

# CHESTNUT HILL

COLLEGE MAGAZINE

## The Full Chorus

REFLECTING ON 10 YEARS OF COEDUCATION



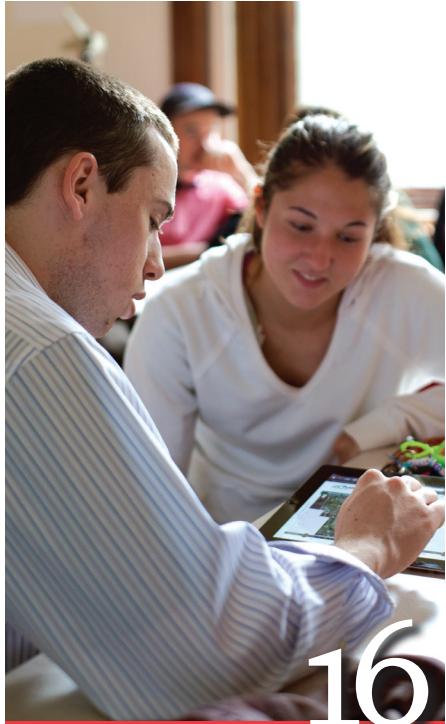


Winter arrived early on The Hill this year, blanketing campus with snow in early December, as students wrapped up finals and headed home for their holiday break.

**SNAPSHOT**

# CHESTNUT HILL

COLLEGE MAGAZINE



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REFLECTING ON 10 YEARS  
OF COEDUCATION

BY RYAN DOUGHERTY '11 SGS

*Long-time faculty and staff remember the transition to coeducation and extol its benefits throughout the College community.*

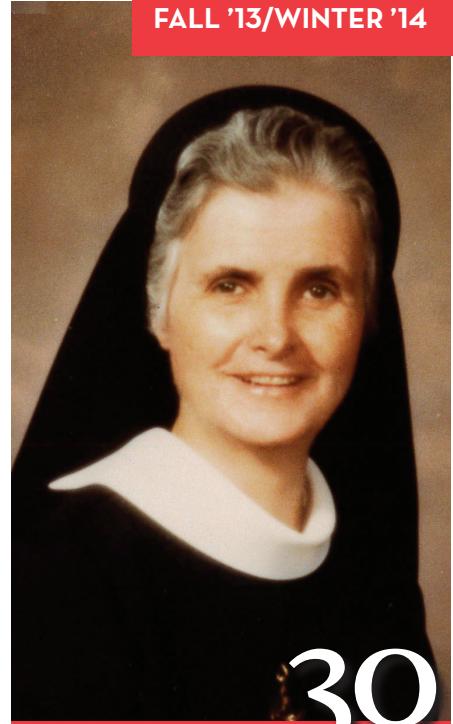


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A LIFE OF THE MIND

BY AMANDA FINLAW '14

*Through her efforts as English professor, Hemingway authority, and mother, Suzanne del Gizzo, Ph.D., epitomizes scholarly pursuit.*



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A LOVING REMEMBRANCE

BY CAROLE POLLOCK, SSJ

*The following tribute is reprinted from the summer 2013 issue of One With, the magazine of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.*

## ON THE COVER:

*The move to coeducation infused vibrancy and vigor into all realms of the College.*

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## Moving Forward



I find it hard to believe that this much time has passed, but the College marked 10 years as a coed institution this past fall. I remember the announcement in 2001 of our intention to become a coeducational institution and the dreams of what would be the next chapter for Chestnut Hill College. From the ingenuity of designing marketing materials as if guys were always here to something as simple as moving the height of the shower heads in the dorms, the impact of going coed went beyond boosting the enrollment.

A decade later, our cover story explores the effects of moving to coeducation and the resultant *joie de vivre* that resides on campus. Our second feature showcases English professor and Hemingway authority, Suzanne del Gizzo, Ph.D. and what drives her love for teaching and scholarly pursuit. Finally, a memorial tribute to former superior general of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Dorothea Newell, SSJ, whose significant contributions to the Sisters as well as to the College community are lovingly remembered.

Our educational system in the United States has faced and is facing many issues which affect the viability of the entire system. From rising college costs to the expectations of today's parents and prospective students, Sister Carol offers a frank commentary in her President's Message on the state of higher education in this edition of *Chestnut Hill*.

As an alum of Chestnut Hill College, do you know a college-bound student who would benefit from an excellent liberal arts education at the College, like you did? Help us recruit the next generation of Griffins and recommend a prospective student to us with the postcard in the back of the magazine.

Kathleen M. Spigelmeyer '98  
*Editor*

**Write To Us!** Have an idea for an article? Want to provide feedback on the magazine or write a letter to the editor? Please don't hesitate to contact us.

FALL '13/WINTER '14 / VOL. 5, NO. 2

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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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# AROUND THE HILL

Campus News



## »AGREEMENT AFFORDS HIGHER EDUCATION TO WEST AFRICAN SISTERS

In October, a partnership was sealed between two institutions of higher education with the primary goal of providing access to a college education for the sisters in West Africa.

College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D. and Professor James Hawkins Ephraim, Vice Chancellor of the Catholic University College of Ghana (CUCG), located in Fiarpe, Ghana, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to offer online distance learning classes to women religious in Africa beginning in the fall of 2014.

Eighteen women religious from Ghana and Nigeria will launch the program.

Representatives from the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC) board of directors and the Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI) advisory board together with members from the College's board of directors, administration, faculty, staff, and students joined Sister Carol for this historic event.

ASEC members believe education is the key in assisting African nations in their quest for economic development and self-sufficiency. The goal of ASEC is to significantly contribute toward increased access to education in Africa by helping to educate women religious and enabling them to acquire the necessary credentials

for teaching, healthcare, spiritual, or social service ministries in their countries.

The College is one of the founding members of ASEC as well as Marywood University, Neumann University, and Rosemont College along with the religious congregations that founded these colleges and universities. Inaugurated in 2013 and funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, ASEC's Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA) program provides opportunities for women religious to earn higher education credentials through the advances in technology that is rapidly changing the landscape of higher education. 



Professor James Hawkins Ephraim, vice-chancellor of the Catholic University College, Ghana signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Chestnut Hill College on October 31, 2013. He is flanked by two witnesses.



Brighid Blake, M.A., H.Dip. ED; Kathryn Miller, SSJ, assistant to the president for administration and special projects; College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.; Anne Myers, SSJ, congregational president of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Lisa Olivieri, SSJ, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science and technology.

### »PROFESSOR FACILITATES SUMMER WORKSHOP IN INDIA



Dr. Butler (front row, right) is recognized at the conference in India.

Associate Professor of Chemistry Kelly Butler, Ph.D., spent a month living in Hyderabad, India this past summer, working as a workshop facilitator and keynote speaker at the Reviving Education by Implementing Active and Guided Inquiry Experiences in Science, Technology Engineering, and Math (REIMAGINE STEM) conference. There, she disseminated active learning techniques through Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL).

At the Vignana Jyothi College of Engineering and Technology, Butler spoke about new methods of teaching and how POGIL can help not only teachers but also students. According to POGIL.org, these methods

of teaching “encourage a deep understanding of the course material while developing higher-order thinking skills. POGIL develops process skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and communication through cooperation and reflection, helping students become lifelong learners and preparing them to be more competitive in a global market.”

The POGIL techniques yield results in improving education because students are visibly energized and instructors can quickly determine how well their students understand. Students work in small groups and learn the values of teamwork as well as the fact that learning is never a solitary task, but that it requires help and guidance from others.

Asked if she would speak at this conference if invited a second time, Butler said “absolutely.”

“We actually submitted a grant proposal to the Indo-US Science and Technology forum for a one-week workshop next summer,” she said, “and if we get approved, there would be 50 speakers in attendance.”

Because the institute specialized in management and technology, Butler learned a lot about engineering by listening to other speakers. She also became engaged in the Indian culture, only wearing its citizens’ style of clothing and living by their standards during her visit to India. 

—Kerry O’Brien ’14

# ACCOLADES



**John Ebersole,**  
**MFA**, director of  
the College's writing  
center, has been  
named poetry editor  
at the Philadelphia  
Review of Books,

a general interest, Philadelphia-centric online magazine. A previous contributor to the Review, Ebersole has taught at the College since 2007. He is also the host of the podcast "New Books in Poetry," which interviews America's leading poets about their work. His poems and reviews have appeared or are forthcoming in *Southern Humanities Review*, *Coldfront Magazine*, *Octopus Magazine*, *Western Humanities Review*, and other publications.

"When [The Philadelphia Review of Books] invited me to become poetry editor, I was humbled and ecstatic," says Ebersole. "The position provides me not only the opportunity to advocate for poetry in general, but for the literary culture right here in Philadelphia."



**Cheryl Heatwole  
Shenk '14 SGS**, who  
is pursuing a master  
of education in early  
childhood education  
and an early childhood

Montessori certification, received one of five, \$1,500 Hannah Amgott Memorial Scholarships from the Delaware Valley Education Consortium (DVEC). Scholarship applications are judged on merit, defined as a strong academic record, excellent written communication skills, and genuine interest in and commitment to the field of teaching.

Since September, Shenk has been putting her education into practice by establishing a Montessori-based, in-home preschool where she has been teaching five children. She is a board member of the Center for Environment Transformation in Camden, which transforms challenged communities into greener, more environmentally friendly, places to live. In one of her recommendation letters, Shenk is referred to as "a motivated

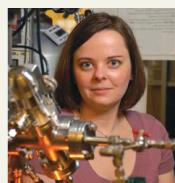
and thoughtful young woman who is really intent on making a difference in her community and in the lives of children and their families."



**Rachel Zanders '14**  
visited the United  
Nations headquarters  
in New York City  
in November to

interview filmmaker Maggie Betts, as part of the U.N.'s interactive and Web-casted youth conference held in the Economic and Social Council Chamber. Zanders said her nervousness about appearing before more than 800 people and an untold online audience gave way to calmness when she realized the event was about promoting Betts' work and her efforts to raise HIV/AIDS awareness around the world.

"I was so honored to have the opportunity to have a lovely conversation with a truly inspiring individual," she said. Betts' documentary centers on a Zambian woman from a polygamous relationship who became pregnant and contracted HIV. Zanders learned of similar stories this fall in her French literature class and had recently participated in a U.N. conference simulation in her political science class. A French and political science double major, Zanders spent last spring studying at The Sorbonne.



**Karen Wending,  
Ph.D.**, assistant  
professor of chemistry,  
and **Patrick  
McCauley, Ph.D.**,  
assistant professor

of religious studies, appeared on the MuggleNet Academic podcast in October to discuss the College's second annual Harry Potter academic conference: "Reflections on the Major Themes in J.K. Rowling's Literature." The professors spoke about the interdisciplinary honors program, liberal arts education, and the ways in which they integrate Rowling's books into epic literature, philosophy, science, and religion.

The academic conference joins students, faculty, and scholars from the College and beyond to present research or art related to the book series, adding a scholarly component to the annual Harry Potter Weekend and Philadelphia Brotherly Love Quidditch Cup Tournament.

To listen to the podcast — the professors begin around the 17-minute mark — visit <http://bit.ly/18my0hc>



**Amanda Monroe  
'16** won the  
flip-flop design  
contest held by the  
international surfing  
apparel company  
Roxy, earning  
the opportunity  
to visit Southern  
California. Monroe

stayed at a beachside hotel on Huntington Beach and met with the design teams of Roxy, Quicksilver, and D.C. In an interview with the CHC student paper *The Griffin*, Monroe described it as "the opportunity of a lifetime" that she was "so blessed and lucky" to experience.

Monroe worked on her flip-flop design with a Roxy designer, giving her a feel for the day-to-day responsibilities of the professions. She said that the company saw her design as "tribal" but still modern enough to fit in with its summer line of products.

A psychology major, Monroe she saw the contest as a way to explore an old passion on a higher level.

"This experience reminded me of how much I love and miss art," she said. "It inspired me to take a drawing course and I might even minor in art studio."

Keep an eye out for the Monroe-designed flip flops at the Flip-Flop Shop and other retailers that carry Roxy products in the near future. 

## »STUDENTS BRING COLLEGE'S MISSION TO UGANDA

On a reverse mission to Uganda in late June, Kelly Dennis '14 was a chaperon in training for Unified for Uganda (U4U), helping to get sponsors for children in primary and secondary schools.

Every year the U4U organization hosts a trip in an attempt to form connections with children being sponsored. Dennis has taken this trip in the past as a volunteer, but this time she acted as a leader. Her responsibilities included helping volunteers transition from the United States to Uganda and from Uganda back to the United States, as well as helping the volunteers become comfortable within the culture.

"The first time I took this trip was life-changing," Dennis said. "This trip reinforced and solidified, for me, that I am living the life I want to live. These trips have helped shape me as a person."

Dennis' classmates Chelsey Patten '15 and Lea Gavaris '15 received lottery tickets to be volunteers on the trip. Each school gets

a lottery ticket from U4U for every \$300 raised for the organization, and the College's U4U chapter raised enough money to send two other students.

"I saw it as an opportunity to spread the College's mission in a really special way," said Gavaris, executive president of the College's U4U chapter. "This feeling of inter-connectedness with our dear neighbor, locally or globally, is deeply rooted in who we are as a community at CHC, and it's a value that I carried with me during every moment spent with our children."

The College's chapter sponsors 125 children in Uganda, 55 in primary school and 70 in secondary school. While in Uganda, volunteers and leaders focused on forming connections with the children so they can find sponsors for them when they return to the United States. They meet all of the children, get everyone's stories, and — upon return to the U.S. — find a sponsor to help each child.

While this type of a trip is often offered to high school students, many colleges have started participating because their students brought the U4U organization to their school. Dennis says the organization is "empowering" and can have a great impact on people's lives. Volunteers find themselves immersed in the African culture throughout their two weeks there. Although the U4U organization's volunteers do not live in the same conditions as the children they sponsor while they are in Uganda, they spend a good amount of time trying to understand their culture and learn their language, Luo, and they even spent a night sleeping on mats alongside the children they help.

"Anyone would benefit from the trip," Dennis said. "You can learn a lot more from a third-world country as opposed to a first-world country. You learn a lot about yourself and get a new perspective on life." 

—Kerry O'Brien '14

 Dennis with one of the Ugandan students, Flavia.



 The CHC students with mentor Acen Jenifer, whose fair-trade merchandise they bought to support Ugandan children's tuition.



The first thing about the College that caught Jamie Gleason's eye was the location. Driving in from his Bucks County home, he marveled at the combination of history and nature.

"What a gem," said Gleason, who began as director of undergraduate admissions in September. "The natural beauty, the architecture, and their interplay with the city are phenomenal."

The College had been on Gleason's radar since he worked for his *alma mater*, Cairn University. The enrollment management firm Miller/Cook & Associates, which has consulted with both schools, cited the College favorably in competitive analyses.

"We'd hear about the things CHC was doing that we should have been doing," he said. "I even modeled my business card after [those from the College]."

As he went deeper, Gleason found a mission-driven environment that aligned with his values and an "admirable" approach to recruiting students.

"The focus here isn't on just raising the SAT profile but raising the level of success for students," he said. "You don't see that everywhere."

Gleason ran the gamut of higher education experience at Cairn, working as director of residence life, director of university admissions, and director of alumni relations. Other duties included serving on the editorial board, managing the school's recent name change, and leading the 100-year homecoming celebration. Gleason appreciated the view of various departments and the chance to tackle new challenges, but ultimately the experience affirmed his love of admissions.

"I love the relationship-building aspect," he said. "It's about building trust and listening to their needs and fears, and figuring out if this is the right place for this student and vice versa. It's a moving target, to say the least, but that's what drives me day to day."

In November, Gleason was busy devising strategies to streamline admissions processes, such as maximizing collaboration between student life, financial services, athletics,

and other key stakeholders. In his view, the maxim of admissions and retention being the job of everyone at the College holds true.

"A big part of it is keeping the students you already have," he said. "What can we do to keep them casting their ballots for us? What can we do as a College, holistically, to prevent transfers? How can we go beyond filling seats to pinpointing the students who will get the maximum experience here?"

Gleason cites the "forward momentum" of the College as instrumental to achieving his goals. In the short term, he hopes to stabilize the recent dip in undergraduate admissions amid the very challenging economic climate — and as of late November, the fall 2014 projections were ahead of target — en route to taking the numbers to a new peak. Longer term, he plans to continue finding ways for the admissions process to better serve the College's mission.

"There's a lot of kinetic and potential energy here to be a mission-driven community that's really just changing lives," he said. "That's what it's all about for me." 

### »BIOMEDICAL LECTURE SERIES WELCOMES NOBEL LAUREATE

The College celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Biomedical Lecture Series in grand style in September, welcoming Nobel Laureate Michael S. Brown, M.D., to The Hill.

Excitement abounded for Dr. Brown's visit, as evidenced by the standing-room-only crowd overflowing from the East Parlor into the Rotunda, and he delivered a contemporary and potentially life-saving speech on heart health.

But Dr. Brown went above and beyond that by spending quality time with students and other members of the College community before and after his presentation, soliciting and answering their questions and advising them on post-graduate studies and careers. His organized session with students on the fourth floor of St. Joseph Hall was lively to the point of exceeding its allotted time.

"Dr. Brown told me that it's meeting one-on-one with students that he enjoys the most," said Lakshmi Atchison, Ph.D., professor of biology and director of the Biomedical Lecture Series. "And not many undergraduates get the opportunity to speak with a Nobel Laureate in such a close setting."

