An Icon Retires
SISTER MARY DARRAH LEAVES A LASTING LEGACY
SNAPSHOT

With warm spring weather — after a brutal winter — comes the knowledge that summer can’t be far behind and students take every opportunity to soak in the sunshine.
ON THE COVER:
Mary Darrah, SSJ, gave 22 years of service to Chestnut Hill College, the last 12 as Assistant to the President for Mission and Ministry.

SHE LEAVES AN INDELIBLE MARK
BY JENNIFER BOES
Sister Mary Darrah retires after years of service preserving CHC’s mission and sharing it with others.

PAYING IT FORWARD
BY JENNIFER BOES
While a student, Kelly Dennis ’14 expanded her passion for helping the less fortunate and encouraged others to do the same.

WITH WHOM SHALL WE STAND?
BY CAROL JEAN VALE, SSJ, PH.D.
Sister Carol invites us to join the Sisters of Saint Joseph in working for the rights and dignity of all people, especially women and children.

DEPARTMENTS
2 EDITOR’S NOTE
3 AROUND THE HILL
32 GRIFFINS SPORTS
34 ALUMNI LINK
39 CLASS NOTES
44 LAST WORD
EDITOR'S NOTE
Saying Hello and Goodbye

Amazingly, it is that time of year, once again, when we welcome a new cadre of students to campus. As the new academic year begins, our halls are filled with nearly 300 enthusiastic first-year and transfer students. Among their ranks are students representing 13 different countries who contribute a wealth of knowledge about a variety of cultures to our already diversified community, and they are a welcome addition.

A sense of expectation and opportunity is in the air everywhere at Chestnut Hill College this fall, as we look forward to being the newest member of the Collegiate Sprint Football League, announced in July. Plans are being finalized and put in place to begin welcoming recruits for the fall of 2015 for this new and exciting sport at CHC.

Our cover story in this issue is bittersweet, as we say goodbye to our longtime friend and mentor-to-many. Mary Darrah, SSJ, retired during the summer after 22 years at the College, the last dozen as Assistant to the President for Mission and Ministry. She touched those in every corner of our community, from students to faculty to staff, teaching them about the value of the CHC mission and the role it plays in our lives. Even as we say goodbye to Sister Mary, we welcome Roseann Quinn, SSJ, D.Min., who has stepped into that role.

In our second feature, we meet the extraordinary recent graduate, Kelly Dennis ’14. The accomplished student leader and four-time All-Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference tennis player was known around campus for her generosity and selflessness. Here we learn in detail about her goals and dreams and the lengths she has gone to in order to help provide for less fortunate children in Uganda — and how she encourages others to give back by paying it forward.

In keeping with our theme of new opportunities, Sister Carol writes passionately about the need for us all to stand together against the age-old repression of women and children, recognizing the possibilities inherent in the world of our shared future. Don’t miss this inspiring President’s Message.

Kathleen M. Spigelmyer ’98
Editor

Write To Us! Have an idea for an article? Want to provide feedback on the magazine or write a letter to the editor? Please don’t hesitate to contact us.
An intercollegiate sprint football program has been approved by CHC’s board of directors to begin in fall 2015. The board’s decision is seen as transformative in the potential of such a program to attract talented student-athletes while supporting the College’s recruitment and retention efforts on all levels.

“This is an exciting new venture for the College, and I am thrilled for the many potential gains sprint football will bring, while adding new vitality to an already energized campus,” said President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., when making the announcement.

Sprint football is a full-contact, non-National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) varsity sport organized under the Collegiate Sprint Football League (CSFL). It uses the same rules as regular collegiate football with the exceptions that players are restricted to a maximum of 172 pounds and teams may have only a 65-man roster.

The CSFL comprises eight teams in addition to CHC: Cornell, Franklin Pierce, Mansfield, Princeton and Post universities, the University of Pennsylvania, the Naval Academy and West Point.

CHC will use the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School football stadium and is conducting a nationwide search for a full-time head coach, organized by Lynn Tubman, director of athletics and recreation.

“The College community is already excited by the possibilities that sprint football can bring,” says Tubman. “The decision to add sprint football will enhance our current intercollegiate offerings and impact the entire campus community in a positive way. In addition to establishing an association with the Ivy League and U.S. military academies, this program will also differentiate CHC from other local colleges in a new way.”

In 2007, CHC became an NCAA Division II institution while gaining acceptance into the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC). Since then, the College’s student-athletes have earned two, back-to-back Division II President’s Awards for Academic Excellence, an East Coast Conference Team of Academic Excellence award and various individual academic accolades.
»MARGARET CARNEY MCCAFFERY ’77 RE-ELECTED AS BOARD CHAIR

The College board of directors re-elected Margaret Carney McCaffery, M.Ed. ’77 as chair at its meeting on May 19.

In addition to serving as chair for two years, McCaffery has served two, three-year board terms during which she held the position of chair of the Development Committee and was a member of the Enrollment Management and Student Life committees.

Born and raised in Delaware, McCaffery lives in Hillsborough, Calif., with her husband, Michael. They have been long-time major donors to the College; the Reception Room in the Commonwealth Chateau at Sugarloaf and the McCaffery Lounge in Fournier Hall are named in their honor.

“I am extremely confident in the future of Chestnut Hill College and the dedicated work that we accomplish as members of the board,” McCaffery said. “We have a unique opportunity to serve a generation of students looking for a Catholic liberal arts education in a supportive family atmosphere, and I look forward to an additional term to help carry out this important mission of the College.”

Margaret Carney McCaffery, M.Ed. ’77 was sworn in as chair of the College board of directors in May. She is flanked by Sister Anne Myers, SSJ congregation president, and College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.

»VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND DEAN OF THE FACULTY APPOINTED

After a year-long national search, a new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty was hired, effective July 15.

Wolfgang Natter, Ph.D., served as Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, at St. Bonaventure University for the past four years. Prior to that, he served in administrative and faculty capacities at the University of Kentucky and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Dr. Natter has extensive experience with curriculum development, interdisciplinary initiatives, graduate programs, planning of conferences, workshops and lecture series, grant application and management, online education and much more.

Two of his areas of interest are of great importance to the College and aligned with its new strategic plan — global learning and diversity.

“It is a privilege and a blessing to have been asked to serve the College community,” he says. “Chestnut Hill College is an institution and a community devoted to uncommon excellence, whose educational goals are deeply compelling. I very much look forward to working with my colleagues to sustain and enhance that excellence on behalf of our students and the entire community.”

Dr. Natter holds an earned doctorate in German studies and an M.A. in German literature from the Johns Hopkins University, and a B.A. in German literature and European history from Wesleyan University.

As a faculty member, Dr. Natter received three distinguished teaching awards, grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Max Planck Institute and the American Council of Learned Sciences, and has served on the editorial boards of ten scholarly journals.

He has earned tenure and promotion in three disciplines, been a guest professor at the Universities of Leipzig, Jena and Nijmegen, and holds the rank of full professor.
Melissa Schoerke Koomson ’00 and her husband, Kwesi, were presented with the first Friends Council on Education Leadership Award for Service to Society in an April ceremony in Philadelphia.

The event celebrated 325 years of Quaker education in America. Second Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden, made the keynote address and presented the award.

“It is safe to say that Kwesi and Melissa embody the very best in Quaker education … also the very best in basic humanity,” said Biden of the work they do with the Heritage Academy in Ghana.

