

HILL CHESTNUT

the magazine of chestnut hill college



Agents of Change
*The Institute for Forgiveness
and Reconciliation*

SPRING 2011



SNAPSHOT

"Feeeeeed meeeeee!" Christopher Dunn '13 performs as Mr. Mushnik, who meets an untimely fate in the student-run production of "Little Shop of Horrors." See page 8 for the full story.

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By Ryan Dougherty

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ON THE COVER: *Catherine Nerney, SSJ, Ph.D., and Helen Prejean, CSJ, share stories in St. Joseph Hall between events sponsored by the College's Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation.*

SPRING 11

EDITOR'S NOTE

An Inspiring Season



We are happy to welcome you back to the spring issue of *Chestnut Hill*.

Spring is often seen as the most beautiful and inspirational season filled with new life and refreshing color after a long, grey winter. We get to start over again.

Inspiration comes from a variety of sources, the people we meet, the places we visit, and the stories we read. The role of this magazine is to speak of Chestnut Hill College, to convey a sense of this place, to inspire.

In this issue of *Chestnut Hill*, we have several features that examine our past and our future. The cover story spotlights Catherine Nerney, SSJ, Ph.D., and her mission to incorporate forgiveness and reconciliation into our culture and way of thinking. Another feature reflects on the founders of Chestnut Hill College, the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and how the College's Legacy Program seeks to honor and preserve the Sisters' 361-year history and spiritual legacy while keeping them in the heart of daily life at the College. Is a liberal arts education obsolete or still valuable in today's skill-centric world? Several alumni, faculty members, and administrators make the case for why it is more relevant than ever in today's rapidly changing workplace.

What these stories have in common is Chestnut Hill College — not only the place and its people but also the ideals, meanings, and principles instilled here that are carried throughout a lifetime.

In our everyday life, we are all influenced by many forms of media and communication. The President's Message asks us to critically examine the way we interpret headlines in the news that we read and hear and call upon the critical thinking skills learned from a liberal arts education. Too often, a rush to judgment is made without thoroughly reporting and understanding all of the facts surrounding an issue.

As with every issue, our goal is for this collection of stories in *Chestnut Hill* to connect you to today's Chestnut Hill College. As always, we invite you to submit story ideas and comments on any of the material that appears here. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we're doing.

Enjoy,

Kathleen M. Spigelmyer '98

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

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AROUND THE HILL

Campus News



>> COLLEGE ATTAINS ELITE “ALL-STEINWAY” STATUS

Kathleen McCloskey, SSJ, M.M.Ed., heard it, but she couldn’t believe it.

The College was joining the elite ranks of “All-Steinway” institutions, offering the highest caliber of pianos to its community.

“I thought, ‘This can’t be true,’” said Sister Kathleen, assistant professor and chair of the music department, as well as a life-long pianist. “Is this really happening?”

Indeed, the College became the first Catholic institution in the area to offer pianos exclusively from Steinway & Sons, makers of the finest American pianos since 1853. It joined more than 120 other colleges, conservatories, and music schools worldwide, including The Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute of Music.

The 15 pianos leased by the College arrived on campus in January to much excitement. All music practice rooms now hold upright Boston pianos, designed by Steinway, as do several classrooms. There’s also a Boston grand piano in the Auditorium, a large Steinway grand piano at SugarLoaf, and Steinway grand pianos in the East Parlor and the Redmond Room.

Beyond high-caliber craftsmanship, the pianos provide richer, purer, and clearer sound, boosting user experience.

“It’s a pleasure to practice and perform on these exquisite instruments,” said Jacqueline Trujillo ’12. “They enhance our performance by providing rich and powerful sound.”

The College originally intended to purchase one Steinway piano for use at SugarLoaf. But upon an inventory revealing that some of its equipment was more than 60 years old, College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., took action.

“She said, ‘We have to do what we can to improve this,’” Sister Kathleen recalled. “And before I knew it, we went from one Steinway to *all* Steinways. Wow — a life’s dream.”

The pianos took center stage May 19-22, when the Jacobs Music Company Performathon, a piano recital marathon, was held at the College. Music students between the ages of six and 18 who raised money

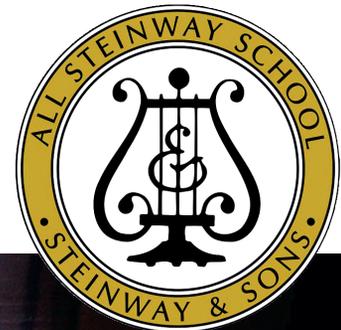
for Ronald McDonald House Charities participated, in addition to a Saturday night performance from Steinway-endorsed musician Meral Güneymen.

Funded partly by a donor gift, the “All-Steinway” designation signifies the College’s commitment to musical excellence. Enrollment in its music and music education programs has risen steadily in recent years, as has the number of non-music majors who perform in vocal or instrumental ensembles. These — and future — members of the community will now learn, practice, and perform on the best.

That’s not lost on Trujillo, who, upon arrival of the Steinways, stopped Sister Carol in the hall to thank her.

“This is a rare opportunity,” Trujillo said, “a leap in the direction of excellence.” 

>>>



The iconic, finely crafted Steinways arrived on campus in January to much excitement.



The group from the College weaved between new and ancient Greece, including the Ancient Theatre at Epidaurus and the Temple of Apollo.



>> STUDENTS IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN GREECE

Be a traveler, not a tourist.

That was the mantra of the trip to Greece in March, which saw 10 students and two instructors immerse themselves in all aspects of the country's history and culture. From navigating ancient ruins to dressing up in costumes for Carnival to gazing at the Parthenon, the group traveled voraciously.

"Traveling and learning history first-hand is what defines a history major," said Chris Dunn '13. "The trip accomplished that and gave me an in-depth understanding of such an esteemed culture."

Highlights abound. For Dunn, they include reaching the top of a Venetian fortress and climbing the scaffolding of the Daphni Monastery to see the Christ Pantocrator up close.

Elijah Goloub '11 mentions the fortress and the sacred Acropolis — "These places have so much history attached that visiting them was like reading an epic."

Others relished weaving between new and old Greece. One minute, they'd be walking down an alley full of street art and clothing-draped balconies. The next, they'd encounter the ancient buildings that powered Athens.

"That twists perspectives from ancient historical contexts to adaptations for modern Greece," said Jessica Lee '11.

Indeed, co-instructors Alexander Varias, Ph.D., and Lorraine Coons, Ph.D., more than achieved their goal of offering "an authentic portrait of Greece." The trip built upon what the students learned in the course Varias taught on Greece through the ages, detailing its hallowed past and turbulent present. Students encountered a country grappling with modernity.

"This opened my eyes to another world," said Melissa Graveline '11. "I see Greece as a beautiful example of east meets west."

Amplifying the students' experience was the rare opportunity to study at the Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies. Varias helped to arrange a grant allowing students access to the center and its resources. They spent three or four hours there daily, listening to lectures from Greek scholars and interacting with local authorities and students.

Access to Harvard's vaunted library system was, however, of particular help to the students as they worked on their comprehensive research papers.

"I've never had such infinite resources at my fingertips," Dunn said. "And to top it off, their staff members were incredible, assisting us with whatever we encountered."

"It was an incredible opportunity," Goloub added upon his return to the College. "I'm so happy I made the most of my research." 

>> THOUSANDS SHARE IN “THE JOY OF SOX”

Tom Costello Jr. is preoccupied.

“I wake up thinking of socks, and I go to bed thinking of socks,” the adjunct professor said. “I talk socks with everyone I meet.”

That focus is the lifeblood of The Joy of Sox, which Costello started last year to provide socks for the homeless. The nonprofit quickly went from a local do-gooder to national network thanks to publicity from a “sock-a-thon” event held at the College.

Costello and 18 students sorted and paired a mountain of socks at the November event, tying each pair in ribbon. The socks were dropped off at St. Francis Inn Ministries in Kensington, but the story didn’t end there. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and local NBC station covered it, before The Huffington Post Web site took things national.

“When we started, I thought, ‘This’ll be fun, we can take care of a soup kitchen here and there,’” Costello said. “Then, bam — all this stuff hit.”

Before Costello knew it, he received calls and thousands of donations from all around America. In less than a year, The Joy of Sox

has collected more than 23,500 pairs of socks. It has donated socks to nearly ever center for the homeless and needy in the Philadelphia area, and it has shipped thousands of pairs across the United States. It has partnerships in areas such as Boston, the Washington, D.C. area, Los Angeles, and Tucson, Ariz., with more in development.

Particularly gratifying to Costello has been the participation of area schools, whose sock drives generated 12,000 pairs.

“It’s great to have that enthusiasm percolating in schools,” Costello said. “The next step is to get them involved in actually handing them out, to see where their efforts are going.

“Part of my mission is to raise awareness of the homeless,” he continued, “encouraging people to stop looking *through* them.”

Until recently, Costello says he was reticent about engaging the homeless. But after he learned the dangers they face from exposing their feet to cold and moisture, ranging from bacterial infection to gangrene, he knew he “had to do something.”

The Joy of Sox was chosen as one of the College’s nonprofit causes last fall, dovetailing with all first-year students reading “The Soloist,” the story of a journalist befriending a homeless musician. The messages resonated with Darrell Robinson ’14, who often sees persons in need in parks and SEPTA stations.

“Many times, they don’t have socks, or their shoes have holes,” said Robinson. “I can’t imagine how terrible that would be in the cold.”

Indeed, socks for the homeless is an easy sell. Fundraising remains challenging, but don’t expect Costello’s commitment to wane. His message? Find a cause you care about and put in some time.

“Three things will happen,” Costello said. “You’ll feel good, the nonprofit will benefit, and the world will be a better place.”

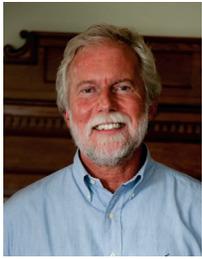
For more information on the Joy of Sox, including a forthcoming mascot, YouTube channel, and “Faces of the Homeless” book, visit www.thejoyofsox.org. 🦁

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Tom Costello Jr. and 18 students sorted and paired a mountain of socks at the “sock-a-thon” held at the College.

>> PROFESSOR APPLIES MINDFULNESS TO CLASSROOM, METAL SCULPTING



He starts with an idea etched in his mind. Symmetric shapes drive the project. He takes a worn pencil to paper, and produces the idea in drawing form.

Cardboard then represents the future shape. Steel is the immaculate canvas. From his forehead he pulls the welding helmet down over his face, ready to begin his secret work, his passion — creating beauty out of six feet of dark metal. As torch is held to surface, the metal takes shape. Edges are smoothed for hours during a shower of sparks. The creation is far different from the drawing. But the metal has spoken to this tall figure and has yielded its unique meaning. What was once cold steel is now a new living interpretation of his vision.

You probably wouldn't suspect that such a metal master walks the halls of the College daily. "He" is Associate Professor of Sociology John Kovach, Ph.D., also chair of the department and advisor to 40 first-year criminal justice and sociology majors.

It doesn't matter if you are a chemistry major entering class without an ounce of knowledge about sociology or you are beginning a sociology degree while taking John Kovach's class. Once the semester has ended, you will be well-versed in everything from the terms "deviance" and "conformity" to understanding the logic of the social world and everyday life.

"I enjoyed Professor Kovach's mindfulness while teaching my sociology class," former student Heather Greene '11 recalls. "He always made material easy to understand for students who had not taken sociology before."

Even though the classroom is one of Kovach's favorite places, he also thoroughly enjoys the physical activity of working with his hands that metal sculpting offers him.

Kovach began metal sculpting about nine years ago. He attempted to fix a chair, but was unable to do so solely with brazing rods; welding was the answer, but he did not know how. After he learned to weld from a

talented metal professor at the University of the Arts, Kovach mended the chair and could not resist the call of metal and flame. Since he does not have his own studio, he started taking welding classes at the professional studios at the University of the Arts. This kingdom designed for even the most advanced metal sculptor is therapeutic.

"The smell of the metal shop is so hypnotic," Kovach says. "After a bad day, I like to go there and unwind." He easily gets lost in the flames, the sparks, and the danger accompanying them all.



John Kovach, Ph.D., counts "Trinity," representing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, among his favorite pieces.

Heavy metal, such as steel, appeals to this skilled artisan who prefers working on large pieces, at least five feet or taller. Although Kovach is not religious, he cannot explain the beauty of religious symbols and their appeal to him, especially when he's traveling on his motorcycle.

One of his favorite pieces, "Trinity," represents the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with three large steel pieces that shoot upward from the base, bend in the middle, and curve inward, stretching toward the sky. "Trinity" is currently on display on the third floor of St. Joseph Hall, outside the Student Activities office.

One of the unique things about Kovach's work is that it is always changing. "I worked on Trinity for about a year," he says. "But I decided I didn't like it, cut it apart, and chose to put it together in a different way." The Wallingford Community Arts Center vied for this sculpture, but Kovach preferred to display his work at the College so that he could see it everyday. He chose the place based on the stained glass window backdrop.

Would Kovach trade life in the classroom for life in the metal shop? He says he would never be happy just working with metal or just teaching classes. "It would be easy to be in academia and not lead a balanced life," Kovach says, "reading, studying, publishing, and becoming a specialist that rewrites their work, trying to reinvent the wheel of their intellect. Sculpture for me is part of living a balanced life."

In addition to this balancing act, this metal-sculpting sociologist's thought about life is not very different. "John's approach to everything can be explained by his mode of transportation to CHC," fellow professor Sara Ellen Kitchen, J.D., explains. "His Harley-Davidson motorcycle — he enjoys the ride!"

For now, Kovach plans to stick to pieces that combine carved stone and steel. But in the future he hopes to create a 30 to 40 foot cross out of translucent concrete, complete with solar panels on top that would allow light to pass through it. After noticing a modern church during a motorcycle trip, Kovach had an epiphany to make a glow-in-dark cross surrounded by four-foot-tall polished steel triangles that would slant toward the cross.

"I don't find it as meaningful to create pieces specifically to be sold," Kovach says. "If someone else likes them, then great, but I choose to make pieces that please me."

—Ashley Pavone '11

Visit Dr. Kovach's blog, complete with updates and photographs of his pieces, at <http://johnkovach.blogspot.com>. 🦁

>> COLLEGE PRESIDENT RECEIVES CAMPUS MINISTRY AWARD



College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., received the 2010 Exemplary Administrator award from the Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA).

