as a jazz musician and composer. He has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), among several others, and his recent jazz album, “Just Once More,” drew raves from *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and other media.

In addition to his fondness for Yamaha’s pianos and keyboards, Strauman appreciates that the company educates the public on the positive impact of music on the mind and body through its music and wellness institute. Strauman is no stranger to balancing business and education, which he believes reinforce each other.



Yamaha recently honored Ed Strauman, Ph.D., with its Artist/Educator endorsement.

“Especially in music, professors are expected to have a professional performing career, and students like to hear that you’re active out in the real world,” he said. “But I consider myself an educator first — all of the knowledge I gain enriches me, and it becomes another lesson for me to share with my students.” 🦁

>> GRANT LINKS COLLEGE TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The College recently began the second year of a program that forges mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations.

A Nonprofit Capacity-Building grant from the Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development (PHENND) was awarded to the College to provide free workshops, seminars, and other training sessions to nonprofit staff and leaders from the local community.

“This aligns with our mission of working and living in solidarity with our near and dear neighbors,” said Ryan Murphy, director of service learning. “We get to share the expertise we have here on campus and work collaboratively with organizations in our community that are working to serve their clients — a natural fit.”

The workshops and seminars — in which more than 60 organizations and 110 attendees have participated — are designed to help local organizations serve their unique needs, with a focus on alleviating

poverty and stimulating economic recovery. They are held on campus and presented by College administrators and faculty, Sisters of Saint Joseph, and friends from the community.

Through November, four workshops had been held:

- Volunteer Management Basics
- Effective Communication and Conflict Resolution
- Starting a Nonprofit
- Development 101

Among participating organizations are Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern PA, the Girl Scouts of Eastern PA, Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Morris Arboretum, and the Salvation Army.

While the primary focus of the program is to assist local organizations, the College figures to benefit as well.

“The hope is for these new relationships to translate into community service, service

learning, and internship opportunities for our students,” Murphy said.

The College applied for and received a \$10,000 grant in 2009. The funding was renewed for 2010 and is eligible for renewal in 2011. The grant was one of 36 “Learn and Serve America” government grants for service learning initiatives. The College was among four member schools in the Philadelphia area to receive it, along with the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, and Widener University.

PHENND is a consortium of 36 colleges and universities in the greater Philadelphia area that works to strengthen Philadelphia’s service and service learning communities. It works with its member institutions to find beneficial community-based, service learning partnerships and actively seeks to revitalize local communities and schools as well as foster civic responsibility among the region’s colleges and universities.

For more information, visit www.phennd.org. 🦁



The Quidditch players' enthusiasm was matched by an adoring crowd.

>> MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPEAKS AT THE COLLEGE



Thomas Yun, M.D., director of the Medical Foreign Service and medical director for the U.S. Department of State, presented the lecture “Medicine

in the Foreign Service” on October 27. As the senior medical officer of the State Department and advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Yun is responsible for promoting the health and well being of the American diplomatic community. Prior to the lecture, he met with several students, offering educational and career advice. The lecture was part of the 17th Annual Biomedical Lecture series, directed by Lakshmi Atchison, Ph.D., professor of biology. The series brings renowned members of the science and medical fields to campus to interact with the College community. 🦁

>> QUIDDITCH TEAM FOLLOWS SNITCH FROM CAMPUS TO BIG APPLE

The luscious grounds and gothic architecture of the College made it a fitting host for Quidditch’s first-ever Philadelphia Brotherly Love Cup on October 13. Griffins competed against Quidditch teams from several schools, including Villanova University, Vassar College, the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, and Penn State University.

The competitiveness on the field vowed spectators, as players gave their best effort, including bone-crunching hits and leaps into or over the bleachers, to take home the Cup.

“It was more intense than I expected,” said Tom Weigel ’14.

The on-field contests were, indeed, ferocious, but the rivalries did not extend beyond the field. “We’re all united by our love for the game,” said Sam Meder ’14.

While the action occurred on the field, it was the overall experience that made the event a resounding success. One need only look at the winner of the halftime costume

contest to see that the experience wasn’t limited to the Quidditch pitch. Six-year-old Peter’s mother learned of the Cup on the Internet and brought him, and friends, to enjoy the day. Little did she know that her son would capture the hearts of the crowd by introducing himself with, “I’m dressed as Peter and I’m Harry Potter.” The Villanova Wildcats took the trophy, but on this sunny Saturday, everyone in attendance won.

The College’s Quidditch team then stepped onto the international stage, competing at the fourth annual International Quidditch Association World Cup in New York City on November 13-14. Pitted against more than 740 players from 45 other schools around the country (and cheered on by a busload of classmates), the Griffins fought valiantly but lost to runner-up Tufts University. Their appearance followed third- and fifth-place finishes in the previous two Cups, preserving the team’s rightful place in the annals of the magical game.

–Aizaz Gill ’14 🦁

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Moving Forward

AS ANOTHER ISSUE OF *CHESTNUT HILL* IS LAUNCHED, THERE ARE A

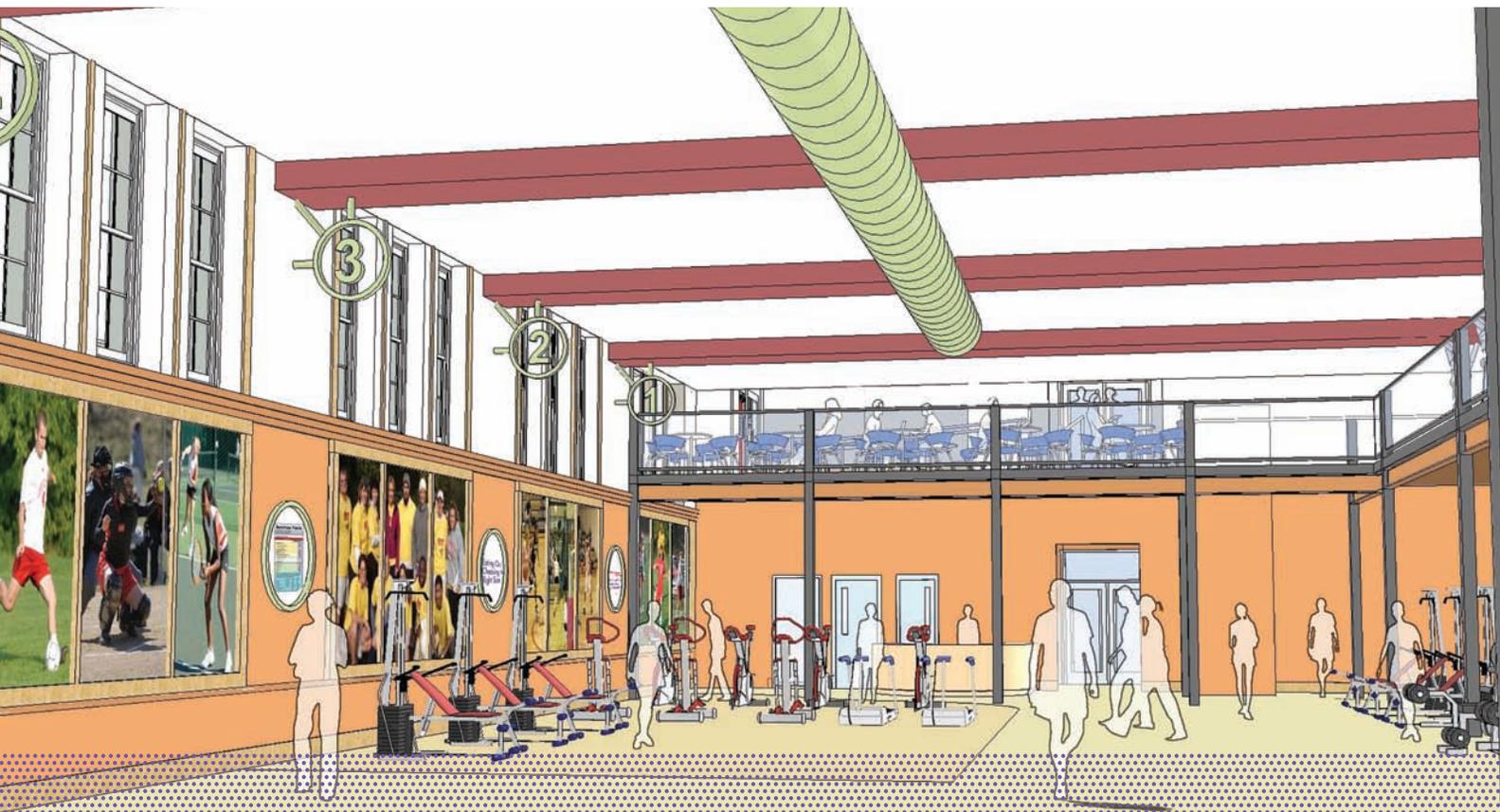
number of capital projects at the College also ready for “lift-off.” Those of you who remember the gymnasium located under Clement Hall will recall its small size and absence of spectator space. Now that Sorgenti Arena is the new home of Griffins’ athletics, this underutilized area offers a new opportunity to meet current and future athletic needs of our students. In addition, final plans are underway to formally welcome the former Greenfield Mansion into the splendid array of Chestnut Hill College buildings.

In keeping with the College’s mission to provide students with a holistic education, the renovation of the old gym into a state-of-the-art fitness center began in December. Under the direction of the Cassacio Architectural firm, the space will be transformed into an exercise haven for all members of the College community. Not only will the original space receive a much needed facelift, but plans also include the addition of a mezzanine level, which will be suspended above the original floor. The mezzanine, installed parallel to the existing windows, will feature a small café, vending machines, and cardio equipment. Located to ensure that natural light will spill onto the floor below, the mezzanine will allow students to look directly out onto a newly landscaped extension of the piazza. This piazza, directly outside Fournier Hall, will match the one already situated between the library and Fontbonne Hall and will be highlighted by a cupola that will serve as an entrance into the fitness center. Scheduled to open in August 2011, the fitness center is generating palpable excitement.

Although the fitness center was originally planned as a part of the proposed campus center, it was determined that, in order to meet the needs of our current students, a larger fitness center is required now. Thus, the space reserved for this purpose in future construction will be designated for other College needs, of which there is no shortage.

The SugarLoaf Mansion has been the site of a few social events over recent months; however, the official dedication will not occur until late spring. The interior decorating nears completion, and the finishing touches have created an environment that emphasizes the elegance and beauty of the building, while presenting an atmosphere that makes guests feel at home. Gracious, tastefully decorated spaces set the tone for conferences and social events. On the second floor, four modern, technology-appointed salons provide classroom and breakout rooms for educational seminars. These rooms are further enhanced by spectacular views of the lawns and woods. Three exquisite chandeliers are appropriated and reflected by several mirrors at the far end of the dining room, enlarging and beautifying an already spacious and lovely room. Panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows on the first floor invite the splendor of the Wissahickon Valley inside and attract the eyes of guests to the lush landscape beyond. A well-proportioned reception room and library on the first floor provide further gracious





Architect renderings depict the extended piazza and fitness center, replete with cutting-edge equipment and a café.

places for visitors to meet, greet, and socialize. Hidden on the top floor is a homey but luxurious hermitage for special guests of the College as well as brides and grooms after a wedding reception. The SugarLoaf Mansion promises to become a destination for upscale corporate and social events.

At this writing, conversations about the proposed Master Plan for the SugarLoaf campus continue with the Chestnut Hill Community Association representatives. It is my hope that the changes to the original plan will be unveiled in the spring issue of *Chestnut Hill*. The excitement that anticipated construction and physical change brings to campus is incalculable. With a continuously growing population of students, it is essential that new academic and social buildings be added to the magnificent structures that dominate this part of Chestnut Hill. We are planning the future of the College and, at the same time, we are celebrating the great success we enjoy in the present. “Our ‘loved Chestnut Hill’” is on the move! 🦋

Sincerely,

Carol Jean Vale, SSJ

Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.
President





GOING

Global

The College welcomed its largest group of international students this fall, enriching its academics, athletics, and community.

THE COLLEGE HAS A NEW FACE.

Fourteen new international students arrived on campus this year, the largest group in school history. There are now 31 international students studying at the College, spread across graduate and undergraduate programs. They hail from all over the globe — Kenya, Germany, Japan, and Spain, to name a few.

Some came for specific degrees, some came for the opportunity to be a student-athlete, and some craved a big-city experience. The common thread is that they all enrich the College community with unique experiences and perspectives.

“It’s so valuable for our students to be rubbing elbows with people from different cultures,” said Cecelia J. Cavanaugh, SSJ, Ph.D., dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies.

“If you can’t put everyone on a plane and send them somewhere, it’s wonderful to provide those experiences here on campus.”

Across U.S. colleges and universities, the number of international students — i.e., foreign-born students here on temporary visas — rose 10 percent to a record high of 671,616 last year, according to the Institute of International Education (IIE). That represents the largest increase since 1981, demonstrating success in the increasingly competitive world of higher education.

“Our campuses offer unparalleled opportunities for creativity, flexibility, and cultural exchange,” said IIE President Allan E. Goodman. “And the [international students’] active engagement in our classes provides American students with valuable skills that will enable them to collaborate across political and cultural borders to address shared global challenges in the years ahead.”

The first thing most people ask international students about is language. Specifically, “How do you study in English?”