Dr. Brown's keynote address recounted the 10 key attributes and values that have guided him through his illustrious career. The takeaway was a commitment to a lifetime of scientific inquiry, trial and error, alongside long-time friend and colleague Joseph L. Goldstein, M.D., with whom he received the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology in 1985 for describing the regulation of cholesterol metabolism.

Dr. Brown went on to conduct research that helped lay the groundwork for the class of drugs called statins that block



Dr. Brown recounted the 10 key attributes and values that have guided him through his illustrious career.

cholesterol synthesis, increase low-density lipoprotein (LDL) receptors, lower cholesterol, and prevent heart attacks, while honing relatable expertise on why hearts attack.

"That is vital information for people of all ages," Dr. Atchison said. "Hypertension and high cholesterol are common household terms that people want to learn more about, and Dr. Brown knows how to get through to people with his straightforward approach."

Now in its 21st year, the Biomedical Lecture Series fulfills Dr. Atchison's vision of bringing biomedical and scientific thought leaders to campus to enrich the academic culture, offer connections to students, and forge relationships between the College and other local institutions. For information on the history of the series and its speakers, visit [www.chc.edu/biomedbook](http://www.chc.edu/biomedbook).

On Wednesday, February 12, the series will welcome Kevin Petti, Ph.D., president-emeritus, Human Anatomy and Physiology Society, and professor, Departments of Science and Health, San Diego Miramar College. Dr. Petti will present "Anatomia Italiana: From the Renaissance Dissection Theater to the Sistine Chapel." 





Brooks Mirabella '15 presents his research at the SEPCHE poster session.

## »SEPCHE GRANT SPURS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROJECTS

Three students in the School of Undergraduate Studies had the opportunity to work on research projects with faculty mentors over the summer, thanks to a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges/ Foundation for Independent Higher Education UPS New Ventures Fund and the Association for Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania (AICUP), with support from the Southeastern Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE).

Twenty-one students from six SEPCHE colleges and universities were selected to work with faculty mentors on research projects this past summer, and they presented their research at a poster session at the College in late September.

Working with Ken Soprano, Ph.D., professor of biology at Chestnut Hill, juniors Sara Medacier and Allison Rae Eberly presented “Utilizing Bioinformatics to Identify Genes

Whose Expression is Modulated during Differentiation of Mouse Pluripotent Stem Cells to Endodermal and Neuronal Cells” with students from Neumann University and Gwynedd Mercy University. Brooks Mirabella '15 worked with Rosemont College Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Dr. John Ulrich, and four students from Rosemont on “Captive Cultivation of Corals to Examine Changes in Natural Product Production.”

Each student in the program was required to participate in 10-12 weeks of lab, field, or library research, attend colloquia, and prepare interim and final reports along with their poster materials. Faculty and students contributed collectively more than 3,000 hours to their projects, with an average number of 125 hours spent in research by the students. Students will also present their work at the SEPCHE Honors Conference this March.

“SEPCHE is thrilled to receive this national vote of confidence in our collective capacity to develop exceptional professionals in the sciences, mathematics, and computer sciences,” SEPCHE Executive Director Beth Moy said.

“Working in faculty-student teams from multiple institutions enables students to actively build substantive, collaborative research skills, and professional networks that define the way they view and approach problem solving,” she said. “We are deeply grateful to The Council for Independent Colleges/Foundation for Independent Higher Education and to AICUP for enabling this powerful learning opportunity.” 

— Lisa A. Mixon '10 SGS.

## »COLLEGE SIGNS STUDY ABROAD PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUTH KOREAN UNIVERSITY

The College entered into a new study abroad partnership with South Korea's Pyeongtaek University in January. Sister Carol Jean Vale, Ph.D., hosted the signing at a reception that was attended by Pyeongtaek University President, Cho Ki-Hung.

With the focus of the Global Education Office (GEO) to develop local and international partnerships and programs for students, Chestnut Hill students will now have the opportunity to participate in the summer language program at Pyeongtaek University that includes basic communication skills and experiential activities. The development of basic communication skills to increase confidence while speaking the basic Korean language will be the framework of the program along with a focus on natural speech intonation, rhythm, and pronunciation.

Students will have the opportunity to learn various aspects of Korean culture such as politics, society, arts, crafts, sports, music, and food through specialized faculty lectures and field trips. Participation in traditional Korean martial arts, farm visits, museum trips, and wearing traditional Korean clothing will also be available



"At Chestnut Hill College, we want to create unique global initiatives tailored to our campus community, our students and their experiences," says Trachanda Brown, director of GEO. "These new programs enable us to share our inclusive nature with our neighbors abroad as well as enrich campus with their global perspectives in our classrooms and community."

Pyeongtaek University (PTU) is a prominent school of higher learning that was founded as Pierson Memorial Union Bible Institute in 1912. PTU is a specialized university that maintains exchange programs with schools overseas and provides opportunities in higher education to an increasing number of Korean and international students. Their efforts have been recognized by the Korean government, which named PTU a "School of Excellence" in its University Evaluation Report.

For more information about Pyeongtaek University and the various study abroad options at Chestnut Hill College, please visit [www.chc.edu/globaleducation](http://www.chc.edu/globaleducation)



## »COLLEGE NAMED TOP SCHOOL FOR LOWEST STUDENT DEBT AFTER GRADUATION

In a recent study released by The Institute for College Access & Success, Chestnut Hill was named one of 20 public and private colleges and universities with the lowest student debt after graduation. Featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the study used the Class of 2012

as the data model and identified Chestnut Hill as one of the top schools in the nation for having low debt levels.

The study, which used self-reported data from colleges and universities, highlights states and institutions with high and

low debt after graduation, shedding light on the financial implications of choosing a college. Read the full study at: <http://projectonstudentdebt.org/files/pub/classof2012.pdf>



## »SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING



Ph.D. The program brought together staff and faculty members from various realms of the College, including counseling, student life, admissions, the health center, athletics, academics, and campus ministry. It provided state-of-the-art training through experiential

Last spring, the College hosted the educational program "Campus Connect: A Suicide Prevention Training for Gatekeepers," conducted by the Syracuse University Counseling Center and led by Mitch Sartin,

exercises and frank discussion about the gatekeepers' own fears. The program is designed to empower community members to assuage a suicidal student's feelings of isolation and allow him or her to more fully benefit from referral or connection to professional services.

Among the topics of discussion were the warning signs for distressed and/or suicidal individuals, guiding principles for helping them, and the College's current policies for responding to these situations. For more information, contact the College's counseling center at 215-248-7104 or The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK, or visit [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org). [Lisa Johnson, Psy.D. '04; Dr. Sartin; Sandra Bumgardner, Psy.D. '76, '89 SGS, '03 SGS; Sheila Kennedy, SSJ, Ph.D. '76]



## GLOBAL EDUCATION OFFICE (GEO)

It didn't take long to get a feel for a day in the life of Trachanda Brown, MLA.

About five minutes into speaking with her, an international student rushed to her door with an urgent request: "Do you know where I can find a box cutter?"

"It's interruptions and putting out little fires like that all day," said Brown, flashing a wide smile. "I'm the first person they think to come to, but that's just the nature of my job."

"There are also the times like when I can help a student get their visa," she added. "If it wasn't for that, they couldn't have started their educational journey — and who knows, they could be the next prime minister or president."

As director of the College's new Global Education Office (GEO), Brown is responsible for not just international admissions — as well as its thicket of red tape — but developing local and international partnerships and programs, such as the connection she forged with the Main Line Chinese Cultural Center to attract students from the community.

She's even there to help students, faculty, and staff to prepare for international study or travel, whether it's passport issues or sightseeing advice or discounts.

Brown has only been at the College for a year and a half, but it's been eventful. She has forged exchange-student agreements with schools from eight nations, including Portugal, France, and South Korea, and is ironing out agreements with schools in the United Kingdom and Peru. For the first time in a long while at the College, the agreements will mean not just the College's students studying overseas but students from those partner schools studying here.

That change is thanks in part to Brown's efforts to bring an English as a Second Language (ESL) company to campus to offer its services to international students, which is expected to begin soon.

"It will ease the language barriers and clear their path to matriculation at CHC," she said. "The alternative is often losing them to other nearby schools that have ESL."

Before the College, Brown worked with international students at Lock Haven University. While there, she worked in South Korea for six weeks through a work-exchange program. That trip followed journeys to Spain while in college and Panama while in high school. She says that while most expect traveling abroad to be about learning other cultures, her main takeaway was becoming more aware of her own.

"It made me a more engaged American citizen," she said. "You'd see the things elsewhere that the U.S. does better, but also things we *should* do better."

But that's far from her only takeaway. Brown thrills her friends with culinary talents she picked up in her travels, and a wide range of artifacts — from a cowboy hat from a stampede in Calgary to a mask a student brought her from Angola — adorn her office.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*The Bare Facts about Education in 2014*

## **THE CURRENT CLIMATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION NECESSITATES STRATEGIC POSITIONING AND STRATEGIC RESPONSES TO THE PLETHORA OF FACTORS IMPACTING EDUCATION AT EVERY LEVEL IN THE UNITED STATES. DEMOGRAPHIC, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND SOCIETAL PRESSURES HAVE COALESCED AND ARE AFFECTING HIGHER EDUCATION IN A MANNER DECIDEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THE PAST.**

To flourish in this climate, an institution will demonstrate flexibility, agility, and adaptability to circumstances often beyond its control. No longer can colleges and universities enjoy the status of “ivory towers” removed from the realities of a graphically real world, if, indeed, they ever could. The uncertainties shaking society now shape the agenda of the university.

As K through 12 education flounders in an ocean of uncertainties, many look to college and universities as both the source of and answer to the problems, or to at least to some of them. Statistics reveal that only 25 percent of all high school graduates are

academically prepared to begin their first year of college, which means that 75 percent require some form of remediation in one or more areas before they can be expected to perform as qualified college students. While many elected representatives, both at the state and federal levels, believe this is the fault of poor teacher-preparation programs, the answer is more complex. While delving into and naming these complexities is necessary, the first task is to shape a direction that will begin to address and resolve the problems, not only for those preparing to take their place in the nation’s classrooms but for those who will work in the myriad of fields open to them for employment.

Government regulations controlling the distribution of financial aid now force students to graduate in six years if they are to benefit from federal funding. Each year, students must demonstrate consistent progress toward graduation in order to be eligible for tuition assistance the following year. This reality has both positive and negative outcomes. On the positive side, students ought to make steady progress to degree completion or face the consequences; on the other hand, the students who are not prepared for college require extra time to acquire the skills and information necessary to be successful. Underprepared students are often the result of broken and under-funded public school systems that have failed to meet student needs for a variety of reasons. Many students, therefore, lack adequate preparation for college through no fault of their own.

Then there are the excessive expectations that colleges and universities provide facilities comparable to those at a grand vacation resort -- admittedly an exaggeration, but a deliberate one. Students demand costly amenities, services, and facilities that are not directly related to a sound academic program. One only has to tour some of the nation's thousands of college campuses to come across housing, stadiums, field houses, fitness centers, and student centers that far exceed in design and interior decoration what college students actually need for co-curricular activities. Money better spent on academic programs is squandered, by some, on curb appeal. While there is truth in the assertion that the cost of higher education is out of control, there is likewise truth in the fact that the public plays a central role in the escalating tuition costs. It is, after all, in response to market demand that institutions are spending such exorbitant sums on the build-out of campus master plans. "Build it better than the competition and they will come," is a belief proved true, time and time again.

Today's parents and prospective students are well-informed consumers. Armed with the best advice costly consultants can give; they bargain and negotiate for the lowest price they can find, often to the ultimate detriment of the student. Choosing a college or university because it offers the *best deal* and not because it is the *best fit* for the student often results in an unhappy student who eventually transfers to another institution. On the other hand, settling on a college that is a fine fit, but one that a family cannot afford, even with a significant tuition discount,



# STATISTICS REVEAL THAT ONLY 25 PERCENT OF ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ARE ACADEMICALLY PREPARED TO BEGIN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE, WHICH MEANS THAT 75 PERCENT REQUIRE SOME FORM OF REMEDIATION IN ONE OR MORE AREAS BEFORE THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO PERFORM AS QUALIFIED COLLEGE STUDENTS.

brings with it the heartbreak of a student having to leave because of unpaid bills. The result is that both parents and students must bear the stress of a formidable debt. Balancing cost with fit, even if the discount is less, is the better long-term investment.

College is a costly investment, and students and parents have the right to expect that the outcome justifies the expense. From diverse sectors of society, there are increasing demands for higher education to demonstrate that it is fulfilling its obligation to those it serves. Some question whether a college education is necessary. Others maintain that it is an unsound investment unless the first salary after college makes it possible for a graduate to repay his/her debt without undue hardship. Still others advise that a community college education is sufficient, or at least a viable option, for the first two years. Yet a different group believes multiple certificates acquired from a variety of institutions should serve as credentials. Of course, support for online universities grows with ease of access and more reasonable costs driving decisions. Those who do not understand the value of the liberal arts to prepare agile, adaptable students, whose educations are applicable to a

variety of jobs over a lifetime, proclaim the liberal arts a dinosaur whose death is imminent. The environment is indeed hostile. Institutions of higher learning must become accountable to their many audiences and must do so with a directness and simplicity that is easily understood. Putting complex issues and explanations into coherent, incisive sound bites might be one of the more difficult tasks that lie ahead.

There is another face to the cost of college, and that face is a human one. As demographics have shifted and there are fewer and fewer high school graduates, many of the graduates who are seeking entrance to college are not only underprepared but socioeconomically disadvantaged. This demographic reality is compounded by an American middle class finding it more and more difficult to stretch paychecks to purchase necessities. While they want their children to have the benefits of a college education, they are less able to fund it. Almost all students receive some form of aid or tuition assistance, both those who can pay and those who cannot. How higher education will keep pace with increasing demands for funding, both real and desired, is uncertain. The inequity of the system is obvious, the solution elusive.

These and many more factors will direct planning for the future. The colleges and universities able to shape programs that address under-prepared students, offer faculty innovative pedagogies and methodologies to overcome the crisis in the classroom, maintain challenging programs for those who fully meet the requirements for admission to college, implement successful growth strategies, use carefully crafted assessment tools to evaluate programs and initiatives, maintain flexibility and agility to change with the times, and prepare students for their preferred careers will map the road to a promising future.

In the spirit of the Founders, this College will “divide the city, determine the needs in each sector” and address them as appropriate. The trick is to observe closely what everyone else is seeing and to conceive and introduce innovative solutions while others are still pondering them. 

Sincerely,

*Carol Jean Vale, SSJ*

Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.  
President

CONSIDER US PART OF YOUR

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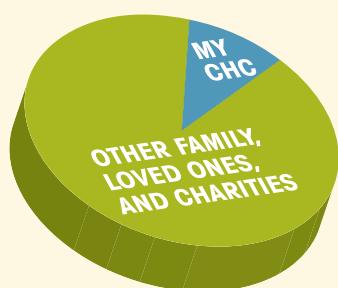
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# *Reflecting* ON 10 YEARS OF **COEDUCATION**

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*Long-time faculty and staff remember  
the transition to coeducation and extol its  
benefits throughout the College community.*

BY RYAN DOUGHERTY '11 SGS

# IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO OVERSTATE THE EFFECT THAT COEDUCATION HAS HAD ON THE COLLEGE.

As College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., noted in a 2012 interview with *Chestnut Hill*, the move to coeducation sparked an enrollment boom in all three schools and bolstered the ranks of staff and faculty. That growth empowered the school to raise the qualifications of applicants, diversify the student body, and offer a wider array of academic, social, and athletic programs.

The College accomplished that, noted Cecelia J. Cavanaugh, SSJ, Ph.D., dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies, without compromising its mission or academic rigor. It offers more hands-on and interdisciplinary opportunities, with programs such as International Business, Language, and Culture (IBLC) and Global Affairs (which incorporates politics, economics, and culture).

The College also offers more choice to today's discerning student. It has gone from offering 28 undergraduate majors in the fall of 2002 to 35 today. That entails new academic programs, such as criminal justice, digital forensics, forensic biology,

and forensic chemistry as well as the return of favorites such as music and art studio. Indeed, the rise of academics on The Hill has been well demonstrated and chronicled.

But one could argue that coeducation has had just as much or more of an effect on athletics, the performing arts, student life, mission and ministry, and admissions, infusing the hardwood and hallways with creativity and curiosity, vibrancy and vigor.

A common refrain from alumni, faculty, and staff this fall was surprise that it had already been 10 years of coeducation at the College — that it already feels like it that was always the case, and that once the school went coed, there was no looking back. But on this the 10th anniversary, *Chestnut Hill* decided to do just that, interviewing long-time staff and faculty across the various realms of the College for their memories of the shift to coeducation and their personal perspectives on its effects.

If there was a consensus, it was that the College made a bold but life-saving move, enlivening the campus community and furthering the mission.

## “THE FULL CHORUS”

Just before the College moved to coeducation, studies showed just three percent of females would consider an all-women institution, and of those, just one percent would enroll in one. But nobody needed to tell that to Jodie King Smith '94, '01 SGS.

“I didn’t want to come to CHC — *at all*,” she said. “It’s a big joke now with the faculty who remember my fresh little face coming down the steps completely miserable when I had to register for classes.”

“Flash forward 15 years,” Smith added, “and I’m in charge of *recruiting* people to come here.”

That irony speaks to the growth of the College over the last two decades. But the school was very much in “a waning period” when Smith joined as an admissions counselor in 1998.

