St. Joseph Hall and Fournier Hall are on the move! Margaret Thompson, SSJ, M.F.A. painted their likenesses onto Adirondack chairs for display in a juried art exhibition at Morris Arboretum. See page 4 for the story.
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By Ryan Dougherty ’11 SGS

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ON THE COVER: After drawing inspiration from its students for four years, Kelly Dennis ’14 traveled to the UNIFAT school in Gulu, Northern Uganda. Photo by Meghan Marth.
Welcome to the spring issue of Chestnut Hill.

Spring always seems to bring us a sense of new beginnings, and as Edwin Way Teale once said, “The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.” All things seem possible on our campus as May also brings us to the end of the academic year and the grand finale, commencement. This year, more than 600 Chestnut Hill graduates will make their way toward new beginnings as they begin or enhance a career.

In this issue, we have a variety of features that I hope you’ll find motivating. Our cover story highlights sophomore Kelly Dennis, whose passion and commitment to raising money and awareness for Uganda’s children brought Unified for UNIFAT to the College, inspiring fellow classmates to make a difference and get involved. Serving as president of the College for the past 20 years, Sister Carol Jean Vale reflects on the transformational changes at the College during her first four terms and what she envisions for the future as she embarks on her fifth term beginning in July.

Our last feature focuses on the realization of a long-held goal of the College’s professional psychology department, the establishment of a psychological services clinic. Providing students in the Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) program with supervised, hands-on clinical training, the clinic offers a valuable service to the community while raising the profile of the highly successful doctoral program at the College.

In every issue of Chestnut Hill, we strive to showcase the best of our college community, and I hope that you share our pride in the accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Let us know if there are particular stories you want to know more about; your feedback is important to us.

My best,

Kathleen M. Spigelmyer ’98
Barbara D’Iorio Martino ’60, chair of the board of directors, was honored for her lasting contributions to the Catholic community at the 18th Annual CYO Hall of Fame Banquet.

The Hall of Fame celebrates individuals who “give witness to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and serve as excellent Catholic Christian role models for youth and young adults.” The Archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adults bestowed the honor in mid-March.

“A deep, sincere, and ongoing dedication to God, Church, and Chestnut Hill College is clearly evident in Barbara’s life,” College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D. wrote in tribute.

“She is indeed a worthy role model for Catholic youth.”

“It is a great joy for me to congratulate the honorees of the 2012 CYO Hall of Fame Banquet,” said the Archbishop of Philadelphia, Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. “Their induction is a fitting occasion to thank them for their service and to recall the vocation we all share to love Christ and his church by serving one another.”

Barbara D’Iorio Martino ’60

Martino has served as a leader and a volunteer in various capacities for local Catholic schools and the College. She served on the executive committee of the Alumni Fundraisers of St. Joseph’s University, as president of the

Mother’s Club at St. Joseph’s Preparatory School, as an officer in the Parents’ Association of St. Aloysius Academy, as a volunteer on committees sponsored by the Philadelphia Archdiocese, and as a foundation worker for the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. She has also been honored as a Lady in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem and received the Papal Honor of the Cross from the Vatican.

Martino’s volunteer and philanthropic efforts at the College encompass more than 30 years. She has served as a class officer and fund agent of the Alumnae Association’s Delaware and Montgomery County chapter, before serving as its president from 1978-79. She served on the Alumnae Association Board of Directors in the late ’70s and early ’80s and as its president from 1982-1984. She later served as a director at large for four years.

As a member of the board of directors, Martino chaired the College’s first Capital Campaign, which raised $5.5 million to refurbish numerous science and technology classrooms and labs on campus. Barbara and her husband Dr. Rocco Martino’s leadership gift to the Capital Gifts Initiative, represented today by Martino Hall, resulted in the first new building on campus in more than 40 years. She was re-appointed to her leadership role on the board in 2010.
The Morris Arboretum and Woodmere Art Museum recently issued a call to artists to contribute to their “Take a Seat!” exhibition by reinterpreting the Adirondack chair. Margaret Thompson, SSJ, M.F.A. answered promptly. “I thought, we’re neighbors with them and share an ecosystem,” said the associate professor of art. “We have to be in this show.”

Sister Margie’s proposal to paint chairs in the likeness of St. Joseph Hall and Fournier Hall from the point of view of the Arboretum made the exclusive cut. But when the chairs arrived in early March, only partially assembled and smaller-slatted than expected, doubt crept in. “There’s an art term, *horror vacui* — fear of empty space,” Sister Margie said. “That was definitely at play here.”

To make the task manageable, she drew her designs for the buildings on paper. She traced them onto the chairs, slat by slat, and painted them in watercolor. Since every square inch of the chairs needed to be painted, she relied on Patricia Schmidt ’12 SCPS, Jeremy Gornto ’12, and Bonnie Small ’12 to help with detail and flourishes, such as multi-colored ground cover and irises. At first, Sister Margie would retouch the students’ work to make it appear to be of one hand, but toward the end of the process, that became less necessary. “You could really see them growing as artists,” she said. “They’re sponges, learning so much and taking advantage of the rare opportunity to actually create with a professor.”

By mid-April, Sister Margie had completed hundreds of hours of work on the chairs, requiring late nights and full weekends to meet the early-May deadline. Standing for hours on end had taken a toll on her legs and back, but you wouldn’t have known it by speaking to her. “To say this has project has been energizing doesn’t even do it justice,” she said. “I wake up so excited, with the adrenaline pumping. It’s just push, push, push, because I love it.” “Now,” she added, “I just can’t wait for people to see them.”

The chairs will be displayed at Morris Arboretum from May 31 to September 3. Following the exhibition, they will go up for sale to raise money for the Arboretum and the College.

*For more information, visit [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)*

*Sister Margie reinterpreted the chairs in the likeness of St. Joseph Hall and Fournier Hall.*
The reimagining of the Social Room is complete.

In January, the College introduced McCaffery Lounge, bringing a vivid and modern look to the space while retaining its character. It’s a place where students, faculty, and staff can gather to socialize, study, or grab a pick-me-up on the go.

“It’s really nice to have somewhere to come between classes and grab a coffee,” Bleu Lane ’13 told the student newspaper, The Griffin.

“My favorite is the chai tea latte,” added Kim Kashnoski ’14. “It’s awesome.”

Operated by Chartwells, the lounge’s café is open early morning to midnight. Patrons can pick from an assortment of pastries, sandwiches, and salads in addition to coffee and espresso-based drinks and smoothies.

A stone-clad fireplace anchors the lounge, which features plush chairs and sleek table space. In the center of the room is an architectural circle inscribed with the words “Circle The City With Love” in multiple languages. This message pays homage to the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Le Puy as they sought to spread their ministry and bring union to war-ravaged France. The overall environment lends itself to curling up with a book or plugging in via Wi-Fi access and high-definition televisions.

The location of the lounge, itself, is a boon — it’s the first thing many visitors and prospective students and their families see when they enter the College, leaving a great first impression and boosting appeal.

The lounge is the second component of a $3.4 million complex provided by Jack and Rosemary Gulati ’61, Michael and Margaret Carney McCaffery ’77, and the state of Pennsylvania. It will be officially dedicated on May 20.
Kristin Tracy, M.A., M.Ed., CRC knows how it feels to be a college student with a disability. But she also knows how it feels to be a college student without one.

Toward the end of her senior year, Tracy suffered a brain bleed that paralyzed the left side of her face and limited her vision and the functioning of her right side and dominant hand. Despite being hospitalized for months, she graduated with her class. But sitting down to take her first test in graduate school was like stepping into a different world.

“The test was in the computer lab, and all I heard was everyone else flying through it,” she said. “And there I was pecking at the keys with one hand, thoughts flowing so much faster than I could type them.”

Tracy performed poorly, drawing the ire of the professor. She told her that she had a disability, but received no leeway.

“It was humiliating,” she said.

Fortunately, someone pointed Tracy in the direction of the school’s disability office, where she received books on tape and extra time for exams. It took patience to adapt to a new learning style, but Tracy went on to earn master’s degrees in student personnel and rehabilitation counseling.

Now, she’s the person to whom students with disabilities are sent. As director of the College’s Disabilities Resource Center, Tracy coordinates accommodations for about 80 students across the three schools. Many have specific learning disabilities or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and others have vision, hearing, or physical impairments. All seek help to thrive at the College — and, in the tough times, understanding.

“College can be a very lonely place for these students,” Tracy said. “Talking to someone who can relate helps students feel connected and cared for.

“That interaction is the best part of my job,” she added, citing a recent e-mail from an appreciative student that moved her to tears.

Accommodations also include technology such as dictation and screen-magnification programs to help students write and read. Tracy also coordinates with faculty and staff to ensure that students with disabilities receive the precise help they need. Students with autism, for example, tend to fare much better on written assignments when they receive clear, step-by-step instruction, she said.

Tracy’s job also requires her to study American Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, which govern the extent to which the College meets the students’ needs in areas such as facility accessibility and transportation. Recent amendments to the ADA widened the scope of what it means to have a disability, including students with chronic conditions.

Between that and improvements in medicine and diagnoses, Tracy said, many more students with disabilities see college as an attainable goal. Therefore, schools need to be more accessible than ever.

That’s certainly true at the College, whose population of students with disabilities tripled in the past few years. Doing everything possible to help them succeed reflects the College’s mission of an inclusive community — and Tracy’s vision.

“I want be a one-stop shop for students, offering answers for everything from classroom accommodations to getting an internship or job interview,” she said. “It’ll take time to achieve, but that’s why I’m here.”
Telling a touching story on a globally controversial issue, the College brought actor Tim Robbins’ “Dead Man Walking” to the stage in March.

The play is based on the book of the same name by Helen Prejean, CSJ, a critically acclaimed and well-known anti-death penalty activist. Stemming from the Dead Man Walking Theatre Project, the play was designed to be used in colleges and high schools across the world to spur deeper reflections on the issue of the death penalty and educate the most potentially impactful generation. As Sister Helen said while visiting the College just last year, “the call to action is there.”

Travis Wolfe ’13 directed the play, which ran in conjunction with Mask & Foil and the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation. Jenn Thorpe, director of residence life, helped keep the production in the works for three years and was instrumental in its realization.

“Without her and her enthusiasm, this production would not have happened,” Wolfe said.

Thorpe chose Wolfe to direct because of her confidence in his ability to tell the story and get its messages across.

“It’s more than a stage performance, and more than a play,” Thorpe said. “Travis gets this and understands the discourse of such a show, and he accepts the responsibility that comes with it.”

The student-run play also drew the assistance of faculty, staff, and Mask & Foil alumna Barbara Quinn ’61, for both its actual production and its academic component. Part of Robbins’ plan was to have schools incorporate at least one semester’s worth of lessons on “Dead Man Walking” and the death penalty. Catherine Nerney, SSJ, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation, led this part of the project with vigor, deploying colleagues from the religious studies department.

For the production itself, actors were tasked with bringing new life to the story. Wolfe lauded the work and dedication of the cast.

“Our rehearsals were entwined with activities like watching the movie and discussing how each character plays into every scene,” he said, adding that the real-world implications of the issues discussed in the play raised its difficulty beyond that of other shows done at the College.

But, in the end, the production met its goal of raising awareness of the death penalty, to which Wolfe is fully committed.

“My plan was to create a performance that is captivating and ultimately puts the topic of the death penalty onto people’s mental radars,” he said. “Whether you’re against the death penalty or for it doesn’t matter — what matters is the ability to take a stand in what you believe in.”

—Marilee Gallagher ’14

Director Travis Wolfe ’13 (bottom photo, center) praised the dedication of the cast, including Victoria Delgau ’14, Jessica Schmidt ’13, and Dave Forster ’12.
Held in December, “A Midwinter Night’s Dream” beffited the elegant Commonwealth Chateau.

The gala featured a keynote address by College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., music from a string quartet and a pianist, lavish decorations, and formal hors d’oeuvres. Indeed, the more than 100 attendees could have been forgiven for assuming the event was planned by professionals, not students.

“It was wonderful to see so many people engaged in conversation in such a classy atmosphere,” said Christopher Allen ’13, an officer of Alpha Lambda Delta, the honors society for first-year students, which hosted the event to celebrate members of the College’s honor societies.

“The monumental accomplishment of meeting the rigorous requirements of the honor societies is so infrequently recognized,” Allen said. “This was our time to shine and revel in our accomplishments.”

Added Alpha Lambda Delta president Christopher Dunn ’13: “This was a special opportunity to mingle with faculty, staff, and Sister Carol, giving us time to converse with those we look up to.”

The goal of the gala was to not only celebrate scholarship but foster intellectual conservation and debate. To help achieve this, a variety of topics, such as the meaning of life, were raised for intellectual discussion.

Inspiration for the event came from faculty advisors Patrick McCauley, Ph.D., Gary Flower, M.B.A., C.P.A., and Karen Wendling, Ph.D. Inspiration also came to Dunn in a dream, but he and the other organizers overcame many challenges to make it a reality.