Their presence has also lifted the U.S. economy, with international students and their families contributing more than \$18 billion in tuition and living expenses last year. In Pennsylvania alone, they contributed \$820 million. (Since international students don’t qualify for federal or state aid, they pay more out-of-pocket tuition than most U.S. students.)

And the value of international students is expected to keep growing, with the population of U.S. high school students expected to peak by 2012. The hope is that international students will continue to seek the prestige and portability of an American education — and that they’ll want it from the College.

“We’ll continue to add their talent and perspective to our classrooms,” said James McLaughlin, M.S., director of international student services. “They literally globalize our campus.”

CULTURE SHOCK

It was orientation day at the College, and hundreds of students were laughing and dancing at the social. Suddenly, the M.C. said, “Everyone knows what to do now,” and started the music for “The Hokey Pokey.” The American students jumped in. The international students froze.

“You should have seen their faces — they were dumbfounded,” said Sister Cecelia.

While being excluded from a dance isn’t a big deal, it raised a worthwhile question: What else don’t they know about that we take for granted?

“They’re so bright, engaged, and friendly, it’s easy to forget they really are out of their element,” Sister Cecelia said. “We need to be aware that they might be a little more lost than they look.”

Indeed, the United States is a completely different environment than that to which most of the students are accustomed. The first day can be especially trying.

“My mistake was coming in the winter,” said Hannah Campbell ’11, from Jamaica. “I went from 100 degrees in the daytime to 25 degrees in Philadelphia. [McLaughlin] offered to give me a quick tour of campus, and it started snowing. That blew my mind.”

Homesickness is common. Although staying in touch with loved ones is easier these days with social media applications such as Facebook and Skype, it’s not the same as having a support system nearby. Ngoc Nguyen ’13 of Vietnam learned that on her first night at Washington State. By the time she got to campus, the cafeteria was closed, and her dorm room was bare.

“I was cold and scared,” said Nguyen, who has since transferred to Chestnut Hill. “My roommate helped me find some blankets and food, but I remember thinking, ‘Who will help me from now on?’ I needed to learn to take of myself.”

The big-city feel of Philadelphia can overwhelm international students from small towns. On the other side of the spectrum are students like Nastia Shcherbakova ’13, from Minsk, Belarus, a city of two million plus.

“I’m used to being in big crowds, but here I see the same faces every day,” she said. “At first, it was.... ‘Whoah.’ But now I like it — it’s more of a community, like a little island.”

Once they get a lay of the land, international students attempt to socialize — from coexisting in a dorm room with a roommate to cultivating a circle of friends.

“I was terribly homesick the whole first year, but I internalized it,” Campbell said. “I stayed in so much that my roommate called me a hermit. Two years later, I’m still

having issues with assimilating. On a scale of one to ten, I'm at a five."

Part of the challenge is they've had vastly different experiences, culturally and educationally.

"Some of the international students are more versed in the art of conversation and debate, and have more awareness of the world," Sister Cecelia said, "and hopefully they pull our students in those directions."

"But that goes both ways," she added. "[American] students tend to have openness toward others, a realness, that's refreshing. And they're much more likely to have jobs and other responsibilities while they're in school. A lot of international students find that shocking — and impressive."

Observing and learning from American students goes a long way toward building a comfort level for international students. Indeed, some express fear about assimilating *too* well.

"I consider myself so....American now," said Yiqing "Lilia" Miao '11 SGS, who recently bought a house in Glenside and applied for a green card. "When I go back to China, I often feel awkward. I even have trouble writing in Chinese now. How do I hang on to my roots? It's frightening. I hope that when I go back, it'll return to me."

ENSURING PREPAREDNESS

McLaughlin recruits and manages the experiences of international students at the College. Since the school lacks the resources of larger institutions and the means to establish a consistent recruiting presence overseas, he honed an alternative recruiting strategy: forging relationships with community colleges to attract transfer students to the College.

"It's a natural fit for us to recruit people who are already acclimated to America," he said.

The College partnered with several area schools, including Montgomery County Community College and the Community College of Philadelphia, each boasting hundreds of international students. McLaughlin interacts with their admissions and advising staff with the hope that they'll recommend the College to students seeking a full-time degree. The athletics department and its coaches also keep an eye on rising talent at community and four-year schools.

It's working — 10 of the 14 new international students this year transferred to the College. That benefits the College in several ways. Because the students have already been in America, they tend to be proficient in English. They're also less likely to need housing, more accustomed to living apart from family, and more familiar with the Philadelphia area.

The College's location on the East Coast, between New York City and Washington, D.C., is a big selling point. Another is that the College has become an attractive destination for Fulbright scholars, two of whom are enrolled. Adding a master's degree program in International Business, Language, and Culture (IBLC) is another draw, and students are increasingly interested in the graduate psychology program. The College's history as a women's-only institution also tends to appeal to female students, its campus security and safety to parents.

Once a student applies to the College, McLaughlin maintains an open line of communication. He pores over their documentation and the latest government regulations to assure compliance. Once the students arrive, he becomes a catch-all for issues that arise — everything from an impromptu English lesson to helping them open a bank account.

>> Among international student-athletes boosting the College's programs is Manuel Cenicerros '14 of Mexico.



The main goal, however, is to ensure and sustain their academic preparedness and positive life experience. Everyone at the College is responsible for that, and McLaughlin notes the “supportive, close-knit environment” as a major plus. To help the community best serve its group of international students, he presented two informational sessions in the fall, explaining who the students are, how they benefit the College, and what they need to thrive.

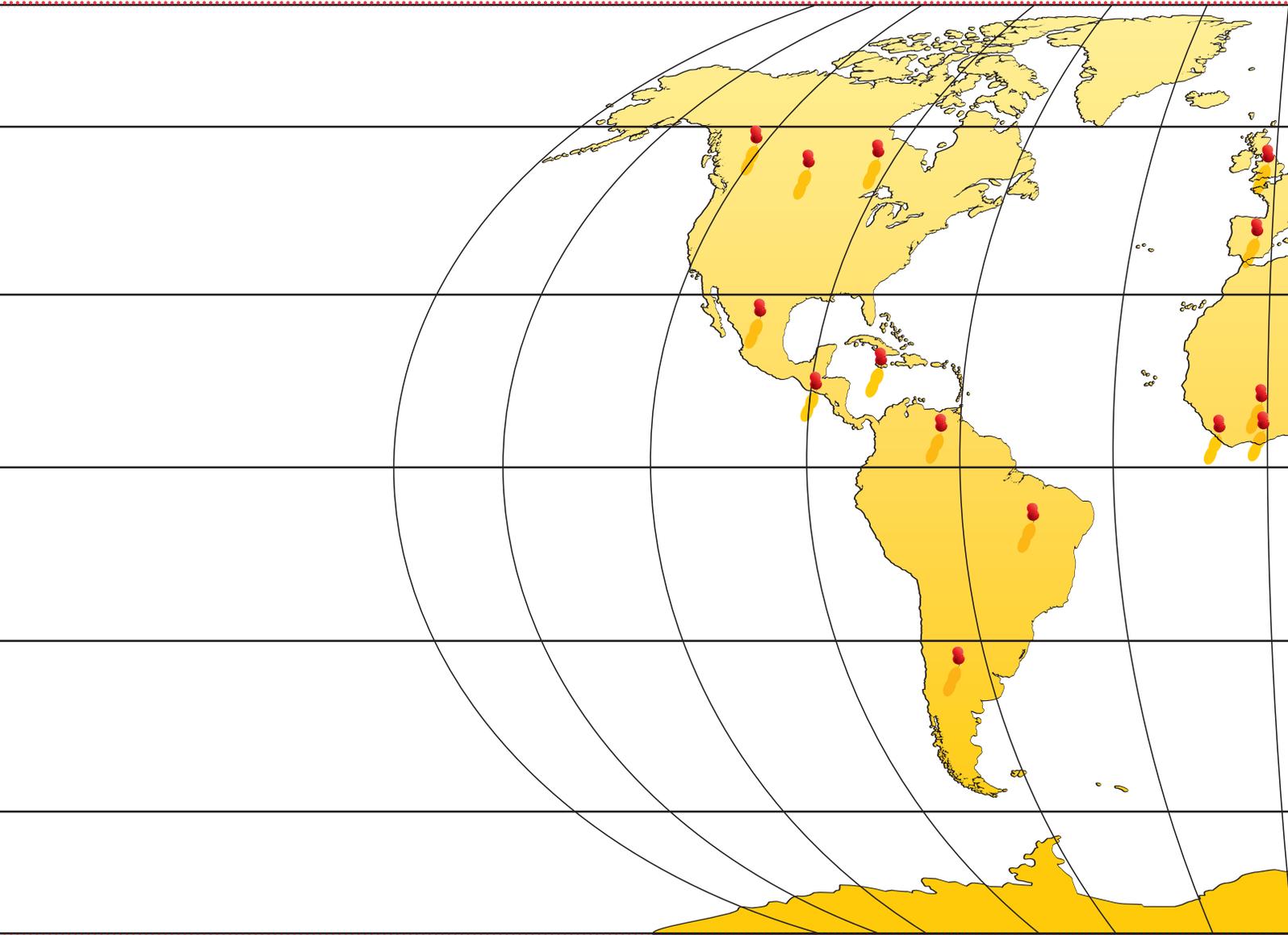
“The big thing is to recognize these are individuals with unique experiences,” McLaughlin said. “They aren’t any one thing, and a lot of our assumptions aren’t true.”

AN UNSPOKEN BARRIER

The first thing most people ask international students about is language. Specifically, “How do you study in English?”

The students must, of course, speak fluent English to study here. If they’re proficient in English, they head directly into a degree program. If not, their higher education

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE



experience begins with English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction.

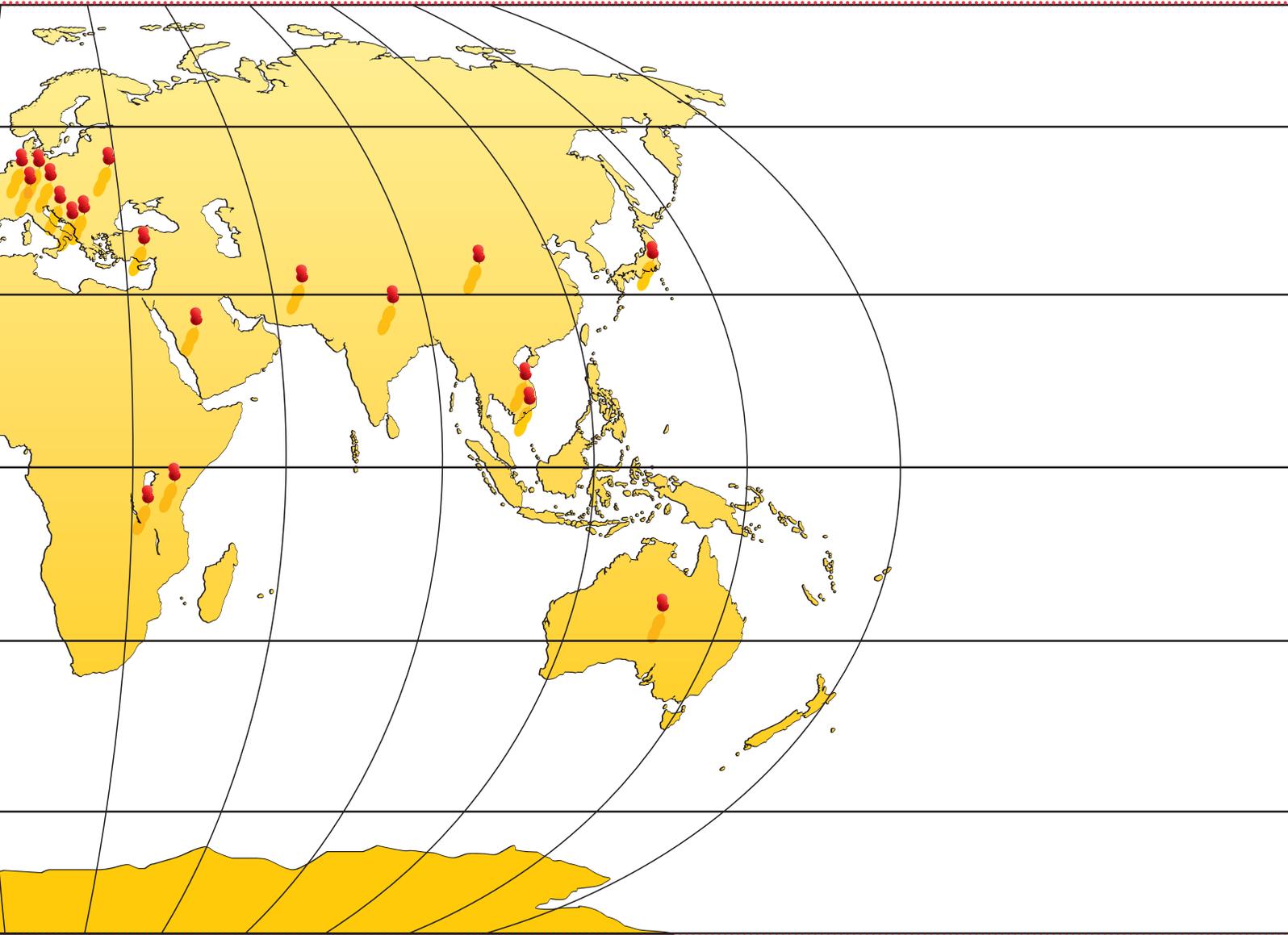
Lacking an intensive ESL program, the College made a concerted effort to partner with schools such as Drexel, Harcum, and St. Joseph's that offer them, hoping that their students would eventually consider enrolling at the College.