Awarded annually by CCMA's Higher Education Relations Committee, the honor "recognizes the administrators at colleges and universities who consistently go the extra mile to further the mission of Catholic campus ministry in higher education."

Nominating Sister Carol for the award was Mindy Welding, IHM, director of campus ministry.

"I have experienced this woman of prayer, integrity, and leadership to be pivotal in

my work as a minister on this campus," she wrote to CCMA. "Sister Carol not only teaches the mission of the College, she lives it. She walks the talk."

The letter also praised Sister Carol's leadership in providing new faculty and staff with an orientation focused on the mission, values, and legacy of the College and extending the mission of inclusiveness and love for the dear neighbor through a strong presence in the community. Also cited were Sister Carol's vision and courage in moving the College to coeducation and buying the SugarLoaf property to create a College on Two Hills, as well as her openness to all members of the College community.

"You can always find her door open," Sister Mindy wrote. "She's never too busy to have someone in for a chat."

Among CCMA's criteria for the award are keeping the mission of the college/university in mind; communicating exceptionally; and exhibiting professional respect for all members of the community. This is the third year it has bestowed the award.

CCMA is the national association for Catholic campus ministers who serve at Catholic and non-Catholic colleges and universities. It empowers campus ministers through formation, networking, and resources to enrich the learning experience with gospel values; to form passionate, faithful Catholic leaders within the Church and society; and to advance the national vision of Catholic ministry in higher education.

For more information on CCMA, visit www.ccmanet.org. 

>> COLLEGE LAUNCHES AUTISM INITIATIVE

Responding to a rising need in the community, the College is launching a two-pronged initiative to assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) has developed two new academic programs and is forging community partnerships to provide therapeutic services, interventions, and state-mandated special education programs for individuals with ASD. The initiative reflects the tradition of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in addressing the needs of those overlooked or misunderstood.

"We're very optimistic about the initiative, not only in terms of attracting people to these programs but providing essential and practical education to assist an under-represented population," said Steven Guerriero, Ph.D., dean of the SGS. "It's mission-driven."

The new academic programs begin this fall. One is a concentration in the Clinical & Counseling Psychology master's program, focusing on ASD across the lifespan. The four courses may also be taken as a post-graduate certificate or licensure preparation credits. This program responds to Pennsylvania's Bureau of Autism Services determination of a critical need for more counselors who are well trained in mental health issues associated with autism.

The other program is a 12-credit professional certificate focused on the needs of adults with ASD. It is geared to professionals in various human services positions, including those in the medical, employment,

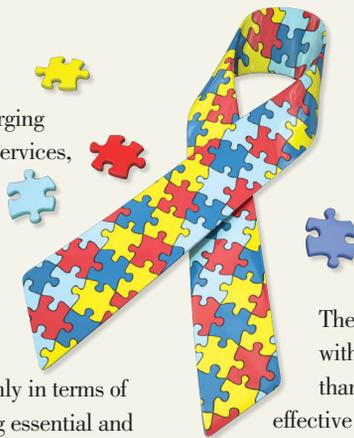
education, and public safety fields. The curriculum will address current and historical research and quality-of-life and family issues faced by adults with ASD. It will also provide training for professionals to serve and guide adults with ASD and their families to maximize independence and self-determination. Friends and family members of adults with ASD can also apply for this post-bachelor's professional certificate.

Because it is common for autism to be perceived as a children's issue, most resources go to persons under 21; however, the number of adults with ASD is growing.

The most recent state census estimated the number of adults with ASD in Pennsylvania will rise from 3,800 in 2010 to more than 10,000 in 2014. "There's clearly a dramatic need for cost-effective programs for adults," Guerriero said. "With this initiative, we're developing a unique and beneficial niche."

Guerriero is grateful for the efforts of Rosemary Mullaly, J.D., an expert in special education law who also has an autistic son. She helped to develop both the curriculum and the proposals for the state and federal funding that will allow the College to expand its autism initiative to develop public outreach activities and direct-services programs for adults with ASD. Because public funding is difficult to obtain in the current economic climate, the College is reaching out to foundations with similar missions, and it welcomes interested organizations to contact Dr. Guerriero.

For more information on these and other SGS programs, visit www.chc.edu/graduate. 



>> "HORRORS" ON THE HILL

It is the final dress rehearsal for this year's student-run musical, "Little Shop of Horrors," and the Motherhouse Auditorium is sheer chaos. Actors are fluttering about playfully while dancers and musicians chat and hang about the auditorium chairs like rag dolls. Several of the novice actors and musicians are fidgeting with instruments and props on stage. Some of the veteran actors are patiently waiting for the beginning warm-ups.

Then, authoritative clapping and shouting commands ring out from the back of the auditorium. "Alright guys! Let's get it together!" shouts the musical's director, Alyssa Cherewaty '13, who starts to round up the cast for their routine preparatory exercises.

The actors congregate to the left edge of the stage to begin vocal warm-ups with the music director, Jeremy Triplett '11. As everyone slowly sinks into a unified harmony, several of the performers lose focus and wander off into unrelated directions. Triplett, a connoisseur of musical directing, waves them back with a swift flick of the hand and once again, the actors are made ready to put on one last dry run. They begin by reviewing two of the middle scenes of the show to synchronize the pit to the actors.

"Little Shop of Horrors" is a 1982 rock musical version of the 1960 Roger Corman film in which the protagonist, Seymour Krelbourn (Nicholas Raspanti '11), a flimsy florist, discovers a new breed of Venus Fly Trap. The plant just so happens to have a hunger for human blood. As the play progresses, Krelbourn struggles with his recent fame, his love for Audrey (his capricious colleague and actress Alexandra DePalma '14), Audrey II's (Devin DeVoue '11 and Sean Herbert '13) appetite, and the growing suspicions of the shop owner, Mr. Mushnik (Christopher Dunn '13).

As the doors open to the public, a hushed murmur flurries about the crowd while proud parents and supportive friends are finding their seats.

There is no cast in sight, but a few mellow musicians wait on the sidelines, otherwise known as "the pit." It is the Association of Performing Arts' fourth student-run musical at the College, and this is their last performance of the weekend.

The cast is, as one would imagine, whirling about in apprehension in the eerie abyss of the catacombs under the auditorium. If it is anything like their final dress rehearsal, actors are scattered behind the stage, chatting and warming up with vocal exercises and stretching.

Suddenly, the lights are dimmed, the curtain opens, and the skid row girls offer their harmonious chronicle of Mr. Mushnik's failing flower business and Seymour's botanical discovery. The crowd is surrounded by an upbeat tune as it is introduced to the little shop's employees.

Throughout the course of the musical, instrumental quality remains fervent, while the vocal talent breaks through previously established barriers. When the audience is introduced to Audrey II (giant man-eating plant), it comes alive in zealous response to his animated solos and humorous commentary.

Particularly impressive to observers were the initiative taken by both Cherewaty, a first-time director, and the cast, comprised of a majority of first-year talent. Cherewaty as well as first-years Raymond Haig and Brian Mottershead truly represented the strength of the music department, while Meghan Gerry '14 and DePalma brought prior acting experience to the stage.

Cherewaty expressed her absolute pride in directing such a masterpiece: "Although it can be hectic, getting everyone together and cooperative, once we begin, everything seems to fall into place."

—Olivia Marcinka '13 🦋



>> BIOMEDICAL SERIES LECTURER DISCUSSES NANOTECHNOLOGY

Anthony P. Green, Ph.D., the Ben Franklin Director of the Nanotechnology Institute, presented “The Nanotechnology Institute: Accelerating Innovation and Entrepreneurship through Technology Commercialization” on campus April 6.

Green discussed his focus at the Nanotechnology Institute of large and region-wide technology initiatives and partnerships, including the Energy Commercialization Institute (ECI), the Mid-Atlantic Nanotechnology Alliance (MANA), and the Greater Philadelphia Innovation Cluster. He also discussed his work on new and evolving life sciences initiatives, including the IP Donation Program, university and industry partnerships in advanced textiles and water, and the



development and implementation of new commercialization models.

Prior to the lecture, Green met with several students, offering educational and career advice. The lecture was part of the 18th Annual Biomedical Lecture series directed by Lakshmi Atchison, Ph.D., professor of biology. The series brings renowned members of the science and medical fields to campus to interact with the College community. Michael Seiden, M.D., Ph.D., president of the Fox Chase Cancer Center, is scheduled to give the next lecture in the series on Wednesday, September 28.

To view a booklet on the history of the biomedical lecture series and its distinguished speakers, visit www.chc.edu/biomedbook. 

>> COLLEGE PREPARES FOR REACCREDITATION



The College took a step on the path to reaffirm its accreditation in January, forming a steering committee to assess adherence to Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) standards. All colleges and universities undergo this process every ten years.

Co-chaired by Kenneth J. Soprano, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, and Barbara Hogan, Ph.D., associate professor of human services, the committee includes staff, faculty, administrators, students, members of the board of directors, and local community members.

Its task is to survey the operation of the College to see how well it is meeting the criteria of 14 standards outlined by MSCHE, including institutional resources, leadership and governance, student admissions and retention, and assessment of student learning.

“We as representatives of the College who know our mission and goals will ask, ‘How are we doing?’” Soprano said. “How well are we instilling our mission throughout our programs? Where can we improve, and, in areas where we’re succeeding, how can we take the next step?”

The College will conduct a self-study to, essentially, review its past strengths and weaknesses and chart its course for the future. Six working groups representing all aspects of the College will assess its adherence to particular MSCHE standards and make recommendations for future direction. In order to include more voices and perspectives, the College will conduct focus groups and post information on bulletin boards throughout the campus as well as organize informal interviews of students, staff, and alumni.

The self-study is then subject to peer-review, with representatives from other Middle States institutions coming to campus to interview a variety of members of the college community. The self-study

document will be completed by fall 2012, and the site-visit by peer reviewers will occur during spring 2013. Based on the review of the self-study document and the comments and observations of the site visitors, MSCHE will vote on whether to renew the College’s accreditation at its June 2013 meeting.

The accreditation process is continuous, however. Five years after reaccreditation, institutions are once again reviewed to see whether they followed through on the recommendations included in their self-study document.

MSCHE accredits degree-granting colleges and universities in the Middle States region, including Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. It is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association that defines, maintains, and promotes educational excellence across institutions with diverse missions, student populations, and resources.

For more information, visit www.msche.org. 

>>SCPS OFFERS CLASSES AT FATHER JUDGE HIGH SCHOOL

The School of Continuing & Professional Studies (SCPS) recently began offering classes at Father Judge High School, extending the College's reach and serving the local community.

"It's a marvelous opportunity for us to have a presence in this area of Philadelphia," said College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D. "And I think we can provide an invaluable service."

Added The Reverend Joseph Campellone, OSFS, president of Father Judge: "To offer the people of this community another alternative to education just does the heart well."

Courses are geared toward students wishing to obtain a bachelor's degree. Among the three-credit, ACCELERATED Degree Program offerings are religious studies, criminal justice, and education.

The keys to such off-site programs are student demand and accessibility, said Elaine R. Green, Ed.D., dean of SCPS, who forged the partnership. Given its stature in the area and its facilities, Father Judge provides both, and its location attracts a different pool of talented instructors to the College.



College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., and Father Judge President Reverend Joseph Campellone, OSFS, announce the partnership.

"It's good for us, good for the students, and good for the instructors," Green said. "It's good all around."

The College currently offers SCPS programs in two other locations. It's a university partner of Montgomery County Community College, offering undergraduate and graduate school courses in human services at its Pottstown campus. The campus's location at the tip of three counties and the scarcity of other four-year programs in the area make the programs attractive to students, Green said.

Classes in subjects such as business and criminal justice are also offered in Upper Darby at the Prism Career Institute. In the past, SCPS offered courses to the students of Kennedy Kenrick High School and courses to degree candidates at the Philadelphia Police Academy and the Montgomery County Fire Academy.

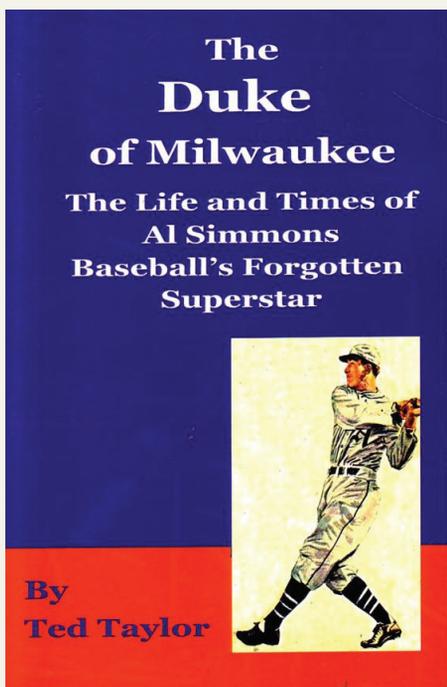
In addition to extending the reach of the College and serving different communities, these off-site courses help the College logistically. Because SCPS enrollment has grown steadily in recent years, classrooms and parking often reach capacity, especially in the evening.

These partnerships could also expand — there have been preliminary discussions, for example, of the College's graduate students in psychology and education working one on one with Father Judge students in need of extra help.

"We're always looking to develop programs of mutual benefit to our students and the local communities," Green said.

For more information on SCPS and its offerings, visit www.chc.edu/scps. 🦁

>>ADJUNCT PROFESSOR CHRONICLES "BASEBALL'S FORGOTTEN SUPERSTAR"



Ted Taylor, adjunct professor of business communications, recently published "The Duke of Milwaukee: The Life and Times of Al Simmons, Baseball's Forgotten Superstar."