“All of us carried a heavy burden,” added Dunn, “but we came through wonderfully.”

The gala raised money for next year’s event and future Alpha Lambda Delta events. But by offering free admission to students who donated new or gently used books, the gala primarily supported the efforts of Jessica L. Kahn, Ph.D., professor of education, to build the libraries of J.S. Jenks Elementary School and the Dr. Antonia Pantoja School (bilingual, K-8).

“The Alpha Lambda Delta initials stand for Greek words that can be translated as ‘We shall pass our torches on, one to another,’” Allen said. “By supporting this library initiative, we are doing what our name calls us to do — passing on the flame of academic success to another generation.”

## The Middle States Reaccreditation Process Moves Forward

The steering committee and working groups tasked with researching the College’s adherence to Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) standards are on track to deliver a self-study report in the fall. A draft of the report will be available for review by the College community by September, and consultations will be held on campus in the fall.

The self-study reviews the College’s strengths and weaknesses and charts a course for its future in relation to 14 Middle States standards for institutional and educational effectiveness. Six working groups comprised of administrators, faculty, and staff are gathering information and developing reports on each of the standards to be submitted to the steering committee in June.

“We’re viewing the self-study as an opportunity to reflect on how we’re doing things and how we can improve,” said Barbara Hogan, Ph.D., associate professor of human services, the steering committee co-chair along with Kenneth Soprano, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.

“It’s not just jumping through hoops to receive reaccreditation — the process has potential for tangible value to the institution, if we can find ways to make it so.”

In the past year, administrators, staff, faculty, alumni, and the College’s board of directors have been informed about the unfolding process in a variety of ways and invited to “think about how we meet the Middle States standards, where we might improve, and how we might use available channels to work toward possible improvements,” Dr. Hogan said. A bulletin board explaining the MSCHE standards — such as mission and goals and assessment of student learning — is displayed prominently on campus.

While the Middle States process primarily governs future policy, it can yield short-term benefits.

“If an issue arises that can be addressed immediately, any interested and responsible parties are encouraged to do so,” Dr. Hogan said. “I’ve already seen things make it onto the agenda of meetings that might not have otherwise.”

Once the self-study is completed, it becomes subject to review by an evaluation team from Middle States member institutions with similar missions and resources. That team will visit the College to interview various members of the community next spring. Based on review of the self-study and input from the site visitors, MSCHE will vote on whether to renew the College’s accreditation at its June 2013 meeting.

For questions or suggestions on the reaccreditation process, e-mail MiddleStates@chc.edu.
Classical pianist Meral Güneyman returned to the College this spring to perform in the Steinway Master Artists series.

Güneyman, the state artist of the Republic of Turkey, earned another round of rave reviews for her March 15 performance in the East Parlor.

“She graced our campus once again with her dazzling artistry and exquisite musical sensitivity,” said Kathleen McCloskey, SSJ, M.M.Ed., assistant professor and chair of the music department.

“The word brilliant comes to mind,” she said. “What a privilege to have a musician of her caliber at the College.”

Güneyman’s strong affinity for jazz infused her album “Playful Virtuosity,” a Grammy contender in 2007. She made her orchestral debut in the United States under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas as the first-prize winner of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra’s Young Artist’s Competition and was promptly reengaged by Thomas to play the Schumann Concerto with the Pittsburgh Symphony. At her Carnegie Hall debut, Güneyman won the East & West Artists’ International Competition. After winning the prestigious William Kapell International Competition at the University of Maryland, she performed with Leon Fleisher and the Baltimore Symphony. Her accolades also include winning the Juilliard School’s Chopin Concerto Competition and being a finalist of the Naumburg Competition.

Güneyman performed here last May to help celebrate the College becoming an All-Steinway School. By joining the elite ranks of All-Steinway institutions, the College brought the highest caliber of pianos to its students and the greater community. The Master Series, comprised of a master class for students and public concert, is just one of the special experiences the College will enjoy as a member of the Steinway family.

Nelson Shanks, prestigious portrait artist and founder of the Studio Incamminati, presented this spring’s Katherine M. and William E. Schubert Memorial Lecture.

His March 22 appearance at the College included a lecture and display of several of his works. In particular, his painting of Pope John Paul II created a learning opportunity for students of the College’s Drawing Techniques class.

“I used it to teach them a variety of artistic issues, including painting the portrait in context, composition, light and shadow, color, and interpretation of gesture, using steps of artistic criticism,” said Margaret Thompson, SSJ, M.F.A., associate professor of art. “Since the students are learning to draw the portrait and the figure in context as part of the course design, this was a fine opportunity for them to view an original work of art by a world-renowned portrait painter.”

Nelson Shanks is regarded as a foremost realist painter in America. He is most widely known as a portrait painter, especially of high-profile subjects such as European royalty, American presidents, and the Pope, and his subjects include the human figure, landscape, and still life. His devotion to the fine arts also includes a commitment to educating young artists. Responding to a growing need for serious art instruction, Shanks began a series of successful workshops for students in the late 1990s.

With his wife, Leona Claire Shanks, he founded Studio Incamminati in Philadelphia to teach the skills and techniques fundamental to realism in the traditional European ambience, as well as the essential skills needed to achieve and sustain a career as a professional painter. Studio Incamminati, which can be translated from Italian as “those who are progressing,” reflects Shanks’ commitment to change the world’s view of art.
AROUND THE HILL

**SERVICE TRIP TO APPALACHIA YIELDS LESSONS**

Caitlin Kain ’13 had always wanted to contribute to Habitat for Humanity. But power tools and dry wall were, to put it mildly, foreign territory.

“I’ve always been too clumsy for that stuff,” Kain said, laughing. “When it was my turn to power drill into the wall, I was scared I’d mess it up. But everyone was so patient with me, and once I got the hang of it, I felt great.”

Stepping out of comfort zones was one of the valuable lessons learned by the students who traveled to Frenchville, Pa., for the alternative spring break sponsored by Campus Ministry. Their efforts in the week-long trip to the Bethany Retreat Center for Youth included tasks such as painting, cleaning, and yard work. But it also included visiting the lonely and the elderly.

“We saw poverty in terms of no money or poor living conditions,” Kain said. “But we also saw it in terms of spirit. This was a chance to just be there for people, and to have a conversation with them.”

Indeed, students return from each service trip to Appalachia with a deeper appreciation of the College’s mission points of service to the community and inclusive love.

“I’ll never forget one student who came back and said to Sister Mary Darrah [assistant to the president for mission and ministry], ‘I’ve heard you talk about the dear neighbor since my first year, but now I finally get it,’” said Mindy Welding, IHM, director of campus ministry.

A key component of the trip occurred each night after dinner, when the group would gather to reflect on the day’s events. Volunteers talked about their days and listened to the others’ experiences.

“It can take a while for it to all sink in,” Sister Mindy said. “But by processing it together, we can learn these lessons and feel this wide-open awakening.”

Many students return from the trip eager to go again next year, while others lobby classmates to consider signing up. John Waldenberger ’12 only wishes he had started going to Appalachia sooner.

Asked for his favorite memory of the trip, Waldenberger responded with one word — “everything.”

_Volunteers included Tori Capps ’14, Sara Zuber ’12, Kara Mia Kusnirik ’14, and Esther McCrea ’12._

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**DISTINGUISHED BIOMEDICAL SERIES LECTURER DISCUSSES NANOTECHNOLOGY**

Dawn Bonnell, Ph.D., trustee professor of material sciences, the University of Pennsylvania, and director of the Nano/Bio Interface Center, presented “Probing BioSystems at the Nanoscale” on campus in February.

Dr. Bonnell discussed new research programs that cross disciplinary boundaries, linking engineering and life science in a two-way exchange to advance our understanding of interactions at the interface of physical and biological systems. She stressed the importance of understanding interfaces when building devices with biomolecular components and explained how combining biomolecules with surfaces and nanoparticles could yield innovation in energy harvesting and chemical sensing.

“Students learned that nanotechnology is a scientific and engineering method of making new products that are unique and extremely small,” said Lakshmi Atchison, Ph.D., professor of biology. “Nanotechnology is an exciting field of global interest — the one science that unites all.”

Prior to the lecture, Dr. Bonnell met with students, offering educational and career advice. The lecture was part of the 19th Annual Biomedical Lecture Series, directed by Dr. Atchison. The series brings renowned members of the science and medical fields to campus to interact with the College community.

Charles J. Yeo, M.D., FACS, will present the next lecture in the series on October 24. The Samuel D. Gross Professor of Surgery Chair, Department of Surgery, and Co-Director, Jefferson Pancreas, Biliary and Related Cancer Center, Thomas Jefferson University, has been recognized by Philadelphia Magazine’s “Top Docs” in each of the last three years. He will discuss “The New Faces of Pancreatic Cancer Surgery and Treatment.”

There is currently no method for the early detection of pancreatic cancer, to which the American Cancer Society attributed 37,660 deaths in 2011. The primary focus of Dr. Yeo’s work and research has been the treatment of patients with pancreatic and related cancers, unusual pancreatic neoplasms, and acute or chronic pancreatitis.

“Students and the community will gain valuable knowledge on a highly elusive cancer with a very low survival rate from the time of detection,” Atchison said.

_To view a booklet on the history of the biomedical lecture series and its distinguished speakers, visit www.chc.edu/biomedbook_
In February, the College community mourned the loss of Stephen N. Berk, Ph.D., remembering him as a caring colleague, friend, and loved one and establishing a memorial award in his name.

The assistant professor of psychology came to the College in 1999 and quickly earned a reputation for generosity and patience, scholarly enthusiasm, and a gentle soul.

“As a father, husband, teacher, clinician, and friend, Steve Berk approached life with a passion, a zest for living,” said Susan McGroarty, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology. “Born to surf the waves of life, he leaves a legacy of meaning.”

Added Jeanne DiVincenzo, Psy.D., assistant professor of psychology and alumna of the Psy.D. program: “He taught us that it wasn’t about the grade, or the seemingly insurmountable project, or the problem at hand — it was about the journey.”

Dr. Berk’s memorial service featured an outpouring of love and memories. Scott Browning, Ph.D., professor of psychology, said that Dr. Berk “has left an indelible mark on who we all are as faculty, students, and staff.”

Students noted his ability to make complicated subjects comprehensible and to offer just the right words of encouragement.

“Dr. Berk embodied everything we hope to develop into as professionals and people,” said Psy.D. student Natalie Nageeb. “He has placed a part of himself in all of us, and we will continue to share him in our work as we are there for others as he was always there for us.”

Dr. Berk made countless contributions to his community and the field of psychology in his nearly 40 years of work. He served as president of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association (PPA), which will honor him this June by awarding the Stephen N. Berk Memorial Education Award to a deserving student.

Cheryll Rothery, Psy.D., chair of the Psy.D. program and associate professor of psychology, served on the PPA board with Dr. Berk. She noted the high regard in which he was held by PPA colleagues.

“He was an outstanding role model, not only for students and new professionals, but for seasoned psychologists,” she said. “Many have benefited from his wisdom, his integrity, and his generous spirit.”

On behalf of his family and to honor Dr. Berk’s legacy, the College also established the Stephen Berk, Ph.D. Memorial Award. The annual award will go to the psychology doctoral student “who best exemplifies the life and values of our dear friend and teacher.” Thousands of dollars have already been raised from private donations and fundraising events, including a group of faculty, students, and staff, led by Kevin McCarthy, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology, running this year’s Blue Cross Broad Street Run in Dr. Berk’s memory.