“When I think back to it, the color grey comes to mind,” she said. “We knew it was a good place, but we didn’t have the critical mass of enrollment or the modern facilities people wanted. We had to fight for every last student.”



The arrival of men on campus immediately enlivened the College community.

Back then, the yearly enrollment goal was 100 new students. But time and time again, the all-women element precluded that.

"It was a conversation-ender," Smith said. "A student would walk up to our table at a college fair, maybe see a beautiful picture of [St. Joseph Hall] and express interest, and we'd tell them it was all-women, and off they'd go."

By 2000, then, it was clear the life of the College was on the line. At the same time, Martino Hall was built, breathing life onto campus and proving the College's ability to do big things.

"That gave color to the grey," Smith said. "We could not have done what we did with enrollment without it."

Coeducation had an immediate effect on admissions. The incoming class exceeded projections by 40-50 students, then beat the revised goal by 10. Administrators had expected around 10 percent males but ended up with 30 (thanks in large part to student-athletes), while the caliber of

female students rose. That first coed Move-In Day jarred many College long-timers, but Smith relished it.

"It was just awesome," she said, "the vibe and the full chorus of the male and female voices."

The song continues, as enrollment rose from 356 full-time undergraduates in fall 2002 to more than 840 this fall. Whereas a weekend visitor to campus in the late 1990s may have found a mostly empty campus, he or she would now see a wide swath of students studying or socializing, jumping on the bus to a game or carrying their instruments to the music corridor.

"Every once in a while, I just step back and look at what this place is today and think back to where it was in the late [1990s]," Smith said. "It's gone from a monotone to vibrant colors. The vitality of the place is palpable."

### **“BE THE HISTORY”**

Jesse Balcer's first trip to The Hill is still etched in his mind. Driving down

Germantown en route to the job interview, he was blown away by the sight of St. Joseph Hall and the campus backdrop.

"I can remember thinking, 'This place will be a gold mine.'"

The man who would become the College's first men's basketball coach found the inside of St. Joseph Hall another story, however.

"When I'd walk down the halls to practice, there weren't many people around," he said. "To be honest, it almost felt like a boarding school."

Balcer faced other challenges in starting a program from scratch, such as preparing a roster full of first-years for some tough competition. But he focused on the positives — the gleaming Sorgenti Arena, the personal attention the College paid to its athletes in the classroom, and the opportunity for players to jump right onto the court.

"A lot of schools have history," Balcer said, "but here, I'd tell them, 'You can be the history.'"



The College went from six women's teams in 2003 to 18 women's and men's teams today.

He was asking recruits to take a leap of faith. Would the College be able to shift gears and serve the relatively few young men in a sea of young women? Then again, that wasn't without its advantages.

"I'd say, 'I don't know if this will be a problem for you, but there are 300 girls here,'" Balcer said, laughing. "You'll have classes with 15 students in which you're the only guy. Will that be a problem?"

He believed that with the right mix of people, the team could compete right away, and it did, finishing 12-13 in its inaugural season. In what was his first season as a head coach, Balcer formed tight bonds with the players, with many of whom he's still close — he's been in their weddings and bonded with their children.

"Things weren't always smooth that first season," he said. "There was a lot of screaming and throwing guys out of practice, which you'd expect with a new team. But they grew up, and I grew up."

In Balcer's 11 years at the College, he's seen nothing short of a transformation. He says the move to coeducation brought a new dimension to both the higher education experience and school spirit. He notes the stands are packed to the rafters at basketball games and the field at Plymouth-Whitemarsh high school is elbow-to-elbow for lacrosse. And those St. Joseph Hall walkways that were quiet not so long ago? They're bustling.

"Everywhere you look now, there are people everywhere," he said. "It's just amazing to see."

### **"ANOTHER KIND OF TENSION"**

Barbara Glennon, SSJ, DMA, professor of music, has been with the College's music department for four decades. In the early 1970s, its strong tradition in music and performing arts was alive and well. But while most of the participating students were talented, they were small in number. She struggled to get students to attend events, such as Opera Digests, orchestra performances, and Christmas concerts. By the late 1990s, things had really begun to wane.

"Each year, we had fewer and fewer [music] majors, until we were down to four," she said. "We couldn't sustain it at that level, and we eventually lost the major. I was devastated."

It was, then, however, that the College moved to coeducation, jolting the department.

"We got men involved right away, and it was nothing but positivity," Sister Barbara said.

The department's numbers shot up — as did its' students musical and academic profiles.

"We don't need to spend time teaching the basics now," she said. "They're coming here with such strong music backgrounds."

Before long, the music major was back, with 28 students and an annual student-run musical. A "wonderful community spirit" among the students emerged, as well, evident each day at the roundtable in the music corridor.

"We have so much healthy competition now," Sister Barbara said, "so many ensembles, flute, jazz, instruments, doing such good things. And the growth led us to becoming an All-Steinway school, which was a real coup."

Don't expect the growth to end anytime soon. Sister Barbara said more than 50 prospective music students inquired this season, with 15 already making deposits for the fall. Indeed, the empty performance halls are a thing of the past. In November, two music students performed a junior recital of classical and jazz numbers that packed the East Parlor and drew a standing ovation.

Sister Barbara noted that it wasn't just music majors attending that recital but a lot new faces from the general student population. That's the result of music students intersecting with other facets of the community, including campus ministry, student government, and athletics.

As for the move to coeducation, Sister Barbara knew that it would be a difficult process. But as someone with six brothers, she never worried about whether guys would fit in.

"They've brought another kind of tension here, which is healthy," she said. "Even that extra little bit of rebelliousness ... it's what we needed."

"Our students are still so focused in the classroom," she added. "Considering how tough and competitive our music education programs have become, they'd better be."

## **“IT’S BEATING STRONG”**

Janice Kuklick, M.Ed., chair of the physical education department, has been at the College since 1977 — and she has the team-signed photos and pennants adorning her wall to prove it. She recalls those early years fondly, but they looked a lot different than today.

Many students participated, but few had backgrounds in the sports, even fewer elite talent. It was more about teaching kids how to play on the fly.

“There was a real satisfaction to seeing a kid who had never played hockey before run down and score a goal,” she said. “But it took up a lot of our time, teaching them.”

The athletics department was more of a mom and pop operation then. The gym was tiny, with almost no standing room, the uniforms shabby. In fact, for a few seasons the field hockey team played in homemade skirts, which once fell apart on a player while she ran down the field.

“The coaches were paid peanuts, and we had no vans or buses,” she said. “It wasn’t really safe, looking back on it, but I’d sometimes stuff eight kids into my Honda to go to a game.”

That team spirit remained through the 1980s and late 1990s. But eventually most of the teams waned in relation to the declining enrollment.

“We went from having both a varsity team and a J.V. team to literally pulling kids out of the halls to play,” she said. “Or having to just cancel the games.”

Competition became fiercer, too, as other local schools started adding males and dominating the Griffins. Kuklick attempted to recruit top-flight players, but very few wanted anything to do with a women-only college.

“And of those who were willing and had the talent, how many would pick us over Bryn Mawr or Rosemont?” she said. “The writing was on the wall that something had to change.”

Kuklick would witness that change, serving as athletic director while the College moved to not only coeducation but NCAA Division II. She laughs at the memory of being the only administrator at a conference for Title IX — which seeks to level the playing field for women — inquiring about how to serve men. The College has done just that, though, going from six women’s teams in spring 2003 to 18 women’s and men’s teams today.

“The growth has just been unbelievable,” Kuklick said. “The kids coming in have real talent and backgrounds in their sports.

“I love how visible the programs have become on campus as well,” she added. “They’re just so much more alive and vibrant now.”

Asked to assess the overall impact of coeducation the College, Kuklick didn’t hesitate.

“It kept us alive,” she said. “But not just a little heartbeat, one that’s beating strong. And the important things haven’t changed. Kids can still find their niche here. There’s still that closeness.”

## **“AN EMOTIONAL PULL”**

Although the reasons for moving to coeducation were clear to the College community, it was a bittersweet transition for some alumnae, faculty, and staff, including Mary Darrah, SSJ, assistant to the president for mission and ministry. She worried that some of the good work the College did for women would be lost and wondered whether men would embrace the mission.

## **THE UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT BOOM FOLLOWING COEDUCATION**

FALL 2002	356
FALL 2003	430
FALL 2004	542
FALL 2005	607
FALL 2006	682
FALL 2007	748
FALL 2008	741
FALL 2009	835
FALL 2010	863
FALL 2011	873
FALL 2012	878
FALL 2013	841

	MEN	WOMEN
FALL 2002	0	356
FALL 2003	75	355
FALL 2004	155	387
FALL 2005	193	414
FALL 2006	227	455
FALL 2007	306	442
FALL 2008	307	434
FALL 2009	337	498
FALL 2010	345	518
FALL 2011	326	547
FALL 2012	332	546
FALL 2013	340	501

*Numbers refer to students enrolled full-time in the School of Undergraduate Studies in the fall of each year. Data provided by the College’s Office of Institutional Research.*



The move to coeducation bolstered the College's student life and service projects.

"Retaining who we were was a definite pull that I struggled with," Sister Mary said, "but I knew it could just be an emotional pull."

The move disappointed some students who had come specifically for single-gender education. But Sister Mary reminded the students that all of the other reasons they chose the College were still intact, and that they would have to interact with men in the real world.

The day that men actually arrived on the campus was a huge moment, Sister Mary said, raising the energy level immediately.

"They were ready to add their voice and flavor to everything," she said, "which brought a whole new dimension. They've fit in here really well, embracing the mission not only at College but in their lives as alumni."

The impact of men on mission and ministry projects has been clear to Sister Mary, who began at the College in 1992 as campus minister. At the time, participation in mission events was strong, but it was the same faces at everything. It was difficult to get a high turnout with spread-out class schedules, so most events happened late

at night, and eventually participation diminished right along with enrollment.

But since coeducation, it's been a strong and steady increase, and Sister Mary feels a palpable energy. She credits Mindy Welding, IHM, director of campus ministry, and Michelle Lesher, SSJ '00, assistant director of campus ministry, with fostering a culture of excitement for mission and ministry events, whether it's taking the alternative spring break trip to Appalachia, joining the College's SEARCH retreats, or volunteering at The ARC of Philadelphia or at Our Mother of Sorrows soup kitchen.

"They've built a tremendous relationship with the students," she said. "As soon as the signs go up for these opportunities, they fill up."

There is perhaps no better sign of that relationship with the students than the camaraderie — guys and girls — at the mission office's afternoon tea times.

"It's a nice opportunity for fellowship and to just take a break from the school day," Sister Mary said.

The room got so crowded, in fact, that Sister Mindy and Sister Michelle expressed amazement. But taking the longer view, Sister Mary reassured them.

"I think back to where we were, an empty room," she said. "So all I say now is savor it."

## "TALK ABOUT A 180"

Jenn Thorpe, director of residence life, joined the College in its third year of coeducation, which was a little like jumping onto a moving train.

"It was like a half-and-half ratio of the old-school way of doing things and others ideas coming from a lot of new staff," she said. "It was a very transitional time for the College — a watch and react kind of thing. The magnitude was staggering."

Student housing was smaller in 2005. There were no Fitzsimmons or SugarLoaf dorms, just Fontbonne, Fournier, and one floor in St. Joseph Hall, with 70 students living off campus in Chestnut Hill Towers. But there were still empty beds, due to the enrollment decline, so Thorpe figured the school was ready for the influx of males.

"But then I saw the projected roster and thought, 'We don't have enough space for all these people,'" she said. "I was going into storage areas and turning them into rooms. Then you had to make sure there were separate common-area bathrooms for guys and girls, which meant moving some girls out of areas to free up bathroom space for men."

"That first year was a doozy and a half" she added, "just exhausting. But there was something exciting about it. I still smile when I think back to it."

Aside from the housing logistics, there was the small matter of managing the feelings of girls who came to the College specifically for women-only education and "felt like

something was being taken from them,” Thorpe said. The feelings manifested in hallmark events such as Christmas decorating night.

“This was a tradition the seniors loved and had bought into, decorating their part of campus, and now there are these guys on their turf,” Thorpe said. “So a lot of effort and energy had to go into protecting that experience for them, while at the same time challenging them about change in general.”

Easing the transition for others was the impact coeducation had on the performing arts, which Thorpe has experienced first-hand as advisor to the student-run plays. In 2006, she had to go around begging guys to join to cobble together a cast for the musical. But the auditions for the 2014 production drew such a high turnout that it was “an extreme challenge” to cast, Thorpe said.

“We could have had *two or three* main characters in each role,” she said.

“The talent is just phenomenal. You used to see the same faces year after year, but now it’s anyone’s game. Talk about a 180.”

Looking back on the shift to coeducation, Thorpe deems it a gradual process of improvement, with some bumps along the way, “done in the most kind and gentle way it could be.” Returning to the moving train analogy, she credits the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the mission of the College of providing the “track” to guide the process.

“We didn’t always know where we were or where we were going, even, but you knew you were on the track upon which CHC was founded.

“Nothing about the addition of men changed the Sisters’ intentions of producing good citizens with care for the global community,” she added. “There has been

such power and strength in that for so long that with that as our foundation, we could only have succeeded.”

## LOOKING AHEAD

Forced to reinvent itself not just to survive but to compete in a competitive higher education marketplace, the College moved to coeducation, with extraordinary results. A few years later came another moment of transformation with the purchase of SugarLoaf Hill. The College simply could not have continued growing at its post-2003 rate without somehow expanding its landlocked campus. With SugarLoaf, the College once again proved it could do big things, becoming “75 acres of awesome.”

But where will things go from here? Evidenced by the undergraduate enrollment dip in recent years, coinciding with national trends, the College remains in an increasingly competitive marketplace. It must once again look outside of itself to see what more can be done to connect with traditional-age students, a cohort in decline nationally and in Pennsylvania particularly. Once again, it’s a whole new ball game.

How will the College adapt? Look for a new Strategic Plan to be announced in 2014 that will outline the approach comprehensively. But part of that plan will be to continue offering cutting-edge programs to today’s discerning students. Another is to continue looking and thinking globally. Through its

new Global Education Office, the College has forged partnerships with eight foreign nations in which its students can now study abroad, and it is building an English as a Second Language (ESL) program to make The Hill more inclusive and attractive to international students.

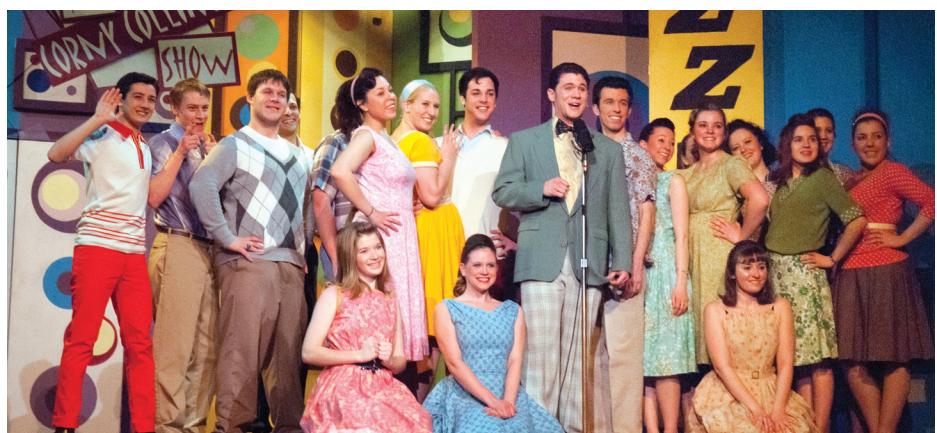
The College must be quick on its feet at a time in which the value of higher education — and the liberal arts in particular — is being questioned in the media and in living rooms across America.

The key to countering negative perceptions is remaining relevant to today’s student, offering transparency and delivering on the College’s promises, said Steven Guerriero, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.

“A dramatic transformation is happening, more than ever before in my lifetime,” said Dr. Guerriero. “The question is, are you going to be part of the transformation or be left behind?”

But while it’s important to monitor and react to trends, it’s vital to stay grounded in the mission of the College.

“You need a sturdy vessel along with flexible sails,” Dr. Guerriero said. “The mission here, one of tradition and risk, is emphasized more than it is at most other places — and it’s alive and well.” 



The College has experienced a dramatic rise in interest and talent for performing arts.



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“A LIFE  
OF  
THE MIND”

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*Through her efforts as English professor,  
Hemingway authority, and mother,  
Suzanne del Gizzo, Ph.D.,  
epitomizes scholarly pursuit.*

BY AMANDA FINLAW '14

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**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH**  
**SUZANNE DEL GIZZO, PH.D., IS POISED**  
**AND ALWAYS CONVEYS THOUGHTS**  
**AND IDEAS WITH THE UTMOST**  
**ARTICULATION. SHE REVEALS HER**  
**PASSION AND ENTHUSIASM THROUGH**  
**HAND-GESTURES AND THE RISES AND**  
**FALLS IN HER VOCAL INFLECTIONS.**  
**HER APPEARANCE IS PUT-TOGETHER**  
**IN THE WAY THAT ONLY A LITERATURE**  
**PROFESSOR CAN MANAGE, WITH THE**  
**CONFIDENCE AND ELEGANCE OF THE**  
**DANCER SHE WAS IN HER YOUTH.**

That confidence is conveyed through her upright posture as well as her purposeful use of speech and language. She possesses the same sense of effortless self-assurance whether standing in front of a classroom teaching the literature of Hemingway or Whitman or discussing trying times in life sitting behind the desk in her comfortably decorated, dimly lit office, eating a microwaved pasta meal.