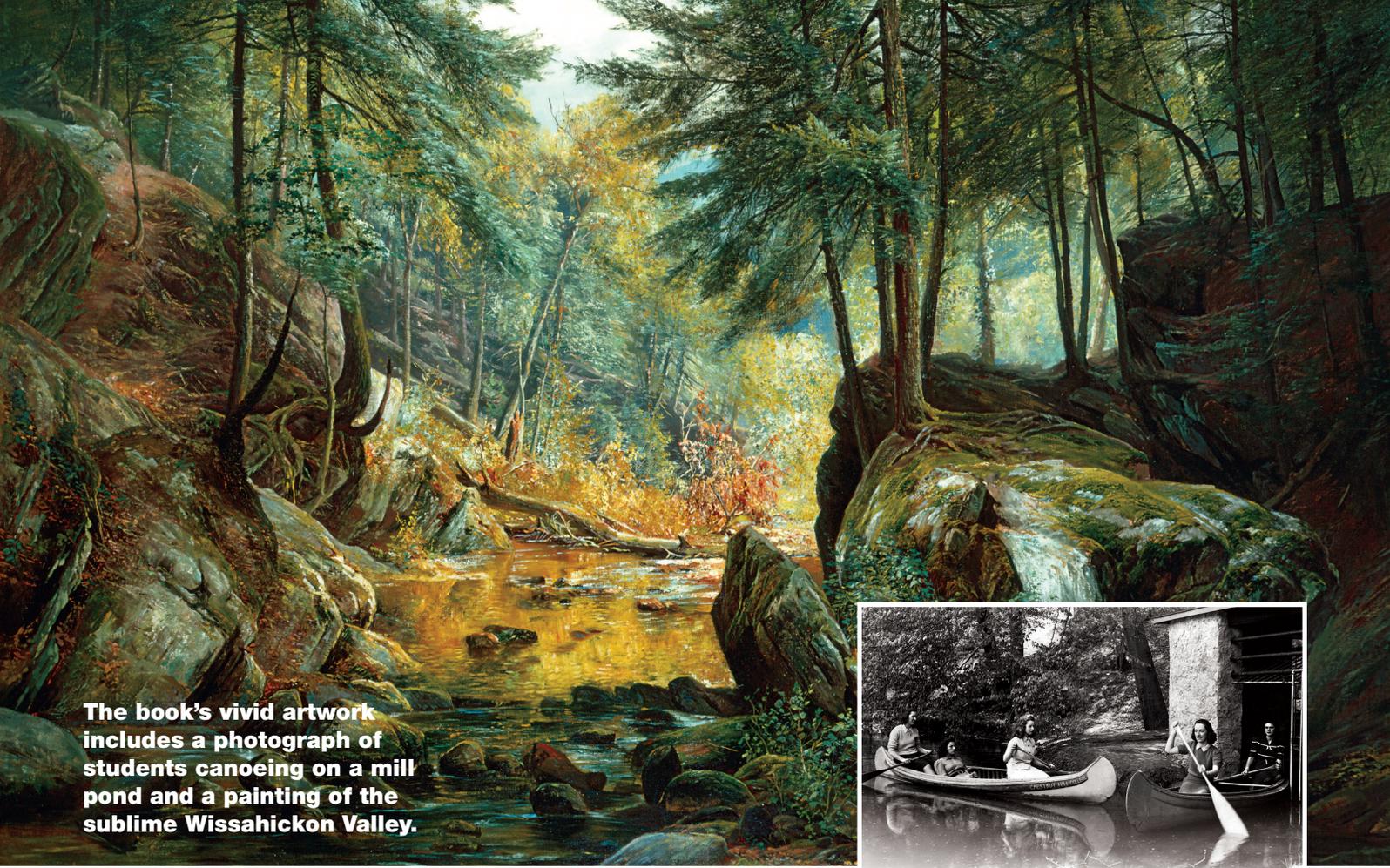
Taylor, an author and Philadelphia Athletics historian, traces the many highs and lows of Simmons' life and 20-year Hall of Fame career. One of the best players of his era, Simmons had the misfortune of playing in the shadow of Jimmie Foxx locally and Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig nationally.

Simmons was the MVP of the American League and won a world championship with the 1929 Athletics, a team many consider the greatest ever. He appeared in four World Series and participated in the first three All-Star games, compiling

2,927 hits and a .334 batting average that ranks him 21st all time. The book also provides anecdotes on Simmons' life, from his father doubting that he could become a pro ballplayer to his unorthodox batting stance that led to the nickname "Bucket Foot Al."

Taylor previously wrote two other acclaimed books on the history of the Athletics, "The Ultimate Philadelphia Athletics Reference Book, 1901-1954" and "Philadelphia Athletics by the Numbers." His books are available at numerous local bookstands and online at Amazon.com.

For more information, contact Ted Taylor at ted@tedtaylor.com. 🦁



The book's vivid artwork includes a photograph of students canoeing on a mill pond and a painting of the sublime Wissahickon Valley.



>> PROFESSOR EXPLORES “METROPOLITAN PARADISE”

Consider it the beginning of a public dialogue on the struggle for nature in the city.

David Contosta, Ph.D., professor of history, recently co-authored “Metropolitan Paradise: The Struggle for Nature in the City, Philadelphia’s Wissahickon Valley, 1620-2020.” This four-volume work explores the relationship between the natural and urban environments in the Wissahickon Valley and discusses the social, political, and ecological shifts that shaped the valley over time.

Co-authored by Carol Franklin, an expert on ecological design and restoration, “Metropolitan Paradise” tells the 400-year story of the valley from its time as the wilderness of the Lenni-Lenape to a bustling mill corridor, of its protection as a post-Civil War park to its current place as a daily destination for joggers and mountain bikers.

The series boasts a vivid array of illustrations, paintings, diagrams, and historical and modern photographs. Of particular note to community members of the College are photographs displaying the Wissahickon Creek’s prominent role in campus recreation, featuring walking paths, rustic bridges, and mill ponds, prior to being diverted in the late 1950s.

The book grew from a conversation between Contosta, who has long been fascinated by the Wissahickon Valley, and Franklin, who played there as a child. They set out to do the first serious book on the valley, envisioning one thin volume.

“Then we started thinking, researching, and interviewing,” Contosta said, “and it grew and grew and grew. We got into religion, philosophy, art, architecture, politics, geology, you name it — there are just so many strands that tie into this stream valley.

“This is a microcosm,” he added, “a story of cities and stream valleys and the struggle to combine nature and city. We think people elsewhere can learn from these recurrent themes.”

It took Contosta and Franklin 12 years to gather all of the information and artwork from various historical societies, libraries, and private collections — including a map obtained from a lord in England. Unlike on previous books that Contosta co-wrote, he and Franklin wrote side by side, meshing ideas and styles. While that process was arduous, Contosta cited his and Franklin’s strengths as complementary.

Contosta is the author of 21 books, including biographies of Henry Adams and “Rebel Giants,” a book that explores the surprising parallels between Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin. Franklin is a founding principal of Andropogon Associates, Ltd., and a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

To order the book, visit www.sjupress.com/shop/sjupress/45.html or www.amazon.com. 



>> COLLEGE HOSTS COMMUNITY PARTNER'S ART EXHIBITION

The College was the site of the Arc of Philadelphia and Philadelphia Developmental Disabilities Corporation (PDDC) Art Exhibition, enlivening the Dwight V. Dowley Gallery from mid-March to early April.

The art — including paintings, ceramics, sculptures, and photographs — was created by adults with developmental disabilities from PDDC's Cultural Arts Center. The mission of the Cultural Arts Center is to foster creativity, self-confidence, and community connections through classes in visual arts, music, dance, and theater; outings to cultural venues; and opportunities to work with other artists and arts-based groups. The Arc of Philadelphia and PDDC work to create a world of opportunity and choice for persons with disabilities through advocacy, support, and access to the community.

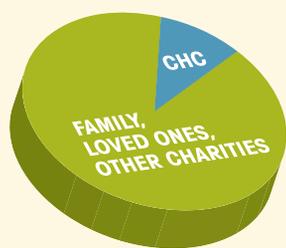
For more information, visit www.arcddc.org. 

LEAVING YOUR

Legacy

FOR AS LITTLE AS

5%



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

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

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

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

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

www.planyourlegacy.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Deciphering the Media

A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION IMPARTS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT MULTIPLE SUBJECTS FROM DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES.

Not only does it present a broad spectrum of information, it trains the mind to analyze, interpret, and apply course material. Further, it hones the fine skills that sharpen the eye to see beyond what is printed upon a page, to read between and among the lines, to ferret out from the explicit, the implicit, and the obscure. Frequently, the significance of what is written lies not in its face value, but in the deliberate omissions that tell a story quite different from the superficial tale of the obvious. It requires a deft and curious reader to extricate the unwritten message that often escapes those who settle for the easily absorbed headline of the story.



Historically, journalists were trained in objective reporting. Both sides of an event were represented as accurately as possible with interpretation and evaluation left to each individual reader. When newspapers were a primary source of news, there seemed to be more integrity about reporting the facts. The more trustworthy the articles, the deeper the investigative research, the more balanced the articulation of facts, the better the paper was judged to be.

Television, the internet, and now social media have usurped and often displace the relevancy of the printed press. As one medium vies against the other for supremacy and ratings, the sensational and eye-catching have eclipsed in importance the integrity of the truth behind the story. It is sad enough that this is true. Sadder still is that educated women and men allow themselves to suspend disbelief and quiet their critical censor and simply accept as true biased misrepresentations and edited versions of the truth. It is increasingly rare that readers rely on their own experience, evaluate the tone of the article, probe the viewpoint of the journalist, test the substance of the text, consider the reputation and political affiliation of the news source, dissect the authoritarian assertions, and work

“In this society, it takes real work to sift through the chaff to discover the truth.”

to add what has been obviously omitted in articles and news reports. In this society, it takes real work to sift through the chaff to discover the truth. Many are too busy, too distracted, or too disinterested to make such an arduous effort. It is disappointing that one must work so hard deciphering the media, but approaching the news with a dose of skepticism reduces our propensity to jump to conclusions before doing the real work of critically thinking about an issue.

In the 1839 play “Richelieu; Or the Conspiracy,” English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton observed “the pen is mightier than the sword,” and indeed it is, and has been proven so over time in situations of great and grave moment. However, while the pen has inspired and urged women and men to greatness, it also has the potential to do harm, especially when journalists decide not to do their homework, to forego investigative reporting and to settle for the sensational in order to sell newspapers. When a reporter forgets the power of the pen and allows his or her own bias to slant a story or falls victim to the clock and fails to adequately research an article, he or she uses that power irresponsibly and in so doing damages people and institutions and does a grave disservice to the reader. How easy it is to forget that

institutions, like people, bleed when they are cut. The thrust of the sword may be transitory, but the sting of the pen endures. Often the wound of a quick saber strike is medically curable, while the wound left by the stroke of the pen festers.

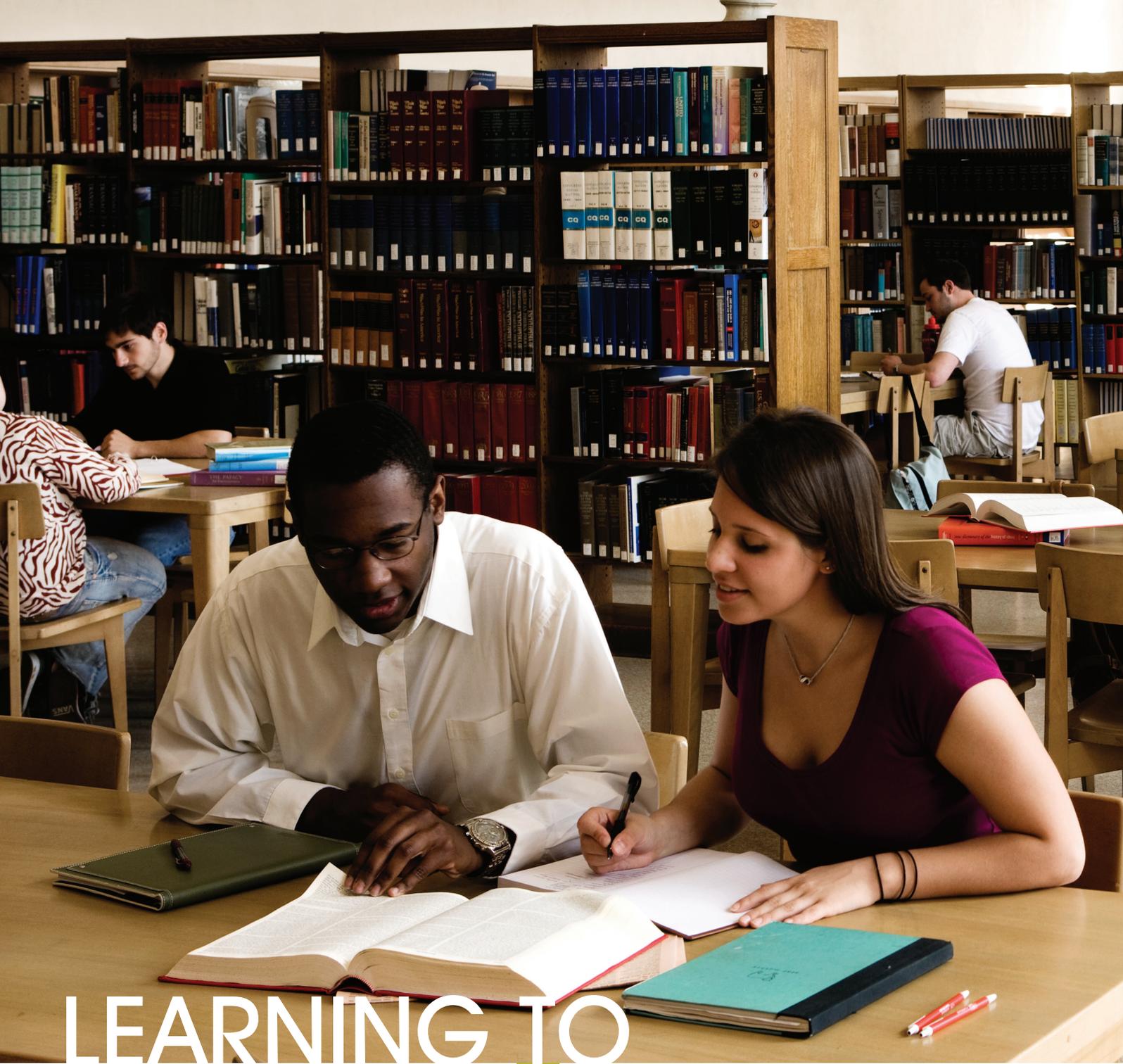
Chestnut Hill College is an institution committed to equality through education. The mission of the College expresses that of its founders, the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Thus, the College is committed to an active inclusive love of every dear neighbor without distinction. Steadfastly, we teach the absolute and inviolable dignity of each human person. This is who we are. This is what we believe. This is the foundation upon which we build the character of our students. When the integrity of this mission is publicly challenged or believed to have been compromised, it causes pain as well as an opportunity for self-examination. Ultimately, the questions, whether validly or invalidly posed, reinforce our determination to live the values intrinsic to the College’s identity because we believe that our demonstrated congruence with these values will prove to be authentic. 

Sincerely,

Carol Jean Vale, SSJ

Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.
President





LEARNING TO

Central to the history and mission of the College, a liberal arts education has never been of greater value.