To contribute to the Stephen Berk, Ph.D. Memorial Award, visit www.chc.edu/gift and designate the award in the text box.
Cecelia J. Cavanaugh, SSJ, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish and dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies, wrote New Lenses for Lorca: Literature, Art, and Science in the Edad de Plata. The book examines the influence of science in the thought, creative process, writing, and drawing of Federico García Lorca. It establishes the historical, cultural, and biographical context in which Lorca encountered scientists and their work, and studies the writing and drawing of scientists he came to know at the Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid. The result is a study of the creative process in artist and scientist alike and their mutual influence. [Bucknell University Press]

Aida Beaupied, Ph.D., professor of Spanish, wrote Freedom in Chains: Sacrifice, Aporias, and Forgiveness in Cuban Discourse. Freedom has been one of the most discussed topics in Cuban literature and culture. But until now, it has not been studied as discourse; as an instrument of communication that is intrinsically imprecise and thus vulnerable to inconsistencies. Freedom in Chains explores the origins and trajectory of the ideas of freedom that have impacted Cuban culture, calling attention to the contradictions imbedded in a series of discourses — mythical, religious, theological, philosophical, filmic, and literary — from the beginning of the 19th century to the present. [Peter Lang Publishing]

Patrick McCauley, Ph.D., assistant professor of religious studies, wrote Reading by the Light of a Burning Phoenix: A Kantian Interpretation of Hesse. It inquires into faith, deliverance, and despair within mankind’s paradoxical suspension between the conditional and unconditional in the work of Immanuel Kant and Hermann Hesse. It offers a new interpretation of Hesse’s Steppenwolf, grounded in Kant’s moral philosophy. It argues that our rational capacity exposes us to insuperable moral demand, to which we can only respond with a finite material capacity. The book asserts it is our fate, then, to impose conditions on our own unconditional imperative; to exist as a self-evident contradiction. [Lambert Academic Publishing]

Susan Magee, M.F.A., assistant professor of communications, wrote The Pregnancy Countdown Book: 9 Months of Practical Tips, Useful Advice, and Uncensored Truths. It notes that the average pregnancy lasts 280 days — and the suspense can be excruciating. The Pregnancy Countdown Book marks the biggest milestones along the way, with one page of helpful information for each day of the pregnancy. It offers tips from doctors and mothers, amusing anecdotes and quotes, and all of the uncensored details that other books won’t tell you. The perfect gift for expecting moms of all ages, the book is a delightfully irreverent look at the craziest nine months of a woman’s life. [Quirk Books]

Publishing under the name Different Leaves, Same Root, a diverse group of alumni, students, and staff created Perception. The collection of short stories, illustrations, photography, art, and poetry explores issues of peace, war, racism, love, human emotion, and more. It ponders the different interpretations of life and art and the conventions of beauty behind them. Contributors attempted to remove the rigid boundaries from the perception of art, capturing the image of life through assorted lenses. Led by creative director Joseph McGovern ’11, the contributors were: Rhiannon Flores-Drennen ’13, Christopher Dunn ’13, Alex Garcia ’11, Zachary Grubb ’12, Marcus Hayes, Christopher Lee, Ariama Long ’13, Kyle McLaughlin, Keaton Nahan ’11, Ashley Pavone ’11, Nicholas Raspanti ’11, Kairi Suswell ’13, Zander Tippett ’15, Colleen Tozer ’10, and Yannick Wallace ’12. [AuthorHouse Book Publishing Company]
THE MOTIVATION TO INCLUDE CHESTNUT HILL IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS COMES FROM MANY PLACES...GRATITUDE FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE, BELIEF IN A VISION OF INCLUSIVENESS, FAITH IN A MISSION TO ENSURE AN EDUCATION FOR ALL, OR A DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY HELPING THOSE IN NEED.

CHANCES ARE YOU MADE MANY LIFELONG RELATIONSHIPS WHILE ATTENDING Chestnut Hill. Making a provision in your will for Chestnut Hill College, for as little as five percent (5%) of your estate, is a simple process that will have a profound impact on the experience that future generations of students will have when they attend the College.

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• SIMPLICITY - Just a few sentences in your will complete the gift.

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Following high school, Dennis visited the UNIFAT school and nearby villages in Gulu, Northern Uganda.
FOR MOST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, VIEWING AN educational film amounts to little more than a change of pace. For Kelly Dennis ’14, it was a change of life.

As freshmen at Mount Notre Dame High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dennis and her classmates watched “Invisible Children,” a documentary centered on children who walked for miles every night to avoid being abducted in war-torn Uganda. They sat transfixed by stories of children their own age and younger being forced to kill their parents, siblings, and neighbors.

“I couldn’t believe it,” Dennis said. “But what really struck me was that this had been going on for 20 years and this was the first I was hearing about it.”

Filmmakers interviewed the children they found sleeping in bus stations, giving a voice to the aggrieved and displaced. Toward the end, one of the children was asked what could be done for him.

“He didn’t ask for food or a house, like you might think,” Dennis said. “He just said, ‘I want an education.’

“Even thinking about it now, I get goose bumps.”

PROVIDING A Path

The passion of Kelly Dennis ’14 brought Unified for UNIFAT to the College, providing education to children and inspiration to classmates.
The boy’s simple, straightforward request struck a chord with the students. Dennis realized she had been taking her own education for granted, spending the summer before high school upset at her parents for forcing her to attend private school.

“I realized, ‘Gosh, I’m so, so lucky.’ All that these [Ugandan] kids want is the chance to get an education.”

The only question, then, was what she could do to help make that a reality.

**SPONSORING HOPE**

Stirred by “Invisible Children,” the Mount Notre Dame students passed it on to friends, who screened it at two other local schools. Awareness grew, and Dennis and her friends looked for ways to take action. It was then that an alumnus of one of the schools introduced them to Abitimo Odongkara, an educator and visionary who was in the midst of creating a veritable oasis for the children in Uganda.

While in the Northern Uganda city of Gulu in the mid-1980s, Odongkara saw how desperately its children needed a new path.

“She saw seven kids playing war games in a field and said, ‘No, no, come here,’” Dennis said. “She got started that day, teaching them right in the dirt.”

Since then, Odongkara has welcomed in any child who wants an education. She steadily built the school into Upper Nile Institute for Appropriate Technology (UNIFAT), a primary school that educates more than 1,300 students, many of them civil war or HIV/AIDS orphans, and provides employment to dozens of teachers, administrators, cooks, and cleaning staff.

But while UNIFAT grew dramatically in its first 20 years, it still struggled to pay its employees and maintain its buildings. Inspired by meeting Odongkara and hearing about her good work, the Cincinnati students decided to do all that they could to help.
In 2005, they created Unified for UNIFAT (U4U), a student-run organization that raises money for Uganda’s children to attend the school. The cost to sponsor a UNIFAT child is $300 per year, which covers tuition, uniforms, a daily meal of beans and rice, and basic medical care. U4U sponsored ten children to start, but its reach expanded quickly.

“More schools heard about it and wanted to get involved,” Dennis said, “and before we knew it, we were sponsoring more and more kids.”

Today, U4U sponsors more than 120 children, and the organization has chapters at more than 20 high schools and colleges. Collectively, the chapters raised nearly $100,000 last year, helping UNIFAT not only through sponsorships but with the costs of new construction and computers with internet access.

Another core value of U4U is follow-through. Once a chapter sponsors its students, it exchanges letters with them and monitors their progress. To facilitate that, U4U hired four Ugandan mentors who serve as role models for the children. They tutor students, visit their homes, and send progress reports to their sponsors.

“They’re almost surrogate parents, making sure the kids are in the position to succeed,” Dennis said, “They connect us with our kids.”

Each year, one student from each chapter gets to deepen that connection by visiting Uganda. After drawing inspiration from them for four years, Dennis jumped at the chance to go meet the kids in person.
She wasn’t apprehensive about traveling so far away, to a place so unknown, but the same couldn’t be said of her parents.

“It took them almost two years to say yes,” Dennis said, laughing. “But they knew how much it meant to me.”

After arriving in Africa, Dennis and the other U4U members headed to UNIFAT. They drove six hours to Gulu on bumpy dirt roads, crossing the Nile River and acclimating themselves to the villages.

“It was an eye-opening experience,” Dennis said. “The first family we visited had ten people living in a mud hut. It had a kitchen on one side, and everyone slept on the other side. I was shocked by how little space they had.”

Dennis spent as much time as possible with the children, playing with and tutoring them. Not all of them spoke English yet, so Dennis learned some phrases from their tribal language.

“I’d say, ‘Copango,’ which is ‘How are you?’” she said. “They loved that. It helped to build a bond between us.”

Indeed, Dennis’ main takeaway from her trip was not the differences of Ugandan culture but the similarities.

“People think of Africa as a different world, but it’s really not,” she said. “I learned that people are people, and that a smile is a language in itself.

“These were just kids. They liked to have fun and laugh,” she added. “They’d put on a happy face, but every now and then you’d see behind their eyes, or they’d tell a story that brought you back to the realities they faced.”

ARRIVING AT THE HILL

After returning from Uganda, Dennis visited the College for summer orientation. It didn’t take long for Marie A. Conn, Ph.D., professor of religious studies and Mindy Welding, IHM, director of campus ministry, to identify her as a potential leader.

“We clicked immediately,” said Dr. Conn, who had just returned from a student trip to Tanzania. “I think it was that very day that she talked about starting up a [U4U] club at the College. You only needed to speak with her for two minutes to sense the depth of her passion and commitment.”

Dennis left the orientation feeling as if she had found a new home.

“I thought this was a community that shared my interests and values,” she said, “a place where I could make U4U grow even larger.”

Dennis didn’t have to wait long or go far for help. One dorm room away was Helena DeBald ’14, who was intrigued by Dennis’ experience with U4U. They became fast friends and co-presidents of the College’s new U4U chapter.

“Being a part of [U4U] has shown me that love and teamwork are things that apply not only to people we come in direct contact with, but also people far, far away,” DeBald said.

“I haven’t met the children we sponsor, but I know them in my heart,” she added. “Making a difference for these kids is more than just a cause for us — it’s a calling.”
The passion of the co-presidents has been contagious, attracting a diverse group of 70 students in less than two years.

“I have to say, it’s a pretty easy sell,” Dennis said. “This is an issue that tugs at the heartstrings.”

The chapter raised $2,000 last year via fundraisers, aided by donations from local businesses. That’s enough to support the education of three UNIFAT students: Anena Patience, Olara Douglas, and Fungaroo Moses.

Dennis has a connection with Moses, in particular. While in Uganda, she interviewed him on his life story.

“He had been a father figure to younger siblings since he was nine,” she said. “That resonated with me. He was 15 by then and very mature, but he still had this innocence that touched my heart.

“Being back here now and seeing his picture,” she added, “always inspires me to work hard.”

The U4U chapter has also raised awareness by sponsoring and participating in on-campus events. In November, it coordinated the College’s annual Fair Trade event. Dozens of vendors displayed handmade products from around the world, including a necklace and bracelet crafted in Gulu, with proceeds returning to the artisans’ home countries. A student discussed her experience in Tanzania, and author Vince Gallagher discussed his book, The True Cost of Low Prices: The Violence of Globalization.

One week earlier, actress and film producer Melissa Fitzgerald visited the College to discuss the work of Voices of Uganda, an organization that assists the Gulu citizens displaced by its 25-year war. The multimedia presentation included video clips from the Voices of Uganda theater program as well as students from the College performing monologues based on interviews with the war-affected. Fitzgerald also discussed the documentary she co-produced, “Staging Hope,” which the U4U club gathered to see in January.

The previous spring, U4U sponsored an informational event for the nonprofit Invisible Children, creators of the film that ignited Dennis’ interest. The group discussed its efforts to rescue child soldiers and reintegrate them into their families and tribes, with one young woman sharing her story of being rescued. Another speaker was Dennis Okema Fred, a UNIFAT alumnus who now takes graduate classes at the College. While running for political office in Gulu, Fred was kidnapped, blindfolded, and beaten by rivals for two days, and his brother was killed. In addition to sharing his story, Fred stressed the value of education.

“It was a great opportunity for our students to hear from people who had been on the ground in Uganda,” Dr. Conn said. “Young people tend to have good hearts but not as much experience, so it makes a huge difference when you can put a face on these important issues. You can just see it click for them.

“And the more they’re exposed to these issues,” she added, “the better off we’ll all be.”

REFLECTING THE MISSION

Passion for helping others isn’t all that Dennis brought to the College. She’s also an elite tennis player, earning All-Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) honors while serving on the student-athlete advisory committee.

Tennis coach Albert Stroble said Dennis “personifies what it means to be a student-athlete at the Division II level,” which stresses the development of the whole person and service to the community.

That aligns with the mission of the College, as does U4U’s outreach to children far away.

“When we talk about the dear neighbor, we’re talking about not just the person in front of you who’s in need, but the global world,” Sister Mindy said. “We all have to keep that at the forefront of our minds.”

As evidenced by U4U and countless other examples large and small, “service to one another and the global community” is alive and well at the College. But there will always be room for more students to catch the spirit.

“Students like Kelly with that type of passion need to be the voice piece,” Sister Mindy said. “It’s one thing for us campus ministers or professors to try to get students involved. But when a peer says, ‘This is so cool — you have to come hear about this,’ they will come.”

“Students come to us with the raw materials,” Dr. Conn added, “these wonderful hearts and lots of energy. The more we can find ways to tap into that, the better equipped they’ll be when they leave us.”

When the time comes for Dennis to leave the College, she hopes to continue supporting U4U in a professional capacity. But in the meantime, it’s all about raising awareness and getting other students involved.

“Even though we’re only college students, we can make such a big difference,” she said. “Some may not believe it, but when I think about the impact I’ve seen from my first year of high school to now, I’m in awe.

“I want everyone to feel this way,” she added, “to be empowered, knowing they’re making a difference in the world.”

For more information on U4U, visit www.unifiedforunifat.com. To get involved with the CHC chapter, contact Kelly Dennis or Helena DeBald at dennisk@chc.edu or debaldh@chc.edu.
The College recently introduced a psychological services clinic, serving the community while bolstering its Doctor of Psychology program.

CALL IT A WIN-WIN-WIN.

Launched in the fall, the Psychological Services Clinic of Chestnut Hill College offers invaluable testing and assessment to children, teens, adults, and seniors who may not otherwise be able to afford them, reflecting the College’s mission of serving the community.