Students at the Heritage Academy — a pre-K through grade 12 independent school in Ghana founded by Kwesi in 2004 — are taught to be critical thinkers and problem-solvers and encouraged to be active supporters of their communities. Melissa Schoerke Koomson started the Schoerke Foundation (www.schoerkefoundation.org) to support educational scholarships for the academy’s students in Ghana.

Currently educators at the Westtown School in West Chester, Pa., the couple has created a partnership between the school in Ghana and Westtown, which includes service trips to the West African country for the older students. Younger students do book drives and raise money to send the books; middle schoolers have pen pals; and some teachers have spent their sabbaticals working with students and teachers of the Heritage Academy.

“Kwesi saw a need in his home village for quality education and was grateful for anonymous scholarships that helped him get a good education,” says Melissa Koomson. “He decided to pay it forward.”

During the summer, the school celebrated its tenth anniversary and its growth from 32 students in one school to 1,350 in three.

“We were honored and thrilled to receive this award,” says Melissa Koomson. “This work has become such a part of my life. It’s just what we do.”

Edward Strauman, Ph.D., associate professor of music, has been selected to be part of Fifteen Minutes of Fame, a project highlighting the works of 15 contemporary musicians and composers. As one of 15 composers selected, Strauman composed a work for a string quartet that is 60 seconds or less and incorporates modern string techniques.

His theme, “Don’t Breathe a Word,” was inspired by a fictitious film noir, “Give ‘M Daylight.” His composition was one of 15 selected out of 100 submitted. Fifteen Minutes of Fame has been performed more than 60 times around the world including in Washington, D.C., Tel Aviv and Rio de Janeiro.

Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, Ph.D., professor of chemistry and physics, was one of the international experts chosen to speak at a conference in Sri Lanka in May. The four-day event focused on the philosophies of the controversial Jesuit scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955). Conference organizers believe the event may help ease the country’s religious and ethnic tensions.

Professor Duffy presented an overview of Teilhard’s vision, which centered on the belief that mankind was moving through times of conflict and peace toward a global consciousness synonymous with God.

“Teilhard was trying to find a God big enough for the universe,” she was quoted in the National Catholic Reporter. He believed humanity would become more complex and self-aware, culminating in a point of universal consciousness.

Professor Duffy is a contributor to the book “From Teilhard to Omega: Co-creating an Unfinished Universe” published by Orbis Books.

Scott Browning, Ph.D., professor of psychology, has been featured in a DVD series produced by the American Psychological Association. The “Relationships” series is hosted by Jon Carlson, Psy.D., Ed.D., and features Browning discussing “Stepfamily Therapy in Practice.”

The APA videos are designed for clinical training and continuing education for students and practitioners and include introductions to various therapeutic approaches and demonstrations of how to treat particular patient issues.

For more information about the videos, visit www.apa.org/pubs/books.

The Biomedical Lecture Series enters its third decade by presenting Jack Goldberg, M.D., F.A.C.P., on October 1 at 3:30 p.m. in the East Parlor.

Dr. Goldberg is the Chief of Hematology and Medical Oncology and Clinical Professor of Medicine at the Abramson Cancer Center at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia. He has varied clinical and research expertise in treating cancers, including breast, myeloma, prostate, leukemia and lymphoma.

His research areas include geriatric oncology, hospice, bone marrow transplantation and hematopoietic stem cell research. Dr. Goldberg is a member of more than a dozen professional medical associations and has been widely published to critical acclaim.

Dr. Goldberg’s presentation is titled “E. Pluribus Unum: Leukemia From Patients to Bench and Back Again.”

Leukemia and lymphoma are cancers of the blood and lymphatic systems. In children, leukemia is about twice as frequent as lymphoma, whereas lymphomas are more common in adults,” says Lakshmi Atchison, Ph.D., professor of biology and director of the Biomedical Lecture Series.

“There are many types of leukemia based on changes in structure and functioning of white blood cells. Therefore, an understanding of normal and abnormal blood cells is fundamental to the understanding of this deadly form of blood cancer.”

This series brings biomedical and scientific thought leaders to campus to enrich the academic culture, offering students new connections and the ability to forge relationships between the College and local institutions. For information on the history of the series, visit www.chc.edu/biomedbook.

Doctoral students Allison Abrahamson, M.S., and Rebeccah A. Bernard, M.A., M.S., were named the 2014 joint recipients of the American Psychological Association Award for a Distinguished Graduate Student in Professional Psychology.

Susan McGroarty, Ph.D., A.B.P.P., associate professor of psychology and faculty mentor for the Human Rights Forum, has worked with the students and nominated them for the award. Abrahamson and Bernard are both in their fifth year of the Doctorate of Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.) program at Chestnut Hill College.

The two women approached McGroarty in 2011, during their first year, with the idea of forming a human rights group on campus for the purpose of promoting social justice. This idea became the Human Rights Forum, which provides opportunities for CHC clinical psychology doctoral students to engage directly in social justice activities, organizes a yearly academic grand rounds for all enrolled doctoral students and faculty and mobilizes students to become actively involved in human rights causes.

“The development of this program by first-year students was historic and noteworthy. Their passion for human rights runs deep and is a clear reflection of the College Mission,” says McGroarty. “Their accomplishments speak to the enormity of their contributions and receiving this prestigious award is a well-deserved honor for these two students.”

In 2012, the Forum developed the Merging Cultures Program, a unique initiative allowing students to engage in social activities with immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers serviced by Nationalities Servicing Center of Philadelphia. Students discuss barriers faced by new immigrants, including language, bureaucracy and lack of resources. Students forge relationships and maintain contact through monthly events, email and phone calls.

Abrahamson and Bernard were recognized for their work at the APA annual convention in Washington, D.C., in August.
After several years away from campus, Roseann Quinn, SSJ, D.Min., has returned to Chestnut Hill College, adding another role to her resume: Assistant to the President for Mission and Ministry.

She steps into the position created and held for a dozen years by Mary Darrah, SSJ, and is excited about rejoining a place to which she has already given so much and to working with all members of the College community.

“I feel I have gifts to offer the College now, in the autumn of my life, and this ministry seems to be a good fit for me,” she says. “I will continue everything Sister Mary has done and will add some things too. I am grateful to have this opportunity to step back into time and to look forward with the College community to a future full of hope.”

Sister Roseann has dedicated much of her working life and talents to Chestnut Hill College, beginning in 1974 and continuing unabated except for nine years spent just across the Delaware River in New Jersey.

Sister Roseann began her career here as an adjunct professor in the Education and Religious Studies Department and Director of the Montessori Teacher Education Program. In 1986, she became a full-time faculty member as assistant professor and later served as both the Chair of Religious Studies and the Coordinator of the Graduate Holistic Spirituality and Spiritual Direction Program. In 2001, she assumed the position of Dean of the School of Graduate Studies until 2005 when she joined the Diocese of Camden.

While in New Jersey, she served as the Bishop’s Delegate for Lifelong Faith Formation. As such, she created a program in partnership with five colleges and universities that allows adult learners to earn their undergraduate certificates in liturgy, social justice and parish ministry and do graduate work in theology and ministry, and church management, among others.

Through online, in-class and hybrid courses, more than 300 students currently are studying and “creating a lifelong journey of learning and loving their faith,” says Sister Roseann.

And now, she turns her creative energy and passion for the Sisters of Saint Joseph sponsored works back toward Chestnut Hill College, where she hopes to deepen the investment in the institution’s mission, as expressed in the red booklet of Mission & Values, to “make it better known at the lived level by every member of the College community.”