LIV



SPEAKING TO THE SOPHOMORE CLASS OF 1932, COLLEGE FOUNDER Maria Kostka Logue, SSJ, made one thing clear.

“You are not here specifically to learn how to make a living,” she said. “You will do that anyway, because you must. You are here to learn how to live.”

She was referencing an article historian James Truslow Adams had written in the literary magazine *The Forum*. Each was participating in a spirited circle of discourse on the value of a liberal arts education, at a time when Americans debated whether college students might be better off attending vocational-technical schools.

Eight decades later, that discourse continues. Enrollment in humanities majors has dropped by nearly 50 percent over the past generation, according to the *New York Times*. Many observers fear the continuation of that slide, with a battered economy leading students into narrow, technical programs perceived as more likely to land them a job. Some view humanities majors, on the other hand, as an indulgence.

That ground is shifting, however. A chorus of experts, organizations, and institutions argues that the liberal arts have never been more valuable to graduates. They view globalization and technological advancement as incentives to develop broad knowledge of the physical and natural world, also citing the practicality of intellectual skills such as communication and critical inquiry in the workplace of today and tomorrow.

Michael Roth, president of Wesleyan University, describes liberal arts education as “intellectual cross-training,” giving students the tools to “move from one problem to another with confidence and one opportunity to another with courage.” Of note to other experts is how the liberal arts help students develop senses of civic engagement and service to others.

“The study of the liberal arts produces good citizens,” said Cecelia J. Cavanaugh, SSJ, Ph.D., dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies. “That gets back to [Sister Maria Kostka’s] quote and what remains at the heart of the College’s mission — forming whole persons.”

Indeed, this year’s Fall Convocation address contained echoes of Sister Maria Kostka’s words.

“Liberal arts are essential to self-discovery,” Sara Ellen Kitchen, J.D., professor of criminal justice, imparted. “They’re about asking the big questions. What is truth? What is forgiveness? What is beauty? What is freedom?”

“In short,” she continued, “why are we here, and where are we going? The future depends upon your questions and will be shaped by your answers.”

A LEAP FORWARD

On the front line of the campaign for liberal education is the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), to which the College belongs and with which it shares resources and strategy. The association launched Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP), an action and advocacy program to expand understanding of the types of learning that empower students. The world is now characterized by constant change, AAC&U says, requiring graduates to have the transferable skills and broad knowledge obtained through liberal education.

Hallmarks of liberal education include critical inquiry, creative thinking, problem solving, written and verbal communication, and intercultural knowledge. In a recent news article, Roth identified the “strong emotional and cognitive” encounters offered through liberal education that helps students to “become agents of change — not victims of it.”

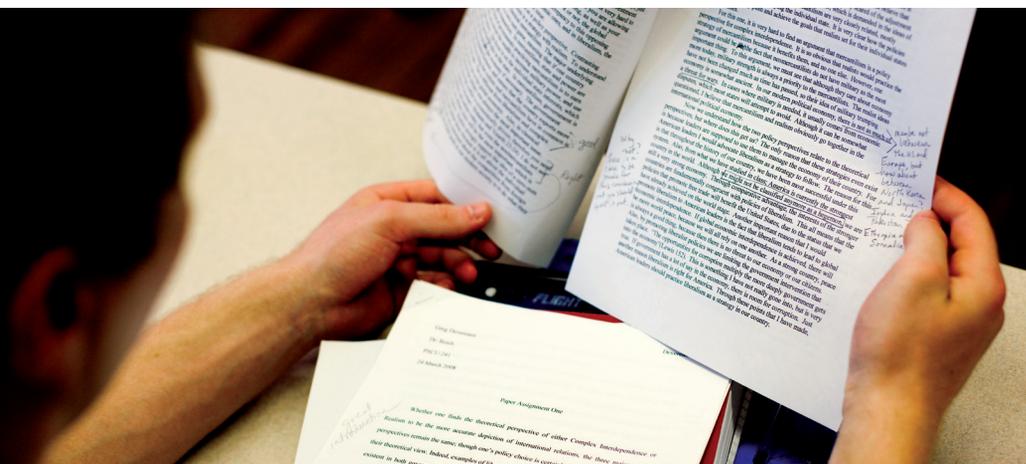
The core curriculum at the College reflects its proud liberal arts tradition while evolving to best serve today’s students. An example is the Greater Expectations initiative of AAC&U, undertaken by the College in recent years. It’s a set of co-curricular learning outcomes designed for each student and developed by faculty, staff, and students that tracks both student progress and academic program effectiveness.

Specific liberal arts education prerequisites at the College include a global awareness seminar to expand perspective, two religious studies courses to foster spirituality, and foreign language courses to build intercultural skills. That third requirement has been a point of contention for many students over the years, but the faculty remains steadfast.

“I remember hearing science students complain to [biology instructor Robert Meyer, Ph.D.],” Sister Cecelia said. “He’d say, ‘I don’t care if you’ll ever use it — studying a foreign language improves your brain.’ That stayed with me. We as faculty and administrators must constantly stress our appreciation and respect for the other disciplines.”

The overall goal is to create a College-wide environment conducive to students improving in all realms of their lives. The responsibility for that rests not just with administrators and faculty members but the entire College community.

“We all work together to provide an interdisciplinary, multifaceted experience,”





The College's curriculum offers students an interdisciplinary, multifaceted approach to learning.

said Kenneth J. Soprano, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs. “That’s infused in student life, athletics, work study, the classroom — everything.”

Key to that holistic approach is the wide variety of experiences offered to students. Whether it’s the passport program requiring first-year students to attend events they might have otherwise missed, a distinguished guest speaker, or a life-changing trip to Tanzania or Greece, opportunities abound.

“A lot of larger schools *encourage* students to participate in activities offered locally,” Soprano said, “but here, activities are brought to the students.”

Another component of holistic education at the College is service learning, in which two-thirds of students participate. Past projects have included soup line service and park and schoolyard cleanups.

“Most of them don’t do it because it’s a requirement but because they feel a need to help,” Soprano said. “They’re thinking beyond themselves and, in turn, developing skills that will serve them well, even after they leave the College.”

Another thing the College has going for it is its close-knit layout. Academic disciplines are mixed together, encouraging collaboration.

“Our honors program was born in the faculty corridors, with people talking over coffee — ‘Hey, we should teach that course together, write that article together,’” Sister Cecelia said. “It’s the same for the students, with history majors sitting in on science lectures, musicians attending a talk on astronomy.

“By virtue of being at a liberal arts college,” she added, “we’re all perpetual students.”

GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

Spending upwards of \$160,000 for an undergraduate degree, students are eager to maximize employment potential. But more and more employers reject the narrower, more technical degrees long described as vocational. Based on extensive research of employers, AAC&U says that it’s the versatile knowledge and skills gained through liberal arts education that are increasingly desired.

Nearly two-thirds of surveyed employers said that long-term professional success hinges on broad ranges of skills and knowledge, and more than 80 percent expressed interest in schools



**“Liberal arts are essential to self-discovery. They’re about asking the big questions. What is truth? What is forgiveness? What is beauty? What is freedom?”
— Sara Ellen Kitchen, J.D.**

placing more emphasis on oral and written communication, critical thinking, and analytic reasoning. These characteristics of the liberal arts are now essential, not elective, AAC&U asserts, and it’s up to colleges and universities to get that message through to students — particularly the first-generation college students prevalent at the College.

“They tend to have it in the back of their mind at first that they need to learn a particular skill or trade,” Sister Cecelia said. “It’s our job to educate them and their parents and take active steps to make liberal arts education more inclusive.”

Helping to convey the benefits of well-rounded education is the Career Services department, which urges students to keep an open mind about their interest and future. Another source

of advice for students is College alumni who have seen the value of multitasking and adjusting to change first hand.

As a former senior analyst with Goldman, Sachs & Co., and now the vice president of corporate services for Walkers Global law firm, Renee Haggerty ’90 knows what supervisors want from summer interns and new hires.

“What I constantly hear is, ‘We really want someone who can be dropped in a situation and just pick up and run with things,’” she said. “Students must prepare for that and be ready to swim.”

Additionally, the more a candidate knows, the better their odds for being hired, and the lower the chance of being pigeonholed.

“If I have an employee focused on just one technical expertise versus a candidate with a well-rounded educational background, I can probably rely on that second person for more things,” Haggerty said. “Communications skills are huge. I know I can use that person in marketing, in preparing business plans, in front of a client, and on and on.”

Well-rounded educational backgrounds are especially valuable in a challenging economy, when competition for jobs spikes.

“Many of my colleagues and friends who lost their jobs in recent years have really had to pivot and think about their other skills,” Haggerty said. “Most of the liberal arts-based people could do that, but specialists can end up stuck, in need of more training.”

Another wild card is the dynamic nature of the working world. The average graduate will change not just jobs but *careers* several times, experts say — and one of those careers doesn’t even exist yet.

One trend students can count on, however, is the rise of global interconnectedness, with China and India, in particular, emerging as key players. This raises the value of intercultural understanding.

“To sit down at the table with our global counterparts, employees need deep perspectives,” said Nancy Day Kelley ’71, Ph.D., who leads the first-year student program at Villanova University. “Not just their markets, but their histories and cultures — who they are and where they’re going.”

But above all else, adaptability is the key, according to Mary Pat Feeney Kessler ’83, vice president of benefit solutions at USI Affinity.

“You might think you’re going to work with computers and end up with a global corporation in a foreign office that requires you to speak another language,” said Kessler, who majored in psychology at the College. “Or you could plan a career in finance and end up as a CFO for a children’s book publisher.

“But with a liberal arts education,” Kessler added, “you’re able to adapt to whatever curveball is thrown at you.”

Roy Sands ’09 can vouch for that. Facing a struggling economy, Sands took a job as a “lowly cook.” He considered it beneath his potential, but he had bills to pay and a family to support. Leaning on his liberal arts education, however, Sands soon embraced a role as assistant executive chef.

“It’s funny now how much my college education and, in particular, Sister Ryan’s math class has enhanced my abilities in the kitchen,” Sands said, explaining that he analyzes prices and controls costs.

Sands learned more than numbers, though. The College’s foreign language requirement gave him Spanish skills that come in handy at the farmer’s market, and service learning and campus ministry experience informed his recent decision to offer shelter and furniture to a homeless neighbor.

Reflecting on unexpected turns, Sands realizes how much the College shaped him as a person.

“I’m embracing it all,” he said, “as if to prove myself to a whole new world.”

THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND

Suzanne del Gizzo, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, begins each semester by asking the students why they’re taking her class.

“Alarmingly, I find that most students haven’t even asked themselves why they’re sitting in the room with me,” she said. “For many, the course becomes something to get through because the College requires it. In my opinion, that attitude is exactly what a liberal arts education is designed to combat.”

Indeed, the LEAP campaign calls on educators to help students become “intentional learners,” and Greater Expectations stresses a purposeful approach to academics across multiple disciplines. While such learning begins in the classroom, it permeates all aspects of the student experience.

“The heart of what happens in the literature classroom is elsewhere,” del Gizzo said. “It’s the shared effort to read, think, and discuss slowly and deliberately; to learn how to ask questions and find ways into texts of all kinds that make them meaningful and rich for you; and most important to risk being wrong.”

Students must also risk failure, says Haggerty, who threw herself into not just accounting and science classes but piano and drawing.

“Looking back, I realize how it helped to shape my ability to tackle projects outside my comfort zone,” she said. “I had a wide array of opportunities to build core competencies.” >>>

Susan Pisano '71, vice president of communications for America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) in Washington, D.C., also credits the College with unlocking her potential.

"I often say that the professors didn't teach me English or sociology or biology or Latin — they taught me how to think, analyze, and write," said Pisano, who majored in English literature. "They gave me a world view, but one that's open to new ideas and ways of thinking."

Faculty had a major impact on Kelley, as well. She came to the College amid the cultural tumult of the 1960s to study political science, but a history class with Consuelo Maria (Aherne) '36, SSJ, Ph.D., diverted her.

"I just fell in love," Kelley said. "Then I got to study with Sister Saint Pierre and professor John Lukács — what a trifecta! I became a history major just to be around them, and I worked twice as hard to earn their respect."

**“They gave me a world view,
but one that’s open to new
ideas and ways of thinking.”**

Kelley went on to earn a master's degree at prestigious Bryn Mawr College, finding herself well prepared for its high standards and rigor. Now with 30-plus years of experience as a teacher and senior administrator in higher education, she advises students to study broadly.

"Most students will also need a graduate degree in their profession, and who wants to study the same thing for six or seven years?" she said. "It's more important to learn how to think, write, and analyze than it is to study for one specific career."

Of a similar mind is Haggerty, who deliberately chose the humanities as her path to graduate school, majoring in political science.

"I felt like it would serve me better in the workplace to have more of a well-rounded education," Haggerty said. "It's important to create 'bench strength' so you can take on a host of different things."

Another key to professional success is learning to interact and work with persons from various backgrounds. Several alumni credited the College's close-knit environment as hugely beneficial.

"It helped me learn a lot of soft skills such as how to work in teams, how to relate to others, and how to respect those you work with despite differences of opinion," Kessler said. "I've used those skills in every facet of my life."

Indeed, the value of interdisciplinary and interpersonal exploration has been — and remains — at the heart of Chestnut Hill College. Upholding Sister Maria Kostka's promise from nearly 80 years ago, it offers students the keys to success. However they choose to define that.

"College is and should be about exploration, of ourselves, our history, and our faith," del Gizzo said. "It's a time to get gloriously lost and found, and to create and recreate, with some degree of purpose and, of course, luck, the person we would like to become." 





BIBLIOPATHIC EDUCATION

1997

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
BY CHARLES C. SMITH

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
BY CHARLES C. SMITH

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
BY CHARLES C. SMITH

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
BY CHARLES C. SMITH

AT ITS CORE, THE CHC/SSJ LEGACY PROGRAM

is about preserving the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. But it's also about infusing that mission into the daily pulse of the community.

Begun in 2004, the program seeks to instill in staff, faculty, and students the spiritual tradition of the Sisters and the College. Whether it's through workshops, retreats, community service, or even an afternoon tea, everyone plays a part in "living and working so that all people might be united with God and one another."

The Legacy Program preserves the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph while infusing it into all aspects of today's Chestnut Hill College.

A LIVING

Heritage





Roberta Archibald, SSJ, discusses the history and mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph with staff members Jackie Gutshall and Douglas Rountt in the Heritage Room.