"I feel much better about their chances for success if I know they've been in that type of a program," McLaughlin said. "We do our best to evaluate English proficiency, but they can still struggle when they get here."

Especially at first. Several students recalled challenging first weeks (or months). It's one thing to speak English, another to write and think in it.

"My first semester was terrible — I didn't know any English at all," Mario Gutierrez '12 said of his first year at Tennessee Tech. "I mostly stuck to a group of kids from Spain."

AFGHANISTAN • ARGENTINA • AUSTRALIA • BELARUS • BRAZIL • BURKINA FASO • CANADA (3) • CHINA • CROATIA • CZECH REPUBLIC • EL SALVADOR • GERMANY (3) • GHANA
JAMAICA • JAPAN • KENYA • LIBERIA • MEXICO • MONTENEGRO • NEPAL • SAUDI ARABIA • SERBIA • SPAIN • TANZANIA • TURKEY • U.K. • VENEZUELA • VIETNAM (2)



Uros Kovacevic '12 of Montenegro came to the College with solid English skills. He still had some academic difficulty, however, and carried a dictionary to look words up on the fly.

"It's one thing to have homework," Kovacevic said, "another to have to translate the assignment enough to understand it before you can actually start to work on it."

If an international student has a thick accent, it also challenges classmates. Faculty members work to facilitate understanding, however, so that insights are not lost.

"You hate to paraphrase what they say, but sometimes I'll try to just game things a little to make sure their viewpoints come across," said Jacqueline Reich, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science.

The language barrier can also strain one's social life. It's difficult to join conversations filled with slang and cultural idioms, and to get used to being immediately classified as *different*.

"I kept getting, 'Where are you from, Africa?'" Campbell said. "So I adjusted my speech a little to blend in. I still limit social interactions more than I should, but I don't always want to feel like I have to perform. I still haven't really learned how to act, so to speak."

Although Gutierrez has come a long way with English, his accent can still confuse friends and classmates. But he sees a silver lining.

"A lot of people tell me they like my accent," he said. "They urge me to never lose it."

Added Kovacevic: "Many times, my accent is the reason someone comes up to talk to me."

"A FRESH PERSPECTIVE"

Generally, the international students say they felt well prepared for higher education when they arrived in America. The workload — including what felt to some like an avalanche of writing assignments — was another story. The amount of interaction between professors and students and the possibility of being called on in class out of the blue vexed those accustomed to a strict lecture format, and the much looser class environment surprised several students.

"I went to an extremely formal all-girls school, and when teachers came in, we stood up to greet them," Campbell said. "Here, teachers try to reach you on a personal level. That made me really nervous at first, so I tried to stay out of view. But that doesn't really work."

"In China, it's very uptight — you sit and you listen," added Miao. "Sometimes, we even had to cross our arms. Here, the students were much more laid back. That was so strange to me at first. I would fake my body language to seem relaxed."

From a faculty perspective, the challenge is to glean the international students' insights without putting them on the spot.

"They don't have to suddenly become Mr. Sudan or Ms. Italy," Reich said. "But many students are quite willing to share from their backgrounds, and it's wonderful for me and the rest of the class."

One is Kovacevic, who relishes opportunities to share his perspective on European history.

"Students here are more open — they want to impact the class," he said. "We didn't do much of that back home."

Added Miao: "I bring a fresh perspective to my Role of Culture and Gender class, in particular. They're amazed at some of the things that I share. Shocked, even. But whether they approve of it or not, they appreciate hearing it."

These perspectives are especially valuable in global studies (a requirement at the College) and international relations classes.

"We teach that we're becoming increasingly interconnected," Reich said, "and having someone in the classroom from another country makes the point right away. Here's someone who's seen and lived it."

International students can also bring a different mindset to class — one of maximizing educational opportunity. Whether it's choosing the most internationally marketable major or painstakingly devising a course schedule to earn an extra minor, they tend to view their educations as an opportunity, not a birthright, several staff and faculty members noted.

"The ones who come here do tend to be on a mission," Sister Cecelia said. "And that can't help but rub off on other students."

EAGER TO COMPETE

Growing up, Gutierrez never even thought of pursuing higher education in America. One day at a tennis tournament in Spain, however, he was approached by a recruiter and offered a scholarship.

"It was a chance I had to take," Gutierrez said. "I was ready."

While playing for Tennessee Tech, he was recruited by Albert Stroble, head tennis coach and assistant director of athletics, to play for the College. Impressed by the College's amenities and eager for a big-city feel, Gutierrez accepted.

"My friends would be amazed at the facilities we have here," he said. "They give us everything we need. We travel, and we have good coaches. They don't have that in Spain."

Gutierrez is one of several new Griffins who said they wouldn't have been able to play a sport while attending college back home. Some would have had to pay out of their own pocket to compete, others found the distance between school and playing fields impractical.

Another draw is top-flight competition, offering students the chance to raise their games. All of these factors translate to a high commitment level.

"They're here for a purpose," said Stroble, who was instrumental in recruiting several of the international students. "You see it in their everyday actions, and it's good for our students to see that. They start to get in line with it, leading to success on and off the court."

Although athletes face the same hurdles of a new language and homesickness, they benefit from an immediate support structure.

"The lacrosse team is one big family," said Shane Morlock '13, of Canada. "Right away, I had 35 friends who had my back."

"If I didn't play a sport, I don't how I would have made it," added Gutierrez.

The one time when homesickness becomes a real problem is around the holidays, when American students typically head home. But even that has proven beneficial — student-athletes have taken to bringing their international teammates with them, forging bonds.

As has been the case in the classroom and community, the presence of international students has enriched athletics at the College. Don't expect that to change anytime soon — the mutual benefit is boundless.

"The more successful we are in our programs, the more successful these kids are on and off the court, the more successful we'll be in attracting them here," Stroble said. "I already have kids trying to recruit their friends to come here." 🦁



James McLaughlin, M.S. (left) recruits and manages the experiences of international students such as Hannah Campbell '11 and Mario Gutierrez '12.

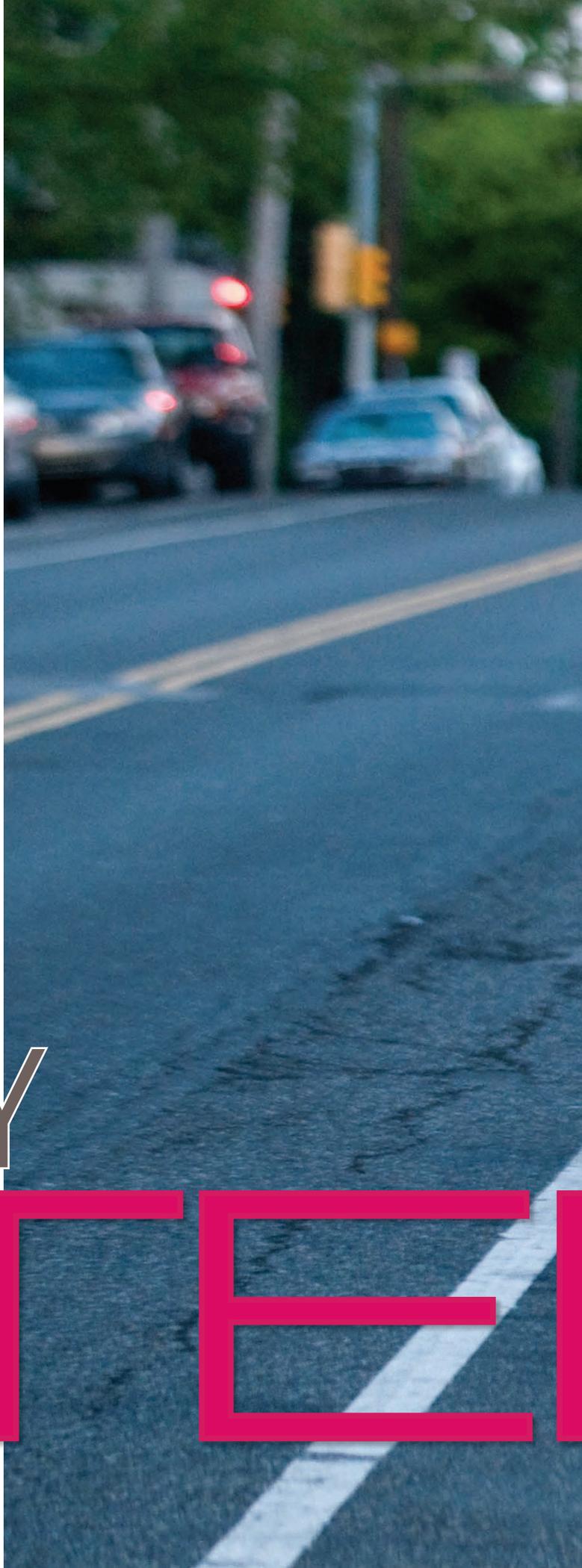
IT'S 5:45 A.M. ON A DARK AND
dreary weekday, but you wouldn't know it
from the faces of the DePaul House runners.

One by one they arrive, cheerfully greeting
and hugging their teammates. They take a
spot in the circle to stretch. But mostly they
chit chat and laugh, their breath visible in
the cold air. Then they join hands in prayer.

*"Who woke us this morning? God.
God, grant us the serenity to accept the
things we cannot change, the courage to
change the things that we can, and the
wisdom to know the difference. God's will,
not ours, be done. Amen."*

*Students and staff of the College are
participating in an inspiring program that
promotes the self-sufficiency and confidence
of the homeless through running.*

STEP BY STEP





P



At the conclusion of the prayer, some of the runners holler and clap their hands. As if on cue, the sun rises, and they're off, running together down Chelton Avenue. The fastest runners that day stand at the finish line to clap and shout encouragement for their teammates. When they're all accounted for, they walk together as a family toward the rest of their days.

These thrice-weekly, pre-dawn runs are organized by the nonprofit organization Back on My Feet (BOMF), which uses running as a vehicle to help homeless persons build confidence and move forward with their lives.

"Running a half marathon won't get you out of a homeless shelter," said Owen Camuso, BOMF program director. "But the discipline and self-confidence you gain through running can."

The DePaul House team features a mix of students and staff from the College, professionals from the community,

and temporary residents of the DePaul House shelter — but don't bother trying to guess who's who. Every runner is an equal, a member of a family that offers encouragement every step of the way.

"This team pushes me to push myself," said Cora Mahon '11. "I know that regardless of how tired, cranky, or cold I am, I'll leave all of my stresses and problems in the car and step into a circle of smiling people offering hugs and genuine care for my well being."

Once word of the program got out last year, more and more students, including athletes from various teams, and staff from the College got involved — early wake-up call be damned.

"Hey, who needs sleep?" asked Colleen Tozer '10, who began running last fall and is now DePaul team leader. "Here I get my workout finished early while doing something good for others. My teammates are just awesome — I have a second family."

"A BEAUTIFUL METAPHOR"

The Back on My Feet organization began organically, thanks to founder and president Anne Mahlum's morning jogs through center city Philadelphia. She regularly ran by a homeless shelter and noticed the men on the corner. What began as smiles and waves became friendlier as Mahlum and the men built a rapport. One morning, an idea popped into her head: What if running could help the homeless? She pitched the idea to the staff of the shelter and before long, the city's first homeless running club took to the streets.

Mahlum founded BOMF in Philadelphia in 2007, and it has since opened chapters in Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. It does not offer food or shelter, but rather provides a community that embraces equality, respect, discipline, teamwork, and leadership.

"Running is such a beautiful metaphor for life," Mahlum said. "Life is all about choosing different roads, and [BOMF]

teaches the importance of choosing roads filled with opportunity, hope, and happiness.”

The BOMF Web site makes it clear that the organization has no place for stereotypes or stigmas: “All members, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or education, join together to move their lives and the lives of their teammates forward.”

Running teams consist of homeless persons who are staying in transitional shelters such as the DePaul House and non-residential members who volunteer their time.

BOMF staff meets with shelters to see whether the program would be a good fit there. If so, they recruit residents interested in giving running a try.

“Some are experienced runners, some can only *walk* a mile,” Camuso said, “but we ask all to commit to the goal of improving their running and life skills.”

Runners sign a dedication contract and put their goals in writing. They must then spend a minimum of 30 consecutive days living at one of BOMF’s partner shelters and run a

“I know that regardless of how tired, cranky, or cold I am, I’ll leave all of my stresses and problems in the car and step into a circle of smiling people offering hugs and genuine care for my well being.”

minimum of three times a week at 5:45 a.m. After two months of steady participation in this living/running program, members are enrolled in job training programs and offered educational assistance via BOMF’s partner organizations in the community.

Members who follow through on their commitments earn grant money to use toward something such as first-month’s rent in a home of their own.

“The goal is to move them out of the shelter when they’re ready, and to make sure they can make it out on their own,” Camuso said. “We do everything we can to help them

achieve it, but it’s not free — our members earn everything they get through their attitude, commitment, teamwork, respect, and perseverance.”

The program is working. Last year, more than 120 participants found jobs, moved out of a facility, and/or went back to school. At the DePaul House alone, one member recently joined the Army, another found work as a certified nursing assistant, and another signed a lease to his own apartment. And since the program’s inception, more than 55 members have run a half or full marathon.