She describes the mission as an organic entity, one that is rich and always evolving, just as life evolves.

“Those who constructed it had to probe the entire life of the College in order to shape a description of what the mission is. The booklet is a work of art and integrity worthy of ongoing reflection and action,” she says. “I’ll be relying on the same book. I want everyone to understand that it is an important dynamic to the life of the College, not something to read just once and put down.”

Some other possibilities have crossed her mind, as she looks forward to her new position. “Maybe we can use social media to spread the mission and bring additional people into the conversation,” she says. “That would be fun and have people sit up and take notice.”

She has eagerly anticipated working again with the students, faculty and staff of CHC, where she says people truly live and work into the mission. Enlarging and nurturing the heart of the College is at the heart of her mission for the coming days, months and years in this position to which she has been called.
A new program has been added to the Division of Teacher Education and Leadership in the School of Graduate Studies. The Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) endorsement program for teachers is a 12-credit, four-course program that focuses on identification, assessment, instructional planning and interventions across settings and grade levels to improve teachers’ skills in dealing with complex classroom settings.

The program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and includes courses in autism spectrum disorders, assessment of students with ASD, instructions of students with ASD and clinical practicum with ASD students. Students are required to complete 80 hours of field experience and research-based strategies and methods will be emphasized. Students must hold a current Level I or Level II Instructional and Educational Specialist Certification and apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the endorsement upon completing the program, which may be finished in two to four semesters.

Two Chestnut Hill College students were awarded grants to do intensive research with faculty mentors during the summer and will present their research findings at a poster session at Cabrini College later this month.

Brenda Ho ’17 is majoring in forensic chemistry with minors in criminal justice and French. She conducted her research with Chestnut Hill College’s Karen Wendling, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, and Kelly Butler, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry.

Anne Renee Nash ’17 worked with John Ulrich, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry at Rosemont College, and David Dunbar, Ph.D., associate professor of biology at Cabrini College, on a project titled “The Analysis of Caffeine and other Methylxanthines in Chocolate Products,” the team analyzed low-level chemicals and contaminants using liquid chromatography and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry.

The rising sophomores were named Clare Boothe Luce Research Scholars, as a result of a competitive grant awarded by The Henry Luce Foundation to SEPCHE. The award consists of a $5,000 stipend and $800 for research materials, and is intended to advance the professional development of women scientists in fields where they are underrepresented.

The Clare Boothe Luce Program is the most significant source of private support for women in math, science and engineering. Since 1989, the Clare Boothe Luce Program has supported the efforts of institutions of higher education that strengthen the role of women in the fields of math, science and engineering by providing a range of undergraduate opportunities to advance their professional success.
While walking around campus this fall, don’t be surprised to encounter students whose first language is something other than English. Although the number of international students at CHC has grown over the last few years, these new students are here for something a little bit different.

Last winter, the College announced a new partnership with FLS International, the largest, privately owned English as a Second Language (ESL) network in the United States. FLS is an accredited ESL program that teaches English to non-English speakers by combining speaking, listening and reading in a supportive learning environment.

“The program is flexible and individualized,” explains Furtado. “The length of their program depends on how long they will be here and on their goals. We assist students every step of the way, from help with visas to airport pick-up to counseling help.”

Students also get out of the classroom and absorb local culture through planned events and activities. About 90 percent of them live off-campus with host families, which provides another layer of language practice and cultural exposure.

“I love other cultures, travel and education, and I’m excited about this new program,” says Furtado. “It’s the perfect fit for me. And it’s the perfect fit for the campus, which is growing in new ways, and for the FLS students, who have a beautiful, safe place to learn, with the city and all it offers right at their fingertips.”

FLS offices are located on the third floor of Clement Hall in Fournier Hall. Contact Furtado at 215-753-3696 or furtadok@chc.edu.
SCPS STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

Six students in CHC’s School of Continuing & Professional Studies have received scholarships of $4,000 each (over two years) from The Philadelphia Foundation and Graduate! Philadelphia, more than any of the other 11 partner schools. The Robert C. Digges Scholarship is awarded to returning adult students finishing a two-year or four-year college degree.

CHC scholarship recipients are Kenyetta Ireland, Paula Murphy, Sheila Mixson, Patricia Whitehead, James Hazzard and Erica Bates.

“When I was previously enrolled in college, I was working full time while handling responsibilities of a home and family. I had to interrupt my educational goal of attaining a degree when I encountered a number of simultaneous hardships,” wrote Mixson in her application, confirming Graduate! Philadelphia’s philosophy that the scholarships ease the financial burden felt by so many returning, or non-traditional students.

Graduate! Philadelphia provides help in college options, admissions processes and understanding financial aid and other issues to these students, and The Philadelphia Foundation administers an array of scholarships.

“I was thrilled to learn that a large portion of the scholarships were awarded to CHC students. I know how beneficial this additional support is to our adult learners,” says April Fowlkes, CHC’s off-site and transfer manager. “CHC is one of Graduate! Philadelphia’s original partner colleges. Since forming this partnership, we have enrolled close to 100 comebackers into our program. Twenty have graduated, and some have stayed with us for their graduate studies. I’m excited to see the partnership continue to grow!”

Sheila Mixson, left, a CHC winner of the Digges Scholarship, meets with April Fowlkes, off-site and transfer manager for SCPS, during the Graduate! Philadelphia open house in March.
Nine upper-level undergraduate students from the Catholic University of Milan in Italy stayed at Chestnut Hill College for three weeks in July, during which time they took intensive courses in psychology, with a focus on family therapy and trauma.

Scott Browning, Ph.D., professor of psychology, was a presenter on a panel about stepfamilies at a psychology conference in Rome in 2000, where he met Vittorio Cigloi, professor of psychology at the Milan institution.

Eventually, the men established the program whereby students from Italy visit Chestnut Hill each summer. This year was the fourth year of the program.

“The faculty and students all enjoy this program,” says Browning. “The Italian students are more scholarly and less practical, and they love our program where they get to practice role play and are trained in the practice.”

Browning co-directs the program with Susan McGroarty, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology.
On May 10, 634 students were graduated: 368 received bachelor’s degrees, 245 earned their master’s degree, and 21 graduate students earned their Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology (Psy.D.).

Local consumer news anchor and reporter for WCAU, Tracy Davidson, delivered the Commencement address and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Davidson also earned a master’s degree in holistic spirituality from the College.

Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees were awarded to alumna C. Maury Devine ’72, who served as the chairman of the board, president and managing director at ExxonMobil Norway Inc. from 1996 until her retirement in 2000, and to alumna Rita Schwartz ’63, a tireless advocate for Catholic education who serves as the president of the Association of Catholic School Teachers (ACT) and as the president of the National Association of Catholic School Teachers. In addition, Meredith Kneavel, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, received The Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.
She Leaves an Indelible Mark

Mary Darrah, SSJ, Retires After Long Service to Chestnut Hill College

By Jennifer Boes
A champion of the College’s mission, she is equal parts Irish wit, wisdom, compassion and, when needed, tough love.

Sister Mary retired in June as Assistant to the President for Mission and Ministry, a position she held for 12 years. While she has not said goodbye to the Chestnut Hill College family completely, her daily presence on campus will be missed.

MENTOR, ANCHOR, COMPASS

Sister Mary has been a rock for the College’s youth, someone they could always turn to for sound advice. She has sat and listened patiently to the struggles of hundreds of students over the years. Some have taken hard roads to attend college and make something of their lives. Others are dealing with painful and challenging life issues. Sister Mary’s role always has been to be the good listener, to be gentle when needed and to deliver hard truths when necessary, ultimately helping them find their way and grow.