Offshoots of the Legacy Program include community service trips to Cape May, N.J., and Appalachia.

“Ours is a living heritage, and it’s continually shaped by the persons who are inspired by it,” said Roberta Archibald, SSJ, English instructor and the congregation’s associate archivist. “Their dedication reflects our charism of active and inclusive love.”

Directed by Carolynne Ervin, M.A., coordinator of the spiritual direction practicum, the Legacy Program honors the 361-year history and spiritual legacy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph as their spirit permeates the College environment. It links the legacy to daily life at the College, which is often a matter of giving community members a different way of thinking about things they’re already doing.

“We have so many members of our community living the mission here every day,” said Mary Darrah, SSJ, assistant to the president for mission and ministry. “No matter what the need, people are always willing to help — it’s automatic and not for show.”

“They’re drawn to the environment and values of the institution,” she added, “which trace back hundreds of years.”

AN ENDURING TRADITION

The story of the Sisters of Saint Joseph began with their being “conceived by God’s embrace” in 1650 in Le Puy, France. Ever since, they’ve lived their mission and heeded the call of “love for the dear neighbor, without distinction.” Their legacy of unity and love unfolded for centuries, undeterred by the French Revolution, during which five sisters were martyred by guillotine. In 1836, six sisters came to the United States to expand their presence and ministries, and in 1924 they founded Chestnut Hill College.

The number of Sisters at the College has, however, dwindled in recent years, raising concerns that their legacy could wither. In response, an anonymous donor funded the creation of the Legacy Program in 2004 to ensure that their spiritual tradition and charism carry on.

“It was meant to link the spirituality of the Sisters with the mission of the College,” Ervin said, “offering opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to be witnesses to the charism in their everyday actions.”

The heart — and, indeed, home — of the legacy lies in the Heritage Room. Located inside the house the Sisters purchased in 1858 that became Mount St. Joseph Academy, the Heritage Room offers an array of documents and artifacts. Each fall, Sister Roberta leads new faculty and staff on a tour through the house, which is also visited by many local elementary and secondary school students.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to connect our entire community to its heritage,” Sister Roberta said.

Visitors can see a panoramic mural of the Sisters’ history, from Le Puy to present day, learn about the Sisters’ lace-making tradition, and view original letters and

photos from figures such as Mother Saint John Fournier, the Sisters' Philadelphia foundress.

Prior to visiting the Heritage Room, new staff and faculty participate in a program on the history and enduring mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. By the end of the day, chances are that their sense of place comes into focus.

"These programs are inspiring, filling me with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment," Ryan Murphy, director of service learning, said in a personal reflection at last fall's orientation program.

"This commitment informs the work we do with students and the lessons we're here to teach them."

UPON REFLECTION

Another important component of the Legacy Program is the variety of retreats offered to the entire community — students, staff, faculty, and the board of directors. They've been held at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, Pa., and on campus at the Center for Spirituality, offering a mix of films, guest speakers, spiritual direction, and fellowship.

"These programs help people develop their own personal spirituality," Ervin said. "Many here already have an intuitive sense of the mission of the College, and the Legacy Program is a way of naming it."

There are retreats for first-year and transfer students to introduce them to Campus Ministry, student-led SEARCH retreats to get to know self and God, "Catch the Spirit"

retreats for exploring one's spirituality in depth, and retreats centered on serving the dear neighbor. Others are led by young alumni who were touched by the Legacy Program while here.

"They caught the spirit, and now that they're out in the world, they realize what a wonderful gift they were given," said Mindy Welding, IHM, director of campus ministry.

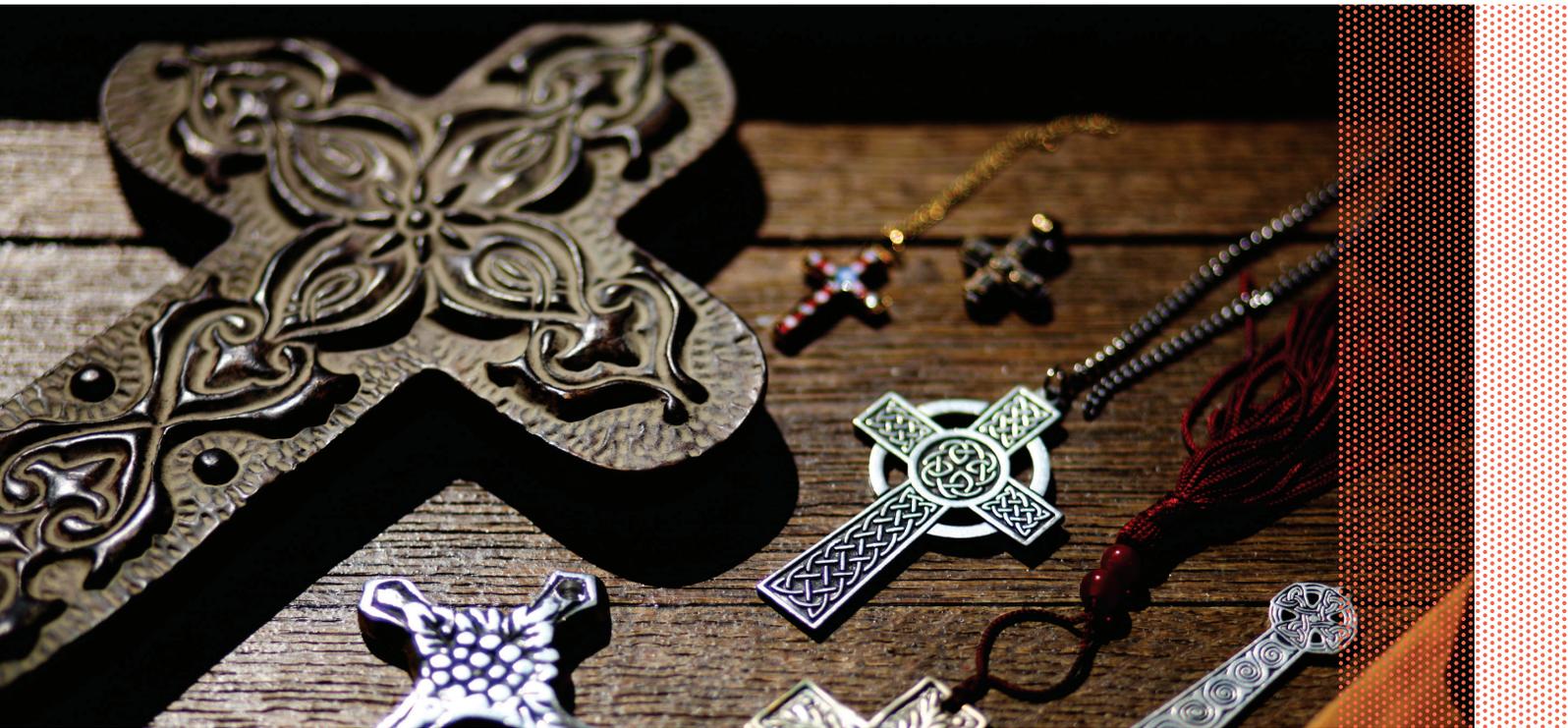
Catering to all, the retreats foster fellowship. But they also allow time for silent reflection, a rare commodity in today's fast-paced world.

"There's just something about immersing yourself without having to worry about running off to a meeting," said Catherine Nerney, SSJ, Ph.D., associate professor of religious studies. "You can put the clock aside for 48 hours and just be."

Nancy Dachille, M.Ed., director of career development, serves on the Legacy Program committee and has attended many of its programs and retreats. She describes them as "life-giving," the Sisters' mission as timeless.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph legacy of unity and love unfolded for centuries, undeterred by the French Revolution, during which five sisters were martyred by guillotine.





“It’s a wonderful opportunity to delve into the history of the Sisters and appreciate the bravery and insightfulness of these wonderful women,” she said. “[The programs] provided me the tools to live a more spiritual life, which hopefully is observed by all with whom I am involved.”

EXTENDING THE REACH

Outgrowths of the Legacy Program abound on campus. Formal examples include the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation (directed by Sister Cathy and featured on page 30) and the CHC Associates in Mission, a lay group that collaborates with the congregation, to which Murphy and his wife, Krista, dean of student life, and various other community members belong.

The College also recently hosted a series of scholarly discussions on the Eucharist, and each year it celebrates Sister Maria Kostka Logue and the mission of the congregation on Founder’s Day. Legacy enters the classroom, as well, when Sister Roberta is asked to speak to students.

“Generally, they just quietly take it in, but some really respond,” she said.

“One student was fascinated by the story of the Sisters losing their lives in the Revolution and excited to hear we could show him our texts of their interrogation.”

Another way to connect students to the legacy is through community service. It has long been integral to the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, whose earliest constitutions called for them to “divide the city into various sections ... and make every effort to learn what disorders prevail in each area” before helping those in need. That spirit thrives at the College, whether that’s students taking service learning trips to rebuild Appalachian homes or bringing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to area homeless.

“We go to where the greatest need is,” Sister Mindy said. “We get to know our dear neighbors with no distinction, building lasting relationships and partnerships.”

Other, less formal opportunities happen daily — for instance, the afternoon tea held by Campus Ministry. Students, staff, and faculty are welcome to stop by, take a break, and get to know one another.

“It isn’t just for the people who are religious — everyone is welcome here,” Sister Mindy said. “Whether they’re seeking companionship, counsel, or just a place to relax, they know that we’re here for them.”

“There’s no pressure to open up,” Sister Mary added, “but if they have something they need to talk about, they can. We’re here to listen and, at times, inspire.”

Indeed, inspiration is at the heart of the Legacy Program, threading all aspects of the community. Although the funding for the program ran its course, the Legacy committee remains committed to doing all it can to continue building awareness and support of the mission.

“By making the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph explicit, telling the story, sharing the long history and the gifts and responsibilities that come with it, we engage the community,” Sister Cathy said. “The Legacy Program brings people into this chapter of our story.” 

SAVE THE DATE



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The Garden of Forgiveness provides a warm, welcoming space for reflection, meditation, and conversation.



Talking

A DIFFERENT PATH

The Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation offers spiritual and practical antidotes to the culture of violence and division.

WE LIVE IN A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE AND DIVISIVENESS,

whether it's genocide in Rwanda or a shooting in Arizona, bullying on the playground or an argument that fractures a family. These incidents give rise to a complex range of emotions in individuals and societies that, if unaddressed, can perpetuate strife, says Catherine Nerney, SSJ, Ph.D.

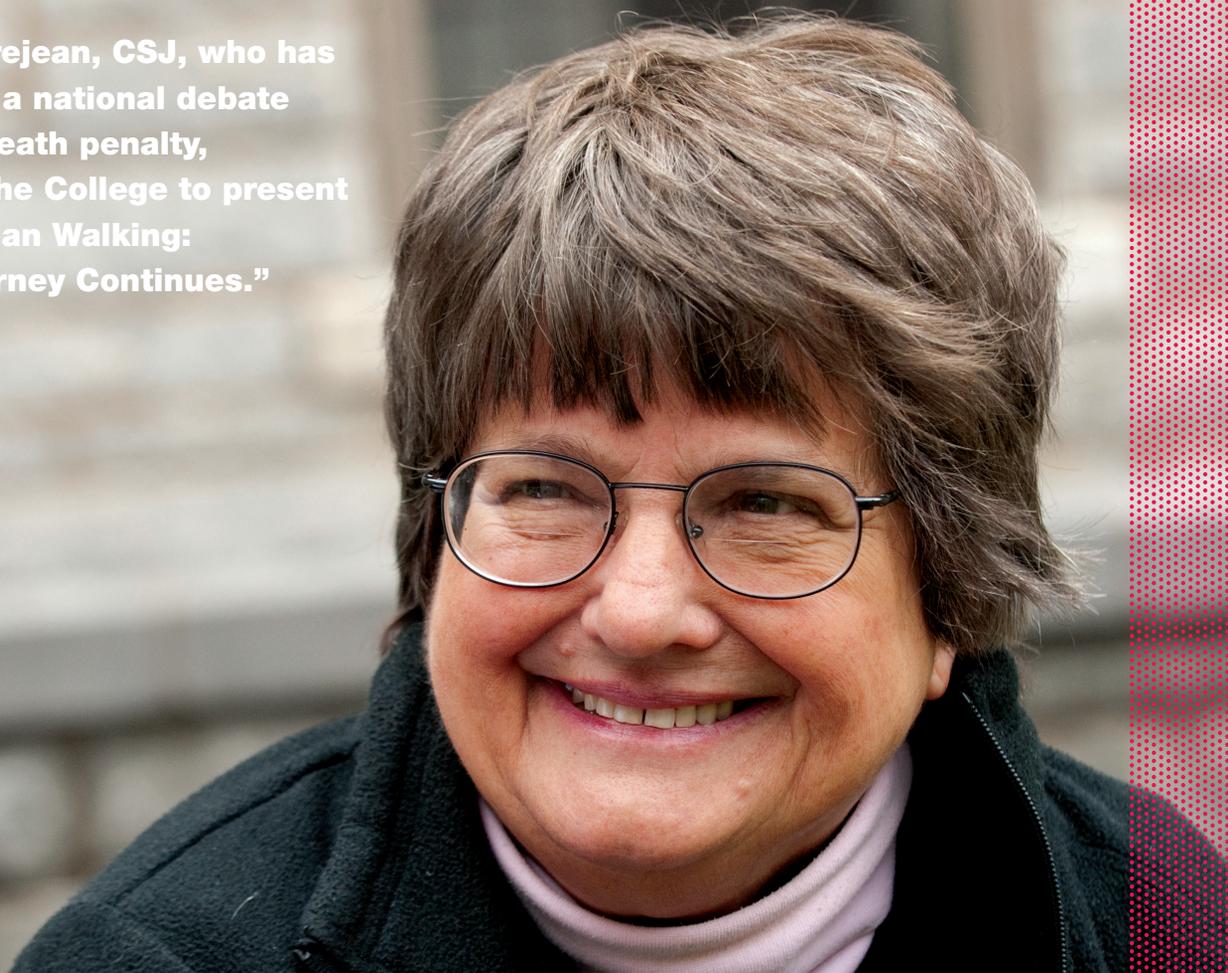
"Our culture makes people feel that if someone hurts them, they need to get even," she said. "What we need to do is create an environment that says, no, there's another way."

Enter the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation. Now in its third year at the College, the institute is a "learning laboratory" in which forgiveness and reconciliation are explored as alternatives to violence and retaliation. Through academics, special events, and community service, the institute helps aggrieved persons "walk the road to reconciliation together."