A LINK TO THE COMMUNITY

A regular participant in community service projects at the College and in the greater community, Mahon kept seeing the same faces of student volunteers. She decided to create a school club, “LINK,” to attract a wider segment of the student population and reinvigorate the concept of community service.

In November 2009, Mahon attended a leadership conference at Drexel University and drew “immense inspiration” from the presentation of a BOMF director. She asked

how the College could get involved and before long, Mahon and other students were running at DePaul House in Mount Airy, a few miles from campus.

“I quickly fell in love with the program — the idea of what it stood for and what it did for people,” Mahon said. “And I hoped other students would feel what I did as a part of the BOMF family.”

The College community responded, making what Camuso deemed a “huge impact” on the program.

“College students, in particular, bring high energy and personality to our program,” he said. “That’s vital to getting our members moving. Because once they get moving, it’s easier for them to keep going.”

The teams function as families, with members counting on volunteers to show up each morning. They’ve been known to call BOMF staff if they haven’t seen a particular volunteer in a while. And, as Tozer learned in March, they hold volunteers to their word.

“I promised [a residential member] I’d run a race with him, and he told our team leader



[at the time] that if I didn't show, he wasn't running," Tozer said. "When he saw me approach the registration table, it made his day."

Indeed, key to BOMF's success is residential members placing their faith in volunteers.

"The homeless have to gain trust in someone before they can move their lives forward, and our student volunteers seem to forge bonds more quickly," Camuso said. "And it goes both ways — our members want to give back. They'll say to me, 'I want to tell this young person about mistakes

I made in my life, so that maybe they can avoid them.'"

In urging more members of the College community to get involved with BOMF, Mahon and Tozer stress the value of meeting persons from all walks of life; the perspective one gains on different populations, and the effect that can have on their presumptions of the homeless.

"They're not lining up at a soup kitchen, they're not filling out forms for food stamps or welfare — they're out here running,"

Mahon said. "They lace up their running shoes, they stretch, and they try to beat their own records. They sweat like I sweat, they cramp up as I cramp up, and they cross the finish line with just as big of a proud smile as I do."

For information on Back on My Feet or to get involved, visit www.backonmyfeet.org or call 215-772-1080. 

Helly (third from left) and her classmates at Bigwa Secondary School, to which students from the College recently traveled.





TEACHABLE

Moments

The primary objective of the trip to Tanzania was to teach others, but students from the College returned with some valuable lessons.

by Jarreau Freeman '11

IT WAS EARLY EVENING IN EAST AFRICA,

and the sky was a robin's egg blue. As I sat on the steps in front of my classroom, I was captivated by the beautiful display before me. Many of the palm trees that surrounded me glistened in the soft fading light, and I remained awed by the mere fact that I was in Africa. As I listened to the soft hum of Helen's voice, I could not believe how quickly this 18-year-old girl, whom I barely knew, became vulnerable enough to share her story with me. Tears gently fell down her beautiful mocha-colored skin as she spoke of her determination to educate herself so she could help better the lives of her fellow Tanzanians. Her eyes burned with devotion and passion for something that I have so readily received since I was a little girl — an education.

There I sat, this privileged American college student trying to empathize with her struggles. I began to ponder why I decided to take this journey to Tanzania. In the beginning, coming to Tanzania meant an opportunity for me to expand my cultural horizons, an escape from my ordinary life, and a chance to finally get a stamp in my passport. As I continued to listen to Helen's story, I realized that this trip was becoming far more than an excuse to travel. My eyes were opening. My Chestnut Hill College education suddenly seemed so much more valuable to me than it has been in the past. I was surrounded by young women who were vigorously fighting for a future that a good education could promise.



Students from the College assisted high school students with their English skills.

Helen, who was affectionately called Helly by many of her classmates, was one of the students I had the privilege of teaching for the two weeks I spent in Tanzania. She possessed a huge but delicate smile that broke across her face whenever she spoke about her family, which resided in nearby Dar es Salaam.

As we sat on the steps and inhaled the sticky-sweet African air, Helly described what she wanted to do with her precious education. "I want to work with society, advising people on different matters," she said. "I want to be a counselor. I want to do this because there are a lot of people in our country being misadvised." In the rural areas of Tanzania, many families marry their daughters off to collect the bride price. Some need the money to purchase life-sustaining necessities such as food. Other families are, however, influenced by local men who want their daughters for their own pleasure. The families willingly give their daughters over to these men for

selfish gain. Many of the girls are very young, become pregnant, and are forced into prostitution. "I want to advise these young girls on how to overcome their struggles," Helly said, "and encourage our elders to not make these choices for their daughters."

I often do not know what I want to do with the rest of my day, let alone lifetime. I believe that is one of the reasons why Helly and I got along so well. She made me realize that my life should be driven by a purpose and that everything I do should be in pursuit of that purpose. For 18 years of age, she was incredibly wise. I admired that about her.

Attending Bigwa Secondary School in Morogoro, Tanzania meant that Helly was inching closer and closer to achieving her dream of becoming a counselor, and Helly realized that. In the middle of the afternoon, after classes had ended, I would find many of the

students jumping rope, laughing, giggling, talking with the other team members, or singing and dancing. However, I would usually find Helly crawled up in a corner of an empty classroom with her notebook, studying for her exams. I would urge her to come out and take a walk around the school with me, or come and join the group that had gathered to play a game. Helly would almost always decline, insisting that her studies were most important.

At first, I could not understand why an 18-year-old girl would rather study than spend time enjoying the day. But I would soon learn that students in Tanzania had to work extremely hard to be successful. In primary school, all subjects are taught in Swahili, which is the universal language in Tanzania. Once students reach secondary school, many of their subjects are taught in English, and their main examinations are administered in English. This places a handicap on their education, and students have to learn how to speak and write English well enough so they can go to a university. For many students, this is a great struggle, for English is not their first or second language but a fourth or fifth. Many students speak two tribal languages, a regional language, Swahili, and then English.

Helly spoke English beautifully, but writing it was a struggle. There would be moments during class where I would assign to my students an essay to write, or grammar exercises, and I could feel Helly's quiet frustration fill the air. But she never gave up. She would absorb all of my comments, criticisms, and explanations like an African daisy soaks up the sun's rays. If she struggled with a grammar exercise, she would ask for more work just like it until she grasped it.

I never knew what zealous determination looked like until I met Helly. I was stirred by her work ethic and ashamed of my own. When something becomes difficult in one of my classes, I have the habit of panicking. I often want to give up. Not Helly. She worked until she was satisfied that she knew the information to the best of her ability. To see someone push so hard to understand the difference between a sentence and a fragment, and to watch her attempt to master subject-verb agreement in her essays, was akin to witnessing a baptism. It was a refreshing, beautiful display of surrendering to the task at hand.



The tutoring sessions were often challenging, but the American and Tanzanian students found time to get to know one another and unwind.



BIGWA

SISTERS' SEC, SCHOOL.

“Receiving an education at Bigwa is important so that I can go to a university,” Helly said. “My family is depending on me, and receiving an education is important so that I will be able to know a lot of things and not be lazy. Being educated will help me counsel and help the people I will work with. Also, education is important to me because the world is one big global village. If I am not educated, I will not be able to communicate with the world.”

One thing that struck me about Helly is that she is not driven by selfish ambitions, but seeks to use her education as a way to better herself in order to help others. In education, in community, and in spirit, Tanzania, and its people by extension, are giving and selfless.

If anything, I learned that educational advancements, future goals, and dreams all reap little reward if not done to help others.

Working with Helly in Tanzania provided teachable moments for me as well. I came home with a far better appreciation of how valuable my education is to me, even if I experience frustrating moments when my course load seems overwhelming or when I have a difficult paper to write. More importantly, Helly taught me about perseverance and willpower when facing difficult situations. I will remember Helly and the challenges that lie ahead of her, viewing the short time I spent in Tanzania as a stepping stone toward a life of helping and caring for others. 🦁

AN INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY OF

Spirit

by Ryan Dougherty

The first leg of the journey to Tanzania was students from Chestnut Hill, Rosemont College, and Marywood University getting to know one another. A three-day retreat was scheduled over Christmas break, but it didn't take nearly that long to forge a bond.

"Within half an hour, we were a team," said Marie A. Conn, Ph.D., professor of religious studies at the College. "The interaction was amazing. You couldn't tell which students were from which schools. And that continued throughout the entire experience — an incredible generosity of spirit, good humor, and sincerity."

Accompanying Conn, the trip advisor, from Chestnut Hill were Altair Stephens '10, Ally Antonini '11, and Jarreau Freeman '11. The trip fell under the umbrella of the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC), in which Sisters from the College and other local schools work to boost the leadership and computer skills of Sisters from Africa. Their objective was to assist the high school students at Bigwa Secondary School in Morogoro with their English skills — a vital proficiency for Tanzanian students.

Learning English as a Second Language (ESL) is always a challenge, but the group found that it's especially daunting to students for whom English is often a fourth or fifth language.

"Swahili sounds the way it looks," Conn said, "whereas with English, we would start an exercise and then try to figure out a way to explain all of the exceptions to the rules."

The language lessons went both ways, however. Bigwa students eagerly taught the Americans some Swahili. Before long, they were singing the Tanzanian national anthem together — one example of the American group immersing itself in the local culture and history.



Marie A. Conn, Ph.D., Ally Antonini '11, Altair Stephens '10, and Jarreau Freeman '11.

"From the moment we got off of the plane, our students spent virtually all of their free time with the [Bigwa] students," Conn said. "They played with them, sang with them, laughed with them, and learned from them. It was wonderful."

The trip was not without its difficulties for the Americans, however. Among them: enduring grueling flights and bus rides, living in a cramped hostile, adjusting to sweltering heat and humidity, and subsisting on new and exotic types of food. But being exposed to the extreme poverty of Morogoro was the most jarring.

"It was pretty intense — a real immersion to poverty the likes of which even I had never seen," Conn said. "But it only increased the students' will to do what they could to help in their small way.

"This was service learning in the truest sense," she added, "and it put our students in touch with the mission of the College." 🦁

Save The Date

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011
COCKTAILS AND DINNER

Chestnut Hill College strives to keep a college education rooted in Catholic values within reach for students and families. Now, more than ever, academic scholarships play a crucial role in the pursuit of higher education. Scholarships ensure that the brightest, most dedicated students have access to the excellent educational opportunities Chestnut Hill College offers, regardless of their economic background. Your participation and generosity directly affects these students and the communities they serve after graduation.

Please join us at the second Annual Scholarship Gala at Chestnut Hill College.

Interested in learning more or joining the Gala committee? Contact Nicole Minardi at 215.753.3692 or minardin@chc.edu.



CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE { *Annual*
Scholarship

Gala



GRIFFINS SPORTS

www.CHC.edu/Athletics

WOMEN'S TENNIS OVERCOMES INEXPERIENCE, REACHES POSTSEASON

Scanning a roster of all first-years and sophomores, women's tennis coach Albert Stroble saw plenty of talent. The only question was how hard the players were willing to work.

They answered it emphatically, becoming the latest in the string of teams at the College to reach the Central Athletic Collegiate Conference (CACC) playoffs. Although the Griffins lost in the semifinals, they finished the season 8-6 overall and 5-3 in conference, improvements of six and three games, respectively, over last season.

"That's a great sign," Stroble said of the Griffins' rise in just their fourth CACC season. "In previous years, we struggled against the more competitive teams, but we have better players now. They're starting to believe in the plan, and we've quickly become a force to be reckoned with."

Key to the Griffins' success was its one-two punch of Nastia Shcherbakova '13 and Kelly Dennis '14. Shcherbakova transferred from West Virginia Wesleyan College, where she won the conference's rookie of the year award. Among her achievements at number-one singles was an upset victory that vaulted her to the semifinals of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) East Regional Tournament.

Dennis, the daughter of a tennis coach, excelled at number-two singles. She and Shcherbakova combined to win 22 of 26 singles matches and developed into a formidable doubles pairing. From the first few days of practice, they forged a friendly rivalry.



Kelly Dennis '14 and Nastia Shcherbakova '13 (inset) combined to win 22 of 26 singles matches.

"We love playing against each other, and our sets are always really close," Dennis said. "We push each other to be our best."

That competitive spirit rubbed off on other teammates, including Maria Parapouras '13, who won all 12 of her matches at third singles and, according to Stroble, would be a number one for a lot of other teams.

Also integral to the team was the player voted its captain, Danielle Knott '13. Stroble credits her with teaching the newcomers what it meant to play at the college level, whether it's balancing the

sport with their school work or competing against deeper, more talented lineups.

The Griffins will return to the court in March to play the Hilton Head (S.C.) Invitational and a few other matches. Beyond that, the team has its sights set on a CACC championship.

"We still have two more seasons to show what we can do together," Shcherbakova said with a smile. "We're eager to go further, and we're willing to do what it takes to be the best." 🦅

DRAMATIC VICTORY FUELS MEN'S SOCCER PLAYOFF PUSH



Key to the Griffins' success this season was team chemistry.

The men's soccer team didn't need extra motivation for its match with Post University during Family Weekend, following last year's 5-0 shellacking by the Eagles. But the large and enthusiastic home crowd upped the ante.

First-year head coach Keith Cappo and his assistants had devised a strong game plan, which the players executed for 86 scoreless minutes. Finally, Ryan Lannutti '13 found Gavin Reid '12 for a dramatic game winner.