She has earned the love and respect of generations of students, proving early on that if a student told her something in confidence, it would never be repeated. In recent years, students have affectionately come to call her “G.G.,” short for great-grandmother.

The students respected Sister Mary for her toughness, says Stacie Bray ’06, who worked in the Campus Ministry office as a student. “If you ever complained about something trivial, whether a roommate or teacher or whatever, she’d give you the kick in the pants you needed to get over it.”

Bray applied to work in the Campus Ministry office thinking she’d be perfect for the job because of her involvement in her church back home. Sister Mary ordinarily didn’t hire first-year students, but Bray was persistent and was finally successful. It was only then that she told the sister that she was, in fact, Lutheran. “She said, ‘Ah, that’s even better.’ It didn’t bother her. I knew from that point on it would be a great relationship,” Bray says.

President Carol Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., who hired Sister Mary and worked closely with her, says her ability to encourage and inspire students lies in her direct approach and wittiness. “She tells it like it is, but she has a great sense of humor, so she can turn serious things into something light. That resonates with young people.”

Sister Mary also has been a guiding light for her Chestnut Hill family, day or night and for however long they needed her. Whether it involved coming to work to attend late-night meetings or visiting the hospital to comfort an ailing co-worker, Sister Mary could be counted on to be there.

When Bray’s grandfather died while she was in college, her mother called Sister Mary first, knowing she would be the one her daughter would want to have by her side when she learned the news.

BUILDING THE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Sister Mary graduated from Chestnut Hill College in 1970. After becoming a Sister of Saint Joseph, she immediately began a career in education, and taught in primary and secondary schools. She also served as a grade-school principal within the Newark, N.J., and Philadelphia dioceses.

In 1992, Sister Mary was hired as the Director of Campus Ministry at the College and served in that position until 2003, when the College
became coed and she was promoted to Assistant to the President for Mission and Ministry, continuing to work with Campus Ministry to help it evolve. What had started as a one-person department has since become a multifaceted resource for students, with a full-time ministry team of four.

Mindy Welding, IHM, who served as Director of Campus Ministry for nine years, says, “Mary Darrah represents the difference between a boss and a mentor. When I was a new person here, she’d say, ‘I know you know what you are doing. Go and do what you need to do.’ She is still a mentor in that way.”

Sister Mary knows the needs of the students well, helping tailor the offerings of Campus Ministry to what will best support them and help them thrive, says Michelle Lesher, SSJ ‘00, former assistant director of campus ministry.

“One of the things young people today need now more than ever, says Sister Mary, is a sense of community and a place to go where adults will listen to what they have to say.

To help meet this need, the Campus Ministry team has worked to make its office environment a place where all students feel welcome and safe — a comfortable place where students can come to talk about any issues at all.

Seth Jacobsen ’07 interned there for two years. As an openly gay man going into a Catholic college while still trying to find himself, Jacobson says it was critical for him to find a home and an inclusive environment, which he found in the Campus Ministry office.

He says, “You could go there and be your truest self. They treated you with the utmost dignity, love and compassion, and it kept me wanting to go back.”

Many alumni fondly remember catching up over refreshments at afternoon tea time, an open house of sorts hosted every weekday afternoon in the Campus Ministry office. A College tradition, it all began with Sister Mary and Sister Mindy sitting down to review the day’s events over a cup of tea. Now, all are welcome to stop by and enjoy this interlude from the stresses of college life.

**FURTHERING THE MISSION**

As the Assistant to the President for Mission and Ministry, Sister Mary made sure the College remained focused on its mission through change and transition, a responsibility she took quite seriously.
“She was always attentive to what’s important about the mission and making choices not contrary to it,” Vale says. “She drew the [President’s Cabinet’s] attention to that whenever we had to make decisions, sometimes hard ones.”

During her tenure, Sister Mary spoke with every prospective faculty and staff member to ensure they understood and appreciated the mission and, if hired, would be committed to carrying it out. She introduced a full-day orientation for all new hires and new board members, involving an in-depth study of the mission and the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Sister Mary also ensured all first-year students received an introduction to the mission as part of the First-Year Initiative.

Jacobson says it is the heart of that mission — the dear neighbor, serving others and justice — that really resonates with young people and those searching for a sense of community. Young adults from all walks of life often struggle with some of the doctrines of the Catholic Church because they don’t feel they are congruent with who they are. Sister Mary always brought it back to the mission.

“She would insist that we not get lost in these other things,” he says. “This was integral to her role at the College and in her life. That has inspired me and a lot of other people to stay at the College, stay active and continue to care.”

AN ENDURING CONNECTION

Over the past two decades, Sister Mary has seen the College population grow, and yet, Chestnut Hill maintains its tight-knit feeling.

“There is a lot of healthy energy at the College, and that’s a good thing,” she says. “Though there may be more of us, we have retained our sense of community. When you come through the door, you experience a friendliness and openness. We are a welcoming place.”

Though she has retired, Sister Mary will remain an active member of the College community she loves, living at the Newman House and volunteering on campus. She also will remain in contact with many graduates. Even though they have left campus, these students remain under her watchful eye and can count on her to be there should they need her.

Jenny Mejia ’10, worked in the Campus Ministry office and maintains a special connection to Sister Mary. She provided a lifeline for Mejia, particularly when she was struggling with her thesis or having a stressful day.

Mejia says, “When I doubt myself, I think of her. She always sees the strength in others even when they don’t see it in themselves. Although she’s retiring and might not be as visible on campus, I know she’s just a phone call or a visit away.”

Sister Mary’s well-known appreciation of a good handbag earned her a special gift at her retirement celebration.
This year, the Class of 1999 held their 15-year reunion on campus, and extended a special invitation to Sister Mary to their Friday afternoon tea. They wanted to make sure they got quality time with the cherished mentor who was always there for them to share times of joy and moments of trouble.

Priscilla Lugo ’16, who worked with Sister Mary in Campus Ministry, says former students come back to see Sister Mary regularly and she remembers every name. “It’s good to see that she’s made such an impression and an impact, not just on the students here now, but also on those who were here before us,” she says.

The Growth of Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry sponsors several different retreats each year. Taking time to step away from ordinary life and reflect is sometimes just what students need, according to Sister Mary. Each retreat is different and each person experiences their retreat differently.

Jacobson, who attended many retreats while a student, says he was reluctant to attend his first one because he had not yet accepted religion into his life, but he went because of his love and respect for Sister Mary.

“It ended up being a very powerful experience for me. I found God, I became a Christian and eight months later I was baptized and converted to Catholicism,” he says.

Jacobson is now active in his local Catholic church and has started a group for young adult Catholics in his hometown of Philadelphia.

Opportunities for students to give back also have increased significantly over the years.

Service endeavors are important because they enable students to live the College’s mission by serving and supporting the dear neighbor, aiding those at risk locally and in impoverished regions. The program is structured so students can volunteer for an afternoon, a weekend or longer, giving them many opportunities to serve — making giving back a central part of their college experience.

“The world is a much bigger place than what students encounter in their daily lives. There are people outside that need our help,” Sister Mary says. “For me, it was always ‘How can we ensure every student works for unity and reconciliation in our world even after they leave us?’”

The Mission of Chestnut Hill College

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.
Kelly Dennis ’14 spent her college career giving back and encouraging others to do the same.