In front of a classroom, her hair is pulled back into a soft but wavy ponytail that looks in no way childlike. She is clearly a fan of chunky sweaters, which balance out her small frame. While she looks younger than she is, there is no denying that she conveys the wisdom attained through years of study and experience. Once you learn that she had been a ballerina, you cannot mistake the elegance learned through this practice.

When I interviewed Dr. del Gizzo, we met after an American literature class on her favorite era, the modern, in her office in the elaborate and beautiful St. Joseph Hall. Her office walls feature art and many portraits of famous American writers, such as Hurston, Fitzgerald, Nin, Stein, Hemingway, and Miller; there is also a poster displaying some paintings by Zelda Fitzgerald made while she was committed to an insane asylum. The wood paneling, the window behind the desk, and the books in the room make it feel as if it would be a nice place to sit down for a cup of coffee or tea and curl up with a book for hours. Surprisingly, this room is not her favorite work space. She prefers her home office, with its orange walls, wooden desk, and, her favorite aspect, absolute silence. There, she sits with a cup of coffee in comfortable clothing as she ruminates and works on scholarly essays. But only after



Dr. del Gizzo is drawn to the collegiality and culture of learning in higher education.

devoting each afternoon and evening to her young daughter, whom she raises alone.

As a child, del Gizzo grew up in a large family, which she referred to as both “unorthodox and orthodox.” She lived in a small town in New Jersey and went to a Catholic school her entire young life, until her third year of college. The orthodox aspect of her childhood lies in her all girls’ Catholic education. About her family, del Gizzo says that “on the one hand it looked very normal: regular house, regular kids. But on the other hand we were very unusual the second you looked a little closer.” Her mother married and divorced a number of times, leaving her in a “hodge-podge of a family,” with a mix of Catholic and Jewish step-brothers and step-sisters. She found it exciting and interesting. Throughout her youth, she knew she wanted to take a step away from the small, religious aspects of her upbringing.

Before del Gizzo devoted herself to a “life of the mind,” she lived and learned a “life of

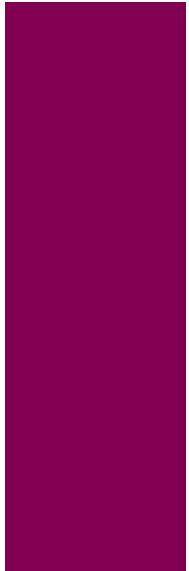
the body” through the ballet she practiced diligently. She took ballet seriously, and most likely would have pursued it further, until she required an urgent and rare eye surgery, which incapacitated her for an entire summer.

Even after the surgery, del Gizzo explains, “I had a big scar on my face and I didn’t like to go out, so I used to just hang out in my house, and I got into reading, and writing, and painting during that time, partially, I think, to survive.”

That was the turning point. From then on, she was defined by intellectual pursuits.

Even in the mix of such a huge family, the person closest to her is her sister, Meredith.

“She’s my soul mate in the world. It’s not easy to live closely with people throughout a life, and in most cases you know your siblings longer than you know anybody else,” Dr. del Gizzo said.



Dr. del Gizzo reveals her passion and enthusiasm through hand gestures and rises and falls in her vocal inflections.

She wants to replicate this beautiful relationship in her bond with her daughter, Hadley (named after Hemingway's first wife), to the extent possible in a mother-daughter relationship.

While she admits she has been greatly shaped by men and the male authors she predominantly studies and from whom she learned her sense of professionalism, she was also very much influenced by her grandmother. Her grandfather died at a young age, leaving her 28-year-old-grandmother to raise a young child alone, and "she did it with elegance," according to Dr. del Gizzo.

"She did something that was incredibly difficult, and she suffered tremendously at a very young age," she said. "I've always found that incredibly inspirational, that there was this little Irish girl from New Jersey who thought she had a happy marriage and a perfect life and her husband dropped dead. She had to rise to the occasion and she found something within herself that allowed her do it."

This mix of important men and women in her life has led her to become a strong woman. Sally Simons '14, a student of Dr. del Gizzo, said that she "seems to be

a feminist who wants and believes other women should be empowered." This aura must come from the strong men she admires and from her outstanding grandmother.

As an undergraduate, Dr. del Gizzo attended Holy Cross College for two years, before deciding she did not want to attend such a religious institution and transferring to New York University. There, she studied philosophy and literature and learned and comprehended the importance of diversity and follow-through. She was always disappointed with herself when, because of a time constraint or lack of energy, she did not give her all to an assignment or project, and from that, she learned that she needed to "try as much as possible, if it is a project that mattered to me — to step back, dig deep, find the energy, and do it right."

That lesson has served her well throughout her life. This realization reflects one of her favorite quotes, "Never confuse movement with action." While she learned all of these tough life-lessons, she finds humor in her most difficult accomplishment during college, passing her math class.

Dr. del Gizzo is a woman of many trades, with widely varying interests. She knows as much as one can learn about American literature, its important figures, and its background, but also knows a great deal about the disciplines of philosophy, art, history, and film. On the other hand, she loves to keep herself up-to-date on what is happening in the world of neuroscience, delving into the non-fiction of the topic for enjoyment and learning about something she doesn't have a wealth of knowledge on. She devotes her entire focus to whatever her task of the moment may be.

Before becoming a college professor, she worked for *The New Yorker*, and for a short time in the publishing industry, but found

no passion or fulfillment in the cubicles and fluorescent lights that come with those professions.

"I just found it really soulless and really hard to relate to," she said.

Missing the challenge of learning and the collegiality of the scholarly world from her undergraduate years, she felt compelled to enroll in graduate school at the University of Chicago and later, the Ph.D. program at Tulane University in New Orleans.

She relishes teaching about the material she loves and covers in class, despite the daily challenges surrounding the nationwide changing atmosphere of the higher education.

"She always has enthusiasm for her classes and wants her students to be equally as excited about the subject matter that is up for discussion," Simons said. Dr. del Gizzo is proud that she recently organized an international Hemingway Society conference in Switzerland and has edited two books. She also feels greatly accomplished in raising her daughter on her own.

She laments that graduate school did not prepare her for teaching, but she explains she has enjoyed learning how to be a teacher over the past fifteen years in the classroom. In her opinion, higher education is in the process of a great change, with a greater emphasis on practical knowledge and wisdom. Although del Gizzo understands this change, she remains a champion of the intangible but invaluable benefits of a traditional and fully realized liberal arts education. If Dr. del Gizzo could teach any other topic, she would love to challenge herself with a film class, but for now, she revels in living an intellectual life while shining as a professor of American literature at Chestnut Hill College. 

# HEMINGWAY SOCIETY HONORS DR. DEL GIZZO



Dr. del Gizzo recently became editor-elect of *The Hemingway Review*, the premier scholarship journal of the Hemingway Society. She received the honors at the society's annual board meeting at the American Literature Association conference in May.

"I'm honored and excited to serve the society in this way," she said. "My principal goal will be to maintain the extremely high standards that Editor Susan Beegel has established for the *Review* so that it continues to be the premier journal for Hemingway scholarship."

Dr. del Gizzo is well-known and respected by the Hemingway community, serving the society in a variety of roles over the years. She is currently serving her third term on the board of the society, has organized programs for the American Literature Association and Modern Language Association, and co-directed the society's international conference in Lausanne, Switzerland.

She is a well-regarded Hemingway scholar, having published 20 articles on Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and 20th century literature in a number of distinguished journals, including the *Hemingway Review*. She has co-edited two anthologies, *Ernest Hemingway in Context* and *Hemingway's The Garden of Eden: 25 Years of Criticism* and also assembled special sections for *The Hemingway Review* on Frost and on Hemingway's *Garden of Eden*. Other work for the journal includes evaluating submissions and reviewing books, while also reviewing publications for the *American Literary Scholarship Journal*.

— Lisa A. Mixon '10 SGS



A L O V I N G

# *Rememberance*

BY CAROLE POLLOCK, SSJ

*The following tribute is reprinted  
from the summer 2013 issue of One With,  
the magazine of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.*

# **WE WERE ALL DEEPLY SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF DOROTHEA NEWELL, SSJ ON APRIL 27, 2013. DOTTIE NOW LIVES IN THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S LOVE AND GLORY, AND OUR PRAYERS ARE ONES OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE TRUE BLESSING AND GIFT SHE WAS TO THE CONGREGATION.**

For 61 years, Sister Dorothea lived unreservedly for God and God's people as a Sister of Saint Joseph. At her Mass of Christian Burial, Congregational President Anne Myers, SSJ said, "She described her vocation as her greatest gift in life. Quoting the words of Father Pedro Arrupe, SJ, 'I fell in love, I stayed in love, with God's grace — and that has decided everything else.' We are grateful for the many ways she faithfully lived the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, for she wholeheartedly desired to live and work so that all people may be united with God and with one another."

The fullness of the gift that Dottie was to the Church, and to us, was exemplified over a lifetime of service and love. Lourdes Kennedy, SSJ says, "There are many testimonials to Sister Dorothea Newell that may be offered: her love of education as a teacher and principal, her inspiring example as a formation teacher, her supportive presence as an Area Delegate, her significant achievements as Superior General, and her commitment to peace and justice." Many Sisters expressed the desire to honor Dottie's life and her great impact on the congregation with a tribute from us, her sisters. We are grateful to all who shared their thoughts and reflections, which illustrate so clearly and touchingly their fond memories, appreciation, and love for Dottie.

## **HER DISTINCTIVE HUMOR...**

Many sisters mentioned Dottie's distinctive sense of humor. Rita Michael Scully, SSJ recalls, "Dottie was a senior at West Catholic when I was a freshman. I asked her what I had to know to join the staff of [the high school newspaper] *The Reaper*, she answered, 'You don't have to be a genius to join, you just have to enjoy writing.'" Virginia Jenkins, SSJ relates a story about Dottie about when they were novices together. "She was scrupulous about using

Sisters' full religious names, as we were directed to do. We were playing softball in Cape May, and Dottie and I were on the same side. As she tossed the ball to me trying to get someone out, Dottie yelled not 'Get it, Bebe!' but 'Get it, Sister Maria Virginia!' Both teams just cracked up screaming laughing." Cecilia Cyford, SSJ writes, "I've known Dottie since the novitiate and began to see her great sense of humor when working with her in the dining room. That awareness only grew as the years went on and it was such a joy to see her really enjoy a story. You knew it hit her funny bone when she would give a deep laugh, slap her knee, and hit the floor with her foot. There wasn't a doubt she enjoyed a good time." Another dining room memory contains what must have been one of Dottie's favorite words. Sister Jude Boyce, SSJ remembers, "She told us, and I quote, 'amalgamate the silverware!'"

## **NOVITIATE**

Marjorie Lawless, SSJ has fond memories of Dottie from her novitiate year. "Our party had Dottie for a college writing class, and one of our assignments was to write an essay on 'A Humble Enthusiasm.' Someone titled her essay, 'Clean Sheets.' Dottie loved the idea! Our party still talks about that class and her many creative writing assignments. Another fond memory from that year was when we were told that the newly opened Saint Joseph Villa was having a Christmas Bazaar. The novices were asked to make clothes for a doll, which we named, Dottie Noel. She enjoyed that!"

Madeline Franz, SSJ recalls, "In the Novitiate Sister Dorothea Newell initiated a newsletter, *The Response*, to keep the congregation informed on what was going on with the novices. I was assigned to write a humorous article on the subject 'From Pins to Velcro.' I told Dottie that I did not see myself as a 'humor' writer. She insisted ... so I wrote it. After three red-pen transfusions, Dottie agreed with me that I, indeed, was not a 'humor' writer, and she gave the assignment to another novice. Fast forward to 1988 ... and I was asked to serve as the director of the newly formed development office. After just a few weeks on the job, I presented a draft of my first donor thank you letter to, of all people, Dottie Newell, Superior General and my new boss. Memories of the Novitiate experience made me shaky, and I respectfully requested that Dottie not use her red pen too harshly. Dottie appeared confused and a bit curious. When I recounted my experience of 1968, she did not remember it, but rewarded me with one of her unique, full-hearted belly laughs ... and the next day, a fully critiqued (in red pen, of course) draft to be re-worked."

## **COMPASSION, LOVE, PRESENCE**

Several sisters affectionately shared stories of Dottie's compassionate love and presence. Jeanne McGowan, SSJ says, "All I can say about Dorothea is, she was so aware ... of everything and everyone."

My mother died in October when I was a novice. I really was struggling with the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. I was in chapel crying my eyes out. Dorothea came up to where I was sitting and sat in the pew with me ... hugged me." Dottie said, 'I rejoice that you are such a feeling and loving person.' 'I've never forgotten it, and go back to it so often because, in reality, I learned at a very young age the meaning of Death and Resurrection."

Mary McFadden, SSJ remembers, "When I was a Novice in 1977, I came to know Sister Dorothea as a 'Regional Superior.' One particularly challenging day in March, I was heading into the chapel thinking God might have some answers whether to 'stay' or 'go.' As I pushed one door in to enter, the other door pushed out and Dottie appeared. Dottie must have noticed something in my eyes, and she said something I thought was quite bizarre. She said: 'Did you know that my religious name was Sister Ignatius Loyola?' Of course, I did not know that and really did not know who Ignatius was. She looked at me with her intense, knowing eyes and told me in her deep voice that Ignatius taught that one should never make a decision in desolation ... and then she just kept on her way. I really did not know what that 'off the cuff' comment meant, but it served me well on that day and many days in the 35 years since. I have learned a lot about Ignatian spirituality since then, but that lesson at the chapel door from 'Sister Ignatius Loyola' remains my most treasured."

Trudy Ahern, SSJ shares, "My memory of Dottie is one of compassionate love. She had called our local community to share that our school and parish were on the list for Project Withdrawal Recommitment. In the same conversation, she learned of the sudden death of my nephew and asked to speak to me. She put her own concerns totally aside to be present to me. I can never forget the depth of her compassionate love and presence to me and my family in that conversation. I felt the compassionate heart of God through her love for all of us. This was for me what Healing Presence means. I thank her for loving us so well."

Joan Melley, SSJ says, "At any time of meeting her, Dottie had the gift of affirming and being grateful for what you may have done." Kathryn Miller, SSJ says, "For more than 30 years, Dottie inspired, challenged, and affirmed me. She had a special love and outreach for my sister, Dorothy, and her large family of adopted children with disabilities. When Dottie fed Shawnee lunch in the Motherhouse dining room, she commented, 'This is the most worthwhile thing I did today.' She always kept the photo in her office, and later in her own room."



Those who knew her best recall Sister Dorothea's distinctive sense of humor.

For the sisters in initial formation, Dottie's caring presence and leadership were keenly felt. Christine Konopelski, SSJ says, "One of my special memories of Dottie is when I went out to my first mission after my canonical year. I was headed for Saint Anne School in Kensington and had never taught inner-city children. In addition, I was originally going to teach science and set up a science lab, since I was an experienced science teacher before entering. The day before I left for Saint Anne School, I was told I would be teaching seventh grade English and reading! Since I didn't know a gerund from a participle, I knew I was in trouble. Before leaving, Sister Dorothea met individually with each of us. I expressed my concerns to which she calmly and compassionately said, 'Always remember, courage is fear that has prayed. Pray!' That same day, I received a note from her. It read, 'With a heart both frightened and free, set forth in the Lord. May you always feel, today, and in your life journey, the companionship of your Sisters.' For almost 30 years of religious life, I have kept this note and have remembered her words to me."

## COMMUNITY LIVING

In Mission and Community living, Dottie called her sisters to 'the more.' Therese Dowd, SSJ recalls, "I had the privilege of living with Dottie for two years in the early 1970s. I must admit

## SUPERIOR GENERAL

Dottie described all her ministries as ‘challenging and fulfilling.’ In 1979, Dottie was elected Superior General and undertook the many directives set forth by chapter. Anne Myers, SSJ shares, “As a leader, Sister Dottie was courageous, focused, prayerful, encouraging, humble, zealous, and generous in her service. She was the sign of unity that our Constitutions (223) called her to be in her ministry of leadership to all of us. Sister Dottie led the way through a very difficult yet necessary and visionary project: PWR (Project Withdrawal Recommitment). This project drew her into the paschal mystery of Christ in a unique and costly way.”

Margaret Fleming, SSJ reflects, “In light of our congregational aging and looking to the future, Dottie, with the help of others, decided on PWR to reduce our presence in parish-related elementary schools by one-half in ten years. Dottie’s listening skills and commitment to a discernment process allowed PWR to accomplish its goal. Although others were part of this discernment process, the buck stopped with Dottie, who bore the brunt of anger from many sides.”

Dorothy Urban, SSJ says, “In 1988, when Dottie was Superior General, the convent at Our Lady of the Rosary in West Philadelphia was closing. This was the parish where the Newells lived and went to school. At the same time, I was on a ministry search and the congregation asked me to interview for a parish position there. During the first year, I saw Dottie, who thanked me for being there, saying that the congregation really hoped to keep a Sister of Saint Joseph presence at Our Lady of the Rosary, and that she was personally grateful. I hadn’t known how strongly she felt, and I was touched that she had not tried to influence my decision. The parish was dear to her heart and became so for me, too — for nine happy and blessed years!” Mary Dacey, SSJ says, “When you would ask Dottie how she was doing, she would often reply, ‘Well enough.’ And that would be when things were really tough.”