It also provides students in the Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) program hands-on clinical training under the guidance of faculty, raising the profile and allure of a program that has become one of the College’s flagships.

“It’s just a huge draw,” said Cheryll Rothery, Psy.D., chair of the department of professional psychology. “We’ve had so many students apply to be a part of the clinic next year that it’ll be tough to choose who participates — but that’s a good problem.”

The clinic currently provides psychological assessment, and next year it will also offer therapy. Assessments are completed by Psy.D. practicum and pre-doctoral students and supervised by licensed-psychologist faculty. Services range from brief diagnostic tests to comprehensive batteries, screening for everything from learning disabilities or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children to the cognitive function of adults.

“People will come to us because they’re having difficulties,” said Jeanne DiVincenzo, Psy.D., clinic director. “They’ll say, ‘I need some help’ or ‘I want to figure out what’s going on here.’ Our job is to look for ways to help them be more successful in school or in the workplace. It’s trying to piece the puzzle together, which can be of great relief to them.”

The faculty believed they could offer a valuable service to the community, at a time when the understanding of behavioral disorders was rising but the number of individuals with access to treatment decreasing. It didn’t take long to confirm that belief, with the very first assessment yielding helpful information about a child having difficulties in school.

 “[The child’s] mother just gave us this look and said, ‘I can’t thank you enough — I feel like I understand my child so much better now,’” Dr. DiVincenzo said. “It was very gratifying to see this family being helped by one of our students and thinking, ‘This is really happening. This is why we did all of this. We’ve got real people in here being helped by what we do.’”

FULFILLING A VISION

Introducing a psychological services clinic was a long-held goal of the professional psychology department. Joseph A. Micucci, Ph.D.,
PIECING THE...

Kristine Gross ’04 SGS and Jeanne DiVincenzo, Psy.D.
outside of the College’s new psychological services clinic.
Thomas Klee, Ph.D., and Steven Guerriero, Ph.D., dean of the School of Graduate Studies, were most directly involved in developing the initial proposal. Dr. Rothery, Dr. DiVincenzo, and other faculty with experience running similar clinics or centers consulted on the process, informing the development of policies.

Once the College’s administration and board of directors approved the proposal for the clinic, Dr. DiVincenzo developed a timeline for making it a reality. A daunting timeline.

“It reminded me of being a student, receiving the syllabus the first day and having that feeling of ‘You must be confusing me with someone who can actually do this,’” Dr. DiVincenzo said, laughing.

One of the first steps was finding a location. To maximize accessibility, the clinic was situated in a cozy office building two miles from the College in Flourtown. And with “where” settled, the department pondered “how.”

“We asked, ‘How do we train our students, and which guidelines do we use to evaluate them?’” Dr. DiVincenzo said. “How do we devise schedules for faculty who are already pressed for time? How do we make sure client records move through our systems confidentially? A great deal of time and effort from many people went into this.”

Once testing and assessment services were under way, clinic staff could make adjustments on the fly, whether it was tweaking a clinical procedure or procuring another assessment tool. The same applied to the little things — staff quickly realized they needed more white-noise machines to ensure the privacy of clients and hangers for their coats.

“It was like opening and running a small business,” Dr. DiVincenzo said, “with the added layers of caring for and training people.”

“We were starting from scratch, so we just did whatever needed to be done,” said Kristine Gross ’04 SGS, a third-year Psy.D. student who was instrumental in opening the clinic for business.
“Whether it was developing consent forms or shopping for furniture, [Dr. DiVincenzo and Dr. Rothery] had the attitude of ‘Let’s do whatever it takes to get this off the ground,’” she added. “To be there at the beginning and see it come together was exhilarating.”

**RESPONDING TO A GROWING NEED**

The need for psychological services has risen steadily in recent years, for various reasons. One is that the societal stigma once associated with seeking the services has diminished. Another key is advancement in brain science.

“Twenty-plus years ago, kids with ADHD and learning disabilities were seen as just being difficult or lacking motivation,” Dr. DiVincenzo said. “Society is much more educated now, our educational system much more aware that many people think and learn differently than others.”

Faced with budget cuts, many school districts refer children to clinics such as the College’s for comprehensive assessment.

And since it’s essentially a training clinic, not a private practice reliant on a high volume of patients to make ends meet, the students have time to be thorough.

“That allows us to really dig in and understand the problems,” Dr. DiVincenzo said.

But while the number of people needing psychological service rises, their ability to pay declines. Economic turbulence left many un- or underemployed, and insurance companies are less likely to pay for assessments — which can run thousands of dollars — than they have been in the past. In response, the College’s clinic bases its fees on the client’s ability to pay.

“What’s important is that people who need low-cost assessments get them,” Dr. Rothery said. “It’s about serving a population that may not have otherwise been served, giving back to the community, and reflecting our mission. Everyone wins.”
Despite these and other benefits of the clinic, however, there was no guarantee the community would respond.

“One of the things we worried about was, ‘If we build it, will they come?’” Dr. DiVincenzo said. “But a few months in, we already had a waiting list. And referrals are pouring in from schools, colleges, and therapists grateful for high-quality services to offer their students and clients.

“What we’re seeing are clients of different socioeconomic backgrounds, race, and professional experience,” she added, “some from the city, some from the suburbs, and so on. It’s everything that we could have hoped for.”

A PROGRAM ON THE RISE
The Psy.D. program began at the College nearly 20 years ago. It requires practica, an internship, and a dissertation prior to students receiving their doctorate. It prepares students to be psychologists skilled in therapy, assessment, supervision, and consultation and follows a practitioner-scholar model of training. The program also stresses respect for human diversity, equipping students to work with people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

“We’re committed to training students to work with diverse populations that reflect our society,” Dr. Rothery said. “That attracts students with the same goals and the same commitment to serve.”

The student body itself has become more diverse in terms of cultural backgrounds, race, age, and more, broadening the program’s appeal. Another asset of the program is the pre-doctoral internship consortium, which partners with local agencies to help students fulfill their internship requirement.

The Psy.D. program also benefits from its many faculty members actively involved in the field, sitting on local, state, and national psychology boards and organizations. And when its graduates step into clinical and leadership positions, it lifts the program’s profile even further.
These and other factors account for the Psy.D. program’s surging popularity. Following reaccreditation in 2007, applications have increased by 89 percent. Acceptances, meanwhile, held at 30 percent.

“What we’re offering is very attractive to applicants,” Dr. Rothery said. “That keeps us competitive with other top programs, which, in turn, means we can be more selective.”

The American Psychological Association (APA) prefers for students to receive clinical training through their schools, where they can be mentored by faculty. The College follows that approach, to the benefit of students.

“They appreciate that close interaction,” Dr. DiVincenzo said. “It’s one thing to take a course from a faculty member, but students enjoy being in a professional setting where they can watch how we work.”

One such student is Gross, who relished the close-knit environment of the psychology department so much during her master’s studies that she didn’t hesitate to return for her doctorate.

“You really have all the support you need here,” she said. “I joke that the faculty do everything but take your classes for you.”

Gross also appreciated the Psy.D. cohort system, which places students in small, diverse groups to learn from one another and get acclimated more quickly. It wasn’t until spring of 2011, however, that Dr. Rothery approached her about getting involved with the clinic.

“It could have gone either way, which was scary,” Gross said. “But it was a unique opportunity to see what it takes to open a clinic or private practice, to be there every step of the way for clients.”

Having seen the whole picture, Gross can envision the future.

“In another year or two, when things are finely tuned,” she said, “this will be one of the finest clinics around.”
On the eve of her fifth term, Sister Carol reflects on the pivotal events of her presidency and imagines the future of the College.

IN MANY WAYS, CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE IS A very different place than it was 20 years ago, when Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D. became president. The shift to coeducation sparked enrollment booms in all three schools and carried athletics into uncharted territory. The acquisition of the SugarLoaf property nearly doubled the size of campus, positioning the College to meet the needs of the students of today and tomorrow. The introduction of a spectacular new Fitness Center and renovation of the Social Room into an inviting lounge and café stirred community members, inviting them to think big for the College’s future.

In other ways, however, things have stayed the same. The College retained the homey, close-knit environment alumni recall so fondly, continuing its mission of providing a holistic education built upon service to one another and the global community. It’s still a place where, true to the vision of founder Maria Kostka Logue, SSJ, students learn not just how to earn a living but how to live.

In January, Chestnut Hill sat down with Sister Carol to discuss the delicate balance between values and change, as well as her recollections of the pivotal moments of her first four terms and her vision of the College’s future. The transcript of that hour-long conversation follows.
WHAT WERE SOME OF THE SURPRISES OR LESSONS YOU LEARNED EARLY ON IN YOUR FIRST TERM?

I’d been here for three years and was chair of the Religious Studies department, so I was familiar with the College and had a sense of its strong points as well as its weak ones. I originally envisioned the institution remaining a successful liberal arts college for women and made that a priority. But I didn’t realize how tenuous the financial situation was — that surprised me. I have to say, I think I was a bit naïve about the challenge of fundraising. I thought we had a very compelling cause, that people would see that cause and be willing to support us. But, in fact, fundraising is very, very hard work. It’s much more about taking time to build meaningful and long-lasting relationships than simply asking people to support the institution. That’s something I learned over a period of time.

Maslow’s hierarchy of needs teaches that when one has to work simply to survive, more altruistic goals are set aside in order to take care of the essentials. That’s another lesson I learned very quickly, one that came home to me in a new way. A strong priority of mine was to continue the College’s commitment to diversity by enrolling more international students and by providing additional opportunities for our students to study abroad. This could not be accomplished as quickly as I would have anticipated. In the early days, it was critical for me to focus on recruitment, retention, and finances. Further, planning for the future was a necessity, thus, we embarked upon a formal facilities strategic plan and a master plan for the campus. The master plan made it obvious that the campus needed to construct an additional building and to focus attention on the renovation of current facilities such as the Redmond Room, Social Room, East Parlor, and the terrace. Each of these was a public place that needed sprucing up.

So, you could say the first 10 years of my presidency were focused on the revitalization of the day-to-day operations and a committed effort to grow the

The College’s shift to coeducation sparked enrollment booms in all three schools.
women’s college. When all attempts to increase enrollment had been exhausted, we arrived at the decision that, in order to be viable, the College had to go coed. We recognized that without this change, we could not survive, and, further, we knew that simply surviving wasn’t an option. It was imperative to thrive and to thrive in a way that made us unique and different, or else there was no real reason to exist.

ARRIVING AT THE DECISION TO GO COED IS ONE THING, BUT HOW DIFFICULT WAS IT TO ACTUALLY IMPLEMENT?

I’d describe it as something that was painful but not difficult. We were able to gain funding to do a comprehensive study, which provided the data necessary to support the decision. That’s something that was critical to a good decision, one that our alumnae could embrace. Our graduates want to see facts in order to be certain that the requisite homework was done. Once the study was completed, the decision made. We produced a booklet, “A Future Full of Hope,” that shared with our alumnae the pertinent data that we had gleaned from the study and the reasoning that preceded the decision. We mailed the publication to the entire alumnae database with the announcement that the College was going to become coed. This communication truly helped answer questions that alumnae raised about the new direction. However, surprisingly, there was never a groundswell of negative response to the decision. We were able to diffuse questions and issues that did arise by sharing the data from the comprehensive study that had been conducted.

The other factor in our favor was that many alumnae had tried to encourage their daughters to attend the College, only to find they wanted no part of a women’s institution. They experienced first-hand how difficult it was in today’s world to make single-gender education at the college level attractive to women. That helped us very much. Ultimately, our alumnae were more interested in the College continuing to be successful than holding on to the past. I didn’t receive a single letter or call from anyone who was angry or upset. In a conscious effort to communicate the decision effectively and sensitively, the vice president for Institutional Advancement and I traveled around the country to talk to small groups to answer any questions they might wish to raise. During these visits, we were able to share our data and reasoning, and for the most part people accepted the decision as one that was inevitable.

That said, it was still painful. We were, and still are, very, very committed to the education of women. We knew the benefits and the differences it made in women’s personal and professional lives. We had witnessed the life-long relationships established here because students were in an environment that didn’t distract them from building those relationships. Yet, when we truly considered change, we realized that there was no reason why our mission was not just as important to share with young women as it was for young men, and we determined coeducation to be the best way forward.

HOW DID THE ACQUISITION OF SUGARLOAF COME ABOUT?

It was a dream I had had for a long time as I looked across the street and drove past the property, thinking it really should be part of our campus. It was the only space available to grow; the only chance for significant property acquisition anywhere around us. So, I started in a rather non-threatening way by asking for an appointment with the SugarLoaf staff of [previous occupant Temple University] to see the facilities. We anticipated that we would need additional residence space for our growing coed student population. Neither we nor our enrollment consultants thought that as many men would enroll as quickly as they did. When we had toured the property, we inquired whether Temple would rent us dormitory space in the Lodge. We were aware that Temple was losing a significant amount of money on the property and could not maintain it to the level they desired. Once University officials became conscious of the College’s need and interest, they made the determination to return the estate to the Greenfield Foundation to be put up for sale.