BY JENNIFER BOES
When Kelly Dennis ’14 took the stage at The Atlanta History Center in April to address the hundreds who had come to celebrate the 2014 nominees for the prestigious Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup, she devoted much of her speech to thanking her parents for their positive influence and unwavering support.

These remarks were completely in character for Dennis, an accomplished student leader and four-time All-Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference tennis player known around Chestnut Hill College for her selflessness and giving heart.

“Kelly is amazingly engaged in whatever she’s doing. It’s a combination of her personality, the way she was raised, and this incredible interest in so many things,” says Marie Conn, Ph.D., professor of religious studies and faculty advisor to the College’s chapter of United for Uganda (U4U), the national student organization Dennis helped found. “She doesn’t do anything that she doesn’t give her all to, and she treats everyone the same with friendship and respect.”

A Wooden Cup nomination is an impressive achievement. Only five college-level nominees are chosen each year (from whom one winner is chosen), and they represent the most distinguished young athletes and role models from across the nation. Founded by Athletes for a Better World (ABW) and named for John Wooden, one of the most revered coaches in the history of sports, the Wooden Cup was created to honor those who have made the greatest difference in the lives of others.

Nikki Lockhart, assistant director of athletics/academic success and community engagement, nominated Dennis for the award for her character, teamwork and citizenship. “She epitomizes what it is to be a Griffin,” says Lockhart.

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

A group of 13 family, friends and faculty traveled to Atlanta to cheer Dennis on — a record-number of supporters. The five finalists arrived the day before the ceremony. “By the time we got there, they were like best friends,” says Conn. “It was wonderful to see. We found this so uplifting, and it gave us so much hope that we have young people like these to lead our country in the future.”

Dennis, who earned her degree in accounting with a minor in Spanish, was humbled by the experience that she called surreal.
“We (the five nominees) got to spend a lot of time together and it was amazing to learn what the others were doing for their communities with their busy schedules,” she says. “We all looked at each other and kind of laughed to ourselves that we were sitting next to such amazing individuals. Not one of us expected to win.”

Dau Jok, from the University of Pennsylvania, was chosen as the college athlete recipient. Jok was born in the Sudan, and was only 6-years-old when his father was killed in the fighting there. Jok fled to the U.S. and has since started a foundation to bring life and hope to his native land.

Of Jok, Dennis says, “Dau is so deserving of the Wooden Cup. Dau didn’t have very many opportunities put in front of him. I think this sets Dau apart. His strength came from struggle, and he was able to have such a positive and huge impact on the lives of so many.”

Drew Brees, the 2009 Super Bowl MVP-winning quarterback for the New Orleans Saints and founder of the Brees Dream Foundation, was selected as the professional athlete recipient.

Dennis says, “You know, what I loved most about meeting him was that he was real. He didn’t act like a big shot. We got to share in the human connection, realizing we are all here for a bigger purpose than ourselves. It was very, very cool!”

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Dennis has touched the lives of many, particularly through her work with U4U, which she helped create as a high school freshman in Cincinnati, Ohio. Its mission is to provide brighter futures through education to the youth of war-torn northern Uganda.

In 2006, Kelly and her fellow high school students watched “Invisible Children” as part of a class assignment. The documentary chronicles the lives of Ugandan children who must walk miles every night to find refuge or face abduction by warlord Joseph Kony and his Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA).

The students were so moved by what they saw that they vowed to find a way to help, and began sharing the documentary with students at nearby schools. The group of about 30 students then went to hear Abitimo Odongkara speak.

Odongkara fled her home in Uganda in the 1970s to escape the violence of Idi Amin’s military dictatorship. After the dictatorship fell, she returned and founded the Upper Nile Institute for Appropriate Technology (UNIFAT). In 1983, she started a primary school in Gulu in northern Uganda to provide a safe haven and a quality education for the children there. Now, after more than 20 years of brutal conflict between the LRA and the Ugandan army, the need to support these children is more critical than ever.

Though peace talks began in August 2006, and families soon began to return to their villages and farms, there was no infrastructure to aid the many children who would need help for years to come.

Inspired by the film and lecture, Dennis and the other students established U4U to provide Gulu children with scholarships to UNIFAT, putting education within their reach. The fledgling organization started small but quickly grew beyond Dennis’s expectations.

“We were building the plane as we were flying it,” she says. “We started with just 10 kids. I had no idea it would evolve into what it is today.”

Today, U4U comprises more than 30 high school and college chapters and sponsors 125 students nationally.

**THE WORK CONTINUES**

When Dennis was looking for a college, it was important to her that she be able to continue the work she started in Ohio.

During one of her campus visits, Dennis and Conn had a conversation about U4U and asked Conn if she could start a chapter.

**IT AMAZES ME HOW THESE PEOPLE, WHO HAVE BARELY ANYTHING, ARE WILLING TO GIVE YOU EVERYTHING, AND HOW WONDERFUL AND WELCOMING THEIR CULTURE IS.**

– KELLY DENNIS
“I said, ‘That’s easy,’” Conn remembers. I became advisor, she immediately got a membership, and it has become one of the most successful clubs on campus.”

Dennis’s mom, Judy, says the College’s willingness to bring U4U into the fold is one of the reasons her daughter chose to attend Chestnut Hill.

“Kelly visited lots of colleges. Then Coach [Albert] Stroble recruited her for tennis. On the way home (from visiting Chestnut Hill), she called and told me she had found her college,” says Judy. “What I didn’t realize was that Kelly was really looking for something specific all along. She wanted to carry on her passion for U4U, and she wanted to play tennis. She found that at Chestnut Hill.”

In 2009, U4U leaders decided to sponsor their children through to graduation. U4U changed its original name, United for UNIFAT, to Unified for Uganda to reflect the expanded mission. The organization now partners with four secondary boarding schools with UNIFAT serving as the feeder school.

As the scope of U4U has expanded, so has its reach. The organization now provides each U4U student with Ugandan mentors, surrogate parents who make sure they get the support they need in their home environments to thrive and maintain good grades.

Dennis explains how it works: “One of our students, Oola Felix, and his brother are taken care of by their grandmother. She sells coal on the side of the road and makes very little money. When Oola’s mentor saw the family needed a new roof, the mentor went to Oola’s sponsor who then donated the $50 to replace it.

“These kids have no stability. Even students with a little more stability have to go home and do chores that take five to 10 times what it does in the U.S. [In Uganda], I carried 20 liters of water and could barely do it. Little Ugandan girls were just carrying it on their heads, and they do this five to six times a day. They wake up every day and do it again, and they go to school five days a week.”

The College’s U4U chapter has grown every year. From three Ugandan students in its first year, it now provides education and support to 10 students. Dennis has served as student advisor since her junior year, and more than 70 Chestnut Hill College students are involved.

Dennis planned from the beginning to share leadership and train successors, a goal that ensures the club will continue even though she has graduated.

“Kelly has given her passion to others,” says Sister Mindy Welding, director of Campus Ministry. “She has mentored them to experience U4U and Uganda. All have learned that humility from Kelly. It isn’t about accolades; it’s about doing the work. That’s really the mission of our College.”

During each trip to Uganda, volunteers visit students in their home environments,
where they mentor them, help with chores and get to know their needs and interests firsthand. Dennis made her first trip in June 2010, right after high school graduation, and returned in 2013 as a student chaperone to help the next group of U4U student leaders learn the ropes.