Eleanor McNichol, SSJ says, “I was Vocation Directress for the Sisters of Saint Joseph from 1980-1987 when Dottie was the Superior General of the congregation. She asked me to work with the Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. What a gift it was for me to learn all about our beginnings in 1650, our Primitive Documents, and to meet CSSJs from everywhere. Dottie and I shared with each other that maxim seven was our favorite. Whenever we met we would say it to each other. When I visited her at the Villa, I would say it to



Back row: Agnes Marie Gunn, SSJ, Win Grelis, SSJ, Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., Sister Dorothea, Georgette Gavioli, SSJ. Front: Carole Pollock, SSJ, Maria McCoy, SSJ, Mary Theresa Shevland, SSJ.

I was apprehensive, because I thought it would be like returning to the strict routine of novitiate days. What I found was expansive hospitality for Sisters’ families and friends, and a keen interest in encouraging us to reverence and value our relationships. Two questions and one action, in particular, come to mind when I think of those days. For Dottie, we were drawn to *the more* for Jesus and the dear neighbor, and she believed we should encourage one another in this regard. The other, faith sharing — a new way for many of us to pray. She would say, ‘Why do you resist?’ Dottie called us to deepen our prayer life and to stretch our comfort zones. The action — Dottie made the best chocolate chip cookies I’ve ever had! During the summer months, she baked, carefully wrapped, and mailed a batch of cookies to Sisters who were living on college campuses. Dottie did everything wholeheartedly. She laughed heartily, she acted thoroughly, and she prayed deeply.”

Anne Marie Wood, SSJ expresses, “Her eyes, deep and penetrating, radiated God’s love, which for her was a deep and penetrating reality. To encounter Dottie was to encounter the unconditional love of God.”

her; this maxim wove a relationship between Dottie and me, and this is my cherished memory of Dottie and the gift of her life to us all.”

In that first year of congregational leadership, Dottie initiated the Commission for Justice as mandated by the previous Chapter. The Commission for Justice was to serve the General Council in leading the Congregation in the implementation of that Chapter’s decisions. Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ recalls, “In 1971, a special Synod of Bishops of the world wrote the document called *Justice in the World*. Sister Dottie immediately began a systematic educational process to foster social justice as mentioned in that document, ‘Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel (a. 6).’ My recollection of these earliest years of the Commission for Justice was of serious research, education, and contemplative dialog about the social teachings of the church. The General Council liaison invited the Commission to make presentations to the Council on a regular basis. The Commission meetings lasted from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, once a month, for those first 15 years. Dottie counted on the work of the Commission to advise her, and she insisted on collaboration and a discerning spirit in the Ignatian tradition. Dottie, herself, led by example. She viewed our religious life in light of the Gospel centered in Jesus. During those years in elected leadership, Dottie anchored our Congregation within the core values of Gospel justice, and a deep spirituality rooted in a profound love of Jesus. She believed that love of those who are materially poor would be practiced by all, no matter whether one served them directly or carried them in one’s heart. Dottie personified, for me, that Gospel witness.”

Today, Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ serves our community as Social Justice Coordinator. She shares, “As I jot this personal memory of Dottie Newell, the lyrics of the song *Standing on the Shoulders* plays deeply in my consciousness:

**I AM STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF  
THE ONES WHO CAME BEFORE ME,  
I AM STRONGER FOR THEIR COURAGE,  
I AM WISER FOR THEIR WORDS,  
I AM LIFTED BY THEIR LONGING FOR  
A FAIR AND BRIGHTER FUTURE,  
I AM GRATEFUL FOR THEIR VISION,  
FOR THEIR TOILING ON THIS EARTH.**

“Clearly, my ministry, which I so love, is one that would not exist had it not been for Dottie Newell and her passionate commitment to advancing the proposal of Chapter 1979 to establish a Commission for Justice for our Congregation. On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of our Congregational Justice Ministry in 2010, Dottie was a resident at Saint Joseph Villa and physically unable to attend the celebration on April 10th. But a few days later, we celebrated nonetheless!

Part of the 30th Anniversary celebration included a PowerPoint presentation choreographed to music featuring the evolution of our justice ministry. With laptop and CD player in hand, I headed to the Villa to join Dottie and Mary Corbett, SSJ for our own mini-celebration in the intimacy of Dottie’s room. As we sat side-by-side and the pictures came to life on the screen, a huge smile formed on Dottie’s face. She pointed to and traced the images of our sisters as their faces and names appeared on the laptop. Sometimes she commented: ‘Look how young she was there!’ or ‘I remember that (event) well.’ About one sister, Dottie commented, ‘She was always intense — still is!’ It seems Dottie could really recognize intensity! This short time of celebration with Dottie is one I have treasured — my only personal experience with her. I knew I was sitting next to greatness — spiritual greatness marked by deep humility, gentleness and a life of self-emptying love. Truly, I am standing on your shoulders, Dottie, in this privileged place of doing justice ministry.”

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

After serving 10 years as Superior General, Dottie studied Spirituality at Creighton University, and ministered to many as a spiritual director. Georgette Gavioli, SSJ reflects, “I have lots of good memories in my relationship with Dottie, but one that I always treasure is when in the late 1970s, Mary Theresa Shevland, SSJ, Maria McCoy, SSJ, Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Carole Pollock, SSJ and I made retreat at Weston Priory and brought our directors, Win Grelis, SSJ and Dorothea Newell with us. Some days it was so cold that we had direction in the car, just to get a bit warm. The graces of that time continue to stay with me. Sister Maria McCoy, SSJ says, “In 1985 my ministry as Directress of Temporary Professed included coordinating the Final Vow Preparation. Weston seemed like a place conducive for this sacred time of prayer and reflection. For eight years we would go there for a month each summer. As Superior General, Dottie would come each summer for a few days to visit with the final vow sisters. These times in Weston were richly blessed in so many ways, and I am deeply grateful to Dottie for her openness to the Spirit and for her selfless love in traveling to Vermont to share in the experience of Final Vow Summer.”

## PASTORAL MINISTER

Dottie's final active ministry led her to serve at Holy Name of Jesus in Harrisburg and Ascension Parish in Philadelphia. Lourdes Kennedy, SSJ shares, "I am grateful to have shared life with Dottie for 10 years as a member of her local community. Despite many years and enormous responsibility, she was quick to sign up for cooking and shopping turns. Dottie was an inspiration in her astute and faithful preparation of prayer, both personal and communal. While she ministered sensitively in her pastoral care responsibilities, she extended herself wholeheartedly to each of us at home."

"Dottie's sense of humor was wonderful. She was a great sport in parties, games or activities we undertook for holidays or when housebound during blizzards. Perhaps the greatest testimonial is that she practiced what she preached, and she didn't ask anyone to do something she didn't do herself. Dottie seemed to enjoy most being a simple Sister of Saint Joseph at a distant mission where she was not known for whom she had been, but simply the Sister of Saint Joseph that she lived out each day. Reflecting on her decision to minister at Ascension, Dottie said, 'This was the last possibility of direct service to the poor, and it was God, the Spirit and Jesus leading me.'"

Margaret Fleming, SSJ says, "Dottie brought her great listening skills in her visits to the people of Ascension Parish. They loved her and she cherished them." You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever. (Ps.16:11) Dottie humbly and gracefully lived the last years of her life as a resident of Saint Joseph Villa. Her quiet presence was a powerful and liberating gift to all whom she encountered: the culmination of a faith-filled life of service and devotion. She accepted the changes that were taking place in her body and mind with dignity and grace, made manifest through the glory of God within her.

God speaks to us through people and he comes to us through love. God had a plan for Dorothea Newell, and she lived out that plan with love, dedication, enthusiasm, humor, integrity and joy! Her strong and honest way of living attracted and enabled many of us on our life journey. Though Dorothea Newell is no longer physically here with us, we know she is with the God she passionately served and loved.

Shortly before Dottie's death, she wrote on a slip of paper, "I stand before the face of God and live." We will always be grateful for the precious gift and blessing Dottie was to our Congregation. We carry in our hearts, these wonderful memories and experiences, which continue to inspire and encourage us as we live our mission of love and reconciliation. 



Sister Dorothea and Catherine Francine Sweeney, SSJ; Margaret Fleming, SSJ, Sisters of Saint Joseph Congregational President Anne Myers, SSJ, Ph.D., Sister Dorothea, and Patricia Kelly, SSJ.





# AN *Everlasting* IMPACT

FORMER STUDENTS REMEMBER  
SISTER IGNATIUS LOYOLA SSJ

Dorothea Newell, SSJ taught at Holy Family Academy in Bayonne, N.J., for 11 years. Two of Dottie's students shared memories of their former English teacher. Patricia McFadden, HFA Class of 1960, says, "Sister Ignatius Loyola (Dorothea Newell), was tough, but fair. We Holy Family girls called her the 'rewrite queen.' Fifty years later, I never write anything that does not have a brief outline. I always re-read my documents 30 minutes after I write them! So, I thank God that Sister Ignatius was my teacher. I have life lessons from my relationship with Sister. We were fortunate to be her students."

Nancy Van Note Chism shares *A Personal Reflection*. "Sister Ignatius Loyola is a prime example of how far the reach of one person can extend. When I first met her as a freshman at Holy Family Academy in Bayonne, I was fascinated, as well as a little frightened, by her beauty and austerity. She was a model of self-discipline, and consistently urged her students to grow in that quality. As I had more contact with Sister Ignatius (beyond being given detention for talking in the ladies' room), I had the opportunity to learn from a skilled and energetic teacher of English. I picture her as our yearbook photographer caught her, arms outspread with her deep brown eyes and dark brows in the habit of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, against the backdrop of a blackboard, book in hand, emphasizing a point of English grammar or the theme of a piece of literature.

My closest opportunity to be individually mentored by Sister Ignatius was as editor of our school newspaper, *The Harvester*. Whether she was commenting on my copy or teaching me leadership skills, she took an exceptional

interest in helping me to develop. A highlight of my young life occurred when she found the funds to send me to the Catholic Press journalism school in Washington, D.C. This trip entailed my first plane flight and first extended stay away from home, staying at Catholic University. I remember sitting on a bench in the lovely grounds of the university, writing her a letter in which I confessed that we all called her 'Iggy.' Her generous and thoughtful act enabled me to make new friends around the country, and to progress in my skill. The following year, I won the national Catholic Press news writing award and a full scholarship to a university of my choice.

Women frequently say that they cannot identify a mentor in their career or personal lives. I can say that Sister Ignatius was the first of two major mentors in my life, and that has made a huge difference. While I never became a journalist because I realized I did not have the personality for it, I have continued a life of writing, having now published more than 90 academic pieces.

My personal story, multiplied by the hundreds of people who were taught and mentored by Sister Ignatius, presents an astounding reflection of the good that she did and the legacy she inspired. And this is only part of the story. Her leadership within the SSJ community, her many other ministries, and her love for family and friends are also tremendous gifts that were made during the course of her life. I am sure that as a member of the communion of saints, her spirit will continue to inspire and support us. As important as her past presence has been for so many, even more so will her continued presence touch and guide us through our journeys."

# GRIFFINS SPORTS

[www.CHC.edu/athletics](http://www.CHC.edu/athletics)



## »WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM RANKED REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY

Following a strong fall season, which once again saw the Griffins battle Concordia College for the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) championship, the women's tennis team received both regional and national ranking from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

The Griffins came in at 4th in the East Region and 42nd in the nation. Charlotte Dawson '15 (from Texas), Iman Williams-Mulesa '16 (from Ontario), and Marie Deleval (from France) all earned individual rankings, as well.

It was the Griffins' first undefeated CACC season since the move to NCAA Division II in 2007. The team went 13-2 overall and 8-0 in conference en route to the championship, before losing a tough 5-4 match to Concordia.

"I was very happy with the success we had, which started with the team working really hard in the summer and preseason to prepare for our competitive schedule," said head coach Albert Stroble. "In a way, we proved to ourselves that we belong among the conference's elite and in the East Region."

Dawson went 9-5 at number-one singles and, with Deleval, 9-4 in number-one doubles. Playing mostly at number-three singles Deleval finished with the Griffins' best individual record at 12-2, while Williams-Mulesa finished 9-3 at number-two singles. In the ITA regional rankings for individuals, Dawson was ranked number 7, Williams-Mulesa 14, and Deleval 17th. Dawson and Deleval also ranked number 7 for regional doubles.

Dawson credited the players' support of one another as a key element of their success.

"We would always encourage each other, shouting out reminders about our team goals, when we thought we were too tired to keep going," she said. "We held one another accountable."

Also benefitting from the leadership and talent of players such as Kelly Dennis '14 and Morgan Oechsle '15, the Griffins excelled despite a tough fall schedule. Its 5-4 win over Concordia in the regular season was the 100th of Stroble's career and the Clippers' first conference loss.



Charlotte Dawson '15 and Iman Williams-Mulesa '16 fueled the Griffins' season en route to individual honors.

The team finished the regular season 12-1 before defeating Philadelphia University 5-0 in the conference playoffs to reach the championship.

Following a well-deserved rest for the coaches and student-athletes, the Griffins will resume play in the spring with a trip to Tampa, Florida, which Dawson cites "an awesome opportunity" to face unfamiliar opponents. 

## »MEN'S BASKETBALL RALLIES AROUND PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENT

The Griffins' key recruit this season may have been a five-year-old boy named Makhi. He stands just three feet and seven inches and weighs just 40 pounds, but his heart and natural leadership are off the charts.

"He's the strongest and happiest kid I've ever met," said center Seamus Radtke '15. "He keeps us motivated on and off the court. As Makhi continues to fight, so will we."

Makhi has battled pediatric kidney cancer since April. After the diagnosis, the Horsham resident underwent surgery to remove the tumor and kidney, which was followed by chemotherapy treatment. Introduced to Makhi through the nonprofit Team IMPACT program, the Griffins visited the boy in the hospital and became fast friends.

Makhi has truly become a part of the team, attending practice two or three times a week and as many team activities and games as his devoted mother can get him to.

"As soon as he walks in, the players go right up to him," said head coach Jesse Balcer. "They try to get him to sit with us on the bench, and he's the one who starts up our 'One, two, three, Hill!' chant."



The Griffins immediately responded to Makhi's strength and charisma.

"You can tell how much it means to him to just be around the guys and spend quality time," he added. "And we love having him here."

Balcer and his players keep abreast of Makhi's battle, which they say helps them keep things in perspective after a grueling practice or last-second loss.

"It's a matter of taking a step back and thinking about what matters," Balcer said. "Makhi is out there fighting for his life." 

## »WOMEN'S SOCCER STAR NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN



Capping her impressive career as a Griffin, women's soccer midfielder Marykate McShane '14 has been named a College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Capital One Academic All-American. McShane was a second-team honoree and one of five female selections to carry a 4.0 grade point average.

McShane was honored to receive the recognition but quick to point out that she is one of many student-athletes adept at balancing their studies with other activities.

"That's not to say there weren't some late nights," she added, "but that balancing act is one of the most important lessons learned in college."

McShane is the second Griffin to receive the distinction, following baseball's Joseph Crane '13. McShane had already been named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team for the second straight year as well as the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Student-

Athlete of the Month after notching seven points in October. She finished first on the team in assists, third in points, and fourth in goals, and her high-energy and tactical play were keys to the Griffins' 5-6-1 record in the highly competitive CACC.

McShane was just as busy off the field, carrying a dual major in human services and Spanish and becoming a four-year fixture on the Dean's List and the Athletics Academics Honor Roll. She also gave back to the College community and its neighbors through a variety of volunteering efforts, such as teaching English to Latino immigrants at the Sisters of Saint Joseph (SSJ) Welcome Center last fall and advocating for uninsured patients at the St. Catherine Labouré Medical Clinic in the spring.

McShane credits her zeal for volunteering to the example set by her grandparents and parents in their communities.

"By volunteering, I seek in my own small way to help those in need," said McShane, who plans to pursue a master's degree in social work. "It has been encouraging to find out how many great social service agencies are out there treating people with the respect and dignity they deserve." 

# ALUMNI LINK

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

## »NEWS & NOTES FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR'S DESK

### LEADERSHIP ALIVE IN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

There are many things of which we can be proud of here at CHC. One source of pride is the group of loyal leaders on our Alumni Association Board of Directors. As the bylaws state, "This Association will support the mission and promote the interests of Chestnut Hill College; establish mutually beneficial relations between the College and its alumni; maintain among its former students a spirit of communication, fellowship and service; and enhance financial resources beneficial to the College's sustainability and growth." Our board members are dedicated to these objectives, and willingly volunteer for several years to make things happen positively for CHC.

This year a new president and five new members were named to the board of directors. **Renee Haggerty '90** (BA, political science) has been elected new president of the board. A resident of Philadelphia, Renee is currently vice-president of Intertrust groups based in Wilmington, Del. Renee looks forward to serving her three-year term on the board that began on July 1, 2013. Other new members elected to the board for a two-year term: **Amy McLeer '94** (BA, English) serves as director of development for Cooper Medical School for Rowan University; **Jonathan Collier Freeman '12** (M.A., elementary education) teaches at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy School; **Max Kaplan '11** (BA., English literature & communications) is the social media community manager for Phil & Co. in New York City; and **Leslie Zemnick '11** (B.S., business administration) works on Exxon Mobil, Visa, and Procter & Gamble as global operations manager at BBDO NY.



Members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Elected to a second two-year term are **Cecelia (Cissy) Englebert-Passanza '77 CRNP** (B.A., American studies); **Joanne Fink '76** (B.A., art history); and **Margarita (Margo) Mongil-Kwoka '80** (B.S., psychology).