I remember taking some of our board members over to look at the property. Of course, they were impressed with the possibilities for the College and thought it was certainly worth having, but they never thought we could find the resources necessary to make the purchase. Most people never thought the College could succeed. But I continued lobbying board members and various people in the community about the College’s need for the property. Although it was a huge, huge reach for us to try to raise the money and make a real commitment to purchase that estate, we eventually dared to make a bid.

DID YOU EVER SECOND-GUESS YOURSELF?

I was very much aware that this purchase could be something that I wanted, but that might not be in the best interest of the College. I prayed, deeply and sincerely, to ascertain whether this is what God wanted for the institution and for further institutional growth. I wasn’t getting any answers, but that didn’t stop me. I decided to work as hard as I could, believing at the same time that if this wasn’t God’s will, something or someone would intervene and the property would be bought by one of the developers. After months and months of work, we started getting the money for SugarLoaf from new sources, from people who really had never made large contributions to the College and from people who were just becoming aware of who we were and what our dream was. Then, with the assistance of Jim and Frannie Maguire, Carol Fitzgerald, and Wodjak Associates, grants started coming from the state of Pennsylvania, which amounted to almost half of the $11 million we needed to buy...
the property. Two million dollars came from
another new friend of the College, and the
necessary funds started to accumulate.
Our alumni were getting very, very excited,
and they, too, made many helpful contributions.
Finally, we had the means to acquire
the estate. The board realized this chance
would probably never come again. It was
now or never, and we simply had to have
the property. It took a long time for everyone
to come to the decision, but in the end the
entire board unanimously agreed to make
the purchase.

**HOW CLOSE WOULD YOU SAY IT WAS TO NOT HAPPENING?**

We had countless board of directors
meetings to discuss the pros and cons,
the source for financing, the pitfalls,
and the risk. I want to reiterate that this
venture was a tremendously big risk for
the College. It was a public relations risk,
because everyone knew we were out there
and we wanted the property. And yet,
we had to take the chance of failure.
We recognized what that would mean for us,
that would people say, “Well, they couldn’t
pull it together. They couldn’t succeed.
They bit off more than they could chew.”
It was also a monumental financial risk.
We are not a rich institution. We don’t have
expendable cash that would allow us to
make such a purchase. Every penny had to
be raised from others, because taking a loan
for the whole amount was not an option.
Then there was the worry that we would
acquire it and not be able to develop it.
Serious questions, critical issues,
and the responsibility to make the best
decision for the College’s future all
complicated this once-in-a-lifetime
opportunity that stretched before us.

**HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS SUGARLOAF’S IMPACT?**

It was a coup. It changed the future
of the College, the possibilities for its
growth and development. It changed the
College not just in terms of added space
and a new dramatic Master Plan, and our
improved relationships with and place in
the community, which were both incredibly
important to us, but it transformed our self-
perception. The fact that we could succeed
in an undertaking most people thought was
impossible for us filled the alumni and the
entire College community with a new sense
of what was possible for us.

When Martino Hall was to be built, when
the old science building came down and
the hole in the ground appeared, people
began to have a different understanding of
the College. That was the first new building
in 40 years, and the first the College itself ever financed independently. All these other buildings were constructed by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Some people here, our own people, said of our desire to undertake fund raising for a building, “That’ll never happen. We can’t do that.” Turned out, yes we could. And it turned out yes we could with SugarLoaf, but on a much larger scale. And so the College turned the corner, coming of age in a whole new way, and people’s expectations for the future were heightened. The most important outcome of the construction of Martino Hall and the purchase SugarLoaf was the fact that these achievements changed our self-perception as a College community and made it possible for us to envision a different kind of future.

**IN ADDITION TO SUGARLOAF, THE COLLEGE RECENTLY OPENED A NEW FITNESS CENTER AND RENOVATED THE SOCIAL ROOM AS A STUDENT CAFÉ AND LOUNGE. CAN DELIVERING ON THESE COMPONENTS OF THE MASTER PLAN FOSTER MOMENTUM FOR THE REST?**

I think the new Gulati Complex marks a dramatic change. It is a statement. You can’t miss the Fitness Center, the McCaffery Lounge, and the Pavilion. These renovations say “We can do what we put our mind to.” These transformed spaces are the initial steps toward the implementation of the new Master Plan for the College on Two Hills. It is important to emphasize that the administrators make decisions to build or to renovate only when it becomes necessary to do so. We do not advise spending money unless there’s a reason to do so. I think we have demonstrated that we’re good stewards of the donations we’re given, and that’s important. The next big project is the construction of the Campus Center. That is a building we need in order to provide the right kind of space and environment for today’s students. It’s a huge project. It involves an underground 550-car parking garage and a new campus road system, in addition to the erection of a substantial new building. It is a monumental undertaking. But yes — I think that when people come to campus and see what we’ve been able to accomplish, even the new elevators, they’re going to want to be part of plans for the future. They’re going to want to contribute.

There’s an energy generated when things change in ways that are both beautiful and dramatic. This kind of change invites buy-in. I think what we have done up to this moment will be an incentive to alumni and friends to contribute the funds we need to take the next big step.

**HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS THE STATE OF ACADEMICS AT THE COLLEGE?**

We want to offer cutting-edge programs that will both address the needs of the 21st century and interest today’s students. At the same time, we are ensuring the relevance of the curriculum. It is essential for it to be rigorous. At the undergraduate level, the addition of forensic biology and forensic chemistry has given new life to the sciences and sparked the interest of young people — until they find out how hard it is! It’s not “CSI Las Vegas” [laughs]. A key has been the young, talented faculty members who’ve come to complement the excellence, dedication, and expertise of our long-time faculty. The classroom experience is only as fine as the faculty who are teaching. As in the past, today our faculty is superior. Likewise, the quality of staff we have been able to hire and retain continues to improve. The fact that we have so little turnover means people have a commitment to the institution and are fulfilled professionally. In addition, there is that value added of being a religious institution in the tradition of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The warmth, hospitality, and inclusivity characteristics of the congregation also characterize the faculty and staff. Students catch that, and it makes them feel comfortable and happy. We’re committed to a liberal arts program...
that will intensify the demands on students to develop as whole persons — to mature in mind, body, and spirit. That’s key. We strive to offer a high-quality academic program that weaves the values of spirit, intellect, charity, ethics, and morality through the entire educational experience, inside and outside of the classroom. It is our goal to offer every opportunity for students to graduate with their priorities in order so they can live their lives conscious of their commitment to care responsibly for others and themselves.

WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE TREMENDOUS GROWTH OF THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES (SGS) AND THE SCHOOL OF CONTINUING & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (SCPS)?
The education and professional psychology programs are the flagship programs for the School of Graduate Studies. They not only have attracted thousands of students over the years, but earned a strongly positive reputation in the community that makes them very desirable. We don’t take that for granted. The success of these programs is the direct result of the diligence and commitment of some very talented and committed faculty members who have worked to assess and improve the programs to make certain they meet or exceed the high standards which have been set for them. The American Psychological Association (APA) has recognized the professional psychology program for its excellence, and we’re working toward national accreditation (NCATE) for the education program in the near future. This accreditation is the crown jewel for the education programs.

The School of Continuing & Professional Studies is always open to growth and to conducting business differently. The dean is committed to adding programs, whether they are credit or non-credit, and opening new sites for course and/or full program delivery. The energy and the commitment to excellence and service to students are vital to this school’s success. The administrative group cares about and understands the adult student. They’ve done everything possible to try to meet adult needs and help reluctant learners make a successful transition back to college. This is a key factor in their continued growth. Students really like and trust the people running the program, which gives them a comfort level despite any initial insecurity.

WHAT’S BEEN YOUR REACTION TO THE GROWTH OF ATHLETICS ON CAMPUS, PARTICULARLY SINCE MOVING TO COED?
I can remember the first men’s basketball game here. I had forgotten the speed at which men play. I remember sitting on the first row in the bleachers thinking, I better move or my physical well being may be in danger [laughs]. What a joy it became

Sister Carol regularly interacts with students, drawing inspiration and fresh perspectives.
“The goodness, compassion, and vitality that so many of our students have for others, the service work that they’re doing, is heartening.”

to be a spectator at those games. With the gradual addition of other men’s sports and the success of the women’s teams, a new vitality and energy erupted on the campus. The publicity we get because of our teams’ successes and the connections we have as far north as Connecticut and as far south as Delaware, because of the conference to which we belong, has been immensely helpful to recruitment efforts. In addition, student-athletes have opportunities to travel throughout the country and abroad. Our women’s soccer team was recently in Ireland, and men’s basketball played in a tournament in California. The men’s baseball team enjoys spring training in Florida, and men’s soccer is planning competitions in England. We were not able to offer opportunities like that as a women’s college. It is a whole new world.

The athletic program has developed because of the coaches we’ve hired, their vision for their programs, and their commitment and dedication. Also, the outstanding leadership of (Director of Athletics and Recreation) Lynn Tubman, who makes absolutely certain that athletic philosophy and competition are grounded in the mission of the College, has made an immeasurable difference in the quality and integrity of the program. More and more people come to campus to see games. Spectators from all over the area, who were unaware of Chestnut Hill College, now see our student-athletes shine on and off the field. The community outreach and service of our athletes brings positive recognition to all of us. But more than anything, there’s a tangible energy that comes from athletic competition that doesn’t come from anything else. The athletic program generates an enthusiasm and excitement that results in a spirit of unity and pride essential to the life and reputation of the institution.

**AMID ALL OF THIS GROWTH, HOW HAS THE COLLEGE BEEN ABLE TO RETAIN ITS CLOSE-KNIT ENVIRONMENT AND FOCUS ON THE MISSION?**

First of all, the mission is in the walls. That’s the truth. We do have a formal program to instill the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in students, faculty, and staff that has proved to be integral in fostering the appropriation of mission and mission values. But the attitudes, values, and ideals we are seeking to communicate are caught, not taught. Because of the generosity, friendliness, and care of faculty and staff, our students see the legacy in action, thus, they constantly come into contact with those whose lives bear witness to what we believe. Many enroll because they’re already attracted to the spirit of our mission and share the values we espouse. Thereby, we attract students who can benefit and grow from the CHC experience. The only way we can continue to touch students in this way, given that in the future there will be fewer Sisters on faculty and staff, is to educate the entire community about the legacy and mission.

We must never forget that the reason for the College’s existence is religious in nature and purpose. Otherwise, we’re “just one more liberal arts college” in a sea of liberal arts colleges. The last thing Pennsylvania requires is another vanilla institution of higher education. What is needed is the spiritual invigoration Chestnut Hill offers to everyone associated with it. If we’re not imbuing students with faith in God, we are failing to fulfill the purpose for which we were established. It is our desire to graduate women and men of uncommon excellence, who have the intellectual preparation to be outstanding professionals and the personal formation to be whole and holy human beings; women and men who truly know who they are, understand why they exist, and live moral and ethical lives. If we graduate such people, we will have been successful.

**YOU’RE WELL KNOWN FOR CARING FOR AND BEING ACCESSIBLE TO THE STUDENTS. HOW IMPORTANT IS THAT TO YOU?**

If I have a student coming to the office to speak with me or interview me, it is the best part of the day. Students bring with them a dimension of experience and perspective on the College that I find very refreshing. I think the presence of Kostka and Griffin makes the Office of the President seem less formidable. Students will come in and play with the dogs, or take the dogs outside to play, and it gives them something non-threatening to talk to us about. I’ve also made it a point to meet with the Student Government Association executive board at least twice a year to hear the students’ voice in a way that can effect change for the students. I think they realize we take their concerns seriously and want them to feel comfortable and happy here. We exist for the students — that’s the purpose of the institution. They’ll be associated with this place long after the rest of us are gone. It’s their College. The goodness, compassion, and vitality that so many of our students have for others, the service work that they’re doing, is heartening. They inspire me with the way they show their concern for people thousands of miles away and by what they’re doing to change the world for them, in small and significant ways.
HAS YOUR CAREER UNFOLDED AS YOU EXPECTED?

I never thought of myself as being in higher education. As a matter of fact, when I was growing up, education never even entered my mind as a profession to pursue. But when I became a Sister of Saint Joseph, there wasn’t any choice. Teaching in elementary school and in high school, then becoming a high school administrator, and subsequently studying for my doctorate logically led me to a college career. The goal in pursuing a doctorate was to acquire the knowledge necessary to establish a spirituality program. I was fascinated with mysticism and evolution and believed that the next stage of evolution will produce a greater synergy among mind, body, and spirit than currently exists. I got caught up with this idea and my vision for how such a future would unfold. As I pursued my doctorate, it became obvious that to establish the type of spirituality program I envisioned, it would be necessary to be involved in higher education. That’s how I ended up at the College.

But I can’t think of a better place to spend my professional life than a college campus. It always has the potential to offer something new. There is constant change. Every generation of students is different. We are always challenged to look at the world in a fresh way. To meet the needs of current students, the lens of one’s perception must change constantly.