Dennis had dreams of traveling to Uganda since her freshman year in high school. At first, her parents agonized over sending her to a potentially unsafe country so far from home, and finally let her go during her senior year.

“She was so passionate about it,” Judy Dennis says. “We said, ‘We have to send this kid to Uganda.’ I am so proud of my daughter. She is such a giver. It is just impressive how she feels about these children and the organization. It’s not an easy thing, to be consistently passionate about something. Not everybody can feel that.”

**CONQUERING THE COURT**

An exemplary role model and philanthropist, Dennis also was a four-year stand-out on the Chestnut Hill College women’s tennis team. A three-time All-Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) performer, she graduated as the team’s all-time leader in doubles wins, scoring 76, and overall wins with 139. As a junior Dennis was the third Griffin to reach the 100-career win mark, doing so while earning her highest individual Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) East Regional ranking, No. 13. In 2014, she and her doubles partner Iman Williams-Mulesa were ranked No. 10.

In 2011-2012, Kelly was part of the first team in the College’s history, in any sport, to make it to the NCAA Division II Championship Tournament. They returned again the next season to successfully win their first round against Stonehill College.

Dennis says playing tennis at the collegiate level has helped prepare her for life after graduation. “That extra pressure because people are counting on you is a great life lesson,” she says. “You know you will be under pressure at work and in life situations. Knowing how to handle it is something I have been able to take away from tennis.”

Olivia Stevenson ’14, her fellow tennis player, roommate and friend, says Dennis, captain of the tennis team since her sophomore year, is one of the team’s biggest cheerleaders. “She never focuses on the negative,” says Olivia. “Not everyone is that way. She is definitely older than her years.”

**THE DEAR NEIGHBOR**

Dennis forged numerous strong connections with the people of Uganda, many of whom had heart-wrenching stories to tell.

Fungroo Moses, a U4U-sponsored student, was left alone while his brother was snatched in the night by the LRA. He will never know why they chose to leave him behind but take his brother.

Sheila, a former UNIFAT student, narrowly escaped being sexually assaulted and possibly worse. Dennis says, “The house Sheila lived in had 50 kids living there, and the LRA would raid it again and again.

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**KELLY HAS GIVEN HER PASSION TO OTHERS. SHE HAS MENTORED THEM TO EXPERIENCE U4U AND UGANDA. ALL HAVE LEARNED THAT HUMILITY FROM KELLY. IT ISN’T ABOUT ACCOLADES; IT’S ABOUT DOING THE WORK. THAT’S REALLY THE MISSION OF OUR COLLEGE.**

– SISTER MINDY WELDING
During one of the raids, an LRA officer woke her up and held a bag over her head. She knew he was going to rape her, so she told the officer she had just come from a hospital known for HIV testing. The officer left her alone.”

Dennis also remembers two sisters who would make it to school even under the most challenging circumstances, “During the rainy season, it rains nearly every night,” Dennis says. “When it rained, their shack flooded. They would pick up their things to keep them from getting wet and stand there, even for an entire night. In the morning, they would still come to school.”

What Dennis likes to share most, however, is her great love of the people of Uganda and how they embrace life with open hearts despite their struggles.

“This past summer I went to fetch water with two little girls,” Dennis says. “I came upon a woman and I said, ‘Apoyo Ileng’ which means ‘Hello, you are beautiful’ in Luo, her tribal language. She laughed. As we walked back with our full water cans, she gave me a bag of mangoes, saying, ‘These are for you, my daughter.’ It amazes me how these people, who have barely anything, are willing to give you everything, and how wonderful and welcoming their culture is.”

Dennis also cherishes the relationships she’s been able to share with the U4U students. Even though their English is not yet good, she says a smile is the same in any language.

“When I went to Uganda the second time, we stayed in a hotel next to the school,” Dennis says. “The kids knew we were coming, but we hadn’t visited them yet. They walked past the hotel on the way home, and we were sitting outside. One little girl, Acaa Bena, looked up and saw me. Her eyes brightened, and she ran right up to me. It had been three years, and she still recognized me. I was so grateful.”

**NEW BEGINNINGS**

Dennis started her accounting career at Clifton Larson Allen, a Plymouth Meeting-based public accounting firm at the end of May. For Dennis, her new position satisfies both her professional aspirations and desire to give back. “It’s a cool niche,” she says. “I get to assist lots of different kinds of nonprofits and learn about all the individual causes they are passionate about.”

Dennis plans to stay connected to U4U as a chaperone in training. She also looks forward to assisting Sister Jean Faustman, associate professor of French, in her work at a local shelter for women who are victims of human trafficking.

Dennis says, “I took a class about women’s rights all over the world, and that really spoke to me. That’s the next thing I want to work to try to help.”

Dennis says that she has learned a great deal from her mentors at the College, and the support she has seen there has made her want to give it all back. She hopes to one day be able to mentor people in the same way she was mentored while a student at Chestnut Hill.

Welding adds, “Kelly has learned how to make a living and has gotten the holistic education we believe is our biggest value. She has really learned how to live a leaderful life with a passion for a mission she believes in wholeheartedly and that she has shared, ready for any and all good work for our dear neighbor.”

Kelly Dennis inspects a Ugandan hut with the help of some local children.
Denis Okema ’14, a survivor of the violence in Uganda, met Kelly Dennis when she traveled to the country for the first time as a high school senior with U4U in 2010.

Okema is one of the first seven children to attend UNIFAT and has become a trusted associate of its founder, Abitimo Odongkara. Okema served as tour guide to Dennis’s group, and the two immediately struck up a friendship, but neither could have guessed their paths would cross again.

Dennis returned to the U.S. to start college after her two-week mission was over, and Okema continued working as an advocacy program coordinator for World Vision International Kampala.

The following year, Okema ran for parliament against the current government and received many death threats. Then tragedy struck. Men murdered Okema’s brother in a case of mistaken identity. Once they realized they had killed the wrong brother, Okema was kidnapped and tortured for two days then dumped unconscious in an abandoned railway station. The death threats continued.

Okema wanted to stay in Uganda and be a father figure to his brother’s son, born just two weeks after his death. However, the contacts he had made through World Vision International convinced him that he must leave to save his own life.

Friends in Philadelphia took him in, but Okema found it challenging to start anew. Though he had a college degree and professional experience, he could not work because he had no Social Security number or bank account. Plus, his visa would soon expire.

As Okema and his U.S. family struggled to determine the next step, he was asked to speak at a U4U chapter meeting at the College. It was meant to be a surprise for their next meeting would be a pivotal moment in Okema’s life.

Odongkara had been slated to speak at a presentation led by actress Melissa Fitzgerald, best known for her work on television’s “The West Wing,” who was also advocating for Uganda’s children through the Voices in Harmony program. Odongkara had to cancel at the last minute and asked Okema to go in her place. When the presentation was over, Dennis, who was also present, introduced Okema to College President Carol Jean Vale.

“I don’t know what was said to Sister Carol that evening, but as we were driving home, my [Philadelphia family] said if you want to go to school here, the president will give you a full scholarship. I just cried. A door had been opened for me,” says Okema.

The Bucks County Seventh-Day Adventist Church then provided the funding Okema needed to have his visa converted to a student visa, and he found work in the College mailroom. Now fellow CHC students, Okema and Dennis became close friends.

“She’s like a little sister to me,” Okema says. “It has been a wonderful transition that I have seen in Kelly, turning from the young girl I first saw in Uganda into the person she has become.”

Dennis and Okema graduated together in May — Okema with a master’s degree in human services.