**Jo Marie Victor '04** (B.S., business communication) remains board vice president after completing her first full term in that position. Jo Marie also serves as chair of the Annual Alumni Fall Conference. Continuing their service as directors are board secretary **Margaret C. Moran '67** (AB, English); **Mark A. Hammons '08** (B.S., business administration), '10 (M.A., administration of human services); **Jane Marie Fearn-Zimmer, Esq. '88** (B.A., English); **Pamela Fiugalski-Prevoznik '94** (B.S., marketing); **Joan McFadden Jernee '67** (AB, English); **Jennifer Johnson Kebea '05** (B.S., biology), '08 (M.A., administration of human services); **George Roitzsch '07** (B.S., biology), '09 (M.A., administration of human services); and **Tan T. Tang '07** (B.A., political science). **Kathleen O'Boyle '84** (B.A., English), '97 (M.A., technology in education) completed her three-year term as board president and remains serving for a one-year term as past-president.

As part of their responsibilities, members serve on various board committees: *Alumni Outreach Committee* members work on increasing communication and engagement among alumni about specific events throughout the year; the *Alumni Ambassadors Committee* assists the College in attracting and retaining students for a successful and satisfying CHC experience, as well as working cooperatively with the College's Office of Career Development; the *Nominating Committee* recommends candidates for office to be elected by the Alumni Association board of directors; and the *Honors & Awards Committee* members recommend nominees for the Chestnut Hill College Distinguished Achievement Award and the Eleanore Dolan Egan '28 Award for Outstanding Service to the College. Indeed, the Alumni Association Board of Directors reflects visible leadership in action!

The Office of Alumni Relations is sincerely grateful to its many volunteers who give their time, talent, and treasure to help advance the goals and mission of Chestnut Hill College. 

— Catherine E. Quinn '78



## ALUMNI OFFICE WELCOMES ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



The Office of Alumni Relations recently welcomed **Fran Vorsky '05, '07 SGS** as associate director. Experienced in both professional and volunteer event planning, as well as in alumni engagement, Fran is an impressive addition to the institutional advancement department.

Fran is a familiar face to many faculty and staff at Chestnut Hill College. As an undergraduate student, Fran was a resident assistant and was involved in student government, sports, and the psychology honors society. After graduation, while studying at the College for her master's in the administration of human services, and working as a data assistant in the Office of Institutional Advancement, Fran served as a residence coordinator through the Admissions Office, responsible for supervising resident undergraduate students and paraprofessional staff, and coordinating both educational and social programs.

On a professional level, Fran's experience in sales and marketing has ranged from planning small corporate events to managing large-scale fundraisers, including responsibilities in customer service, contract negotiations, departmental team-building social activities, and multi-day training events. Her duties also consisted of coordinating national professional incentive programs, managing expenses, and creating reports and presentations.

Throughout the years, Fran's volunteer involvement has encompassed working with a variety of professional and community service organizations, and most notably, her extensive 11-year experience with CHC alumni reunions.

With a sincere passion for Chestnut Hill College, Fran brings to the position strong interpersonal relationship skills, extensive professional abilities, as well as a new perspective to continue enhancing and growing our alumni programs. Fran can be reached at [vorskyf@chc.edu](mailto:vorskyf@chc.edu) or 215.248.7016. 

## INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

We welcome you to explore the various engagement opportunities possible on alumni committees and events, become an alumni career or admissions ambassador, or nominate yourself or another to become a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Please contact Cathy Quinn, director of alumni relations at [quinn.c@chc.edu](mailto:quinn.c@chc.edu) or 215.248.7137, or visit [www.chc.edu/alumni/get\\_involved](http://www.chc.edu/alumni/get_involved) for more information. 

## MASK AND FOIL

The annual Mask and Foil Alumni Reception was held on Friday, November 22, in the Music Corridor of St. Joseph Hall. Graduates from various decades were welcomed to share their experiences as students in drama and musical productions at the College. Participants were then invited to attend the student-directed opening night play, *A Delightful Quarantine*, a contemporary dramatic comedy by Mark Dunn. 



## "NOW...IS YOUR TIME" 2013 REUNION WELCOMES MORE THAN 280 TO CAMPUS



The campus was alive with excitement as traditional-age graduates from classes ending in 3 and 8 celebrated the "time of their lives" at the 67th Annual Reunion held on May 30-May 31-June 1. There was a record number of attendees, including more than 80 high-spirited members from the Class of 1963 marking their 50th reunion. For the first time in history, residence hall rooms on both the main and SugarLoaf campuses were completely sold out. From engaging seminars to fun-filled dinners to a rousing napkin-swinging role call at the annual luncheon, a great time was had by all our women and men alumni!

This three-day event introduced revisions in the usual reunion schedule and new programming, including the Annual Memorial Mass moving from Saturday morning to late Saturday afternoon. The traditional Sunday Golden Griffins gathering moved to a Saturday evening dinner when the Class of 1963 was inducted into the Golden Griffins as they entered a new phase of their relationship with the College. This formal induction of the 50th reunion class was introduced in 2008 on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the graduation of the first class to enter what was then known in 1924 as "Mount St. Joseph College on the Wissahickon." Each 1963 class member received a beautiful commemorative medallion especially created for the College honoring the 50th anniversary of the College's first class. Other senior-level alumnae on reunion, who have already celebrated their 50th, also attended the dinner.

A behind-the-scenes vantage point showed that this reunion was such a success because of early planning and engagement by class leaders. Besides eligible alums receiving email messages and news from the Office of Alumni Relations, class officers and classmates emailed, phoned, and even wrote personal notes encouraging others to attend. Without a doubt, communication proved the key to the record-breaking turnout this year.

A singular event, held on Saturday afternoon, was the dedication and naming of the **Driscoll-Gehman Class of 1963 Piazza**, funded by the entering Golden Griffins Class of 1963, with special recognition of classmates **Diane Driscoll, SSJ** and **Marcia Gehman, SSJ**. **Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.**, college president, and **Marion Williams Berry '63**, class president, offered welcoming remarks on this significant occasion. Classmates joined in the celebration with a special champagne toast given by **Marion Williams Berry '63**, **Carroll Lanman Schleppi '63**, and **Sue Nolan Berkey '63**. Festivities concluded with a blessing prayed by honorees, **Diane Driscoll, SSJ** and **Marcia Gehman, SSJ**.

To say it briefly ... a great time was had by all who attended their 2013 Reunion Weekend! There was time for positive experiences, interesting and fun activities, reminiscing, relaxing, and reuniting. You couldn't ask for a better way to reconnect with friends at your *alma mater!* 



## FALL CONFERENCE ATTRACTS MANY TO CONNECT AGAIN WITH CHC

“CHC and YOU” echoed the theme of the Annual Alumni Fall Conference held on Saturday, September 28th. Invitations to this year’s event were mailed to all alumni including class officers, committee members, and other alumni volunteers. The program began with an invocation by **Renee Haggerty ’90**, alumni association president, an introduction by conference chair and alumni association vice-president, **Jo Marie Victor ’04 SCPS, SSJ, Ph.D.** Sister Carol updated the attendees on new and exciting academic programs, student-athlete activities, enrollment initiatives, and how the College reflects trends in the national higher education landscape. Thought-provoking questions posed to Sister Carol by participants focused on discussion of the College’s future goals, student scholarships, donor support, and the *ASPIRE. BELIEVE. COMMIT.* Campaign.

Following this exchange, alums attended a break-out session of their choice. These included workshops on the 2014 class reunion organization given by **Coco Minardi**, director of the Griffin Fund and special events; career connections, presented by **Ryan Mooney**, assistant director of career development; student recruitment initiatives shared by **Jamie Gleason**, director of undergraduate admissions, and **Ken Hicks**, vice president for institutional advancement; and connecting and communicating with and about CHC presented by **Jackie Gutshall**, assistant director of alumni relations, and **Mark Hammons ’08, ’10 SGS**, alumni board outreach committee chair.

Alums then enjoyed a buffet luncheon, an optional tour of the SugarLoaf campus, and the Alumni Beer Garden festivities to complete this day of connecting with CHC and other alums. 



Jo Marie Victor ’04 SCPS.

## JUNIOR MAKES AN IMPRESSION AS SUMMER INTERN



**Thomas Pontius ’15**, an accounting major, made CHC proud! He was one of 12 outstanding students – competing against more than 100 others – who were selected to serve an internship this past summer at First Financial Group (FFG) in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. Under the supervision of CHC alum, **Mary Ann Stahl Patton ’87**, vice president for recruiting at FFG, Thomas participated in an exceptional experience with representatives from such prestigious universities as Penn, Temple, Drexel, St. Joseph’s, and LaSalle. Mary Ann worked diligently with the College’s career development office to provide Thomas with this exciting opportunity.

**Nancy Dachille**, director of career development, who attended the “Collegiate Affair” conference at FFG in August with **Ryan Mooney**, assistant director of career development, states, “We were so proud of Thomas to be representing CHC along with students from other colleges, and to see him engage professionally with the president and top executives from FFG. It was such an honor.” Thomas was chosen to continue working at FFG on a part-time basis during the school year. 



Mary Ann Stahl Patton ’87.

## WE’RE SOCIAL....LET’S TALK

Stay connected! Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn sport a consistent CHC Alumni Office signature, with associate director **Fran Vorsky ’05, ’07 SGS** administering all three networks. Alums of all schools are encouraged to register on these three sites for ongoing updates, discussions, and other communications. Contact [vorskyf@chc.edu](mailto:vorskyf@chc.edu) for information. 



## 1954 REUNION

Enthusiastic members of the class of 1954 gathered for the 17th consecutive year at **Kathy Gruber Satori's** home in Stone Harbor, N.J., this September to share special memories of their time at CHC.

**Linda Avila '75 (sociology)** joined the Schuylkill Dragons team six years ago, and loves being in the dragon boat on the river four times a week looking at sunrises and sunsets. It is a unique experience for Linda to paddle in a boat with 22 women all striving to get stronger as a team and working together on time and with one heart. The team's coach was selected coach of the USA Women Senior Team at the World's Dragon Boating Competition (our Olympic event) this summer in Hungary, with Linda attending as the #1 USA fan! The USA team was awesome competing against Canada, Australia, and other countries.

This year is a very important one for Linda's team because they are trying to go to Ravenna, Italy next year to the CLUB Crew Competition. They have trained hard and have participated in races throughout the east coast from Baltimore, Ithaca, Boston, Richmond, and Princeton.

Linda says that "Drag Boating has opened doors to me to meeting new friends, and appreciating the beauty of the Schuylkill and the Cooper Rivers. I encourage my fellow alumni to stay in shape through sports. Live your dream ... make a difference!" 



Avila waves to onlookers.

## Nominations Invited for 2014 Alumni Association Awards

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

Profiles of award recipients, nomination criteria, and nomination forms are accessible on [www.CHCgriffinsonline.com/Awards](http://www.CHCgriffinsonline.com/Awards)

Nominations may be submitted online or printed from the web site and postmarked by **March 14** to:

### Alumni Honors & Awards Committee

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

For information, contact Catherine E. Quinn, director of alumni relations, at [quinncc@chc.edu](mailto:quinncc@chc.edu) or 215.248.7137

# Christmas on The Hill

The Sophomore Class of 2016 was thrilled to win the 2013 Christmas Decorating Night competition with its elegant and graceful display of “Christmas in Japan” exhibited throughout the hallways between Fournier Hall and St. Joseph Hall. Class designs, judged by Alumni Association members **Kathy O’Boyle ’84, ’97 SGS, Margaret Moran ’67, Tan T. Tang ’07, and Marjorie Topper Mannix ’78** were made on best interpretation of the general theme, “Christmas Around the World,” best use of location and materials, and overall presentation. 



## 4TH ANNUAL ALUMNI BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

More than 150 people joined together for the 4th Annual *Alumni Breakfast with Santa* on Sunday, December 8. Santa and Mrs. Claus had their arms full of eager and excited little ones ready to express their dreams for Christmas gifts and treats. 

## 8TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHEER

More than 30 alums of all ages celebrated the Christmas spirit at the 8th Annual Holiday Cheer held on Friday, December 6, at the Commonwealth Chateau. This was the first year that this festive gathering was held on the SugarLoaf campus. This beautiful venue is a sure winner for next year’s event that will be held after the College’s very popular Carol Night! 

# CLASS NOTES



## '40S

### Sister Francis Joseph

Scarpello, RA '40

(**chemistry**) also known as Rachel Marie, passed away in late February 2013. She was 93 years old and a Religious of the Assumption for 58 years. Sister Francis Joseph led an international life for many years, living, studying and working in Philadelphia, Paris, Rome, and in the Assumption colleges of Osaka and Manila. The 1970s brought Sister Francis Joseph to several assignments in Europe. She labored as organizational manager of the "Cause for Beatification" process for the founder of the Religious of the Assumption, Mother Marie Eugenie, who was declared "Blessed" in 1975. While Americans were celebrating their nation's bicentennial in 1976, Sister began a new assignment in Rome as the executive secretary for the International Union of Superiors General. This job required her to coordinate the needs and concerns of 2,285 leaders of religious orders worldwide who report to the Vatican. As much as she loved her work abroad, Sister was happy to be called back to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1980 when she became involved in the Church's Peace and Justice Ministry. As part of her service to the Archdiocese, Sister became the director of the "Outreach Lector Series" of the Faith-Justice Institute of Saint Joseph's University. There she provided a forum for thoughtful dialog between the academic campus and the larger community on Catholic social thought on

contemporary issues. In 2004, Sister Francis Joseph received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Chestnut Hill College Alumni Association for her achievement in professional, community, religious, educational, cultural, and other civic causes.

### Adele Przybylowski Majka

'43 (**art**) enjoys spending happy times with her daughters, Renee and Nadine, at Adele's home in Dover, Del.



### Marcia Kelley '48

(**mathematics**) considers herself a Vatican II Catholic and finds much hope in Pope Francis. Marcia shared, "The summer I graduated from CHC, I entered the Salesians of Don Bosco, a true saint along the lines of John XXIII. I remained with them for 20 years. I left during Vatican II while attending Boston College (working on a master's degree in physics). When I returned to the convent and was so enthusiastic about Vatican II, I was told that they were sticking with Pius XII and they would die before changing their habit." Marcia taught in high schools and community college as a lay person for the next 20 years, while supporting civil rights and anti-war efforts.

At age 62, Marcia resigned and volunteered with Father Wasson's orphans, known as Neustros Pequenos Hermanos (Our Little Brothers and Sisters) with orphanages in Mexico, Honduras, Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. She accompanied Father Wasson to some of these countries, and resided in Guatemala teaching computer skills to orphans.

## '50S

### Blanche Haviland Moore

'50 (**chemistry**) and late husband, Jack, have been longtime supporters of the Catholic Church. Before Jack's passing, the couple served on boards, raised millions for education and vocational purposes, and has received many awards and recognitions for their support of the church. Blanche grew up in Philadelphia in a devout Catholic family and was educated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. For Blanche, the best thing about being able to support the church was helping spread the word of God. Blanche shared, "It's knowing that you're spreading the faith, you're doing what God wants you to do, using whatever your talents are to spread the faith." Since Jack's passing, Blanche has remained active in her parish and enjoys spending time with her two children and four grandchildren. To keep her husband's memory, she wears both of their wedding rings around her neck. Blanche is grateful for her family, her faith, and her many friends she has made through the years.

## »IN MEMORIAM

- Ruth McGillicuddy Clark '36  
Elizabeth Stevenson Hington '37  
Eleanor Green Markert '38  
Rose Clare Wright Moore '38  
Margaret McGlynn '39  
Margaret Walsh Ryan '40  
Sister Mary Conahan, M.M.S. '40  
Sister Francis Joseph Scarpello, RA '40  
Patricia O'Brien Schliep '41  
Laura Filmyer Wittkofski '41  
Elizabeth O'Flynn James '42  
Regina Baust O'Donnell '42  
Camelia Gallardo Eisenhart '43  
Helen Tansey Farhat '43  
Aileen Murphy Johnson '43  
Catherine "Kay" Maginley Nairns '43  
Helen Cunningham Roney '44  
Helen "Betty" Wyman Clatterbaugh '45  
Florence McConnell McGill, M.D. '45  
Alice Beatty Brown '46  
Margery Ann Hawe Connor '47  
Marie DiBerardino, Ph.D. '48  
Catharine Kiely Leydon '48  
Marilyn Schuler Lynch '49  
Helen Marie Beatty McBride '49  
Carolyn Stemmler '49  
Joan Loughlin Welch '49  
Helen Robertshaw Emge '50  
Sally Dolly Nester '51  
Phyllis Fox Brown '52  
Mary Ann Regina "Mimi" Givnish Quinn '52  
Elizabeth Earley, Ph.D. '53  
Alexine Sullivan Weaver '53  
Marguerite Heiken Breslin '54  
Marilyn Cannelli Desmond '54  
Joan McCafferty Stapleton '54  
Maureen Parks Todd '54  
Maryanne Hahl Anderson, Ph.D. '58  
Marianne McKernan Bjorseth '58  
Dianne DeGiacomo '58  
Ellen Ritchotte Evans '58  
Mary Ann Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. '59  
Nancy Cobb Masonis '59  
Mary "Mimi" Morgan Thistle '61  
Frances Cusack Lyons '68  
Diane Gallagher Brennan '69  
Elaine Melchionni Podall '69  
Evelyn Guarneri Powers '69  
Helen Hall '70  
Francine DiJoseph Lawrick '74  
Patricia Kenney Quinn '74  
Margaret Callaghan Steficek '77  
Erin C. Clarke '95  
Catherine Capper- Blumstein '85  
Sharon Beard Testa, Psy.D. '95  
Karen Finney Sojka '96  
Kathleen Wessel '96

## »MARRIAGES

Kierstin Teske-White '09 to  
Nick Capaldo

**Joan McDermott Bellwoar '55 (English)**, who established The Keohane-McDermott Bellwoar Endowed Scholarship Fund in 2008, recently celebrated her 80th birthday with her husband, Harry, seven children, and nineteen grandchildren. A lifetime supporter of education, Joan requested that, in lieu of presents, her family and friends send contributions to Chestnut Hill College for the scholarship fund.