That may sound like a tall order, but one can start small.

"The first thing is to give everyone an opportunity to be respected and heard," Sister Cathy said. "Then, we need to work through these emotions. The key is to understand that it's a journey, and that we're all somewhere on the path."

Helen Prejean, CSJ, who has sparked a national debate on the death penalty, visited the College to present “Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues.”



“We’re looking to create a big culture shift,” she added, “which can be easily dismissed as naïve. But I believe that people can change.”

UPHOLDING A LEGACY

The themes of the institute reflect the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph to “live and work that all may be one.” For 361 years, the congregation has worked to heal the personal and social disorders that divide us from one another and God. Where there were wrongs and divisions, the Sisters tried to right them — for example, serving the wounded on both sides of the Civil War. Their mission of unity and reconciliation gave birth to the College and continues to permeate the community.

A 2007 retreat, “Pathway to Forgiveness,” held through the CHC/SSJ Legacy Program (see page 24), planted the seeds for the institute. The program invited faculty, administrators, and staff members to consider how they could commit themselves to walk the path of forgiveness and reconciliation upon their return to campus. It asked, “What would the College look like if everyone made a commitment to lean toward forgiveness rather than hold grudges in every relationship within and beyond the College?”

The next year, the College established the Garden of Forgiveness, “a sacred place for releasing past hurts, facing oneself and others with forgiveness and repentance, remembering victims of violence throughout our city and world, and moving toward healing and reconciliation together for the sake of a new future.” Centrally located on campus, the garden provides a warm, welcoming space for reflection, meditation, and conversation.

In 2009, the College formally established the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation to be directed and developed by Sister Cathy and a planning committee. The timing was right for Sister Cathy, who had recently spent time in Rwanda with widows of its genocide. Sister Cathy promised to tell the widows’ stories, to relay their commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation, but they urged her to go further.

“They challenged me to figure out where our divides are. They said, ‘Go *there* and bring this message of love.’”

GIVING VOICE TO THE MARGINALIZED

The profile of the institute was raised this spring by two special appearances by women with long resumes of serving the marginalized and healing divisions. The first was Teya Sepinuck,

founder and artistic director of Theatre of Witness, which gives a voice to prisoners and their families, survivors and perpetrators of abuse, immigrants, and refugees. Sepinuck creates and produces performances of song, music, imagery, and spoken word from those who have experienced violence, survival, and healing.

In March, she brought her unique form of storytelling to the College via the video presentation, “Theatre of Witness: Humanizing the Other through Story and Testimony.” Snapshots of her work with the marginalized inspired the crowd, sparking dialogue on issues of common ground and social justice.

She applauded the creation of the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation, with which the College “placed itself at the very forefront of meaningful holistic education.”

“It’s essential for college students to be exposed to as much experiential education as possible, expanding their willingness to listen and learn from people from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives,” she said. “Having worked with students in prisons, on the streets of Philadelphia, and in post-conflict areas of the world, I see how this kind of deep emotional education can totally transform their thinking and even the direction of their lives. Humanizing the other is, for me, perhaps one of the most essential parts of a true education.”

Next to visit the College was Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of the best-selling book turned movie “Dead Man Walking.” Sister Helen has been instrumental in sparking a national debate on the death penalty and helping to shape the Catholic Church’s vigorous opposition to state executions. She works to educate the public on capital punishment and counsels death row inmates as well as victims’ families.

Sister Helen joined students, staff, faculty, and administrators in April for a prayer in the Garden of Forgiveness. They gathered to remember and mourn violence in the world and pray for a new path to peace. Solidarity was offered for the victims and perpetrators of violence, a bell tolled for death row inmates.

“When you actually see the act itself of rendering a person defenseless and killing them, you recognize the futility of it,” said Sister Helen, who has accompanied six to executions. “We’re killing people who killed people to try to show people that killing people is wrong.”

Sister Helen also presented, “Dead Man Walking: The Journey Continues,” exploring the ambivalence to violence that pervades society while illuminating the power of forgiveness.

“It’s often seen as a kind of weakness, like you’re condoning it,” she said. “But forgiveness is an act you do to save your own life.

It’s about protecting your integrity and not letting the love in you be overcome by the hate.”

Sister Helen’s visit reconnected her to the College, from which she received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1996. But the real connection lies in their overlapping missions.

“Sister Helen epitomizes so much about what the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation stands for as well as the mission of the College,” Sister Cathy said, referencing the stand the Sisters of Saint Joseph have taken against state-sanctioned murder. “We don’t want people dying in our name. The goal of true justice is to restore people to their rightful place in society and ensure their rightful dignity as humans.

“When we fall short,” she added, “we not only injure another — we dehumanize ourselves.”



“Forgiveness is an act you do to save your own life. It’s about protecting your integrity and not letting the love in you be overcome by the hate.”

ENGAGING THE CAMPUS AND BEYOND

In March, Sister Cathy held a faculty colloquium on forgiveness and reconciliation. The scholarly and practical conversation invited faculty, administrators, and staff members to discuss the dimensions of forgiveness and reconciliation on campus and consider ways they could be more mindful of them in the future. Sister Cathy is also collecting personal reflections to assess the extent to which forgiveness and reconciliation infuse the community and how the institute should proceed.

Key to sustaining this momentum, of course, is engaging young people.

“The journey of being young is you start out kind of mouthing what you’ve heard before figuring out what you think and what you want the meaning of your life to be,” Sister Helen said. “So, anything like the institute that can help students along their journey is wonderful.”

All first-year students at the College now learn about the institute at orientation, and several students, including Esther McCrea ’12, wrote a pledge for Founder’s Day to commit to the principles of



Teya Sepinuck, known for giving a voice to society's marginalized, brought her unique form of storytelling to the College.

forgiveness and reconciliation. The themes are also explored at student-led SEARCH retreats offered by campus ministry.

There is also an undergraduate class on forgiveness and reconciliation, in which Sister Cathy tells the stories of the aggrieved and offers alternatives to retaliation. Although she does not ask students to reflect on their own personal stories, emotion abounds.

“I can’t even express what it means to see a student struggling through a personal issue and then all of a sudden the light goes on,” Sister Cathy said. “I’ve had a student say the class inspired him to go find his father whom he hadn’t seen in 10 years, others who share their books with family members who need healing. I don’t set out for those kinds of things to happen, but it never fails.”

The College is also spreading the message of the institute beyond campus. It joined St. Joseph’s University in March for a candlelight vigil to remember the 308 homicide victims in Philadelphia in 2010,

and Sister Cathy has visited similar centers and programs at places such as Duke University and Eastern Mennonite University.

“The goal is to share what we’re trying to do,” she said, “and listen to what’s working for them.”

After all, the first step to changing a climate of violence globally is to touch minds and hearts locally. Through its multifaceted approach to extolling the virtues of forgiveness and reconciliation, the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation is poised to play a vital role.

“We need to have institutions that can help to nurture visionary thinking and feeling, promoting new ways to engage the most entrenched and complex issues of our times,” Sepinuck said. “Learning about and experiencing forgiveness and reconciliation will help develop new leaders, new paradigms, and new ways of understanding our world.” 



GRIFFINS SPORTS

www.CHC.edu/Athletics

GOALTENDING LEGEND GUIDES LACROSSE TEAM



Dougherty (center) imparts spirited, fearless play.

At a youth lacrosse camp, Dakota Maurer '13 got the opportunity to meet and have a poster signed by goaltending legend Brian Dougherty. For years, that poster adorned his wall, but little did Maurer know he'd soon be calling his idol "Coach."

"I can't describe how stoked I was when I heard he was coming [to the College] for a job interview," Maurer said. "It was surreal. Like a basketball team getting Michael Jordan to come be their coach."

Hyperbole? Maybe. But maybe not. Dougherty's accomplishments at the collegiate, professional, and international lacrosse levels are extraordinary. He was a two-time first team All American and NCAA Goalie of the Year while playing for the University of Maryland, culminating in a Division I championship in 1995. Dougherty led his teams to three

Major League Lacrosse (MLL) championships and was named goalie for its All Decade Team for 2001-2010, and he won two other championships as Team USA's goalie in the Foundation of International Lacrosse (FIL) tournaments in 1998 and 2010. His most recent honor was entering the Eastern Pennsylvania Lacrosse Hall of Fame in February.

Following assistant coaching stints at the University of Pennsylvania and Haverford College, Dougherty was identified as the ideal person to lead the College's lacrosse program. He knows he has his work cut out for him, following the 4-11 mark posted in the team's inaugural season, but Dougherty is enthusiastic and optimistic.

"We're going to kind of grow up together — it's my first year as a head coach, too," he said. "But if we have everyone putting

the work and making the sacrifices for a common goal, we have the chance to build something awesome here. That's the feeling that we're chasing."

Prior to the season, Dougherty stressed the importance of playing without fear, of going out onto the field loose and focused. Of course, nothing breeds confidence like winning, and by taking five of their first nine games in 2011, the Griffins quickly eclipsed last season's win total. The highlight was the program's first win in the highly competitive East Coast Conference (ECC), an 8-7 overtime upset of the number-two-ranked Mercyhurst College.

"That told us something about where we stand," Dougherty said in mid-March. "Now we just have to keep it going. We're not in this to just go .500 — we're in this to go all the way." 

BASEBALL SENIORS DEPARTING ON HIGH NOTE

For the inaugural class of Chestnut Hill College baseball, it's all led to this.

The players and coaches have worked hard to build the program, going from seven wins to the playoffs, from hoping to compete to expecting to win. Entering their final season, the captains expressed urgency.

"It's an honor to have been here from the beginning, and surreal to feel it coming to an end," said D.J. Santoro Jr. '11. "But we're extremely motivated to go out on a very high note."

"We've given so much effort to get in a position to succeed," added Mike Knipe '11. "It's time."

Following an 11-9 conference record and a loss in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) playoffs, the Griffins entered 2011 with lofty aspirations.

Reflecting on the adversity (on and off the field) his players overcame in the team's first

three seasons, coach Bob Spratt said he is mindful of this being his seniors' last shot.

"I'll be sure to give them all I've got," Spratt said. "They've given me nothing but loyalty and trust."

The team set goals of winning 20 games and reaching the playoffs, leading to a championship. Confident in the team's starting pitching and overall athleticism, Spratt stressed the need to improve situational hitting and production with runners in scoring position. Although the Griffins scuffled to a 3-9 record in early-spring tournament play in South Carolina and Florida, they won 13 of their last 25 games, earning another trip to the postseason.

Another key for the Griffins this season and beyond was the contributions from a



The outgoing seniors set a standard for Griffins baseball.

talented crop of first-years and sophomores. Unlike the first season or two when Spratt was forced to play his starters all of the time, he appreciated being able to give them occasional rest and offer playing time to his younger players — a win-win situation for the program. His seniors understood their role in grooming the underclassmen and setting a standard for Griffins baseball.

"I hope and believe that we've left a legacy that teammates and future players will look to for what it takes to win," Knipe said. 🦁

VOLLEYBALL CAPTAIN OVERCOMES ADVERSITY

Injuries may force Katherine Tohanczyn '12 off of the volleyball court, but they can't dampen her spirit.

Indeed, when she has to miss a game or even a practice, Tohanczyn still paces the perimeter and shouts encouragement to teammates.

"Mentally and physically, she stays 100 percent engaged — she doesn't have a spectator mode," said head coach Kim Feeny.

That unrelenting drive led to Tohanczyn being named team captain. But when a serious ankle injury cut into her playing time this season, she had to find new ways to lead.

"As frustrating as it was to be on the sidelines, it gave me perspective on the team dynamic and specific traits of my teammates, such as who likes the ball where," Tohanczyn said. "That'll pay off next season."



Tohanczyn

Following a June surgery on her ankle, Tohanczyn logged countless hours rehabbing, in addition to workouts, practices, and games. It didn't diminish her focus on academics, however, as the political science major maintained her streak of appearing on the Dean's List every semester while participating in several honor societies and clubs. She even worked part-time in the College's admissions office. She's an all-star multi-tasker, someone who proofreads papers on the treadmill.

"That's just my personality — I want to do it all," Tohanczyn said.

While rehabbing her surgically repaired ankle this offseason, Tohanczyn injured her other ankle. But don't expect that to deter her from rejoining her teammates on the court this fall. Her presence will continue to inspire Feeny's talented but young team.

"Katherine embodies the work ethic and discipline you need to win at this level," the coach said. "We need everyone to get on board with that, and for us it starts with our captain." 🦁

ALUMNI LINK

www.CHCgriffinonline.com



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

ALUMNI OFFICE WELCOMES ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



The Office of Alumni Relations recently welcomed **Jackie Gutshall** as assistant director. Experienced in working in a higher education setting, she joins CHC from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, where she was a member of UConn's Conference Services Unit. Prior to that, she was assistant director of special events at Drexel University.

In these positions, she handled logistics, contracts, documentation, promotionals, Web sites, registrations, and other functions associated with academic programs, sports camps, and major events that require direction of student workers and teams of volunteers.

She earned a bachelor's degree, *cum laude*, in speech communication, with a minor in English, from Shippensburg University in 2006. She completed a student internship in which she negotiated with vendors, directed volunteers, and facilitated all planning for events at the university's women's center. She is a member of the National Speech Communication Association Honors Society, the National English Honors Society, and the National Scholars Honor Society.

This position, first introduced in 2004-05, was staffed for eight months until August 2005. Reintroduced in January, it supports alumni relations office initiatives that carry out departmental marketing and operational plans, including those associated with annual Reunion Weekend. Jackie Gutshall can be reached at gutshallj@chc.edu or 215.248.7016. 

ALUMNI-ADMISSIONS PROGRAM RETURNS TO MONMOUTH COUNTY

As this magazine was going into design, the Alumni Association's Recruitment & Retention Committee was looking forward to the second event of the year's pilot program in Monmouth County, N.J. Committee chair **Nancy Day Kelley, Ph.D. '71 (history)** planned to present guidelines on writing an effective college application essay to high school juniors living within the area covered by the association's Jersey Shore Chapter. Six high schools were identified for special contact prior to the March 24 event, which was scheduled as an ice cream evening for students, parents, and guidance counselors at Battleground Country Club in Manalapan.

Kelley is a member of the faculty of Villanova University, where she heads up the Academic Learning Communities, and previously held senior administrator positions at three of the Philadelphia area's leading independent schools. She also provides independent college counseling services to high-achieving juniors and seniors. She first presented her college application essay guidelines during a luncheon at Branches Catering, West Long Branch, in November to Monmouth County seniors and their parents through this pilot program coordinated with the College's admissions office. 