“God made it in such a way that we were able to share our time here on this beautiful campus,” Okema says. “When we first met, we never imagined this is how life would turn out. Out of 13 students, she’s the one who would end up being my little sister from another mother.”

U4U SPONSORSHIPS

Uganda is one of the poorest nations in the world, with more than 37 percent of the population living on less than $1.25 a day.

- $300 provides one Ugandan child with tuition to primary school for a year.
- $600 provides boarding school tuition for one secondary school student.

Sponsorships also cover the cost of uniforms, basic medical care, and one daily meal of beans and rice.

Many of the students are orphans because of HIV-AIDS or civil war.

Fourteen U4U students graduated from primary school in 2014.

U4U will celebrate its first secondary school graduation in 2016.

To help U4U sponsor more students, call the office of Student Life at 215.248.7011.
WE STAND IN A NEW EVOLUTIONARY MOMENT, POISED ON THE CUSP OF A NEW WORLD.

This position is both an invaluable gift and an almost unbearable responsibility. We are living on two “planets” — the earth, which we have known and called home for centuries, and the cyberworld that is still forming, still strange, still undefined, and yet increasingly consumes our time and attention. Teilhard de Chardin named this “other reality” the noosphere, a network of thought circling and covering the earth with a global consciousness that unites the planet in a radically innovative and dramatically potent way. Living in the noosphere means the people of the planet can think together almost instantaneously as ideas flash rapidly through the cybersphere. What promise such communication tenders; what danger it also portends. How we decide to shape this new world will determine whether it fulfills its positive potential or raises to a new level of sophistication the negative forces that seek to harness its possibilities for ignoble ends.

We are the first citizens of this new world. What will we make of it? How will we shape it? Will we use the depth of contemplative insights to choose prophetic directions and dramatic actions? Will we be emboldened by our commitment to the good of the dear neighbor? Will we risk our very selves to give birth to this new consciousness stirring within and around us? Will we allow the Holy Spirit to seize us and inspire us?

Perhaps one of the most important books of our time is Walter Brueggemann’s “The Prophetic Imagination.” In it he writes of the significance of a new language, offering new symbols, for a new time. This language awakens people to a radically different reality from the past and rouses them to bold action undertaken to ensure a different kind of future. Unfortunately, in unsettling the status quo, the new vision frequently exacerbates a backlash from those who believe they have the most to lose by accepting a new paradigm.

For decades, women among us have spoken a new language, filled with new symbols, rich with feminine nouns and pronouns, and fortified with hope for a new form of future that welcomes the

**During the first six months of 2014, the Sisters of Saint Joseph held their latest General Chapter, a meeting held every five years to discuss matters of importance to the Congregation, the Church and the world. The congregation formulated its Generous Promise (commitment) to several areas on which the Sisters will focus for the next five years. This commitment includes the promise to “advance the rights and dignity of all people, especially women and children.” Sister Carol’s message is directed to this part of the Congregation’s Generous Promise. - Editor**
talents and contributions of both women and men working together to create a world that is just, compassionate and mindful of the needs of vulnerable and marginalized people. While there is a divide of sorts between the early, strident language of radical feminism and the gentler language of Christian feminism, both languages are still greeted with no small measure of resistance, its leaders and spokespersons often being tarred with unflattering labels. Seeing themselves as full partners with men, women strive to assume a place of equality in marriage, the professions, industry, corporations and in the churches. Yet, in 2014, this direction is still unwelcome to many.

Today, women continue to work to claim the equality that is their basic human right. While sociological, anthropological and theological reflection on the role of women has deepened, changed and enhanced our understanding, and while countless new opportunities are available to women, it is still the sad fact that the women and children of this world are the most vulnerable people on the planet. There is a nefarious, unspoken bias that plays itself out time and again in society after society: women and children are unimportant and expendable.

These are not God’s thoughts. Recently, I heard an insightful Catholic priest unpack the passage of Genesis that describes the creation of the first woman and man. He insisted that scripture clearly teaches the equality of women and men. “God said, ‘Let us make man (and here ‘man’ means man and woman) in our own image … God created man [and woman] in the image of [God], in the image of God, [God] created him [and her], male and female [God] created them.’” Though the refusal to allow inclusive language in biblical translation (and in the liturgy) obfuscates the truth of this passage, the footnotes accompanying the biblical text make it clear that it is woman and man together who are the image of God, therefore, equal in the eyes of God and equally responsible for the world in which they live. This has implications for our theology.

If woman and man together are the image of God, then it is evident that God is the fullness of both the masculine and the feminine. The Divine Being is neither male nor female, but the living fount of both simultaneously. The paradigm that Christian feminists support is really neither new nor radical, but latent and relatively unexplored in the tradition, at least until the mid-20th century. The Christian feminists insist that women must be explicitly named so they can be recognized, taken seriously and understood to be equals of men. As long as gender exclusive language is the norm, women will be conveniently excluded, ignored and forgotten, indeed, non-existent. To treat women as if they are of no consequence robs us not only of their contributions, but also of our ability to grow in intimacy with and knowledge of God. Can we realistically stand on the brink of the noosphere and the new, exciting consciousness that characterizes the cyberworld and permit the repression and abuses of the past to be perpetuated within it and, thus, mar our future with the mistakes of our past?

Frequently, I reflect on how blessed I am to have been born in the United States of America to parents who were able to provide for all of my basic needs and then some. I have never known hunger, thirst, homelessness, untreated illness, inadequate education or paralyzing fear. I have always been free from oppression and want and also have enjoyed the freedom to claim my human rights. I would conjecture that this description fits many people reading this magazine. As citizens of the first world, standing in this place, at this time, and viewing the world as it now is, I ask if we who have been blessed with such bounty do not have an obligation to work to transform the structures and situations that afflict the most vulnerable persons on the earth?

The plight of many women and children is one of the most crushing miseries of the 21st century. From their founding in Le Puy, France, in 1650, the Sisters of Saint Joseph have responded to the needs
of widows, orphans and prostitutes. From the beginning of our foundation in Philadelphia, we cared especially for women, girls and orphans, and convinced that “on the education of women largely depends the future of society,” we established Mount Saint Joseph Academy and Chestnut Hill College. On streets, in homes, hotels, hovels and alleys around the globe and in our own country, women and children are exploited, abused, kidnapped, trafficked, raped, excluded, disenfranchised, neglected and poorly educated. Sadly, the list of degradations goes on. In so many nations and cities and towns, there is no one to speak for the vulnerable and no one to care about their fate. These are the voiceless whose cries are silenced and whose pain is unacknowledged.

The new voice of our time is the voice of women singing the song of the vulnerable, as Mary sang in times past. Women singing the song of their own unchronicled history and experiences. Women writing new lyrics to convey the sagas of the poor and battered women and children of today and yesterday. Women conceiving new symbols of hope to birth a future different from the present.

What might be our response to the message their songs convey? Is this the moment in the world’s history when we, women and men of the first world, are called to stand together to claim for all women and children their rights and dignity? The never-ending cycle of televised news puts the stark truth before our eyes 24 hours a day. As no generation before us, we are conscious of the horrors and cruelty women and children endure. Do we dare to lead a new Exodus and use our resources to mobilize people around the planet to undertake the greatest liberation in the history of humankind? Will we have the courage to free women and children from the many violent and demeaning situations that play out in country after country? Does not our heightened awareness charge us with a responsibility to insist upon justice for the marginalized?