WHAT’S A NORMAL DAY FOR YOU, OR IS THERE SUCH A THING?

There are truly very few of those [laughs]. I can come into the office thinking I’m going to have five meetings, all different in nature, and end up dealing with a crisis that clears my agenda. I never, ever know what a day or a night is going to hold. You can’t anticipate it. That’s the exciting part of the job, but it can be the stressful part as well. The sensitivity of some of the situations with which I have to deal is very taxing. There are many incidents that can easily land the College on the front page of the newspaper, and it is necessary to weigh decisions carefully and to think consequentially before acting. In any day, I find myself jumping from one thing to another — from an interview like this to a meeting with an executive staff member, followed by a meeting with potential architects, or from a gathering with local residents about SugarLoaf to a meeting with a political candidate or someone who just been elected to office. It just goes from one thing to another in rapid-fire succession. One minute, I’m going out to see someone’s baby, newly adopted from China or the Ukraine, and the next I’m running to a meeting with the faculty senate executive board. I can go from meetings downtown with the mayor to meetings in Harrisburg with elected representatives and return to campus to a major student crisis. One must learn to keep many, many balls in the air, all at the same time.

IF YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES AND IMAGINE THE COLLEGE IN 20 YEARS, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

We’ve reached our targeted growth of 1,500 full-time undergrad students. Can you imagine that many undergraduates on these two hills? The Campus Center is open, creating vibrancy on the Chestnut Hill campus the likes of which we haven’t known. The old dining space has been renovated, as have other spaces in Fournier and St. Joseph Hall. The renovations necessary throughout all of our residence halls have been completed, there’s a parking garage on SugarLoaf, and several of the buildings and residence
Of special interest will be the spaces along the woodland walkway on SugarLoaf where people can stop, sit, and reflect. These rest havens may include snippets of poetry, or music, or some type of meaningful readings activated by the push of a button. We don’t yet know what might be possible, but we want to make the journey among the trees a singular experience.

I believe there will be many inviting spaces on these two hills where students, faculty, staff, and administrators can gather to share in the academic and social life of the campus. In 20 years, these two hills will have the feel of a campus that is vibrating with intellectual energy and excitement. Here relationships will begin, grow, and mature, just as they have for more than eight and one half decades. The College will have become a destination campus — a location toward which students gravitate, not just because of the stellar reputation of the academic program but because of the deeper values and life-changing atmosphere that permeates the College.

At Chestnut Hill College, people matter. “The active, inclusive love that welcomes every dear neighbor without distinction” will continue to draw students who understand that what they choose to do, or not to do, impacts the world. We will be a premier Catholic liberal arts college of uncommon excellence, and every aspect of the College will underscore that reality, from the classrooms to the playing fields to the mission-imprinted architecture. We will surely be 75 acres of awesome.
MEN’S BASKETBALL ENJOYS SEASON OF MILESTONES

Coming into the game against C.W. Post, Brandon Williams ’12 knew he was on the verge of 1,000 career points. Facing a top-25 team, he wanted to get the milestone over with as soon as possible. There was only one problem.

“I couldn’t make a shot!” Williams said. “I was jittery, and when it got to where I needed one basket, I started falling apart. But once I got it, it was all about the real task of the night, getting the W.”

The Griffins went on to win 93-80, one of the highlights of the most successful year in program history. The team finished 18-12 overall and 11-6 in conference, avenging some tough losses from the previous year and collecting the program’s 100th victory.

Head coach Jesse Balcer, who’s been at the helm for all of the wins, credited the dedication of the coaches and players for the program’s ascent.

“To watch it develop has been a great source of pride for us,” he said. “But we’re a developing program, and the best is yet to come.”

The Philadelphia-Area Small Colleges Coaches Association honored Balcer as Coach of the Year and also recognized Williams and Dan Comas ’12. A forward/center, Comas tallied his 1,000th career point this season, too, capping the strides he made as a Griffin.

“The coaches, especially assistant Rob Fusaro, spent countless hours helping me become the player I am today,” Comas said.

Third but not least, Mark DiRugeris Jr. ’13 joined the 1,000-point club this year. Balcer believes DiRugeris is ready to take the leadership reins from Williams and Comas, who epitomized the program’s values of hard work and respect, on and off the court.

DiRugeris is confident that the team’s underclassmen, battle tested in the challenging Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC), and incoming freshmen can continue the program’s momentum.

“We know we’re a championship-caliber team, so the focus will be on what we need to do to win our conference,” he said. “The [quarterfinal playoff] loss to Dominican left a bad taste in our mouth, and we won’t be satisfied with anything less than making it to [the NCAA Division II tournament].”
It was one of the best and worst weeks of Shane Franzone's life. On October 13, 2010, the men's lacrosse player scored his first collegiate goal. Two days later, he was admitted to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia — the onset of a fight to save his life.

After examining bruises on Franzone that would not heal, doctors diagnosed him with aplastic anemia, a rare blood disease in which bone marrow provides inadequate red and white blood cells and platelets. Franzone spent most of the next 18 months in hospitals, enduring a bone marrow transplant, a tracheotomy, and an operation to remove a lung. Through it all, he showed resilience, vowing to return to his teammates.

“Watching Shane fight for his life every day shows us how mentally and physically tough he is, and who he is as a person,” said co-captain Mike Landau '14.

Assistant coach Adam Eddinger had the idea for a “Balls to the Wall” fundraiser to help Shane's family deal with mounting medical costs. The team hosted more than 700 members of the lacrosse community at the December event, for which Shane's teammates went door to door to solicit donations and sponsorships, raising more than $20,000.

Attendees got the chance to wall ball with, and receive pointers from, the College’s men’s and women's lacrosse teams, with Franzone watching from his hospital bed via Web stream.

“He definitely inspired us that day,” head coach Brian Dougherty said. “I think he inspires a lot of our guys every day.”

In March, Franzone left the hospital to begin rehabilitation, the last step before returning home. And he made good on his promise of rejoining his teammates, attending their 10-9 win over Wheeling Jesuit University.

“His spirits have been lifted,” Shane’s father, Dean, said. “He’s touched by it all.”

A serious knee injury dashed Lauren Riiff’s dream of postseason glory, but it didn’t stop another from coming true.

The women’s soccer senior became the first All-American athlete in the history of the College, a fitting end to her career as a Griffin.

“No one is more deserving of this honor,” said Sandy Dickson, women’s soccer coach. “Lauren is a first-class player and person, and the catalyst in the rise of the soccer program.”

The third-team All-American honors followed a senior season in which Riiff received her second Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Player of the Year award and led the conference in goals, points, and shots. More meaningful to Riiff, however, was the Griffins reaching the playoffs for the third straight year — a feat few could have imagined as recently as 2008.

“It was almost surreal,” Dickson said. “I truly believe she was unstoppable at the time and on a mission.”

Once Riiff’s knee recovers, she plans to continue her playing career, and coaching is a possibility down the line. While she leaves the College with a sense of unfinished business, she also leaves a legacy.

“Think the younger players have gained a lot from watching Lauren,” Dickson said. “She's the type of player that comes around only so often, and players can now aspire to be the next All-American.

“I think the younger players have gained a lot from watching Lauren,” Dickson said. “She’s the type of player that comes around only so often, and players can now aspire to be the next All-American.

“For that,” she added, “Chestnut Hill College will always be grateful.”

Men's Lacrosse Raises Money for — and Spirits of — Hospitalized Teammate

Women's Soccer Player Becomes College's First All-American

Riiff deflects much of the All-American credit to teammates, with whom she built momentum as the playoffs approached. But she tore the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in her left knee in the regular season finale, ending her season.

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FUN ON THE FAIRWAYS...

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STUDENTS TAP ALUMNI JOB-SEARCH EXPERIENCES

Recent alumni shared their job-hunting experiences and suggestions with more than 60 students who attended the annual Backpack-to-Briefcase Alumni Networking Night on February 22. The well-attended event, organized by the Office of Career Development, matched students with alumni of the same majors for discussions relative to opportunities in those fields. Students then broadened their perspective by moving to discussions with alumni of other majors.

The Office of Alumni Relations hosted a dinner reception for participating alumni immediately preceding the sessions, including:

- elementary and high school teachers Katie Murphy Carlino ’05 (secondary education/English), Janean Giancia ’11 (elementary education) ’12 SGS (with special education certification), and Annie Pearsall ’09 (elementary education)

- Charquinta Sullivan ’10 (psychology/criminal justice), school assistant director of discipline

- college/university admissions or student services staff Mark Hammons ’08 (business administration/communications & technology), ’10 SGS (administration of human services), Jessica Day, M.A. ’09 (human services/psychology), and Patrick Curtin ’11

- McNeil Consumer financial analyst Kelly Carroll Ciaburri ’06 (accounting/mathematics)

- Staffing agency representatives Danielle Griesbach-Santacroce ’07 (history/secondary education) for TEKsystems, Inc. and Ashley Cohen ’11 (psychology) for Robert Half International

- Gravic, Inc. software developer Alex Thompson ’10 (computer & information sciences)

- Probation-parole officer Megan Connor ’10 (criminal justice)

Other discussion leaders included Jamie Dunn Roche ’04 (communications & computer technology), associate director of donor events with Fox Chase Cancer Center … chief of staff to State Representative Matt Bradford (Pa.) Bridget Lafferty ’10 (political science/sociology) … special events/grants coordinator for the Sisters of Saint Joseph Natalie Trevino ’09 (political science/business-Spanish) … Mercy Family Medicine physician Diana Barnett Kudes, M.D. ’97 (biology/religious studies certification) … and JK Associates medical writer Sarah Reedy Thornberg ’03 (biology/chemistry-English), who earned a master’s degree in biomedical writing. All participating alumni live and work locally but were joined by Max Kaplan ’11 (English and communications), who coordinates social media for a Manhattan firm that provides marketing and proprietary strategic business services.
Twenty-five members of the Classes of 2001 through 2011 accepted the College’s invitation to offer their suggestions for communication and engagement during the first of a series of summits with School of Undergraduate Studies alums by decade. The February 25 gathering at the Commonwealth Chateau opened with a welcome and presentation by College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., who shared enrollment, financial, strategic planning, and campus master plan information with the “new millennials.”

Ken Hicks, vice president for Institutional Advancement, followed with additional data and instructions on the second part of the day’s events, focus groups conducted by staff members Nicole (Coco) Minardi, Jackie Gutshall, and Patricia Canning ’70. Each of three sub-groups addressed several questions, including methods the alums prefer for keeping in touch with classmates; the importance of various communications media, such as print publications, e-newsletters, and social networks; and their interest in networking with other alums, staying in touch with faculty, attending campus events, and more.

The second summit, which invited alumnae from the ’90s, assembled on April 14. Those from each of the remaining decades will be invited as the months progress. Focus group topics vary with the decades, while several are consistently covered across all years.

Local alums gathered on March 21 to connect and network at Iron Hill Brewery, Chestnut Hill’s newest watering hole. The first alumni social since Holiday Cheer on December 1, the two-hour event at Iron Hill was publicized solely through Facebook by associate alumni director Jackie Gutshall and alumni board Outreach Committee co-chairs Maryanne Walsh ’98 (communications), ’02 SGS (applied technology) and Mark Hammons ’08 (business administration), ’10 SGS (administration of human services). Twenty-four alums and guests registered for the event at the new eatery, reported to be filling every seat every night. The next after-hours gathering will take place in Sea Isle City in mid-July.

Alumni interested in learning about the variety of amenities, services, and membership fee structures offered by Talamore Country Club enjoyed an early-evening Open House on March 27. Located in nearby Ambler, Montgomery County, Talamore boasts a Nicklaus-designed course, tennis courts, fitness center, pool, grill/pub room, dining room, seasonal outdoor dining spots, and banquet facilities. CHC alums, joining either as singles or with family members, benefit from special membership fees contracted with the club. Membership at Talamore also applies to its associated properties, Applecross Country Club in Downington (Chester County) and Talamore Golf Resort in Pinehurst, N.C.

Visit www.talamorepa.com/CHC or contact John Bryers, 215.641.1300, x127, for further information on all properties.

Looking for a good home for your CHC yearbook or editions of The Grackle? The pages of several books and magazines maintained by the alumni office have become well-thumbed, while others have been sorely damaged over time. We’re grateful to Charlotte Kelley Hyer ’59 (fashion design), Angela-Jo Castranova Wetzel ’75 (mathematics), and Joan Ellen Obrecht Hathaway ’65 (history), who have delighted us with copies from their collections. Please contact Jackie Gutshall at 215.248.7016 or gutshallj@chc.edu if interested in contributing your publications, too. Of particular need — 1940s and 1950s yearbooks.
INVITING GOLDEN GRIFFINS

Golden Griffins from non-reunion classes are invited to join reunion-year celebrants at the Annual Golden Griffins Mass & Brunch on Sunday, June 3, in St. Joseph Hall. Registration at $10 per person for non-reunion classes is required by contacting Jackie Gutshall, assistant director of alumni relations, at 215.248.7016 or gutshallj@chc.edu by May 15. Hallmark Society members are guests of the College. Mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. in the air-conditioned East Parlor, with Brunch beginning at 11 a.m. in the air-conditioned West Dining Room. Going-green initiatives converted the annual invitation from a print mailing to alumni board-conducted personal phone calls to those who traditionally attend in their non-reunion years.