"Any time you score a winning goal late, it's exciting," Cappo said. "But to do it against

a team like Post in front of an amazing crowd made it a great win."

It was a moment the Griffins had been building toward since the spring. Intent on improving upon last year's 3-12-2 record, they committed to an intense offseason of physical and technical training.

"Our captains and coaches made it a point to bring the team together to build the chemistry we needed," said goalkeeper Michael Goldstein '13. "Returning players stepped up into leadership roles, and the new guys matured quickly."

The Griffins began the season 8-4, before stumbling in a few matches they expected to win. But a team meeting helped them to regain refocus and advance to the Central Athletic Collegiate Conference (CACC) playoffs. Although the Griffins lost in the first round, their future is bright.

"Our goal now is to win the conference," Goldstein said. "We proved that we can play with anyone."

This year will be fondly remembered for both the men's and women's soccer teams thriving in their fourth CACC seasons. A highlight was both teams cracking the Top 10 of the Division II East Regional rankings.

"That was a huge moment," Cappo said. "I'll always remember the day we found out, with the players all checking their phones. It's special to be mentioned among the top programs in Division II."

The women's team finished 14-4-2 and reached the playoffs for the second straight year. The Griffins beat Dominican College — which eliminated them last year — in the first round before dropping a 2-1 match in the semifinals. 

COLLEGE AWARDED STRATEGIC ALLIANCE MATCHING GRANT

The College was recently selected as one of eight National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II institutions to receive a Strategic Alliance Matching Grant. The grant allows the College to expand the athletics department with a new position, Assistant Director of Athletics for Academic Success and Community Engagement.

"We're very excited for the opportunity to add this position," said Lynn Tubman, director of athletics and recreation. "It will directly improve the academic and social development of our student-athletes."

Appointed to the position was Nikki Lockhart, recently the graduate assistant for academic and student-athlete support services at her *alma mater*, Fairleigh Dickinson University, where she helped to ensure that student-athletes fulfilled academic requirements.

Under the direction of Tubman, Lockhart will develop an academic advising structure for student-athletes and boost the College's involvement in the NCAA's Community Engagement Program. Other duties will include counseling student-athletes on academic goals and concerns and serving as a liaison between the athletic department and academic advising center.

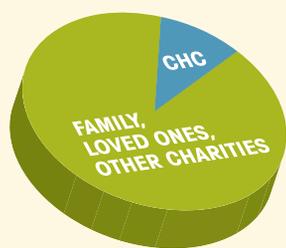
The Strategic Alliance Matching Grant was created in 2002 to provide funding for institutions and conference offices to enhance existing or establish new full-time administrative positions. Grant recipients (almost 60 since the program's inception) receive funding for three years, with the NCAA funding 75 percent of the position during the first year, 50 percent the second year, and 25 percent the third year. Recipients must maintain the position for at least two years after that, preferably incorporating the position into their ongoing operations. 

LEAVING YOUR

Legacy

FOR AS LITTLE AS

5%



Making a provision in your will for Chestnut Hill College, for as little as five percent (5%) of your estate, is a simple process that will have a profound impact on the experience that future generations will have when they attend the College.

Just think, you can provide for the future of the College and not impact your current cash flow. By naming CHC as a beneficiary for only a small portion of your estate, you still can provide for your family and loved ones as well as other charities.

Making a bequest has many advantages that are important to keep in mind as you make your estate plans:

- **Simplicity** – Just a few sentences in your will complete the gift.
- **Versatility** – Of course, you can bequeath a specific amount of money, or a particular item or piece of property. However, most individuals prefer to donate a percentage of the remainder of their estate.
- **Tax-Smart** – Your estate gift to Chestnut Hill College helps to remove assets from your estate.
- **Revocability** – Until your will goes into effect, you may make changes at any time.

For more information on including Chestnut Hill College in your estate planning, please contact Mary Theresa Shevland, SSJ, in the Office of Planned Giving at 215.753.3617 or shevlandm@chc.edu.

www.planyourlegacy.com

ALUMNI LINK

www.CHCgriffinonline.com



>>NEWS & NOTES FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR'S DESK

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INTRODUCES NEW BYLAWS, DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES

The 2010-11 year ushered in significantly revised Alumni Association bylaws, which resulted from two years of research, meetings, and discussion by the Bylaws Committee. "More meaningful activity and committees now replace those that really don't have any impact," says **Joanne Fink '76 (art history)**, committee chair and Association past president, with specific focus on measurable outcomes. While the new Outreach Committee offers the umbrella structure to various activities and events coordinated by several alums, the Recruitment & Retention Committee concentrates on attracting and retaining quality undergraduate students to the College. A pilot program launched in Monmouth County, N.J., with an information session on November 14 for alums, prospective students, and their parents.

Kathleen O'Boyle '84 (English), '97 SGS (technology in education) succeeds **Patricia Cholewinski Nicholson '70 (English)** as Association president in a term that now lasts three years rather than two. **Mary Ann Stahl Patton '87 (psychology)** was elected vice president, and **Margaret Moran '67 (English)**, secretary. These officers join Nicholson as past president and directors **Nancy Day Kelley, Ph.D. '71 (history)**, **Cecelia Englebert Passanza '87 (American Studies)**, and **Teri Meniketti Wiedeman-Rouse '05 SGS (elementary education)** in either elected two-year or appointed one-year at-large terms.

Visit www.CHCgriffinonline.com and click **Alumni Association** for links to the 2010-11 Alumni Association board of directors, bylaws, and committees.



Members of the Alumni Association board of directors attending Breakfast With Santa: Patricia M. Canning '70 (ex-officio, director of alumni relations), Cecelia Englebert Passanza '87, Kathleen O'Boyle '84, '97 SGS (president), Margaret Moran '67, Mary Ann Stahl Patton '87, Maryanne L. Walsh '98, '02 SGS, Nancy Day Kelley, Ph.D. '71, Jo Marie Victor '04 SCPS, and Teri Meniketti Wiedeman-Rouse '05 SGS.

SANTA JOINS ALUMS FOR BREAKFAST AT NEW HOLIDAY EVENT

More than 175 alumni with children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, young neighbors — and alums who are simply young at heart — enjoyed Breakfast With Santa, on Sunday, December 5, in the Fournier Hall Social Room. This new event coordinated by the Alumni Association Outreach Committee featured a buffet breakfast presented during two timed seatings. Children also created their own tree ornaments and enjoyed holiday tunes. Alumni of all Schools of the College who live within a 45-mile radius received an invitation in late October to a weekend of Christmas holiday festivities that also included the annual Holiday Cheer following Carol Night and two performances of the Christmas Concert. Those outside this area were invited to visit www.CHCgriffinonline.com/Santa for details. (Turn to page 40 for photos from the event.) 



64TH ANNUAL REUNION WEEKEND TO TEST CLUSTER CLASSES CONCEPT



Traditional undergraduate classes ending in 1 and 6 received their first two **Reunion of the Stars 2011** (June 3-5) communications within the last three months, “ReunionNews” #1 e-newsletter on August 6, and the reunion save-the-date postcard in late September.

In addition, the Classes of 2004, 2005, and 2007 received a Hollywood poster-type postcard (left) in late September to promote a new feature for 2011, that of a “cluster classes” reunion on Saturday to co-celebrate the Class of 2006’s fifth reunion. “Reunion was great, but I’d really like to see the other classes that were here when I was,” is a popular comment heard during most reunion weekends. This year, the three classes surrounding the fifth reunion class are being offered the opportunity to do exactly that by registering for one event of the weekend’s festivities, Reunion Luncheon, by December 1 at a discounted price, and to complete an online survey of activities they prefer for Saturday night.

Visit www.CHCgriffinonline.com/reunion2011 for PDFs of the two save-the-date postcards and “ReunionNews” #1. 

CHC ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTED TO USC PROFESSOR

Eileen M. Crimmins, Ph.D. '68 (*mathematics*), AARP Chair in Gerontology at the University of Southern California, was voted the 2010 recipient of the Alumni Association Distinguished Achievement Award. Following her graduation from Chestnut Hill College, she continued her education at the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a master’s degree in 1969 and a Ph.D. in 1974, each in demography. She held faculty appointments at several institutions, including the University of Chicago, Rutgers, and the California Institute of Technology before beginning her association with USC in gerontology in the early 1980s.



Dr. Crimmins is a pioneer in the field of biodemography, which focuses on the connections between socioeconomic factors and life expectancy. She is an internationally recognized expert on aging. Mark Hayward, director of the Population Research Center and professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, says:

“Quite simply, Dr. Crimmins is among the most elite scholars of her field, an international icon for her path-breaking work in biodemography, a prolific publisher, a tremendous graduate student mentor, and a tireless builder of intellectual communities and public goods.” Professor Judith Teas of the University of California at Irvine says Eileen Crimmins’ “record of scientific accomplishment and public service speaks well to the academic foundation and values imparted by your college.”

Professor Crimmins accepted the Alumni Association award during the **Reunion of the Stars 2010** Luncheon on June 5 through a Skype message recorded while she was traveling in Europe. Her award brings to three the number of alumnae from the Class of 1968 to be recognized with the Distinguished Achievement Award.

Visit www.CHCgriffinonline.com/Awards for the complete profile of Eileen Crimmins and her accomplishments as well as profiles of all recipients of this award since its introduction in 2000. 

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

We’re going greener. How does it affect you? We’ll be sending more to your inbox and less to your mailbox. Reunion materials will continue to be produced in print form,



but ongoing alumni communication in other areas will be carried out electronically. Help us help you stay in the know by checking the College’s Web site at www.chc.edu and by registering in the College’s free alumni online community, **Griffins Online**, at www.CHCgriffinonline.com. Need your authentication code to log in for the first time? Contact canningp@chc.edu. 



REUNION OF THE STARS 2010 WELCOMES MORE THAN 260 TO CAMPUS

“Star-studded. The weekend was great,” declared Mary Crecca Kenny ’50 of the 63rd Annual Reunion, **Reunion of the Stars 2010**. Beating the odds is more like it, as registrations defied a difficult national economy, accounting for 23 percent of alums from traditional undergraduate classes ending in 0 and 5 — an increase of 15 percent over these classes’ registration five years ago — and 59 percent of the

50th reunion celebrants from the Class of 1960, one of the largest entering 50th classes ever.

Alums enjoyed several new features to the June 4-6 weekend, including on-campus housing and special Saturday programming for spouses, significant others, travel companions, and guests. A christening of sorts of the Mansion at SugarLoaf Hill occurred

with Saturday’s Milestones Reception for the fifth, 25th, and 50th reunion classes, hosted by the College president, and Sunday’s Golden Griffins Mass & Brunch.

Communication proved key to the turnout. Eligible alums received specially designed print mailings in September, January, and March, while six classes also received a reunion “coming attractions” letter in February. Those with registered e-mail addresses additionally received five issues of “ReunionNews,” a bi-weekly e-newsletter introduced by the alumni office for the first time in late March. *CHC Griffins Online*, the alumni online community, offered ongoing updates, promotions, and additional information throughout the year as well as pertinent links from “ReunionNews.” Contacts from class officers rounded out the good word.

Visit www.CHCgriffinsonline.com and choose **Reunion Weekend** from the left menu for **Reunion of the Stars 2010** summary, comments, photo gallery, and “ReunionNews.” 

Loud and proud: Reunion Luncheon’s traditional roll call of classes.



Opposite Page (Top to Bottom):

1. It must be a you-had-to-be-there-in-the-Sixties thing, as the 40th reunion class each year moves front and center during Friday’s karaoke night. **2.** The glorious Main Chapel welcomes returning alums to Saturday’s Annual Memorial Mass. **3.** Mary Liz Gallagher Wattis ’60 greeting classmate and former College President Sister Matthew Anita MacDonald (left) and College President Carol Jean Vale, with 50th reunion classmate Margie Bennett McGreal also enjoying the pre-luncheon festivities. **4.** The most senior alumnae in attendance — (l-r) Mary Katherine Schubert Denny, Sister Regina Maria Brimmer, Lee Bailey MacMurtrie, and Patricia Kilmartin — celebrating their 70th reunion. **5.** One of several tables of 45th reunion celebrants. **6.** Saturday night’s “Starring You!” event featured complementary portraits by two caricaturists in addition to displays of alumni art, publications, and other creations, all enjoyed to the smooth sounds of the Minas Brazilian jazz ensemble. **7.** Sunday’s Golden Griffins Mass & Brunch moved to the Mansion at SugarLoaf Hill. Celebrating their induction as the 50th reunion class (l-r): Joan Guiniven Trippetti ’60, Barbara D’Iorio Martino ’60, Rocky Martino, and Kathleen Wagner ’60. **8.** Diane Wall Holtz ’60 receives her Golden Griffins medallion from College President Sister Carol Jean Vale and Alumni Association President Patricia Cholewinski Nicholson ’70, who marked her 40th reunion.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



Breakfast with Santa

Smiles and good cheer all around, as Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted more than 175 alums, children, grandparents, and friends for two seatings of the first alumni-sponsored Breakfast With Santa on Sunday, December 5.

It was a morning of something for everyone — wonderful buffet breakfast, story time for the youngest of the young, ornament-decorating for others, all topped off by a selection of holiday tunes sung by the gathered children and led by Lisa Keenan '94 and Santa, himself.

"Thank you so much for putting on this event, and I hope it becomes a new CHC tradition," wrote Bethany Davis '06 the following day.