B-BALL, BREWS & YOU ATTRACTS YOUNG ALUMS

The Outreach Committee of the Alumni Association welcomed young alumni to an afternoon of men's and women's basketball on Saturday, February 16, in Sorgenti Arena.

The season's final home double-header offered an opportunity to reunite alums of the last 10 years on campus, followed by

a happy hour at Sorella Rose in neighboring Flourtown. Committee chair **Maryanne L. Walsh '98, '02 SGS** greeted, among others, **Fran Vorsky '05 (psychology), '07 SGS (human services)** now pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky, **Alex Kowalski '09 (biology)**, a first-year medical student at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and **Mark Hammons '08 (business administration), '10 SGS (human services)**, newly associated with Immaculata University as assistant director of student services. 

ALUMNAE SHARE JOB SEARCH INSIGHTS

Six alumnae returned to the College in mid-February for the annual **Alumni Career Night** conversation on first-job search strategies.

For the first time, students from both the School of Graduate Studies and the School of Continuing & Professional Studies joined traditional-age undergraduates for this program.

Each alumna amplified her personal story with broad guidelines of lessons learned.

Participating alumnae and their fields included:

Cecelia Englebert-Passanza '77 (American Studies),

a registered nurse clinician, for health-related careers;

Anne Pearsall '09 (elementary education), education;

Jamie Dunn Roche '04 (communications and technology), communications/event planning; **Danielle Griesbach Santacroce '07 (history)**, human resources; **Teri Meniketti**

Wiedeman-Rouse '05 SGS (education), education;

Kelly Carroll '06 (accounting), pharmaceuticals; and

Jillian DiMuzio '95 (biology), pharmaceuticals. Carroll noted the value she gained from the College's co-op program that sent her to three Johnson & Johnson companies, while DiMuzio encouraged students to gain experience through internships (*see profile, pg. 42*).

This annual event is co-sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations and the Office of Career Development during Backpack-to-Briefcase Month. 



REUNION OF THE STARS 2011 PLANS FRENCH-THEMED SATURDAY EVENING

Classes ending in 1 and 6 will make history on **June 3-4-5** as the final alumnae to celebrate reunion weekend as graduates of the traditional College for Women. The Class of 2007 will celebrate its first five-year reunion in 2012, ushering in the College's first full coed reunion celebration.

In light of this year's special distinction, Saturday night's dinner and after-dinner activities will feature a decided French flair to recognize the roots of the Sisters of Saint

Joseph in Le Puy, France. Dinner will be served along "Rue de la Fournier" (Fournier Circle, Loggia, and Patio), while "Riviera dans la Mont" (Riviera on the Hill), immediately following, suggests an evening strolling along the famed streets, complete with caricature artists to capture alumnae smiles, French potables to tempt the palate, a jazz quartet — led by CHC's own Ed Strauman — to provide just the right backdrop, five casino tables spiffy enough to attract James Bond, and a display of reunion-alumnae art, publications, and other creations. One or two additional surprises are in store for the evening's celebrants.



Alums in classes ending in 1 and 6 are encouraged to check the Reunion Weekend pages on www.CHCgriffinonline.com and to register their e-mail address with the alumni office (alumni@chc.edu) for announcements and supplements to the registration booklet, which arrived in early April.

Alumnae received the second of three promotional mailings — "It's Showtime!" — in early January. For reunion programming and activities, contact Patricia Canning, director of alumni relations, at **215.248.7144** or canningp@chc.edu. For reunion registration, special needs, and payments, contact **Jackie Gutshall**, assistant director of alumni relations, at **215.248.7016** or gutshallj@chc.edu. 

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

We're going greener. How does it affect you?

We'll be sending more to your inbox and less to your mailbox. Reunion materials will continue to be produced in print form,

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



>>IN MEMORIAM

Ruth Fischer Weber '38
Kathleen Lowry O'Donnell '39
Lucile Sweeny '39
Eleanor Lyons Schuyler '44
Adelaide DiBerardino '48
Jane McChesney Schubert '49
Mary Ann Dempsey '50
Mary Frances Donoghue
O'Donnell '50
Mary Catherine O'Malley
Donnelly '51
Patricia Gavin McCarthy '51
Beatrice Granger '52
Emily Grady Reynolds '53
Susan Barry Ward '53
Sally Anne Walsh '55
Ellen McKeon McCann '57
Joan Enright '58
Anita McLaughlin '59
Martha Murphy Burns '61
Rosemary Butler Riley '61
Felicity Theresa Lavelle '62
Patricia Ryan Tully '65
Anne Jonas Tierney '83

>>MARRIAGES

Kristin Heiser '96 to Robert Krywy
Jennifer McNulty '96 to Erik Breen

>>BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Eleanor Kate to
Erin McKelvey Secker '01
Hadley to
Megan Donovan Laney '03

>>CLASS NOTES

'40s

Sarah Hodson Connor '44 (*history*) shared sad news from her Baltimore home, "My husband Michael passed away in 2009 after seven months in home hospice care."

'50s

Frances Horan Del Duca, Esq. '50 (*history*) and her daughter, Maureen F. Del Duca, Esq., were unanimously selected as the 2010 joint recipients of the Honorable Sylvia H. Rambo Award from The Dickinson School of Law at Pennsylvania State University. This award honors women in the legal profession who have led distinguished careers and, by example, have made the professional success of other women more likely. Fran also received the YWCA Ruth K. and Nancy J. George Award for Outstanding Voluntary Community Service. The Carlisle, Pa., Y is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

Mary Ellen Carroll Brown '52 (*history*) enjoyed a wonderful trip with her daughter to the Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Glacier National Parks. "What a glorious country we have!" Mary Ellen also has two great-grandchildren.

Cornelia McCue Rath '52 writes, "Bill and I are doing very well. Both of us have recovered from cancer surgery and are enjoying life. Every day is a gift."

Miriam Butler Newlon '58 (*political science*) shared the news of the passing of her sister, Rosemary Butler Riley '61, on September 28, 2010. Miriam notes that Rosemary

was "an outstanding Mother, Coach and Teacher. She had 1,000 people at her funeral at St. Matthias in Bala Cynwyd."

'60s

Mildred Murphy DeRiggi, Ph.D. '60 (*history*) is enjoying retirement with her husband, daughter, son, and five young granddaughters. Mildred was a writer/judge for the television show *Jeopardy*. "It was evidence of a good liberal arts background from Chestnut Hill College." She and her husband, Don, attended her 50th reunion last June. She writes that they enjoyed staying in the new SugarLoaf campus accommodations and overall had a wonderful experience reconnecting with old classmates and revisiting the campus.

Katherine Magee, Esq. '65 (*political science*) retired from her law practice in June 2005. She writes that she attended the graduation of her nephew Mark Magee from the University of Pennsylvania, where he is now completing his first year of medical school.

Margaret DiSanto Storti '67 (*music*) shared the news that she and her husband, John, "now have seven grandchildren: John III, 6; Adriana, 5; Vincent, 4; Marissa, 3; Giuliana, 2; Angelina, 1; Jason II, 5 months."

Rebecca Preece '69 (*history*) resides in New Bern, N.C., where she recently joined the Daughters of the American Revolution and tutors literacy in English as a second language.

'70s

Kathleen Beaty Young '70 (*English*) reports she is "finally retiring" from CIGNA Insurance Company in Connecticut. "Time to learn to play the piano and paint," she writes. "And there's a book in me that's itching to be written. Still in CT, enjoying the single life again."

Bonnie Wydick Oldham '71 (*history*) was granted tenure at the University of Scranton as an associate professor. She is also a member of the library faculty.

Carol Crisci, Esq. '72 (*chemistry*) has been appointed to the Montgomery County (Pa.) Community College Foundation Board. Carol is an attorney at the Chartwell Law Offices LLP in Valley Forge, Pa. She specializes in worker's compensation and appellate practice, in a variety of administrative law and civil matters, before the higher courts of the Commonwealth. Although Carol has more than 15 years of appellate practice experience, she started her career as a chemist and in the finance department of Johnson & Johnson in the McNeil Consumer Products Division. She is involved in the Montgomery County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations and is a member of the board of directors of the Greater Philadelphia PGA Junior Golf Association.



Carol Crisci, Esq. '72



The Bodine Street Community Garden.

Barbara Curran Merdiushev '67 (art history) achieved national publicity for a community garden that she helped to start in the Queen Village neighborhood of Philadelphia. A feature story in the March 2011 issue of *Martha Stewart Living* related the garden's origin and development as a creative solution to a growing problem.

Barbara and her husband bought a house in the area in 1974 when it was going through gentrification. The neighborhood was safe at first, but crime followed as abandoned run-down houses started to be rehabbed. A vacant space, the size of two city lots, served "as escape route for fleeing muggers," she writes.

Once elected to the community board, Barbara and a few neighbors asked about the possibility of a legal and inexpensive way to fence off the lots. They were told the Philadelphia Horticultural Society would come in, till the land, and erect a free fence if the neighbors would agree to start a community garden. "The Bodine Street Community Garden was born!"

Barbara's daughter, Kira, now rents this house, as Barb works two hours away at Misericordia University and maintains an apartment in Kingston, Pa. Her Queen Village block is quite the "in" place to live, she reports, especially for young people. Her daughter is one of the current gardeners.

Kira called Barbara last summer to say the garden was chosen for a feature in *Martha Stewart Living*. "She thought I should come home for the dinner party the writers were hosting, as I was one of three people to initiate this project. The staff loved the garden's history and the continuity of the mother-daughter perspective, and covered this in the article. The party was a lot of fun and bought back many happy memories. I suggested 'All in want of a Free Fence' for a title, but they went another route."

Misericordia's president, Dr. Michael MacDowell, surprised Barbara with his knowledge of the community garden in a phone message from Florida. It was during dinner with an alumna that he learned about the article. Of Barbara's press coverage, Dr. MacDowell said, "The recognition was well-deserved, especially since she was instrumental in developing The Sister Regina Kelly '43 Shakespeare Garden at Misericordia, the only Shakespeare Garden in Northeast Pennsylvania." Barbara told him, "If the PR department gets local coverage, that article should be titled 'The non-gardener who has helped start two successful gardens.' Pretty ironic if I do say so myself." 🦋

'80s

Mary Pat Feeney Kessler '83 (psychology) has been appointed vice president of employee benefits at The Benefit Solutions Group of USI Affinity in Philadelphia, responsible for the middle market employer segment in Pennsylvania. Mary Pat was most recently with Brown & Brown Insurance of Pennsylvania and has more than 20 years of experience in the employee benefits field. She has held positions with Aetna, Inc., and Prudential Insurance Company. Mary Pat is based in the Plymouth Meeting, Pa., office of this 75-year-old provider of insurance products and services to employer groups and more than 70 professional and trade associations.



Mary Pat Feeney Kessler '83

Lynne Brophy Collman '84 (biology) is working as an elementary school substitute teacher at St. Mary of the Mill School in Laurel, Md. Lynne previously worked as a cell biologist at Merck & Co., Inc.

Jane M. Fearn-Zimmer, Esq. '88 (English) represents elderly and disabled individuals through the Law Offices of Jerold R. Rothkoff in Cherry Hill, N.J., with additional offices in Philadelphia and Trevoise, Pa. She recently led three presentations on this growing area of law, beginning with a seminar in August on representing elderly clients

for the New Jersey Institute of Continuing Legal Education. In November and December, attorneys and accountants benefited from two seminars, the first on special needs trusts, followed by a 2010 tax update. Both were conducted through the Gloucester County Legal Education Association. Her most recent article, "Special Needs Trusts Update," was published in the December issue of *Per Curiam*, the monthly publication of the Gloucester County Bar Association.

'90s

Julie Burton Swift '95 (English) recently earned a Ph.D. in English from Stony Brook State University of New York.

'00s

Megan Donovan Laney '03 (sociology/criminal justice) received her master's degree in criminal justice from Kaplan University in August 2010, three months before giving birth to daughter Hadley. Siblings Jared, Jacob, Fynleigh, and Irelynd — and dad Edward — were thrilled to welcome their family's newest addition, just in time for the holidays.



Hadley Laney

Jo Marie Victor '04 SCPS (business communication) has been appointed director of operations for group benefits at The Benefit Solutions Group of USI Affinity in Philadelphia.

Jo Marie brings more than 23 years of general and operations management to this position, having overseen all aspects of the group customer service contact centers as customer service director with Independence Blue Cross. Her key responsibilities focused on broker and premier accounts. She also chaired Blue Cross' operations recognition program. Jo Marie is based in USI's office located near Philadelphia International Airport.

Maryanne Wildermuth '04 (accounting) is an accountant with StoneMor Partners L.P., the second largest owner and operator of cemeteries in the nation. While working from the company's Levittown, Pa., office, she is also on track to complete an MBA degree in general management at DeVry University-Keller Graduate School of Management in October.

Amanda Favreau '08 (biochemistry) moved from Montana to New England to join the staff of the Maine Medical Center Research Institute in Scarborough, where she is studying acute myeloid leukemia. She has also been accepted to the University of Maine's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, pursuing a Ph.D. in molecular and cell biology. She plans to continue her lab work at the medical center while attending graduate school. She recently completed a coveted post-baccalaureate research training program with the National Institutes of Health in the Rocky Mountain Laboratories genomics unit. 

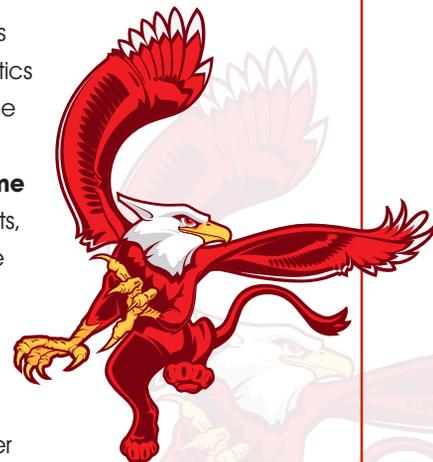
"Class Notes" information is drawn from e-mails, phone calls, and other direct communication from alumni as well as from questionnaires sent by the alumni office and from newspaper clippings obtained by the Office of Institutional Advancement. Information received after September 5 will be included in the spring edition of the magazine.