66TH ANNUAL REUNION TO GREET FIRST COED CLASS

Reunion Weekend 2012 recognizes the particular distinction of the Class of 2007 by applying the title of the class yearbook, “Undeniably Different,” as the weekend’s theme. The College’s first traditional-age coed undergraduate class will join decades of alumnae in celebrating the first of many five-year reunions when they return on June 1-2-3 for a variety of learning, dining, and entertainment events. “Different” and new features extend to event venues such as the McCaffery Lounge, site of the former Fournier Social Room, and to the newly opened bi-level fitness center on the ground floor of Fournier Hall; weekend activities such as a first-ever Friday golf and tennis at Talamore Country Club; Friday night pub crawl in Chestnut Hill and, by popular request, a game night in McCaffery Lounge; and several personal enrichment/education sessions on Friday afternoon and evening.

On-campus housing in Loyola Lodge and “Saturday Special” activities are offered to the spouse, significant other, travel companion, or other adult guest of any host alumna or alumnus while reunion celebrants attend the Saturday late-morning through late-afternoon events. Reunion classes received the second of three mailings, a jumbo postcard, in late January, and the reunion registration booklet in late March. “ReunionNews” e-newsletters have been transmitted to reunion-year alums with registered e-mail addresses.

Read more: chc.edu/reunion/

YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES ... 

As the song says, and we’re happy — eager, actually — to print them here, but we need them to be taken in high resolution, at a minimum 300 dpi to make them sing! Your mobile phone is probably your best bet. If using a digital camera, please select the highest resolution possible for printing purposes in addition to all of your social networking uses.

UPDATE:

Barbara Crane Tierney ’57 should have been included in the Charter Class of the Athletic Hall of Fame as a member of the championship archery teams of the 1950s, as reported in the Fall 2011 magazine. Chestnut Hill College congratulates Barbara on this honor and regrets the omission.

Visit www.griffinathletics.com and click Athletic Hall of Fame.

College President Carol Jean Vale at last year’s Golden Griffins Brunch.
'50s

Rosemary Costanzo '57 (English) loves living in Southern Florida. For the past 10 years, Rosemary has lived at King’s Point, a retirement community (“and a wonderful one”) in Tamarac, Florida.

'60s

Elaine McDermott Bunn, Ph.D., '60 (Spanish) shared a New York Times magazine article featuring her son, Austin Bunn, a playwright and professor. Austin’s recent non-fiction play chronicles the experience of the 2008 General Motors metal-stamping plant closing in Wyoming, Michigan. In collaboration with the Working Group Theater, Austin spent two years trying to understand what happened to the people of the Wyoming town who relied on this factory by recording hundreds of conversations with the plant’s former workers, managers, historians, bartenders, city consultants, and others. Their stories set the foundation for his documentary play, Rast, which debuted in Grand Rapids, Michigan, this past September.

Barbara Holm Quinn ’61 (speech) volunteered for more than five weeks on the spring 2012 Mask & Foil production of Dead Man Walking, based on the book by Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, known to many through the film starring Susan Sarandon. Produced by special arrangement with Tim Robbins and the Dead Man Walking School Theatre Project, the play for mature audiences focuses on the death penalty. Barbara completed a master's degree in theatre at Villanova University in December 2010 and met Mask & Foil adviser Jenn Thorpe at the November “Alumni Night at the Theatre” reception immediately following the opening performance of Our Town. The alumni evening kicked off an affinity group initiative introduced last fall for alums with Mask & Foil and/or One-Act Play Night experience in their student days. Schools producing the play must involve at least two other academic departments (law, sociology, criminal justice, etc.) to provide courses related to the death penalty and Dead Man Walking. Art and music departments are also encouraged to develop related creative projects. CHC’s Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation partnered with the College drama club on the March 29-30 production.

Irene Loughman Kutner ’62 (English) leads a number of women’s ministries in her parish, St. Mary of the Pines, in Manahawkin, New Jersey. Irene’s most important cause is her MOMS group; a faith-based support group. MOMS is an acronym for Ministry of Mothers Sharing. It is a spiritual support and fellowship group of Catholic mothers with young children and its purpose is to validate women in their vocation as mothers, encouraging them to grow in their relationship with the Lord. One of her MOMS group leaders is fellow alumna Pamela Fiugalski-Prevoznik ’94 (marketing). Irene shares, “Pam such a joy to work with!”

'70s

Elizabeth Shafer ’70 (English) represented CHC at the inauguration of the 12th president of Mount Saint Mary’s College in Los Angeles on March 16. Participating in the procession of delegates, Liz reports, was a thrilling experience, “especially wearing CHC academic regalia.” To honor the universities and colleges founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Chestnut Hill’s representative was placed third in the procession line behind St. Catherine’s University (1905) and Fontbonne University (1923), all ahead of colleges founded earlier. “Harvard,” Liz chuckles, “was a distant fifth.” Mount Saint Mary’s was founded in 1925, one year after Chestnut Hill and remains a women’s college. President Ann McElaney-Johnson assumed leadership of Mount Saint Mary’s in July 2011. She was vice president for academic and student affairs at Salem College, founded in 1772 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and the oldest continually
operating college for women in the United States. President McElaney-Johnson earned her Ph.D. in French from the University of Madison-Wisconsin, her master's degree from Middlebury College, and her bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross. Liz is assistant director of the Marshall Fund, the annual giving program of the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business. She previously managed volunteer activities at the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Abraham Tetenbaum, a Broadway playwright and non-profit arts executive. Their son, Isaac, graduated with a degree in music from the University of Colorado at Boulder and is completing a master's degree at USC. Liz’s SSJ links are strong, as three great-aunts were Sisters of Saint Joseph, as was her mother's cousin. “My Aunt Alice was the superior at Our Mother of Consolation parish in Chestnut Hill. My cousins Rodie [Rosemary] Mahoney Boyle ’57, Dozie [Rosemary] McFadden ’66, and Sallie Gallagher Kumar ’69 are all part of our SSJ-CHC connection.”

The Honorable Frederica Massiah-Jackson ’71 (political science) is a Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas judge, first elected in 1983. Following CHC, she went directly to the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She practiced corporate and civil litigation with the law firm of Blank Rome before advancing to the bench. Frederica was a lecturer at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania from 1992 to 2002, where she taught Legal Studies and Business Law. She received the 2010 NAACP’s Cecil B. Moore Award. In 2005, she co-hosted Philadelphia’s first Urban Courts Conference. Frederica sits on the boards of Center for Literacy and Eagleville Hospital, and she is a member of the Forum of Executive Women.

The Honorable Magdeline D. Coleman ’78 (economics/political science) has been appointed judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. One of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (Magdeline’s elementary school) was a CHC alumna who encouraged Magdeline to apply to CHC, where she earned a full scholarship and graduated with a double major in political science and economics. Magdeline went on to University of Pennsylvania Law School, where she decided to go into tax law because of her aptitude for numbers and accounting. Since her appointment to the bench, Magdeline has achieved a “kind of calmness” that she...
ALUMNI RECOMMEND BLOGS AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES … WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED.

For the majority of our alums who responded to this question, Facebook was by far the leading social networking website, but there are many other websites/blogs we learned you’re visiting as well. We’ve found three CHC alums in particular, who are running their own blog websites.

If you’re a fashionista, you may be familiar with Lauren Moffatt ‘98’s blog, laurenmoffatt.net. Lauren is a fine arts graduate and Philadelphia native, now living in New York City. At age 24, she left her job as a graphic designer and moved to NYC to pursue her true passion in fashion design. In 2000, Lauren and her business partner, Rob Pepin, launched their vintage-chic women’s collection, and it’s significantly taken off from there. Lauren’s keen eye for modern design has made her namesake fashion collection a Hollywood favorite. Her vintage-inspired designs include a variety of whimsical patterns and delicate materials, which are versatile and can be mixed and matched within the everyday girl’s wardrobe. If fashion is your passion, Lauren Moffatt’s blog is a must.

Evin Bail O’Keeffe ‘98 lives in Cork, Ireland, with her husband, Conor, and baby son, Liam. Evin is a freelance writer, photographer, and aspiring food stylist. In addition to running her blogs, she writes a twice-monthly column, “Green Cotton,” in Hobe Sound Currents (a Florida local newspaper) and consults as a web content editor for The Baldwin Group, Inc. Evin’s blogs focus on food, cooking, travel, crafts, knitting, sewing, gift ideas, and shopping finds. For all of the above, check out Evin’s main blog at evinok.net. Looking for a great recipe? Ever had Monkey Muffins made with croissant dough? Try Evin’s Peas and Q’s blog at cookingpeasandqs.wordpress.com. Are you a foodie-at-heart? Learn what it’s like to be an American food-lover living in Ireland at 40 SHADES OF LIFE: A Day in the Life of Cork City, an Expat American Foodie, slaintecork.wordpress.com. Have you ever thought about taking up knitting, or are you already a fanatic? You’ll enjoy seeing gorgeous photography of yarn hand-dyed by Cork-based hedgehog fibers and learning which types of yarn work best for certain stitches at Spring Stitches: Sew, Knit, Craft, Create, via springstitches.wordpress.com.

Because she spends a generous amount of time on the web, Evin shared some great websites/blogs she frequently visits. Matt Armindariz’s blog Mattbites, at mattbites.com, is a comical portrayal of what he describes as “a man obsessed with food, drink, and everything in between.” As a former graphic designer and art director in the food industry, Matt began branching out into photography and blogging to share his passion for all things food and drink. Mattbites has been acknowledged by numerous publications and is one of the charter members of Martha Stewart’s Circle, a selection of lifestyle blogs. If it’s a do-it-yourself project you enjoy, Erin says you’ll love youghouselove.com. You will be amazed at what this 29-year-old couple, Sherry and John Petersik, from Richmond, Virginia, have been able to do in updating their 49-year-old home. They’re not home improvement experts, just two people who love to learn as they go and share their adventures, and misadventures, on their blog. Check them out for anything from DIY projects and design ideas to house hunting and affordable shopping tips.

Kristine Kozin Gasiewski ’06, mom of two young daughters, Catie and Bridget, shared two of her favorite blogs, mamacheaps.com and livingrichwithcoupons.com. Both are coupon/money saving sites that are easy to use and helpful for any families on a budget. Mamacheaps is run by Devon Wilshe Weaver ‘02. Her blogging began in 2008, when Devon and husband Bob welcomed their daughter, Lily, to their family. With the economy in disarray, they knew it was time to start cutting back and were surprised to learn how many money-saving ideas they found and decided to share them in their blog for other families to see. Mamacheaps has a little bit of everything, “part deal blog, part parenting blog, part life blog, there is truly something for everyone.” If you like to shop for the best deals, this is the blog for you.

Alex Kowalski ’09, full-time student at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, shared a few of his blog preferences, including CrossingBroad, Zenhabits, and Dappered. For the Philly sports fan and fanatic, CrossingBroad gives up-to-date, detailed sports news on games, players, and coaches. Putting their own sarcastic spin on Philly sports, bloggers Kyle Scott and Drew Cohen describe their news site as “Philly’s most irreverent sports blog.” Do you suffer from information addiction? With the world wide web constantly at our fingertips, who doesn’t? For those who want to simplify their life and combat habit change, this blog is for you. Zenhabits gives great tips on how to incorporate the “zen” in your life. Dappered.com is a men’s style blog geared towards young professionals. If you have great style but don’t want to pay the designer price tag, you’ll want to visit Dappered for tips on how to dress great for less.
had not experienced in private practice. She enjoys spending time with her family, which includes her husband, Lloyd Wing, and their seven children. Magdeline’s advice to the up-and-coming generation is to “be comfortable in your own skin, and love what you do.” She encourages others to “be willing to go outside of your comfort zone and seek out challenges and opportunities.”

Diana is a pediatrician at Mercy Family Medicine in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Lauren Moffatt ‘98 (fine arts) lives in New York City and designs her own high-fashion vintage-inspired clothing line sold internationally in boutique stores and online at laurenmoffatt.net.

Bethany Davis ‘05 (biology) is a quality laboratory planner at McNeil Consumer Healthcare, Bethany schedules daily tasks for scientists in the quality analytical laboratory, including manufacturing release, raw materials, marketed product stability, investigational protocols, and calibrations. Among other duties, Bethany supports McNeil’s Business Continuity Plan by receiving and scheduling testing for both transfer and validation protocols.

Kelly Carroll Ciaburri ‘06 (accounting) is a senior financial analyst in mercury SAP implementation at McNeil Consumer Healthcare in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania.