Breakfast With Santa was coordinated by Cecelia Englebert Passanza '87 as an activity sponsored by the Outreach Committee, chaired by Maryanne L. Walsh '98, '02 SGS, of the Alumni Association board of directors.



>>IN MEMORIAM

Lois Deacon Hofmann '36
Dorothy Lawler Patterson '37
Kathryn Geiger Collins '38
Freda Gorelick Oben '40
Eugenia Cooper Comerford '41
Louise McCloskey Cullinan '41
Agnes Bauer '45
Claire Willette Laskas '45
Rose Sophy Molin '46
Natalie Nevins '47
Claire Little Burton '48
Anne Keeler McBride '48
Jeanne Stief Murphy '48
Elizabeth DuBan Hansen '51
Therese Morrisroe Shields '53
Joanne McWilliams Martin '54
Joan Pirundini '54
Theresa Mazeika '57
Nancy Fallon Shea '59

>>BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Allison Grace to
Katie Trella Zinsmeister '97
Quinn Katherine to
Julia King Gorniak '99
Luke Christopher to
Nancy Flanagan Kelly '03

>>CLASS NOTES

'30s

Anita MacRae Van Den Beemt '38 (sociology) writes to ask: "Anyone else still alive? I am 95 years old and would be happy to be in touch with anyone from our graduation year."

'40s

Mary (Connie) Conahan, MMS '40 (biology) was disappointed to miss her 70th reunion in June but wished everyone "much love in prayer."

Mary Barbara O'Neill Philpott '40 (history) also could not attend reunion but reports that she's enjoying life as the "mother of 4, grandmother of 9, and great-grandmother of 3, about to be 4."

Mary Ann Keegan '45 (English) enjoyed her recent 65th reunion and reports volunteer activity with her parish pro-life group as well as ongoing language study, travel, and water exercise. She's currently reading Greg Mortenson's "Three Cups of Tea."

Catherine Winter McDonnell '45 (psychology) and husband, Philip, left California to attend June's reunion weekend and took advantage of the new option of hosting spouses overnight on campus. Catherine's current favorite novel is Adrienne McDonnell's "The Doctor and the Diva."

Anne Locke Bansbach '46 (mathematics) writes that she's "still here at 85, husband also," relaxing in Simi Valley, California, with "8 children, 19 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren, and still appreciating my good education, especially Fr. Lynch and Fr. Volmer."

Jeanne Grant O'Neill '47 (English) dropped a brief note: "I went sky diving for my 85th birthday."

Mary Frances Reilly Rochford '48 (economics) and Ed left Madison, New Jersey, for a summer stretch in California with their son, Ed, and family.

Marguerite (Marge) D'Auria Szawlewicz '48 (chemistry) reports that "one grandson is training with the Navy Seals in San Diego, another is in Naval Prep School in Newport, Rhode Island."

'50s

Sally Quinney Ryan '50 (science) spent almost 25 years substituting in the Horseheads (N.Y.) Central School District in guidance, the library, and various offices in several schools. Sally's active in her parish, book clubs in her local library, and at the Horseheads food pantry. She travels throughout the year, visiting all six children located across the United States. Travel allows for continuous reading, with John Irving's latest novel, "Last Night in Twisted River," and Bill Bryson's witty account of his 2,100-mile trek, "A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail," topping Sally's list.

Dolores Mitchell Wallace '53 (biology) writes from Largo, Fla.: "I had my three granddaughters here for a week by myself. It was wonderful. On October 7th, I celebrated my 80th birthday."

Grace Corr Haenn '54 (music) retired from Chestnut Hill College in mid-September.

College President Sister Mary Xavier hired Grace in 1980 as Director of Alumnae Affairs, a position she held for 24 years (read "Amazing Grace," in the *Chestnut Hill College Newsletter*, August 2004, online at www.chc.edu/Publications). In late summer 2004, Grace moved into a newly created part-time data management role in the Office of Institutional Advancement. She was succeeded as Director of Alumnae/i Relations in late fall 2004 for several months by Henry R. (Ted) Taylor, a member of the College's adjunct communications faculty, and by **Patricia Canning '70 (political science)** since July 2005.

Joanne Rossberg DeSantis '55 (history) missed her 55th reunion in June because of a family wedding but wrote to say that "my classmates will certainly be in my thoughts."

Mary Virginia Orna, OSU, Ph.D. '55 (chemistry) delivered the Nell Mundy Lecture at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, on September 27. Dr. Orna is editor-at-large of *Chemical Heritage* magazine and professor of chemistry at the College of New Rochelle (N.Y.). She was recently named a Fellow of the American Chemical Society. Her lecture, "Five Thousand Years of Chemistry: A Look at the Secrets of Ancient and Medieval Artists," drew from her specialty in the field of color and archaeological chemistry as well as extensive study in the Middle East and Italy.

Judith Church Tydings '57 (*history*) shared the happy news that she is now Dr. Tydings, having graduated in May from the University of Maryland with a Ph.D. in American Studies, "at age 74."

'60s

Carol Cheleden Alcorn '60 (*chemistry*) continues to play the harp for weddings, funerals, and parties while also providing private lessons. She recently treated her classmates, as well as those celebrating their fifth and 25th reunions, to her talents during reunion weekend's Milestone Classes Reception, which was hosted by the College president in the Mansion at SugarLoaf Hill.

Claudette Rupp Bayer '60 (*sociology*) retired from teaching in 2000, completing a 27-year career that concluded as a reading specialist. While continuing to work part time two days a week during the school year, she also enjoys playing tennis, walking, and travel. She toured China two years ago. This past summer, she and Daniel cruised the Danube to celebrate their 50th anniversary. She has volunteered for 22 years at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, Pa., and is a member of the Harrisburg Women's Interfaith Symposium. She's currently reading "The Forgotten Garden" by Australian novelist Kate Morton.

Mary (Rae) Hurley Birch '60 (*sociology*) retired from managing a small, independent family-owned real estate office. Travel, grandchildren, reading, concerts, theater, and gardening occupy her time while she also volunteers for the Seattle-area Bellevue Regional Library. Rae's enjoying Jamie Ford's "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel and The Help," Kathryn Stockett's debut novel,

which depicts white Southern households in the 1960s and their black domestic servants.

Mary Lee Rothwell Corr '60 (*English*) retired from teaching and devotes time to her parish and nursing homes as a Eucharistic Minister, lector, member of Parish Council, and music minister. She also writes and directs productions for the State Street Players, which she founded, and helps with fundraising and campaigning for daughter Marguerite Corr, a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the Doylestown area. Mary Lee recommends "Still Alice," Lisa Genova's popular first novel, which captures a woman's experience with early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

Patricia Loscalzo Griffin '60 (*biology*) carries a challenging schedule at Notre Dame High School in the Scranton (Pa.) diocese: three classes of 10th-grade biology, two classes of 12th-grade environmental science, and one class of 12th-grade advanced placement biology while also advising the Science Club, Recycling Club, and Design Club and helping with costumes for school musicals. Pat enjoys spending time with her 10 grandchildren when not also volunteering at Quiet Valley, a farm museum. She recently traveled to Alaska with her daughter and two grandchildren.

Eileen Long Hessman '60 (*psychology*) keeps travel agents busy, with a recent trip to France, one to Albuquerque in October, and a third to Naples, Fla., in January. While not on the road, she leads the Lower Merion (Pa.) interdenominational Community Bible Study Group twice a week, enjoys water exercise at her local YMCA three times a week, and volunteers for the inner-city St. Malachy Parish and

School, located near Temple University. Eileen also attends a monthly political harmony study and discussion group, which gathers "those of the opposite persuasion" to share facts and news clippings. Eileen recommends several books: Bill Barich's "A Pint of Plain: Tradition, Change, and the Fate of the Irish Pub"; the translation "Sweeney Astray: A Version From the Irish by Seamus Heaney"; Tilar Mazzeo's "The Widow Clicquot," the biography of the 19th century founder of a champagne empire; "Constantine's Sword: The Church and The Jews" by novelist, non-fiction writer, and *Boston Globe* columnist James Carroll; and "An American Pilgrimage" by Paul Elie, an account of the literary journey of four American Catholic writers: Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Walker Percy, and Flannery O'Connor.

Margaret Michel Johnson '60 has been retired since 1998 and enjoys gardening and travel, most recently a cruise of the Hawaiian Islands.

Suzie Linton Kirchner '60 (*English*) retired nine years ago from a 42-year career as a teacher of deaf children, but she continues to offer private tutoring. She also trained sign language interpreters and taught university classes for graduate students who were preparing to teach the deaf. She enjoys music, reading, cooking, and gardening with her husband, and she loves to make quilts, knit, and crochet. Suzie writes stories for their 10 grandchildren and is working on several additional professional books to follow on two already published, "Play It by Sign" and "Signs for All Seasons." She recommends several recently read works: Canadian novelist William P. Young's "The Shack;" Jeannette Walls'

memoir, "The Glass Castle;" Diane Ackerman's account of Warsaw during World War II, "The Zookeeper's Wife," and Malcolm Gladwell's "Outliers: The Story of Success," a look at how culture, community, family, and generation influence achievement. Suzie writes that she was "thrilled to be able to attend our 50th Reunion. It was glorious!"

Dolores Dezii Kreal '60 (*English*) remains active in her parish as music/liturgical coordinator and choir director. Dolores reports being married for 47 years, with three married children and seven grandchildren. Jamie Ford's "Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet: A Novel" takes top spot on her current reading list.

Patricia Leonard Marcoux '60 (*psychology*) is enjoying her second career of seven years, that of transportation security manager in the Behavioral Protection Program for the Department of Homeland Security at New York's JFK Airport. Pat previously worked in the insurance industry. She recommends "In Spite of the Gods: The Strange Rise of Modern India," which is an economic analysis by financial reporter Edward Luce, the self-help decision-making guide "10-10-10" by Suzy Welch, and "The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears," a poignant first novel by Dinaw Mengestu.

Margaret Bennett McGreal '60 (*speech*) continues her 30-year association with the Philadelphia Museum of Art as a guide volunteer. She recommends the memoir "Renoir, My Father" by filmmaker Jean Renoir, "The Nine Tailors," a 1930s Lord Peter Wimsey mystery by Dorothy L. Sayres, and "Cutting for Stone," a first novel by physician Abraham Verghese.

Jayne Epifanio O'Connor '60 (English) is in advertising and sales with *Polo* magazine, having retired from a teaching career. She enjoys music, tennis, golf, travel, and reading. Her current favorite is David McCullough's "John Adams."

Mary (Mickey) Magee Onofrietto '60 (German) reports that her initial career path to a Ph.D. in German language and literature veered off-course when she "fell into" a shelving job at Rutgers University Libraries. She was promoted early and often, retiring as foreign title acquisitions specialist. She continues to enjoy outdoor activities, including running, biking, cross-country skiing, and hiking. She's active in her parish, coordinating 13 of its ministries. She's working her way through Ken Follett's latest, "the first and last ... by him," she says, plus several works in German, including Peter Seewald's "Benedict XVI: An Intimate Portrait."

Nancy March Roan '60 (mathematics) writes from Potomac, Md., that she is "blessed by eight children and their spouses, and fifteen grandchildren, and by my very dear friends and family."

Patricia Walsh Sterner '60 (sociology) is thrilled to report that daughter **Meaghan Sterner Beck '93 (history)** and her husband, Jon, have moved from Pennsylvania. "Now four of my children are in Texas!"

Kathleen Wagner '60 (psychology) retired from teaching and enjoys music, theatre, ballet, opera, and European travel while also devoting time to immigration/refugee matters as a Catholic Charities volunteer. Lisa Scottoline's 13th Bennie Rosato novel, "Think Twice," is a current favorite.

Mary (Meg) Givnish Brezina, Ph.D. '61 (speech) was widowed (Mercer) in 2006 and on April 26, 2010 married Denis Brezina. Although living in Chesapeake City, Md., Meg teaches one course each semester in the Graduate School of Health Education at St. Joseph's University and continues a part-time schedule at Delaware County Community College's Pennocks Bridge Campus in Chester County, Pa.

Margaret (Midge) O'Brien Conlan '62 (English) and her husband have moved permanently to Naples, Florida, from Morristown, N.J. They welcomed their 14th grandchild last Christmas Eve. Their youngest son is now an Air Force major and on his 10th tour in Afghanistan. "Say a few prayers," she asks.

Eileen D'Arcy Garvey '62 (chemistry) shared the sad news of the passing of her brother, John, in May 2009 but noted the balancing joy at the birth of her second grandson, Declan Alexander, last September.

Sandra Glynn Lippe '62 (English) sent a short-but-to-the-point note from her San Diego home: "I am above ground and vertical. Yea!!"

Paula Murphy Gallagher '64 (English) reports that she's enjoying life in Land O' Lakes, Fla., "had a great time at our 45th reunion last year," and looks forward to her 50th in 2014.

Grace McGlynn Herold, R.N. '64 (biology) writes that she is the chaplain of her local Veterans of Foreign Wars and director of a small lay Trinitarian group. She reduced more than 45 years of remarkable post-college life to the following note: "A real delight receiving CHC news! Here's where I've been since graduation in 1964.