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Harvey Majane '57 (chemistry)** was inducted into the St. Helena School, Philadelphia, Alumni Hall of Fame at a communion breakfast on October 27, 2013. Betsy graduated from St. Helena Elementary School in 1949.

**Helen Gleeson Wachendorfer '58 (psychology)** is an active member of Sierra club of Boulder County at Sacred Heart of Jesus-Boulder. She is also a director for Antlers Condos in Colorado. A retired real estate agent, Helen loves to travel, read, and swim. She currently resides in Golden, Colo.

**'60s**  
**Mary Lou Malfatto Alexander '63 (English/history)** is retired after working in education for 29 years. She taught English at Woodrow Wilson High School, math at Norwood Fontbonne Academy, language arts at St. Leo's Elementary School, social studies and art at Ancilla Domini Academy, and the Education Training Center in the Philadelphia and New Jersey schools. Mary Lou

enjoys spending time with her two grandsons and traveling.

**Marion Williams Berry '63 (Latin)** and husband, Vince, moved from Connecticut to Vero Beach, Fla. The couple enjoys traveling to visit children and siblings around the country and has traveled abroad to the Mediterranean, Spain, Eastern Europe, France, England, Scotland, and Germany.

**Margaret "Peggy" Atanasio Colucci '63 (French)** and husband, Bill, moved back to Philadelphia in 2011 from San Francisco, Calif. Peggy does fundraising consulting work part time and spends most of her free time reading and traveling. Most of her traveling is to visit her grandchildren in San Francisco and Atlanta.

**Theresa Hehn Eaman '63 (history)** has been a church organist for 60 years and a choir director at Holy Rosary Parish in Reading, Pa. for 43 years. In her free time, Theresa enjoys traveling, British novels, old classic movies, and is a regular at the Kimmel Center.

**Linda Davis Evans '63 (psychology)** earned a master's of education from Georgia State University and a certification in elementary education (early childhood). She began her career working in family and children's services as a case worker with elderly, disabled, and abandoned children. Later she became a middle school teacher for children with special needs. For 30 years, Linda worked at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Atlanta as an elementary school teacher in various grade levels. She is currently a special tutor for

the first grade and part of the enrichment program for grades 1-5.

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Nace Gumprecht '63** is retired from the Red Clay School District in Delaware. In her previous role, Betsy was a reading specialist and language arts/English teacher. Betsy currently volunteers as a specialized reading instructor for children with dyslexia, and is active with Friends of the Library, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the Osher Academy of Lifelong Learning.

**Margaret Anderson Meade '63 (psychology)** shares, "after being lucky enough to stay home and raise our family, I went from teaching pre-school while living in Maryland, to directing children's theater productions in Michigan, to teaching public speaking at the college level at Henry Ford Community College and Sacred Heart Seminary." Margie has not retired yet and continues to teach public speaking courses. She and husband, Mike, enjoy traveling to California to visit their children and grandchildren. The couple currently resides in Dearborn, Mich.

**Sharon Miller Orr '63 (English)** taught kindergarten for 26 years. She currently volunteers with the Red Cross, Cardinal Village Retirement Center, and Pitman Manor Assisted Living. Sharon and her husband, Walter, have traveled to Alaska, the Canadian Rockies, the Grand Canyon, Eastern Coast States, Western Coast States (California, Yosemite), Nova Scotia, Mount Rushmore, Montana, and Yellowstone. They have two children and four grandchildren.

**Dolores "Sue" Horrigan Ozar '63 (history)** and husband, Bud, received honorary doctor of law degrees at this year's commencement ceremony in May. Sue is a retired Grosse Pointe Public Schools teacher. Her husband, Francis "Bud" Ozar, is retired from the Family and Youth Program with the Archdiocese of Detroit. They were recognized as founders of Friends of Kenyan Orphans and for their work in the Samoa Islands. The Friends of Kenyan Orphans is a nonprofit organization supporting the Children's Village in Kenya, East Africa, a school and home dedicated to feeding, sheltering and educating abandoned children who live on the streets, victims of extreme poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

In the Samoa Islands, Sue was principal of the Catholic high school there, and Bud directed the diocesan social service program. In Kenya, Sue taught in the Children's Village and Bud was diocesan development director, serving as missionaries as part of the Lay Mission Helpers, a community of Catholic lay people sharing their talents with the poor in other countries. "I am thrilled to be receiving this honor from Chestnut Hill College," Sue said. "I know Chestnut Hill is a fine school, where I received an excellent education within a value system I respected. Now, for the College to recognize me and my husband for living these values years later is a real honor." As founders of the Friends of Kenyan Orphans, the couple has impacted thousands of lives through their missionary and philanthropic work, raising more than \$1.3 million for the Children's Village.

### **Jane Wylie Quest '63**

(**history**) has been teaching English as a second language to Latino students for more than 27 years. Jane shares, "I learn far more from them than they do from me." For her 60th birthday celebration, Jane and her husband, Edward, decided to go back to Vienna, where the couple first met. Since then they have been going back to Germany every other summer. They have attended German classes at the Goethe Institute at Murnau, Bonn, Schabisch Hall, Dresden, and Hamburg. The couple loves being students again and meeting people from all over the world. They currently reside in Long Beach, Calif.

### **Joanne Casacio Regli '63 (French)**

and husband, William, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2013. Their leisure activities include golf, skiing, snowshoeing, crosscountry skiing, reading, attending lifelong learning classes and travel. They have been around the globe to Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Japan, Turkey, Croatia, Greece, French Polynesia, Tahiti, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, Panama Canal, Aruba, Mexico, and other various European countries with many visits to France, the U.S. National Parks, Alaska, Canada, and most recently to India. Joanne has a M.Ed. from Arcadia University and a M.A. in French literature from Villanova University.

### **Winifred Antoinette**

### **"Toni" Taylor Ford '63**

(**English**) received the Chestnut Hill College Alumni Association's Distinguished Achievement Award at her 50th Reunion in June for her lifetime accomplishments.



She is truly an example of a woman who embraces life at all stages. Her personal and professional prowess has led her to outstanding achievements in the fields of science, technology, government, and the arts and humanities. Described by her colleagues as "dedicated, multifaceted, and talented" and as a leader who is "a competent, bold visionary," Toni has distinguished herself in a unique and most ubiquitous fashion. Toni was celebrated as one of the Top 100 Minority Business Executives in a six-state region of the United States. Most recently, Toni was awarded an honorary degree from Chestnut Hill College at commencement exercises in May.

Toni has published several scientific articles in the field of oceanography. In July 2012, she published *Bye Willie*, a true story of children growing up near the railroad tracks in North Philadelphia in 1934. She also holds an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School, an M.S. from American University, was a Fellow at the Harvard University Institute of Politics, and a National Science Foundation Fellow in Oceanography at Stanford University.

Toni co-authored a chapter with her cousin, Dr. Virginia M. Brabender, in the recently published book, *Working with Adoptive Parents: Research,*

*Theory, and Therapeutic Interventions.* Their joint chapter, "The Adoptive Parent as Consultant, Educator, and Advocate," is one of 12 chapters in a far-ranging compendium of techniques for guiding parents through the stages of adoption and beyond. Both Virginia and Toni are adoptive parents and have been strong advocates in articulating the issues that adoptive parents encounter.

Perhaps the best and final insight into the heart Toni's success lies in her own reflection on her life at the College, "My time at Chestnut Hill College is what helped create these experiences, opportunities, and successes. The College is a large part of the foundation for these achievements. What is not noted, but perhaps even more important, is that Chestnut Hill College formed the foundation for my developing the ability and spiritual strength to accept the occasional setbacks and walk into the winds sometimes that pushed back against my progress to maturity... learning all the way. My life has taken many paths, some planned, some not. But the yarn knitting this journey together is colored with experimentation, exploration, enthusiasm, creativity, no fear, and thinking. And every one of these descriptors was first tested in the halls of Chestnut Hill College." Toni says, "Every day I do something I cannot do. This is how I learn to do it."

### **Kathleen Kelly Horton '63**

(**mathematics**) has been in education for over 20 years. She has a master of education from Temple University and began her career as a high school math teacher in the Philadelphia School District. Kathleen is currently an

adjunct professor of math at Monroe Community College.

### **Helen Chaykowsky '65**

(**English**) retired from her position as the principal at Archbishop Ryan High School in Philadelphia after 48 years of working in Catholic education. Originally, Helen wanted to pursue a career in journalism. It was a visit in her senior year by Msgr. Francis B. Schulte, who was then superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese and now archbishop emeritus of New Orleans that changed her mind. The Archdiocese had a real need for lay teachers, Msgr. Schulte told them, and the presentation must have been convincing because Helen was among those who signed on. In 1976, she was appointed vice principal at St. Hubert High School, but was able to continue teaching one or two English classes. Meanwhile she continued her studies at Villanova University and eventually earned her master's degree at Temple University for her teacher's certification. In 1986, she was sent to Bishop Conwell High School as principal and was in fact the first laywoman named principal in an archdiocesan high school. Her next assignment (1999-2002) was relatively short as principal at Kennedy-Kenrick High School. In 2002, she was appointed principal at Archbishop Ryan, where she has been just as loved and respected as at her previous assignments.

### **Mary Sullivan Esseff '65**

(**English**) has completed her book, *The Butterfly and the Snail*, which is a fictionalized account of how she and her husband, Peter, met in Salzburg, Austria in 1964. The novel explores the feelings of a young college girl and a

Jesuit Seminarian as they learn about life, love and happiness. The plot interweaves several heartfelt encounters, creating a fabric of love and intimacy that transforms their lives forever. The book was published in March 2013 and can be obtained in both electric and print versions.

### **Phyllis Roche's '65**

(**English**) celebrated her 70th birthday by having a party for her family and friends in the Rotunda of St. Joseph Hall. The party was held on a Saturday evening in April when the campus was at its most beautiful. Pictures were posted on Class of 1965's Facebook page causing much discussion as to whether Phyllis was the first in her class to turn 70. She remembers her "little sister" bringing her a bottle of champagne to the cafeteria for her 21st birthday. And being shocked!

## '70s

**Deirdre Bacon Ruckman, Esq. '70 (political science)** will be inducted as a Fellow of the American College of

Bankruptcy in March 2014 in Washington, D.C. The College is an honorary professional and educational association of bankruptcy and insolvency professionals, and plays an important role in sustaining professional excellence as well as supporting educational and pro bono efforts in local communities around the country. Deirdre is being honored and recognized for her professional excellence, her exceptional contributions to the fields of bankruptcy and insolvency, and her commitment to elevate knowledge and understanding of the profession and public respect for the practice.

### **Barbara Eni Ristaino**

'71 (**chemistry**) has been self-employed for 25 years as a floral designer, artist, and calligrapher. A long-time member of the Philadelphia Calligraphers' Society (PCS), she is currently on the board, and affiliated with various local groups, including Painting Friends, and the Pointed Pen Society of Philadelphia (PPSP). Barbara has exhibited with the PCS at the Wayne Art Center, the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Gallery at



Nadia Diakun-Thibault, Ph.D. '72.

Deptford, Ludington Library, and Medford Leas. Some of her works are now on view at the Marple Public Library.

### **Nadia Diakun-Thibault,**

**Ph.D. '72 (biology)** still lives in Oxford Mills, Ontario, Canada, and continues to work with the Department of National Defense, Government of Canada. Pictured above with her favorite mode of transportation.

### **Mary Catherine Lowery**

'73 (**sociology**) is employed at the Mental Health Association of Southeastern

PA as the program coordinator for the training and education center. In this role, Mary Catherine provides support and education to family members of persons with serious mental illnesses. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, wine-making, reading, and cultural events.

### **Margaret "Peggy" Englebert '74 (English)**

Executive Director of The Arc of Camden County, received the Outstanding Professional Achievement Award from the National Conference of the Executives of The Arc. This award recognizes NCE members who live by the core values of The Arc by providing leadership resulting in a significant improvement in supports and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

### **Marianne Valvardi Dwyer**

'76 (**psychology**), former director of Teenagers, Inc., was honored at the organization's 10th Annual "A Taste of Philadelphia" event. The evening was a celebration of Marianne's retirement from Teenagers, Inc. after 17 years



Phyllis Roche '65 and family.

of dedicated service. Marianne was presented with a special citation from the Philadelphia City Council citing her “outstanding public service to the people of Chestnut Hill and the City of Philadelphia.”

**Anita Haskins Wise '76**  
**(biology)** retired from Merck Pharmaceuticals after 36 years this past March.

**'80s**  
**Bernadette Vernon Sellers '83 (business administration)** joined the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE) as vice president of marketing and membership. She was the director of strategic marketing for the video business unit of Motorola Corporation and brings more than 15 years of marketing experience in cable technology and system operations. In her new role, Bernadette will be responsible for integrating marketing and membership functions including acquisition and retention, customer service, communications, industry relations, and administration of the SCTE board of directors and standing committees. In addition to her role with Motorola, she has also worked for Harron Communications as corporate director of marketing. Prior to entering the cable business, Bernadette spent 10 years at IBM in various marketing, sales, and training and strategy positions.

**Elizabeth Anne Schlosser '84** has been appointed to the position of Director of Admissions at Saint Joseph Villa in Flourtown, Pa., beginning in January, 2014. Elizabeth earned a master's degree in health administration

from St. Joseph's University and has been employed at Saint Joseph Villa since March, 2012. Prior to that, Elizabeth was employed by the University of Pennsylvania Health System as a Residency Program Coordinator in Graduate Medical Education.

**E. Pocahontas "Evelyn" Toman Gertler '85 SGS (elementary education)** was the recipient of an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, in her 80th year, by North Central University, for her lifetime of social activism and service to her community. Her diploma now hangs proudly alongside her master's in education from Chestnut Hill, which she earned in her fifties while teaching full time in the Philadelphia school system and raising her family. She recently published her memoir, *While I Run This Race, the Memoir of an African Native-American Woman Born in the Deep South in the Era of the Great Depression.*

**Martha "Marty" Ranc, Ph.D. '86 (chemistry)** is an ACE Coordinator (Achieving Competitive Excellence) at UTC Aerospace Systems in Pomona, Calif. Marty recently completed the requirements for another master's degree, and earned an M.A. in history from American Military University in November of last year. Her thesis topic was, “The 42nd General Hospital in World War II.”

**'90s**  
**Renee Haggerty '90 (political science)** was recently elected president of the Chestnut Hill College Alumni Association for a three-year term beginning

July 1, 2013. Renee is currently vice president at the Intertrust Group in Philadelphia. She is responsible for providing registered agent services to corporate entities in Delaware, and has extensive experience with corporate governance and regulatory deliverables. Prior to joining Walkers Management Services, Renee was a senior product analyst for the legal teams within Goldman Sachs Asset Management (GSAM) and Goldman Sachs Hedge Fund Strategies LLC, where she was responsible for corporate governance and US regulatory deliverables for funds domiciled in Delaware, Cayman, Ireland and the UK.

**Amy McLeer '94 (English)** has been named Director of Development at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU). CMSRU is the first new medical school in New Jersey in 35 years, and one of only 135 allopathic medical schools in the United States. The first graduating class of CMSRU will be the Class of 2016, and Amy looks forward to focusing her efforts on fundraising for scholarship, professorship, and capital support that will enhance the experience of these graduates and that of the many classes to follow. She is happy to be back in Camden, where she earned a M.A. from Rutgers in 1996, and to help CMSRU fulfill its

mission of civic responsibility and service to the local community.

**Sharon Beard Testa, Psy.D. '95 (counseling psychology)** passed away on September 11, 2013.

Sharon received her master's in psychology from Chestnut Hill and was a member of the College's first doctoral program in clinical psychology. She was the executive director of Northwestern Human Services in Montgomery County and served on the board of the North Penn Collaborative of non-profits. Sharon's leadership was evident on many committees and she was instrumental in promoting successful charity events for both the NHS and the “Free to Breathe” organization for which she received multiple honors. Her good work continued with involvement in many community associations, including coaching a Wissahickon hockey team. As one colleague said of her, “Sharon had the ability to think outside the box with innovative ideas to assist her clients in navigating the human services system. She led her staff by action, always working side-by-side with them to help plans move forward. She never sat on the sidelines and remained on the field of action with her team. Sharon will be greatly missed.”



Sharon Beard Testa, Psy.D. '95.

## Alyce Taylor '97

(**psychology**) earned a master's in educational counseling and practiced in New Jersey's school districts for several years. She has since chosen to leave academia to partner in a family business in Barrington, N.J. Since 2010, Alyce has specialized in tax and accounting services for small businesses, individuals, and has incorporated services preparing college financial aid (FASFA) assistance. She is completing the requirements for an enrolled agent (EA).

Since 2010, Alyce has served as president of the Collingswood Junior Women's Club and also served as vice president from 2009-2010.