The Office of Alumni Relations and the Department of Athletics and Recreation announce the creation of the **Chestnut Hill College Athletic Hall of Fame** to honor those former students, coaches, and staff who have made outstanding contributions to CHC athletics.

The inaugural induction dinner will take place Friday, September 30, on campus.

Alumni are invited to submit suggestions for a pool of candidates who will be considered in the next several years. Nomination eligibility, criteria, and process details are posted on www.CHCgriffinonline.com/AHF and on www.griffinsathletics.com. Information regarding the inaugural event will be posted at a later date on both Web sites, and invitations will be mailed during the summer.

Alums who would like to receive a print invitation to the September 30 induction dinner are encouraged to contact Jackie Gutshall, assistant director of alumni relations, at 215.248.7016 or gutshallj@chc.edu.

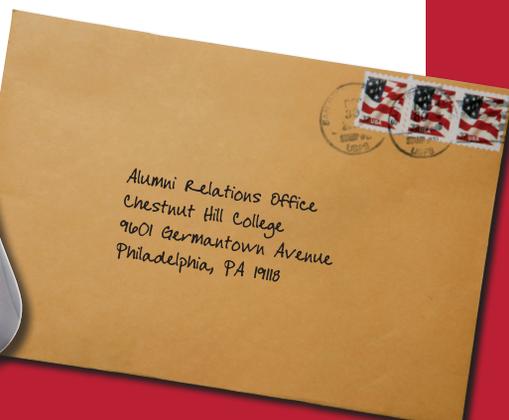


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>> WE'RE HERE FOR YOU...HOWEVER YOU WANT TO REACH US

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, 2011 for print consideration in the next issue of *Chestnut Hill*.

1. E-mail: canningp@chc.edu Name: _____
2. Fax: 215.248.7196 Maiden Name (if SUS): _____
3. Mail: Patricia Canning Class Year: ____ SUS ____ SCPS ____ SGS ____
Director of Alumni Relations
Chestnut Hill College
9601 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118
4. Online: www.CHCgriffinonline.com



A TICKET TO *Ride*



Jillian DiMuzio '95

The world of big pharma has changed dramatically over the last decade, biochemist **Jillian DiMuzio '95 (biology)** observes. A faster pace, increased demand for life-saving medications, and competition within the industry, not only among American pharmaceutical companies but also throughout the world, characterize the climate that greets Jillian every day on the job at Merck and Co.

What a difference from her early days with the pharmaceutical giant. “When I began at Merck, I was a new graduate of CHC. The pace was slower. There was time to learn on the job.” She recalls that her education was sufficient to secure an entry-level position in the field. “Over the last 16 years, I’ve used my fundamental education from Chestnut Hill to build a robust career.”

Jillian’s research assignments have landed her in the heart of three of the most exciting areas of pharmaceutical inquiry. She considers her work on antivirals, specifically Merck’s hepatitis C (HCV) and HIV projects, the most rewarding. “I’ve had the privilege of seeing the complete cycle of drug discovery, from target to market. It’s so rare that a team is able to experience the process of drug discovery from beginning to end, to experience the sense of accomplishment in creating a life-saving medication that benefits millions of people.”

Alzheimer’s disease (AD), she notes, is a “complicated disease, and the urgency to find a cure has been at the forefront of drug development over the last decade.” Jillian worked on AD from 1998 to 2004, when the science behind the disease was still fresh. “There was a major push to accelerate comprehension of the disease at the basic scientific level,” with many drug companies competing

for novel drugs to treat the disease. Jillian’s work on the Merck AD team focused on gamma-secretase, an enzyme that plays a key role in amyloid beta deposition and plaque formation. Her team’s work associating Presenilin 1 with gamma-secretase was published in the scientific journal *Nature* in 2000.

Right now, Jillian is working on RNA interference therapeutics (RNAi), “an exciting area of research because of the breakthrough biological technology that it harnesses — gene silencing.” It has the potential to change the landscape of how diseases are treated in the future. Jillian’s work focuses mainly on investigating the safest and most effective delivery platform for administering RNAi to human cells, with the ultimate impact in drug discoveries for a variety of therapeutic areas.

Even with all of this challenging, professionally rewarding, and high-impact research in her life, additional education has always been an interest. “Although I don’t have a master’s degree, my work experience over the last 16 years has positioned me at that level,” indeed earning 11 Merck Awards of Excellence and participating on more than 20 journal article and professional presentation teams. With a focus that had always been science, Jillian now finds she wants to direct her energy toward other careers within Merck. “There’s a business side as well. I’m considering law school and using my science background as a basis for a career in patent law.”

Jillian held the Margaret Way Hoffner '50 Memorial Scholarship for four years, earned placement on the dean’s list for three years, was elected to *Who’s Who in Colleges and Universities*, and participated in several clubs and organizations. She’s brutally honest, however, in assessing the likelihood of earning the same entry position today that she did in 1995. “I’m not sure I’d be able to tout the same success.” If she were a student now, she says her focus would be broader than the classroom and student activities. “My impression of the top candidates for research positions is that they’re coming out of the gate not only with a strong scientific background but also with experience under their belt. And that’s through internships.”

The industry requires nothing less, with the emphasis on developing products that are high in quality as well as efficiently and expediently produced. Many companies have reduced staff in such areas as manufacturing and R&D, outsourcing those functions instead to small, focused biotech companies. These changes in business models, Jillian says, dictate the kind of talent that will be recruited by pharmaceutical companies. “The talent pool has become increasingly competitive, and greater emphasis has been placed on flexibility.”

Life outside Merck centers on Jillian’s 11-year-old son, Austin, and his sports and band programs. As a true beneficiary of a classical education, Jillian’s interests include the arts as well as the sciences. She spent several years after college dabbling in community theatre programs, performing in musicals and stage plays. She also enjoys singing and writing. “My secret ambition is to someday write and star in my own sit-com ... maybe after I’ve retired,” and just maybe after that second career in law. 🦁

Join the Crowd— VISIT CHC GRIFFINS ONLINE!

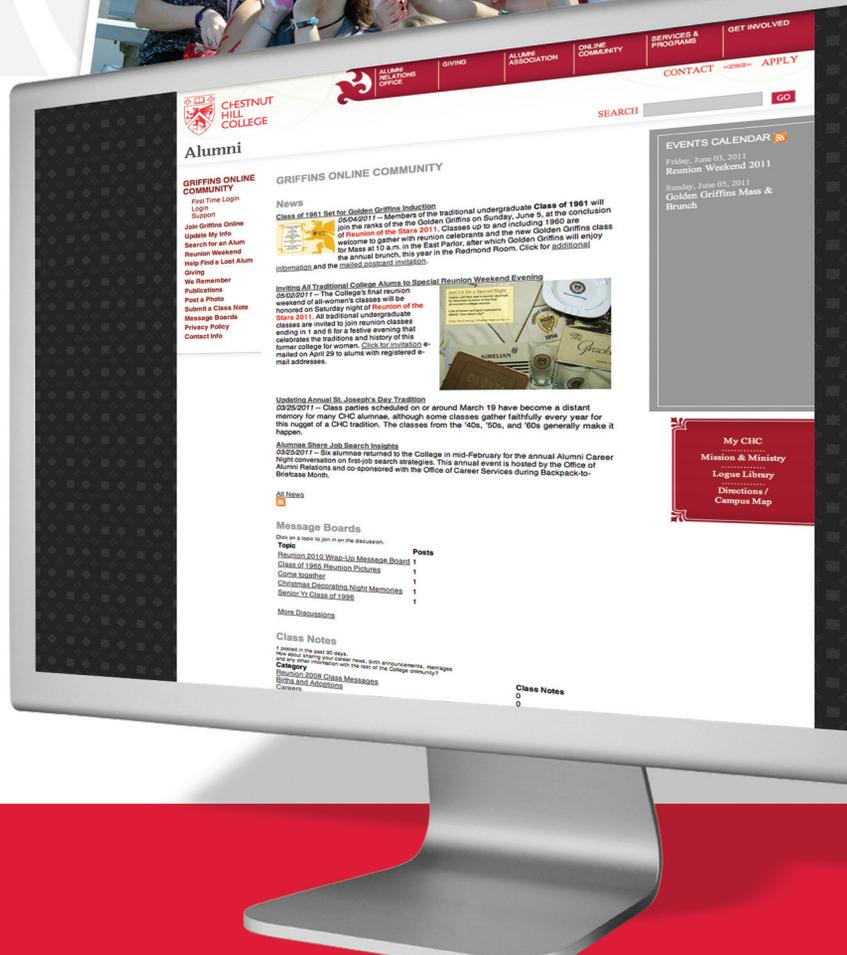


If you're a Chestnut Hill College graduate and have not yet registered on *CHC Griffins Online* — your free alumni online community — contact gutshallj@chc.edu for your personal ID number to log in for the first time.

Visit www.CHCgriffinonline.com to:

- Send e-mail and instant notes to friends and classmates
- Search the alumni directory
- Register for alumni and other College events
- Post wedding, baby, and other family photos
- Display your résumé
- Receive instant news from the College
- View job opportunities and classifieds
- Voice your opinion on the message board
- Join the 1,299 alumni already on board

We're also on **Facebook** — become a fan by typing in **Chestnut Hill College**.



LAST WORD

Revitalizing School Libraries

by Jessica Kahn, Ph.D.



I remember falling in love with books when I was young. I loved “The Secret Garden” and “Charlotte’s Web.” My sons loved “Goodnight Moon” and “Green Eggs and Ham.” Do you remember reading these classics? My school library had a collection of books that stirred my imagination and made it fun to read. I can’t imagine a child growing up without books to read. We know that children who read and have access to books at a young age do better in school, but most elementary schools in Philadelphia do not have libraries.

There are plenty of books out there that children have outgrown, books that could be donated to stock school libraries. All we need is hands and volunteers to help coordinate getting these libraries back on their feet. In honor of “Read Across America Day” on March 2, (otherwise known as the birthday of Dr. Seuss) I challenged the other colleges in the Delaware Valley to help our neighborhood elementary schools revitalize and rebuild their libraries. Why? Because every student should have access to books. And the sad reality in Philadelphia is that this is not the case.

Eleanor C. Emlen School in West Mount Airy has a library. That makes it a minority statistic in the Philadelphia School System. But this was not always true.

Chestnut Hill College and Emlen have had a “professional development school” relationship for several years, and have continued that relationship long after the grant funding was gone. We continue to send practicum and student teachers to

Emlen, and they continue to welcome our education students to read to children on Friday mornings.

So last year, when the principal of Emlen asked us to help him find books to reinstate the library at the school, we jumped at the opportunity to help. The College hosted a book drive and provided drop-off points for new and gently used books. Faculty, staff, and students all pitched in to donate, catalog, and transport books. Suburban, public, and private schools held book drives and collected for Emlen.



Travis Wolfe '12, Jessica Kahn, Ph.D., and Laura Steinberg '12 sort books at Emlen.

It was a valuable learning experience for our students, sorting through books and preparing them for circulation. The project was a grassroots operation, so scanners, bar codes, and computer software were not options. Pockets, cards, and call numbers on self-sticking labels were all that we could afford.

By the summer of 2010, we had collected 10,000 books. By July 31, we had catalogued 7,000 of them, and arranged them on shelves with donated materials. Members of the College staff came on their lunch hour to shelve books. The Teach for America cohort at Emlen donated its time on the last day at the school, and the transition from an empty, bedraggled room to working library was complete.

The library opened in the fall of 2010, and the children come in once a week, return a book, pick a new one, and sign the card. These children have been given the gift of books. And so I am collecting and starting the process again, this time for Fitler Academics Plus, a K-8 school in lower Germantown.

Helping our local schools doesn’t require a lot of money. It requires a dedication to our communities and hard work. In honor of Dr. Seuss, whose work still inspires our children to read, let’s pitch in and help our local schools succeed. Help children learn the joy of choosing a book to read, from a well stocked school library.

Jessica Kahn, Ph.D., is a professor of education.

For information on contributing to the book drive, contact Dr. Kahn at jkahn@chc.edu.



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

65TH ANNUAL REUNION: REUNION OF THE STARS 2011

June 3-4-5
School of Undergraduate Studies classes ending in "6" and "1"
Information: 215.248.7144
Reservations: 215.248.7016
www.chc.edu/reunion

2011 GOLDEN GRIFFINS MASS & BRUNCH

Sunday, June 5
School of Undergraduate Studies classes up to and including 1961
Information: 215.248.7144
Reservations: 215.248.7016

SUMMER TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Tuesday and Wednesday, July 26-27
Presented by the Great Books Foundation
Information: www.chc.edu/greatbooks
Registration: 800.222.5870

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE DONOR RECOGNITION CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 18

FAMILY WEEKEND

September 23-25

29TH ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL

Monday, September 26
Whitemarsh Valley Country Club
Reservations: 215.753.3666

18TH ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, September 28, 4 p.m.
Speaker: Michael Seiden, M.D., Ph.D.
President of Fox Chase Cancer Center
Information: 215.248.7159

FAIR TRADE EVENT

Wednesday, November 9, 12 to 4 p.m.
Speaker: Carl Wilkens, former head of the Adventist
Development and Relief Agency International in Rwanda
St. Joseph Hall
Information: 215.248.7044

LEGACY OF THE CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

November 10-12
Conducted by history and political science faculty
Preliminary speakers include Michael Burlingame and Elizabeth R. Varon
Info: 215.248.7129

13TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL DINNER

Mid-November TBD
Sorgenti Arena, Martino Hall
Information: 215.248.7095

CAROL NIGHT

Friday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.
Rotunda, St. Joseph Hall
Information: 215.248.7194

6TH ANNUAL ALUMNI HOLIDAY CHEER

Friday, December 2, immediately following Carol Night
Upstairs at Campbell's Place, Chestnut Hill
Details in October
All alumni welcome!

2ND ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 11

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

Travel the World with Alumni and Friends

JULY 2011

MEDITERRANEAN ENCHANTMENT

10-day cruise with 2-night, pre-cruise stay in Rome.
July 7-20.

OCTOBER 2011

LONDON AND THREE CONTINENTAL GEMS

3 nights in London, 5-night cruise to The
Netherlands, Belgium, and France on Cunard's
new *Queen Elizabeth*. October 19-28.

NOVEMBER 2011

THE GREAT PARKS OF KENYA

11 days, enjoying an exciting safari at an
unbelievable price. November 25-December 5.

For information and/or reservations, contact
Craig Martin at Cruisin & Main Line Vacations,
800.506.7447 x103 or **610.341.1979 x103**,
or visit www.alumnivacations.com





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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.