A Captain flight nurse with the Air Force (1967-1974), married Bill Herold, Sr., a widower with 6 children (1972), 2 more children were born (1 deceased, 1 now 34), worked under U.S. Public Health on the SW Indian reservations (1970), flight nursing the wounded back from Vietnam (1968-69), taught nursing all over the U.S. At 75, I am now a widow with 7 wonderful children, 21 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Lessons learned — pray, always trust in God, and pray."

Carol Lowe Ambacher '65 (fashion design) manages a physician's practice, following retirement from the telecommunications industry. Free time allows for weekly needlepoint workshops and a swimming rehab program as well as a monthly book club and a term as board chair of her community library.

Susan Clemens Brand '65 (psychology) has owned Brand Travel Agency, an American Express representative office in Westfield, N.J., for 40 years. She still enjoys planning vacation trips for her clientele as well as traveling to interesting locales, including Egypt, "one of the most impressive destinations." Susan is a member of Soroptimist International of the Greater Westfield Area, the worldwide women's volunteer organization, supporting a program for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Although not read recently, Lorna Kelly's memoir, "The Camel Knows the Way," is one of Susan's particular favorites as insight into life in India through the eyes of a woman who gave up a glamorous career to volunteer with Mother Teresa.

Denise Belcher Crenshaw '65 (mathematics) earned a doctoral degree in ministry (D.Min.) in May 2008. She completed her course work at Christ Church College, Oxford University, and received her D.Min. degree from The Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Ind. Denise is the retired dean and director of The Whitaker School of Theology and is working in lay ministry.

Margaret O'Connell Feeny '65 (English) proudly reports that "daughter Catherine is a singer/songwriter in Portland, Oregon. Norah is a Ph.D. at Case Western, and Ted has applied to the Foreign Service. All are married. We are well and happy."

Isabelle Walsh Gundaker '65 (English) retired from Rowan University in 2003 after 20 years, where she was the director and instructor of development writing. She travels, gardens, and plays golf, with October through May spent in Naples, Fla. While in New Jersey, she volunteers for the Philadelphia Museum of Art; in Florida, she serves as a literacy instructor for the Literacy Council of Bonita Springs and coordinates volunteers to tutor Imperial Golf Club employees who want to improve their English skills. Isabelle enjoyed several recent novels, including Stieg Larsson's "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," Tatiana de Rosnay's "Sarah's Key," Kathryn Stockett's "The Help," and Patricia O'Brien's "Harriet and Isabella."

Elizabeth Newmiller King '65 (mathematics), a retired math tutor and substitute teacher, volunteers as a cantor for Christ the King Church in Silver Spring, Md. She recommends Lisa See's novel, "Shanghai Girls," and business bestseller "The Tipping Point" by Malcolm Gladwell.

Bernadette Bennis Marshall '65 (art) retired from teaching in June and was looking forward to spending more time in Ocean City, N.J.

Bonnie Vasey McDonald '65 (psychology) is a pre-school teacher at KenCrest Child Development Services in Ambler, Pa. She specializes in an autistic support class for 3- to 6-year-olds, which recently became a “reverse mainstream” class. This model incorporates typically developing pre-schoolers as role models for the ASD children. “Very rewarding work,” Bonnie says, although she does hope to retire in the next year or two. She enjoys her six grandchildren, Jersey Shore vacations, her book club, the Phillies and Flyers, and “used to be an Eagles fan.”

Anne O'Donnell '65 (English) was expected to make a cameo appearance as Mrs. Fowler on “The Big Bang Theory” (CBS) on October 21. Two weeks earlier, she “shot the fun role of Elsa Clack on NBC’s “Parks and Recreation” with Amy Poehler. In mid-October, Anne writes, she “had a terrific time working on a French film, “The Artist,” a fairly big budget silent film shot in black and white and set in 1920s Hollywood. John Goodman, James Crowell, Malcolm McDowell all have supporting or ‘cameo’ roles. It will premier in France and, I think, will garner some worldwide attention.”

Carol-Jane Piltz Guardino '66 (English) serves on the scholarship committee for the Community Foundation of Sarasota, Florida, which awarded more than \$500,000 to eligible high school seniors last spring. Carol-Jane retired from the IBM Corporation.

E. Michelle Sprague Guerard '66 (mathematics) has recently stepped into the presidency of the Martin Memorial Medical Center Auxiliary in Stuart, Fla. The retired Verizon executive also has joined the medical center’s board and its foundation board. “Coming from a regulated industry like communications, I can relate to so many of the things that the hospital must deal with. It’s just a wonderful opportunity,” Shelley writes, “to give back to the community and to meet so many wonderful people.”

Joan Lunney, Ph.D. '68 (chemistry) was recently named 2010 Beltsville Area (Md.) Senior Scientist of the Year by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Joan’s citation noted her “significant research contributions and international leadership in determining protective immune mechanisms and genetic resistance for infectious pathogens of importance to the U.S. swine industry.” The internationally recognized expert in swine immunology, who is associated with the USDA Agricultural Research Center, leads a national consortium of swine genome and disease researchers, international breeding companies, and veterinarians to determine the role of genetics in a pig’s resistance or susceptibility to a reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus. Positive outcomes could be disease-resistant pigs and more effective vaccines. Joan received the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Achievement Award in 2007 in recognition of her internationally respected research.

Denise Gervase Ferrier, Ph.D. '69 (biology) reports the recent publication of the fifth edition of her “Lippincott’s Illustrated Review of Biochemistry,” co-authored with Richard Harvey.



Dr. Joseph Spence, USDA Beltsville area director, presents Joan Lunney, Ph.D. '68 with her award, which included a personal cash prize as well as funds for her laboratory's research.

Katherine Safford Ramus, Ed.D. '69 (mathematics) was recently promoted to professor of mathematics at Saint Peter’s College in Jersey City, N.J.

'70s

Anne (Nancy) Doro Berry '70 (English) has taken a leave from teaching to relocate from Philadelphia to Boston for her husband’s position with Children’s Hospital Boston/Harvard Medical School. Medicine runs in the family, as their son, Gerry, is a radiology resident at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Nancy writes that she’s “enjoying New England, especially the lobsters, but my husband will always root for the Philly teams!”

Claire Cifaloglio, M.D. '70 (chemistry) is a school health physician with the Arlington County (Va.) Department of Human Services, where she consults with school nurses and works in small clinics to provide health assessments and services for young children through teens. She looks forward to retirement within a year, when she would like to mentor a teen parent and become a court-appointed special advocate for children. An extended trip to Italy would

be terrific, too, Claire says. She volunteers at the Arlington Free Clinic, which ends up being a family venture, as her daughter is an employee. She’s making her way through John Crowley’s 1981 fantasy, “Little, Big.” “It’s hard!” Claire says.

Vionette Pietrantoni Inclán '70 (psychology) sent 40th reunion greetings from Dorado, Puerto Rico: “My dear friends from college, you are always in my heart!”

Susan Forster Lowery '70 (psychology) owns Elder Helper, a business that provides “compassionate care giving” in helping elders remain as independent as possible. The Montana resident offers personal care, companionship, meal prep, laundry, shopping, reading, prayer, and community resource referrals. She recently completed 21 credits at the University of Montana in Missoula to earn a minor degree in gerontology, scoring a 4.0 GPA in the process. Susan belongs to the Montana Gerontology Society, has served as a lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Francis Xavier in Missoula for 25 years, volunteers for the Missoula Aging Services, and supports various pro-life, Catholic, and other Christian ministries.

Christine Peterson Lynn '70 (Latin) was sorry to miss her 40th reunion but reports that she's teaching Latin at the nationally ranked top 100 Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati. She previously taught English as a Second Language at Center Grove High School & Middle School in Greenwood, Ind., which is an Indianapolis suburb. Chris' husband retired from the electronics industry, and their two sons are graduates of Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Helen Bernhardt McMonagle '70 (psychology) retired last year as a liturgical musician at St. Leo the Great Parish and School in Philadelphia for the past 22 years, with the last 10 as music director. She now directs "The Women at the Well," an all-women's ministry group that provides music for special events, concerts, and retreats. For the last five years, her group has been associated with the Malvern Retreat House. Profits from their CD sales are donated to various local, national, and international charities. Brian J. Gail's novel, "Fatherless," is top on Helen's current reading list.

Deirdre Bacon Ruckman, Esq. '70 (political science) was named to the "World's Leading Women in Business Law" guide, published in August by Legal Media Group.



Deirdre Bacon Ruckman, Esq. '70

A partner with Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, Dee heads the firm's bankruptcy and business reorganization group. She has been cited as a leading attorney in the "Guide to the World's Leading Insolvency and Restructuring Lawyers and in America's Leading Lawyers for Business." She has also been selected as one of the Texas Super Lawyers, and she has been named one of the top 50 women lawyers in Texas. Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP is a major full-service regional law firm with offices in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and Mexico City.

Monica Cetrullo Costlow '71 (psychology) retired in 2007 from teaching high school German for 36 years, including a year in Switzerland and a year in Germany. She's now working with a therapeutic horse program for autistic children as well as volunteering at a hospital and with the retired Sisters at Neumann University.

Blanche Goffredo Haughton '71 (biology), a member of the science faculty at neighboring Mount Saint Joseph Academy, invited interested seniors to the College's Science Career Day keynote lecture, "Ghosts of Ancient Viruses in Vertebrate Genomes," presented by Dr. Anna Maria Skalka of Fox Chase Cancer Center. Dr. Skalka is an internationally recognized authority on retroviruses.

Denise Krans Haffner '79 (biology) worked for 15 years in different branches of the medical field while raising three sons. She reports that her Biology department chair's advice so many years earlier proved valuable, as the late Sister Eva Maria insisted that Denise complete a full year of botany. She applied to the Ohio State Extension office to be a master gardener. Within 24 hours of completing her program, she was hired by the



Blanche Goffredo Haughton '71 with a student from Mount Saint Joseph Academy at Science Career Day in September.

Ohio Department of Agriculture on the new Emerald Ash Borer Program, formed to combat an invasive insect from Asia that was attacking and killing our native ash trees. She parlayed that experience in 2006 into a position as a plant health safeguarding specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Her role as a USDA officer is now primarily regulatory, monitoring 60 businesses for compliance with the federal quarantine and working "every day to protect America's agriculture from invasive pests and plants."

'80s

Gina Doria Martins-Brown '81 (biology) reports that she's been married for 23 years, living in Seattle with husband Aaron and sons Kyle, age 18, and Avery, age 16.

Carol Steinour, Esq. '82 (psychology) is proud to report the induction of her brother, John, into the Pennsylvania Special Olympics Hall of Fame on May 15. John has excelled in most sports since the 1970s, but his top winner is swimming. He received his first medal from former Eagles coach Dick Vermeil in 1981 and was chosen to represent Team USA in the 1997 World Games, where he won one silver

and two gold medals. Carol and John's mother was inducted two years ago for her pioneering work in co-establishing Special Olympics in Adams County.

Deborah Sonntag Tredinnick '82 (art history) is a knowledge manager with CIGNA in Philadelphia. Daughter Julia is at Philadelphia University, and son Ricky is in 10th grade.

Carrie Wosicki Loveless '84 (English) was elected to the board of WomenHeart, the national coalition focused on women with heart disease founded by **Nancy Loving '68 (history)**, the 2008 winner of the Alumni Association's Distinguished Achievement Award. Carrie lives in Honolulu.

Kathy McGee Burns '86 SCPS (history) was one of three recipients of the third annual Joseph E. Montgomery Award from the Ancient Order of Hibernians Div. 62. She served as the first woman president of the Philadelphia Donegal Association, a benevolent organization founded in 1888, president of the Delaware Valley (Pa.) Irish Hall of Fame, and vice president of the Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Observance Committee. The annual award recognizes those who live the AOH motto of friendship, unity, and

Christian charity. Last May, this mother of nine was one of 11 Philadelphia-area women of Irish ancestry to be honored as inaugural recipients of the Irish Center's Inspirational Women Award. Honorees spanned business, industry, broadcast journalism, philanthropy, and other endeavors and included Sister Mary Scullion, Project H.O.M.E. co-founder and one of *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People," the late Princess Grace of Monaco (the former Grace Kelly of the East Falls neighborhood of Philadelphia), and Connelly Foundation executive Emily Riley. Kathy is a principal in the Burns & Burke Team of Prudential Fox & Roach realtors in Blue Bell, Pa.

Sheila Murphy-Palermo '87 (English), '04 SGS (elementary education) was named a program director at Delaware Valley Children's Center in Bucks County (Pa.). The organization delivers wraparound services for children with autism as well as support for their families.

Patricia Veneziale Orlic '87 SGS (education) is an adjunct faculty member at Temple University and supervisor of student teachers.

Cecilia Haenn Turner '88 (English) was recently elected to the board of directors of the Electronic Retailing Association. Cecilia is president of IComm — International Commerce Agency, LLC — which sells consumer products to live shopping channels, direct response marketers, and electronic retailers worldwide.

'90s

Patricia Scancella Fitzgerald '90 (elementary education) teaches second grade at Stony Creek Elementary School in

Montgomery County's (Pa.) Wissahickon School District. She's enjoying "Return to Sawyerton Springs," what author Andy Andrews terms "a novelized collection of stories," and "Angels 101" by "spiritual clairvoyant" Doreen Virtue.

Antonina (Ann) D'Alicandro D'Emilio '93 (English) recently joined GSI Commerce, Inc. as senior interactive marketing manager for True Action, its digital design and marketing agency. GSI is a publicly traded provider of e-commerce and multichannel solutions for large, business-to-consumer enterprises worldwide. GSI maintains offices in New York, San Jose, and King of Prussia, Pa.