**Monica Vesci '99** has started a company that features designer clutches and handbags for persons with diabetes. Her Camino clutch was featured in the winter 2013 issue of *Diabetic Living*. Having been diagnosed with Type-1 diabetes herself at the age of 17, Vesci is well aware of the challenges and responsibilities that it presents, which inform her designs. For example, the featured clutch contains a hard plastic container to conceal strips and sharps. As *Diabetic Living* told its readers, "say good-bye to used test strips floating around in your bag with this gorgeous clutch." Vesci, a graphic designer from Philadelphia, created the 2013 Camino Clutch Collection in her studio in Copenhagen, Denmark, where she resides with her husband. Her interests also include drawing, sketching, painting, and interior decorating. She majored in fine arts at the College, where her grandfather, Tim Dunleavy, served on the board of directors, on which her uncle, Michael, currently serves. Vesci is also a co-



Monica Vesci '99.

founder and committee member for the "Ace for the Cure: Smashing Out Diabetes" tennis tournament, held annually at the Germantown Cricket Club in Philadelphia. To learn more about her and her designs, visit [www.monicavesci.com](http://www.monicavesci.com)

## 'OOS

### Kathleen "Kate" McGinley, D.O. '00

(**biochemistry**) completed her residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and has begun her fellowship in urologic oncology at Duke University, N.C.

### Elizabeth Curry '03

(**biology**) has a passion for education. Liz earned a master's in education from Arcadia University. In the classroom, she implements hands-on, student-centered learning. Liz designed a curriculum through the use of aquaponics where students are engaged in their own education through inquiry and discovery. .

### Teri Wiedeman-Rouse

'05 SGS (**education**) earned a M.Ed. from Chestnut Hill College in education with certificates in special education

and reading specialist. In December 2012, she completed the requirements for an Ed.D. in special education at Arcadia University. Teri is currently a faculty member of the Chestnut Hill College Division of Teacher Education and Leadership where she teaches special education courses to pre-service teacher candidates. Teri is also a past member of the CHC alumni board of directors.

### Kathryn "Katie" Williams

'09 (**accounting**) and fiancé, **Jim Stewart '09 (computer & information technology)**

are in the midst of planning their May 2014 wedding. Jim proposed on Valentine's Day 2013 at the Water Works Restaurant in Philadelphia. The couple met sophomore year at Chestnut Hill and both graduated in 2009. Katie is a CPA at Kreischer Miller and is currently attending Villanova Law School for her masters of taxation. Jim is a senior consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, supporting a variety of federal government clients in cyber security.



Teri with Carol Pate, Ed.D.



**Kierstin Teske-White Capaldo '09 (human services)** married her high school sweetheart, Nick Capaldo, at the Hotel duPont, Wilmington, Del. on May 26, 2013. Fellow CHC classmate, Amber Gordon '10, was one of her bridesmaids. The newlyweds are renovating/residing in a circa 1801 farmhouse in Blue Bell, Pa.

**Charquinta Sullivan '10** is working in the Philippines as a member of the Peace Corps, which she chose for its missionary programs and nonpartisan mission. Sullivan works in the social welfare office, helping social workers

and volunteering in various capacities in the community. Responsibilities have included working with local youth to create sustainable livelihood projects and helping local fishermen to boost fish stocks. Sullivan has learned two new languages of Philippine dialects, which helped her to earn the trust of the local citizens. "They see it as a sign of respect to who they are and their culture," she said, "which makes my efforts more successful." Sullivan's two-and-a-half year commitment to the Peace Corps runs through August 2014, after which she plans to go back to school to study environmental science. She graduated from the College with a degree in psychology and a minor in criminal justice before working as assistant disciplinarian at St. Martins de Porres Catholic School in Philadelphia for a year.

**Adrian Avena '12 (business administration)** is doing incredible things in his professional bass fishing career. Adrian started the College's first bass fishing team as a student at Chestnut Hill College. Since then he has moved on to the FLW



Adrian Avena '12.

professional status and has competed all over the country. He was recently in Louisiana competing at the Forrest Wood Cup tournament for which only the best 46 professionals in the league qualify. According to bassranking.com, Adrian is ranked 5th in the world and 21st out of 524 pro anglers. He qualified for the Toyota Texas Bass Classic held on Lake Conroe, Texas in early October. Only 50 world champions compete in this qualifying event. When not on tour, Adrian enjoys saltwater fishing and hunting. At FLW events, Adrian's "pit crew," consisting of his parents, girlfriend, best friends, and his loyal chocolate lab, Triton, can often be seen rooting him on.

For more information, videos, tips, schedule, and photos, check out Adrian's Web site at [adrianlavena.com](http://adrianlavena.com)

**Priscilla Bennett '12 SCPS (early childhood education)** is a 17-year veteran with Project HOME. She started volunteering at the Diamond Street after school program and she is herself a product of the Diamond Street neighborhood. Watching Priscilla – or Miss T as everyone knows her – in her Kindergarten-1st grade classroom at the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs (HLCCTL), her love and passion for these children are evident.



Charquinta Sullivan '10 (center) with her Peace Corps community.

It is clear that Priscilla grasps the challenges of students from this economically struggling neighborhood, but she also sees their potential to grow and learn. Priscilla shared, “We want to link home, school, and after school, so we can deal with the whole child. So little in their life is consistent, if we can be a consistency, we have a chance to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty.” Priscilla frequently intervenes to support families and advocates for necessary services from school or service agencies. Knowing that healthy children need a healthy community, she engages in community organizing, responding to neighborhood issues and concerns.

**Jonathan Collier Freeman  
'12 SGS (M.A., elementary education)** teaches at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy School and was inducted into Chestnut Hill

Academy’s Athletic Hall of Fame in October as part of Homecoming Weekend. Jonathan captained the academy’s soccer, tennis, and squash teams and was awarded the Patterson Cup as the outstanding senior athlete in the Class of 1994. Jonathan is also a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Caroline Stutz '12 (mathematics)** begins the school year at Our Mother of Consolation Parish School as the sixth grade homeroom teacher and will teach math to all upper classes (grades 5-8). At Chestnut Hill, Caroline was a member of the collegiate National Honors Society and the recipient of the College’s President’s Leadership Award.

**Mary Frances Cavallaro '13 (English)** joins the ranks of student-authors who have received publishing deals while

still at Chestnut Hill College with her 50,000-word novel, *More Than Love*. In the spring semester of her junior year, Mary took a creative writing class where she had to write a short story for her final project. The story idea was originally submitted in the classroom as a short story and later grew to her first novel.

Mary was working as a freelance writer and editor at Elance.com when she saw a listing for a client who was looking for writers to work on a collaborative book through the site. While submitting a proposal for the job, she noticed that the publishing company, Kellan Publishing, was looking for other book ideas. She submitted what she had written so far, as well as an outline of the book. She didn’t end up getting the freelancing job, but she did get a contract for a book deal.

*More Than Love* is a story that takes place during the 19th century in the United Kingdom. It tells of young Frances “Fanny” Dickens, who teaches at a college under the watchful eye of an older, slightly senile professor. She then meets Robert Joy, a young man at the college, who turns her world upside down. He is charming, witty, a good friend and worse, one of her students.

*More Than Love* is available now in the ebook version and will be in print at a later date. Read more by accessing the link to the “Author Page” on the publisher’s Web site: <http://kellanpublishing.com/index.php/authors/mary-frances-cavallaro/>.

## »WE’RE HERE FOR YOU ... TELL US YOUR NEWS, HOWEVER YOU WANT TO REACH US

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 1, 2014** for print consideration in the next issue of *Chestnut Hill*.

1. E-mail: quinnc@chc.edu Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Fax: 215.248.7196 Maiden Name (if SUS): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Mail: Class Year: \_\_\_\_SUS \_\_\_\_SCPS \_\_\_\_SGS \_\_\_\_

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

4. Online: [www.CHCgriffinsonline.com](http://www.CHCgriffinsonline.com)



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Having returned to Philadelphia in 2010 after living in New York for several years, I am very proud to now serve as the president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors! I am excited about the current board membership as it is a diverse group of dynamic and involved individuals. Their enthusiasm about the College and the alumni community is contagious, and I am honored to have them driving our initiatives forward and engaging other alums to become connected to our *alma mater*.

My involvement with Chestnut Hill is an interesting journey! Recently, I moved to Philadelphia after living in New York for 13 years and I felt the desire to reconnect with the College community. I began offering my time at various alumni and College events and happily became acquainted with some alums I never knew before. Volunteering is a great way for me to meet alums from different graduation years and to share similar stories about our days at Chestnut Hill. My connection evolved into my current role within the alumni association where one of our prime directives includes reconnecting with alumni —many of whom live in another state, are actively pursuing careers, raising families, and living lives that may have kept them from being connected

with other alumni. Because my own experience has been so meaningful, I am intent on sharing our message of involvement with every alum that hasn't been in touch with the College in recent years.



If you are an alum who hasn't visited the Campus in a long while, my best advice is to come and see firsthand how the College has evolved. You will see what I see — a vibrant community with a growing number of alumni just like you! Know that involvement is open to all alumni, since you automatically become a member of the alumni association the moment you graduate.

I encourage you to visit Campus and get involved! We make reconnecting easy —visit [www.chc.edu](http://www.chc.edu) and navigate through the site. You will find a lengthy list of academic, social, and athletic events where everyone is welcome. I hope to see you on campus soon!

Thank you for supporting our *alma mater*!

Renee Haggerty '90

# Now

— ...IS YOUR TIME —  
**TO PLAN**  
..... YOUR .....

# REUNION WEEKEND!



MAY 30 - JUNE 1 2014

# LAST WORD

Downton's Curious Appeal

BY BARBARA LONNQUIST, PH.D.



So tell the truth: are you ready for Season Four of *Downton Abbey* or has its magical allure begun to wane a bit? During the recent fundraiser in December, actress Susan Sarandon hosted a review of the first three seasons of the famed series and tantalized PBS viewers with hints and clips of what may be in store when it airs in the United States beginning January 5th. Both the author Julian Fellowes and the producers of *Downton Abbey* have been stunned by the intensity of the show's popularity across the globe and particularly on this side of the Atlantic.

In the interest of full disclosure, I admit to having been dazzled by the previous seasons even if I was somewhat unprepared for the death of Matthew Crawley (acted by the winningly handsome Dan Stevens) as he drove home from the birth of his and Lady Mary's son, George, the new heir of Downton. From the opening tragedy of the Titanic, which set the series in motion, to the Gatsby-like accident of a 1920s roadster, the series has chronicled history, the movement of time, the loss of the past and the changes of the modern world from telephones to toasters in the aftermath of what the British referred to as "the Great War."

The question I face as I consider reinvesting my time in this televised version of

"the great house novel" as it was dubbed in British and Anglo-Irish literature is: what is it that keeps me or any of us loyal to Downton even as some of the actors move on in real life? What exactly do we like about this historical drama that is also admittedly part, if more refined, soap opera (and an heir to the delightful class send-up of its Masterpiece forerunner *Upstairs, Downstairs* for those of you who actually can remember the 1970s)?

Are we attracted to the opulence and architectural splendor and culinary precision of "a house where," as Yeats once wrote, "all's accustomed, ceremonious." Or is it also for me the sheer pleasure of viewing the simple elegance of Edwardian fashion, with its column dress-form that was itself a set piece dominating the years between the heavy laden Victorian Era (embodied in Maggie Smith's portrayal of the Dowager in her lace and taffetas) and the more daring styles of the post-war 1920s as introduced to us by Sybil who arrived for dinner, to the shock of her parents, in harem pants modeled on the originals by the incomparable House of Worth? (We can be sure we will witness the swirling, jazzier styles of 1920s London as the Grantham daughters and cousins venture more easily into the metropolis in Season Four).

Do we as Americans feel some vicarious pleasure, some frisson in being able to mingle and even identify, if only imaginatively, with an aristocracy unavailable to us in the States? And do we secretly take pride in our national relation to Cora, the American heiress, the infusion of whose new wealth saved the centuries-old Downton from ruin in the decade before the War? Or perhaps we cheer for the Irish insurgent and chauffeur "Branson" turned son-in law "Tom" as he earns the respect of Lord Grantham, who had confided to the

Archbishop of York that he always found there was something "Freddy foreign" about Catholics.

This I do know, I will enjoy watching (if Sarandon's promise is accurate) the women characters evolve as the "spine" of the narrative not only romantically, but practically and professionally as Lady Mary will team up with her rustic but farm knowledgeable brother-in-law to manage the estate and save it from falling back into its old and wasteful ways. I may even enjoy seeing the advent of literal pigs into the old world order for farming profit. I look forward to seeing the ever humane Mrs. Hughes continue to temper the loving fastidiousness of the head butler, Carson, who worries over every knife and fork. I am curious to see how Anna Bates, the real hero of the downstairs community and a figure of commonsense wisdom for Lady Mary, will fare in the new season and if Daisy will prosper in Mrs. Patmore's kitchen. And it goes without saying that I will not be alone in enjoying Maggie Smith's unflagging wit and the power of a true British riposte that no American I know can equal. If I have fears (and I do) about the power of the production as it navigates a fourth season, with needs to surpass or at least uphold its standards, my worst fear is that someone will start whispering about the possibilities of a Season Five before we have yet sat down to enjoy the feast before us.

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](mailto:magazine@chc.edu)

# Calendar of Events

## 21ST ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL LECTURE SERIES

"Anatomia Italiana: From the Renaissance Dissection Theater to the Sistine Chapel"  
Wednesday, February 12, 3 p.m.  
Speaker: Kevin Petti, Ph.D., president-emeritus, Human Anatomy and Physiology Society  
and professor, San Diego Miramar College  
East Parlor, St. Joseph Hall

## INSTITUTE FOR FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION 5TH ANNIVERSARY

"We Are One: It's All about Kinship"  
Tuesday, March 11, 7 p.m.  
Speaker: Greg Boyle, SJ  
Sorgenti Arena, Martino Hall  
Information: 215.248.7099

## STEINWAY ARTIST SERIES

Guest Artist: Concert Pianist Matthew Bengston  
Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.  
East Parlor, St. Joseph Hall  
Information: 215.248.7164

## SPRING MUSICAL

"The Wedding Singer"  
Friday, March 28 & Saturday, March 29, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, March 29 & Sunday, March 30, 2 p.m.  
College Auditorium  
Information: 215.248.7194

## 5TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Saturday, April 5, 6 p.m.  
Commonwealth Chateau  
Information: [chc.edu/gala](http://chc.edu/gala)

## 87TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 10, 10:30 a.m.  
Information: [chc.edu/graduation](http://chc.edu/graduation)

## 68TH ANNUAL REUNION: NOW...IS YOUR TIME

May 30 to June 1  
School of Undergraduate Studies classes ending in "4" and "9"  
Reservations: 215.248.7137

## 32ND ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL

Monday, October 13  
Whitemarsh Valley Country Club  
Reservations: 215.753.3692

## HARRY POTTER WEEKEND

5th Annual Philadelphia Brotherly Love Quidditch Cup  
Saturday, October 18  
Details coming in the fall

For the latest event information,  
visit [www.chc.edu](http://www.chc.edu) and [www.chcgriffinsonline.com](http://www.chcgriffinsonline.com)

# Travel the World with Alumni and Friends

## MAY 12-20, 2014

### PARIS TO NORMANDY'S LANDING BEACHES

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion, combine breathtaking visits to Paris, Vernon, and Rouen with a choice of excursion to the historic Normandy Landing Beaches — Omaha Beach, the Pointe du Hoc monument, and the American Cemetery — or a "Taste of Normandy" in-depth look at the region's agriculture. Pick up again in Les Andelys with Richard the Lionheart's architectural masterpiece, Château Gaillard, and conclude in Conflans and Paris. This river cruise itinerary on the Avalon *Creativity* is always one of Europe's most popular, but the historic commemoration will drive additional demand. Limited availability.

## JUNE 26-JULY 6, 2014

### THE EMERALD ISLE

Enjoy an incredible 10-day journey through Ireland's bustling cities and lush countryside. Begin in Dublin with an overnight and guided sightseeing that includes O'Connell Street and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Stop in Kildare at the Irish National Stud, then on to Longford's Strokestown House for a tour of the mansion and to learn about the Great Irish Famine. Then, travel to the pilgrimage village of Knock. Drive along the beautiful coastline, visiting Kylemore Abbey and a marble workshop, before spending two nights in the port city of Galway. Also on your agenda: the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher, Limerick, a horse-drawn jaunting car ride in Killarney, Blarney, and so much more. Return to Dublin for a final overnight in the Emerald Isle. Erin Go Bragh!

## SEPTEMBER 12-21

### GEMS OF UMBRIA & TUSCANY

Enjoy a 9-day vacation in the fascinating region of Umbria. Start and end in Rome, enjoying welcome and farewell dinners and visits to St. Peter's Square and Basilica. Stop in the hilltop town of Narni, inspiration for the *Chronicles of Narnia*, and visit the Convent of San Domenico. Stay in Assisi and hear about St. Francis and St. Clare as you tour their basilicas. Enjoy an excursion to Perugia and dinner in the town of Deruta. See Villa Bramasole in Cortona, where the *Under the Tuscan Sun* author lived. Visit Montalcina, where a Brunello wine tasting and lunch await, and then Orvieto, high atop a volcanic rock. Also includes an exclusive meal prepared by the famous Italian cook, Maurizio — an unforgettable vacation!

For information and/or reservations, contact Craig (x103) or Christie (x107) at *Cruisin' & Main Line Vacations* (800.506.7447), or visit [Alumnivacations.com](http://Alumnivacations.com) and click Schools.





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