Kristine Kozin Gasiewski ‘06 (early childhood/elementary education) is primarily a stay-at-home mom for her two daughters, Catie Jean and Bridget Kristine, but occasionally works in the infant rooms at the Creative Beginnings Day Care at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. Kristine is also an independent consultant for Premier Designs Jewelry. She sells high fashion jewelry at home shows and has received sales awards from Premier Designs, including the Quick Six and Amethyst Awards. In the summer, Kristine is a camp director at Camp COLEY, which is a week-long resident camp held at Camp COLEY, an overnight summer camp in Flemington, New Jersey. She also volunteers at the Saved Animal Shelter in Princeton. After graduation, Colleen traveled to Ireland during the summer of 2009. She enjoys traveling and would love to go back to Ireland.

Colleen Reasoner ‘08 (communications & technology) is an association coordinator at Creative Marking Alliance in Princeton Junction, New Jersey, where she handles daily administrative and membership needs for several non-profit associations. She also volunteers at the Saved Animal Shelter in Princeton. After graduation, Colleen traveled to Ireland during the summer of 2009. She enjoys traveling and would love to go back to Ireland.

Jessica Day ‘09 (human services/psychology) recently earned a master of arts degree in higher education at Ohio State University. She is now an admissions counselor at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, New Jersey.

Alexander Kowalski ‘09 (biology) is a full-time student in the Osteopathic Medical Program at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. When he is not busy studying, Alex enjoys reading, sports, and community service. He is involved in community service programs through PCOM, which include tutoring and providing medical counseling to under-served areas in Philadelphia. Alex is

‘80s

Mary Pat Feeney Kessler ‘83 (psychology) has started a new business, MP Connects, focusing on business development, marketing, PR, networking, lead generation, and board development consulting, as well as on personal wellness, life coaching, and training services. Mary Pat has been the vice president of employee benefits with USI Affinity, Benefit Solutions Group, where she will continue working as a consultant. She has more than 20 years of experience in the employee benefits arena, and she has designed and implemented comprehensive health and wellness programs for many of her clients. She was instrumental in implementing Healthy Kids Zone, a nutritional and fitness-based program for adolescents at the Abington YMCA, where she continues to teach adult fitness classes. Mary Pat also sits on the board of directors of the YMCA of Philadelphia & Vicinity, the American Diabetes Association, and the Gift of Life. She lives with her attorney husband and two daughters in Abington, Pennsylvania.

‘90s

Diana Barnett Kudes, M.D. ‘97 (biology) earned her doctor of medicine degree from Temple University in 2001.

‘00s

Sarah Reedy Thornburg ‘03 (biology) earned a master of science in biomedical writing at the University of the Sciences, and a marketing certificate at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. She is a medical writer at JK Associates, Inc.

Felicia Trujillo Bryan ‘04 (music education) is the Music Training Center’s school director in Malvern, Pennsylvania, where she develops and manages staff, curriculum, client base, and client relations. Felicia also volunteers at the Mary’s Home Women’s Shelter, the Chester County Food Bank, and the Forge Theater. In her free time, she enjoys going to Phillies and Union games, singing in the Chestnut Hill Community Choir, and learning to play golf.

Kristen Huntington Perez ‘04 (early childhood/elementary education) is employed in the Christina School District as a special education teacher. She teaches kindergarten and first-graders in Wilmington, Delaware. Kristen enjoys spending time with her husband, Ernie, their 5-year-old son, Aden, and other family members. In her free time she enjoys reading, surfing the web, and playing video games.

Danielle Griesbach-Santacroce ‘07 (history) works as a customer support supervisor at TEKsystems, an IT and staffing services company in Radnor, Pennsylvania. Her main focus is on human resources-related support for the company. Danielle also organizes the TEKsystems annual office gift drive to help local needy families.

Mark Hammons ‘08 (business administration), ‘10 (administration of human services) is assistant director of student services at Immaculata University. He works exclusively with their offsite cohorts and assists with recruitment and academic advising. Mark currently serves on the Chestnut Hill College Alumni Association Board of Directors and is co-chair of the Outreach Committee.
interested in healthcare reform and issues of patient advocacy and healthcare access.

‘10s

Bridget Lafferty ’10 (political science) is chief of staff for the Office of State Representative Matt Bradford (D-70th), serving Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Charquinta Sullivan ’10 (psychology) is assistant director of discipline at St. Martin dePorres Elementary School in Philadelphia. Charquinta works with parents to ensure that the students feel safe and are being productive during the school year. She works with students in programs that reward their positive behavior and teach them skills to enable them to make excellent choices and lead their peers to do so as well.

Janean Ciancia ’11 (elementary education) is on track to graduate with a master of education and certificate in special education from CHC’s School of Graduate Studies in 2012. Janean works at Olney High School in Philadelphia as a special education math teacher.

Patrick Curtin ’11 (political science) is an undergraduate admissions counselor at Rosemont College in Rosemont, Pennsylvania. Pat is also the assistant men’s basketball coach.

Class Notes compiled by Jackie Gutshall, assistant director of alumni relations (gutshallj@chc.edu; 215.248.7016)

ALUMNI ONLINE COMMUNITY CHANGES VENDORS

Alums of all Schools of the College with registered e-mail addresses received notification of a change of vendors for CHC Griffins Online, the alumni online community, in late December. User-friendly features and directory search functions are expected to prompt increased usage. Alums are encouraged to contact Jackie Gutshall (gutshallj@chc.edu) with any Griffins Online questions or comments.

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 **September 5, 2012** for print consideration in the next issue of *Chestnut Hill*.

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

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

3. Mail:  Class Year: _____SUS _____SCPS _____SGS ____

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

4. Online: www.CHGgriffinsonline.com
Join the Alumni Crowd—
VISIT CHC GRIFFINS ONLINE!

If you’re a Chestnut Hill College graduate and have not yet opted in to CHC Griffins Online — your free alumni online community — it’s newer and easier to use!

Visit www.CHGriffinsonline.com to:

- Search the alumni directory for classmates
- Register for alumni and other College events
- Update your profile — you decide who sees what information
- Post wedding, baby, and other photos
- Display your resumé
- Receive instant news from the College
- View job opportunities and classifieds
- Join the 1,393 alumni already on board

We’re also on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn — like us at facebook.com/chcalumni
Now in my 20th year as part of the Chestnut Hill faculty, I find myself reflecting on progress and relapse, gain and loss, success and failure, hope and fear, belief and doubt — both mine and the College’s. I am “senior faculty,” a realization that both delights and terrifies me. The terror has to do with the unknown, the unveiling of a hidden future, questions about the value of time now spent and the challenges (and length) of time left. The delight comes from memories of precious time with colleagues and students, from personal and professional growth, from the privilege of mentoring those behind me, those in whose hands lies the future history of CHC.

I admit that I find it fairly easy to admit to the passage of time. But 20 years is a natural milestone, a double-decade invitation to sit and reflect. When I arrived at Chestnut Hill after four wonderful years at Notre Dame, the teacher in me was anxious to get back into the classroom. Since I had already taught for years in both high school and college, things like syllabi and book orders were practically second nature. Adjusting to classes filled mostly with young women did take some doing, as all of my own educational experiences, and most of my teaching, had taken place in coed situations.

One of the challenges for senior faculty is also one of the real pleasures: learning about the world our students inhabit. Each year, Beloit College publishes its “Mindset List for the Class of ….” The list for the Class of 2015 (2015!!) includes such things as always having had an “internet ramp onto the information highway.” They have always seen women on the Supreme Court; think LBJ refers to LeBron James; have no idea what a Sears catalogue is; have always observed Martin Luther King Day; take altar girls for granted; and think PC refers to personal computers, not political correctness. So I learn about their world while sharing bits of my own. In my course on death and dying, for example, I always set aside one class period for listening to music that deals with loss. I have my own stash of CDs, but I also invite the students to introduce choices of their own. One big difference, of course, is that mine require a CD player and theirs are on YouTube. I also enjoy pointing out that one of my songs, “Do You Realize?,” is by The Flaming Lips. So the students and I grow together.

Our senior faculty have also lived through the uneasy years when incoming classes were small and graduating classes even smaller. Along with our hardworking colleagues in admissions, we had to walk the line between wanting more students and keeping admissions standards rigorous enough so that all who came to us had real potential to succeed. At the same time, the continuing education program was growing and needed our time and attention so that courses for adult students were comparable in academic content and rigor to those for our traditional students.

Senior faculty were involved in the transition from the distributional system to a core curriculum, and piloted the course that eventually became ILA 101 (now ILAR 101) as well as helping to shape the Global Seminar (now GLST 201). We were also called upon to prepare the transition to coeducation. The success of that transition is evident in the crowded dining room and the bustling hallways, as well as in the increase in the number of sports teams, the wider variety of clubs, and the general air of vitality on the campus.

But, as much as I celebrate our coed makeup and our growth, I realize that, for senior faculty, these developments also meant significant adjustments. Walking across campus during our “small” days, I could greet practically everyone I met by name; now I can walk from my office in St. Joe’s to the library without meeting a single student I recognize or could call by name. While this is usual on larger campuses, it did take some getting used to. But growth has also meant the addition to our faculty of new colleagues, who have brought with them new ideas and new energies. As we work with, mentor, and learn from these newer colleagues, we as senior faculty can relax a bit, knowing that, when the time finally comes, we can without hesitation entrust our CHC torches to the next keepers of the flame.

Marie A. Conn, Ph.D., is professor of religious studies and chair of the department of religious studies and philosophy and the graduate program in holistic spirituality.

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

COMMENCEMENT
Saturday, May 12

66TH ANNUAL REUNION WEEKEND: “UNDENIABLY DIFFERENT”
June 1-3
School of Undergraduate Studies classes ending in “7” and “2”
Information: 215.248.7144
Reservations: 215.248.7016

2012 GOLDEN GRIFFINS MASS & BRUNCH
Sunday, June 3
School of Undergraduate Studies classes up to and including 1962
Information: 215.248.7144
Reservations: 215.248.7016

30TH ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL
Monday, October 8
Whitemarsh Valley Country Club
Reservations: 215.753.3692

19TH ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL LECTURE SERIES
Wednesday, October 24
“The New Faces of Pancreatic Cancer Surgery and Treatment”
Speaker: Charles J. Yeo, M.D., FACS
Thomas Jefferson University
Information: 215.248.7159

HARRY POTTER WEEKEND AND FAMILY WEEKEND
3rd Annual Philadelphia Brotherly Love Quidditch Cup
October 26-28
Details coming in the fall

14TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL DINNER
Wednesday, November 14
Sorgenti Arena
Information: 215.248.7095

CAROL NIGHT
Friday, December 7, 7:30 p.m.
Rotunda, St. Joseph Hall
Information: 215.248.7194

7TH ANNUAL ALUMNI HOLIDAY CHEER
Friday, December 7 following Carol Night
Upstairs at Campbell’s Place
Details in October — all alumni welcome

3RD ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Sunday, December 16
Details coming in October

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

Travel the World with Alumni and Friends

JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 10, 2013
BALI TO BANGKOK & BEYOND
21-day cruise-tour with Voyages to Antiquity, from three nights in Bali, the “Island of the Gods,” to Semerang, Borobudur, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, and Phnom Penh, to a three-night hotel stay in Bangkok and an overnight excursion to Angkor Wat. Space is limited, so book by June 1 to ensure a reservation.

AUGUST 16-23, 2013
SAN FRANCISCO & CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY
8-day tour to San Francisco and its iconic sights, then on to the renowned picturesque California Wine Country.

SEPTEMBER 18-29, 2013
MOSAIC MASTERPIECE
10-day cruise from Barcelona to Lisbon on Oceania’s newest ship, Riviera. Enjoy the bustling Casablanca, the delicious flavors of Ibiza, the works in the Picasso Museum in Málaga, and the Baroque treasures in the Museum of Fine Arts of Seville. Master Chef Jacques Pépin will treat guests to specially designed signature menus, engaging lectures, and culinary demonstrations on this fabulous cruise.

NOVEMBER 3-14, 2013
SPLENDORS OF SOUTH AFRICA & VICTORIA FALLS
13-day tour to Southern Africa, including excursions through Cape Town and the Kapama Private Game Reserve in Kruger National Park, a cruise to Robben Island, a flight to Johannesburg, and a cruise on the Zambezi River to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

For information and/or reservations, contact Craig (x103) or Christie (x107) at Cruisin’ & Main Line Vacations, 800.506.7447 or 610.341.1979, or visit www.alumnivacations.com
The Commonwealth Chateau at SugarLoaf is now available to host your special event. The jewel of the historic Greenfield estate, the Chateau offers unique spaces for both social and corporate events. Wedding ceremonies and receptions are our specialty, whether your style is lavish grandeur or elegant simplicity. Situated on 30 acres bordering Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park, the manicured grounds and sweeping park vistas of this elegant estate offer the perfect setting for your next special event.

For information on availability and pricing, please call 215.753.3631 or visit www.eventsatchestnuthillcollege.com