Frank Reynolds '94 SGS (counseling psychology and human services) shared breaking news as this edition was going into design. His Cambridge, Massachusetts-based biotech start-up, InVivo Therapeutics Corp., was slated to go public by the end of October. Founded in 2005, InVivo develops technologies for the more than 1.2 million Americans who live with spinal cord injuries. What's more, he writes, the company's successful primate studies are expected to be on track for the next step, FDA-approved human studies, in 2011. Frank was profiled last spring in *Chestnut Hill* magazine ("Education,



Frank Reynolds '94 SGS

Vision, and More Than a Touch of Grit," online at www.che.edu/Publications) for his pioneering work, which was prompted by his own spinal cord injuries suffered in a 1992 automobile accident. He has earned several business and technology degrees from a number of institutions, has held senior-level positions in health administration, IT consulting firms, pharmaceutical companies, and other commercial concerns, and is collaborating with researchers at MIT on his ground-breaking work. InVivo's stock symbol was expected to be NVIV.

Rieke Baize '98 (business administration) left Independence Blue

Cross last spring to accept a position as medical claims data analyst with the Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau in Philadelphia.

'00s

Christina Reddington '00 (art) writes from New Milford, Conn., that she's enjoying her work as a marketing manager for a mental health facility.

Barbara Sliker Weikert '00 (music education) was honored by the Norristown Area (Pa.) School District for going "above and beyond" her duties as music teacher and choir director by writing successful grant proposals. She teaches music to fifth-to eighth-grade children and to students with special needs. Barbara reports that she still enjoys playing the piano and very much enjoys traveling with her husband, Joshua. Trips within the last year took them to Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Scotland, Great Britain, and France. Barbara is also pursuing a doctoral degree in education.

Claudia DiCrosta '01 (Spanish) joined 65 other outstanding teachers in being awarded the Philadelphia School District's Lindback Distinguished Teaching Prize in May. Claudia was nominated by Swenson Arts and Technology High School, which she joined in 2006 after several years with William Penn High. The Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation has long recognized exemplary teaching at the college and university level. The foundation trustees introduced the Philadelphia program in 2008 to honor superior public school teachers, each of whom receives a cash award of \$3,500.

Annie Sampson '01 (psychology) spent the month of August in Ethiopia as a member of her church-sponsored medical mission team of healthcare, researchers, and nurses formed to establish health and education clinics in rural villages. "Some days," she said, "we saw everyone who lined up and waited in the sun without food or water, but many days we couldn't see everyone." Annie, a public health analyst with the National Institutes of Health, found the experience "tough, but it was a privilege to put global health into practice. And it was a privilege to serve the beautiful Ethiopian people, and most importantly to share the love of Christ."

Lisa Clayville, Pharm.D. '02 (biochemistry) is a full-time professor at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy while maintaining a clinic site at the Walt Disney World Resort.

Nancy Flanagan '03 (English) married Christopher Kelly in September 2008 and welcomed their first child, Luke Christopher, in March 2010. Nancy coordinates the advanced learners program

for Agora Charter School, a cyber charter school located in Wayne, Pa. She earned a master's degree in education from Gwynedd-Mercy College in May.

Maria Hanisak Heaton '04
SGS (counseling psychology)

published "Dusting Off the Ashes," an account of one man's on-site 9/11 experience and the consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder on his family and career. Maria specializes in individual and family therapy in her private practice in Bethlehem, Pa. She is a nationally licensed professional counselor who also serves as a part-time adult basic education coordinator at the Warren County Technical School in Washington, N.J. Online orders for her book became available in early July at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

Rosemarie Fean '05
(elementary education)

teaches third grade at Philadelphia's West Oak Lane Charter School. She's thrilled with the purchase of her first home and reports that she enjoys anything written by Nicholas Sparks. 

"Class Notes" information is drawn from e-mails, phone calls, and other direct communication from alumni as well as from questionnaires sent by the alumni office and newspaper clippings obtained by the Office of Institutional Advancement. Information received after March 15 will be included in the fall edition of the magazine.

Nominations Invited for 2011 Alumni Association Awards

The Alumni Association opens the nomination process for its two annual awards: the **Eleanore Dolan Egan '28 Award for Outstanding Service to Chestnut Hill College** and the **Distinguished Achievement Award**. The first celebrates alumni volunteerism to the College; the second recognizes professional accomplishment.

Profiles of award recipients, nomination criteria, and nomination forms are accessible on www.CHCgriffinonline.com/Awards.

Nominations may be submitted online or printed from the web site and postmarked by **February 15** to:

Alumni Honors & Awards Committee

c/of Office of Alumni Relations
Chestnut Hill College
9601 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

For information, contact Patricia Canning, director of alumni relations, at canningp@chc.edu or 215.248.7144.

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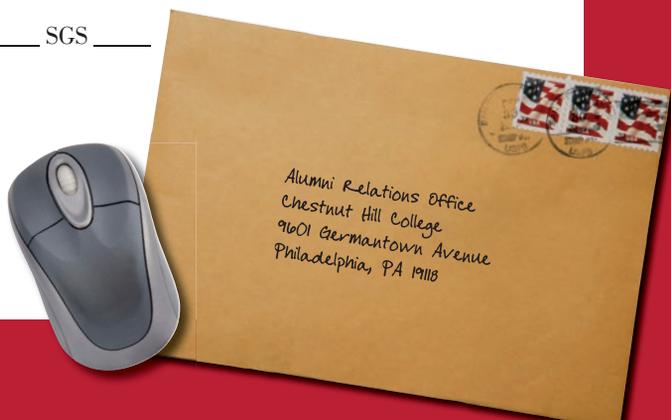
Keep in touch with your friends and classmates! Career news, advanced degrees, births, marriages, deaths — whatever your news, share it with us. Submit items by March 15, 2011 for print consideration in the next issue of *Chestnut Hill*.

1. E-mail: canningp@chc.edu Name: _____

2. Fax: 215.248.7196 Maiden Name (if SUS): _____

3. Mail: Patricia Canning Class Year: _____ SUS _____ SCPS _____ SGS _____
Director of Alumni Relations
Chestnut Hill College
9601 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

4. Online: www.CHCgriffinonline.com



LAST WORD

Vampires' Enduring Appeal

by Barbara Lonnquist, Ph.D.



Although it may sound like a tired Halloween joke to say that vampires never die, literary history over the past century bears witness to the remarkable vitality of these shape-shifters in our cultural imagination. In fact, one could say that vampires survive by dint of their Darwinian adaptability, recasting themselves in ever new forms as they move back and forth among print culture, theater, film, and television. When the hairy-palmed Count of Bram Stoker's 1897 "Dracula" made his debut in a 1924 London stage adaptation, the werewolf of the Carpathians, who remains off stage for most of the novel, was sanitized to meet the demands of Stoker's widow and the conventions of a drawing-room mystery for polite theatergoers. One literary critic described that stage Dracula as a "devilish vaudeville magician in evening dress and an opera cloak." Tod Browning's classic 1931 film, starring Bella Lugosi, restored Dracula to his more primitive state and wildly foreign abode. The technology of black and white film was perfectly suited to invoke a gloomy *bête noire* for Americans caught in the throes of the Great Depression.

What is perhaps more interesting than the issue of "how" vampires survive is the question of "why" their appeal endures. As the title of University of Pennsylvania Professor Nina Auerbach's 1995 study, "Our Vampires, Ourselves," suggests, vampires reveal something important about ourselves and our historical moment. The premise of my course at the College, Gothic Tradition in Literature, is that vampire and gothic narratives expose in highly imaginative form the collective, unconscious fears haunting a society.

Stoker's "Dracula" was about England's fears of an underside to progress, of the careerist and sexualized "New Woman" jeopardizing the stability of the Victorian family just as immigration or reverse colonization threatened imperial rule. Less visible in the text (but perceptible in Stoker's vision for the stage) was the specter of the 1895 trial of Oscar Wilde. The blurring of boundaries of class, race, and gender frightened England almost as much as Jack the Ripper haunted *fin de siècle* London.



Auerbach rails against a recent tendency to cast vampires "in the light" of our taste for Technicolor film, which, despite its pyrotechnics, often shies away from the truly frightening aspects of the original Victorian creation. Ann Rice's popular vampire series of the 1970s and 80s, featuring an 18th Century French nobleman fast-forwarded two centuries into contemporary New Orleans, is rooted in the tradition of "southern gothic," but Rice romanticizes at times the gender

ambiguity of the beautiful Lestat. Similarly, Stephenie Meyer's commercially successful "Twilight," which places the vampire in a world of adolescent romance fantasy, has gained the approval of school librarians on both sides of the Atlantic. Edward Cullen, the love interest of teen Bella Swann, is a preternaturally handsome — and good — vampire, who demonstrates, according to Meyer, the difference between love and lust.

In contrast, the HBO television series "True Blood," based on Charlaine Harris' "The Southern Vampire Mystery" novels, returns to the genre of southern gothic to expose the dangers of religious fanaticism and intolerance. Sookie Stackhouse falls in love with an undead Civil War vamp, evoking echoes of an undying racism that was central to southern gothic (think of William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, and Tony Morrison — "Beloved" is, after all, a vampire narrative). Despite its sometimes heavy-handed symbolism, "True Blood" is a parable against the contemporary injustices that minorities and vampires face.

As my students can tell you, our age is ripe for gothic: terrorism, pandemics, vampiric money lenders, to name but a few, remind us that evil is out there. Vampires help us to cope with the thought.

Barbara Lonnquist, Ph.D., is an associate professor of English.

We invite all members of the College community to submit articles to be considered for the "Last Word" column. If you'd like to contribute, please send your idea to magazine@chc.edu.

Calendar of Events

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Thursday, February 3, 8 p.m.

Friday, February 4, 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 5, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Motherhouse Auditorium

Information: 215.248.7022

ARC OF PHILADELPHIA, PDDC ART SHOW

Wednesday, March 16, 6 p.m.

Dwight V. Dowley Gallery, St. Joseph Hall

Information: 215.248.7022

18TH ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, April 6, 4 p.m.

Speaker: Anthony P. Green, Ph.D.

Ben Franklin Director of the Nanotechnology Institute

Information: 215.248.7159

2ND ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Saturday, April 30, 6 p.m.

Rotunda, St. Joseph Hall

Information: 215.753.3692 or www.chc.edu/gala

COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 14

64TH ANNUAL REUNION: REUNION OF THE STARS 2011

June 3-4-5

School of Undergraduate Studies classes ending in "6" and "1"

Information: 215.248.7144

Reservations: 215.753.3666

2011 GOLDEN GRIFFINS MASS & BRUNCH

Sunday, June 5

School of Undergraduate Studies Class of 1960 and earlier,

and welcoming the Class of 1961

Reservations: 215.753.3666

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE DONOR RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 18

29TH ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL

Monday, October 10

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club

Reservations: 215.753.3666

For the latest event information, visit www.chc.edu
and www.chcgriffinsonline.com

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JANUARY 2011

TRANSITING THE PANAMA CANAL

13-day cruise sailing from Miami to Los Angeles on the *Norwegian Star*, visiting the ports of Cartagena, Huatulco, and Costa Rica. January 16-29.

MARCH 2011

SPLENDORS OF THE NILE

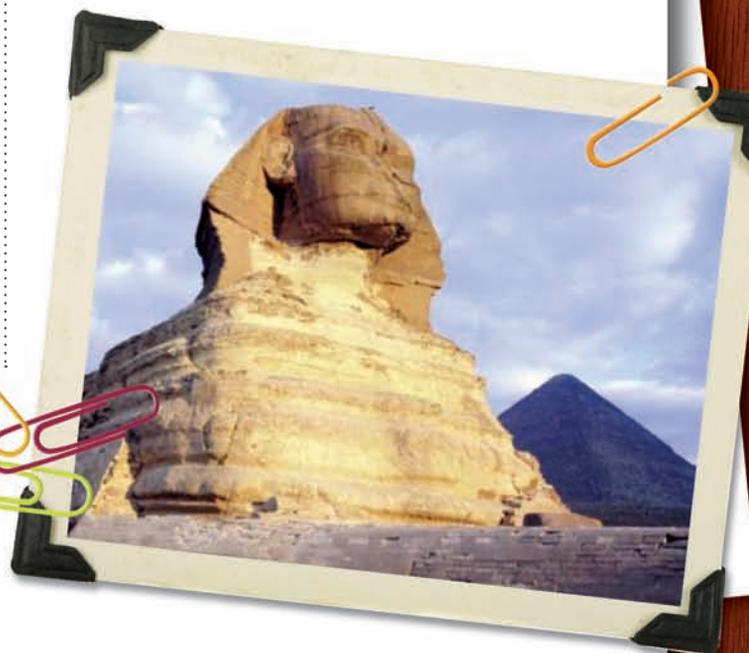
12-day Smithsonian Journeys Travel Adventure, includes four-night Nile River cruise, visits to Cairo, the Pyramids, Memphis, Luxor, the Valley of the Kings and Queens, and an optional excursion to Abu Simbel. March 2-13

JULY 2011

MEDITERRANEAN ENCHANTMENT

10-day cruise with two-night pre-cruise stay in Rome. July 7-20

For information and/or reservations, contact Craig or Christie at Cruisin' Inc., 800.506.7447 or 610.341.1979, or visit www.alumnivacations.com.





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