So, if I am asking you, our readers, to help, you may ask what Chestnut Hill College is doing to plant the seeds of justice and freedom for the world’s women and children. In collaboration with three other colleges and religious congregations, Chestnut Hill College and the Sisters of Saint Joseph have been working for two decades to provide college educations for women religious in nine African countries so they can educate Africa’s children. In May 2014, the College graduated: an orphan from The Children’s Village in Kenya; an orphaned political refugee from Uganda; an African Sister who will teach science in a secondary school for young women in Tanzania to prepare them for university; and a young woman who established a chapter of Unified for Uganda at the College, providing education for child victims (many of whom are orphans) of the brutal war in northern Uganda. The first three graduates received scholarships for full tuition and room and board. This month, we welcome another orphan from The Children’s Village, a young woman who will be with us for four years, and two Vietnamese women religious, whom we will educate to teach in Vietnam. There are countless other needy students who receive aid from the College and who benefit from our belief that education will change their lives and those of their families. These are just a few of the stories.

In the first decades of our existence, the College provided women with an undergraduate education when many other institutions would not. In addition, there are many instances where we have made it possible for young women to receive an education they could never have afforded without our help. Now such aid is available to young men as well. Our efforts to improve conditions for women and children have deep roots — 364 years deep. The Sisters of Saint Joseph are not new at this. This is what we have always done and always will do.

If we, women and men of the first world, genuinely believe that we are privileged to witness and grasp the significance of the dawn of a new evolutionary age, then we also must acknowledge that the choices we make or fail to make will impact the world’s future either for good or for ill. If a butterfly flapping its wings in Japan affects the weather on the other side of the ocean, what is the effect on our globe of the horrors we allow to persist for women and children?

Wherever we are, whatever we do professionally as well as in our personal lives, there is some small step each of us can take to help empower women and children. We invite you, our friends, colleagues and partners in mission, to join Chestnut Hill College and the Sisters of Saint Joseph in our commitment to poor, vulnerable and marginalized people, especially women and children. If we answer the call of our times with responsive eagerness, then like Isaiah, we will be seared with the burning coal of Divine Fire and inspired by the passion of the Holy Spirit. Then our lives will be powered by the irrepressible energy of God. Impelled by that energy, all things become possible. “Here I am, Lord. Send me!”

Sincerely,

Carol Jean Vale, SSJ

Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.
President
CONSIDER US PART OF YOUR
Extended Family

THE MOTIVATION TO INCLUDE CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS COMES FROM MANY PLACES...GRATITUDE FOR AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE, BELIEF IN A VISION OF INCLUSIVENESS, FAITH IN A MISSION TO ENSURE AN EDUCATION FOR ALL, OR A DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY HELPING THOSE IN NEED.

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

Did you know that you can provide for the future of the College and not impact your current cash flow? By naming the College 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT including Chestnut Hill College in your estate planning, please contact Mary Theresa Shevland, SSJ, in the Office of Planned Giving at 215.753.3617 or shevlandm@chc.edu

WWW.CHC.PLANNEDGIVING.ORG
SPECTACULAR LACROSSE SEASON FOR GRIFFINS

Facing one of the toughest schedules in the nation, the Chestnut Hill College men’s lacrosse team finished strong, winning six of the last eight regular season games, earning the No. 4 seed in the inaugural East Coast Conference (ECC) Championship Tournament. Unfortunately, No. 1 Dowling College was last to score in a dramatic semifinal game that eliminated the Griffins by a 12-11 final score.

Team MVP Michael Melnychenko ’14 earned a selection to the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) 2014 Division II All-America Second Team and All-ECC First Team status while matching his career mark for points (57) with 43 goals and 14 assists. He was one of 107 NCAA Division II student-athletes honored on the USILA All-Academic Team and only the second Griffin to receive such recognition, after Thomas Carfagna ’12. The All-American program was established in 1989 to recognize student-athletes from USILA member institutions who have distinguished themselves academically, athletically and through community work. Melnychenko concluded his collegiate career with the USILA/LaxWorld 2014 Division I & Division II North/South All-Star Game MVP award, totaling five points (4 goals, 1 assist) in the North’s 17-16 victory.

Additional season notes: All-ECC Second Team recognition went to midfielder Michael Landau ’14 and sophomore defenseman Derick Darnulc. Defenseman Christopher Schaffer ’14 was honored with the team’s Coach’s Award. A three-year captain, Landau was a 2014 All-ECC Second Team selection and a member of the USILA/LaxWorld 2014 Division I & Division II North/South All-Star Team with Melnychenko. A consistent offensive producer, Landau ranks among the program’s all-time top ten in caused turnovers, ground balls, assists, points and goals.

KELLY DENNIS ’14 NOMINATED FOR NCAA WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Kelly Dennis ’14 has been selected as the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) nominee for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Woman of the Year award, which honors graduating female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers in academics, athletics, service and leadership. The winner will be announced October 19.

Dennis is a recent recipient of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) East Region’s Female Senior of the Year award, the ITA East Region’s Arthur Ashe Jr. Sportsmanship and Leadership Award, the Chestnut Hill College Athletic Director’s Award and was a finalist for the annual Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup. With 63 singles victories and a program-best 76 doubles wins over her four-year career, Dennis is the women’s tennis program’s all-time leader in wins. She is a three-time All-CACC performer and was the third Griffin to reach the career 1,000-win mark.

While a student, Dennis was a member of the College’s Student Athletic Advisory Committee, the Serving and Learning Together program, the Campus Ministry program and founded the campus chapter of Unified for UNIFAT (U4U).
Dan Burke ’08 has been named the head men’s basketball coach for the Wilmington (Del.) University Wildcats. Burke was a member of the first men’s basketball team at Chestnut Hill College and a former captain who was an assistant coach for five seasons after his graduation.

“Dan Burke was one of the original members of the Chestnut Hill College family,” says Coach Jesse Balcer, CHC’s head men’s basketball coach. “I knew early on that he would make a great coach, and I’m excited to see him build his own program.” Burke is the first of Coach Balcer’s former student-athletes to earn a head coaching position.

During his senior year at CHC, Burke received the CHC Presidential Leadership award, a distinction given to five graduates based on their leadership and contributions to the College community. He was a two-time member of the CHC Athletics All-Academic Team and a member of the North Eastern Athletic Conference All-Academic Team.

Prior to his current appointment, Burke was an assistant coach at Camden County College in New Jersey.

The Chestnut Hill College women’s tennis team ended the 2013-14 season with a third consecutive trip to the East Regional of the NCAA Division II Championship Tournament. Despite the 5-0 loss to No. 1 New York Institute of Technology, the season held many successes, with the Griffins earning their first Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) regular season championship and competing in their second consecutive CACC Championship match. The Griffins finished the year at 19-10 overall and 8-0 in the CACC while ranking No. 40 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) national rankings and No. 4 in the ITA East Region.

The CHC men’s tennis team challenged Concordia College (NY) for the CACC title and qualified for NCAA East Regional play for the second consecutive season. Freshman Mariano Porter earned the ITA East Region Rookie of the Year and CACC Co-Rookie of the Year titles and was named the Griffins’ MVP at the end of the season, while senior Manuel Ceniceros had his 100th career victory in the season finale against Philadelphia University on April 16. He is the first CHC player to reach the 100-win mark, completing his collegiate career with 104 victories. The Griffins finished their season 16-9 overall; 5-1 in the CACC, and ranked a program base No. 3 in the ITA East Region.

Chestnut Hill College has received the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Community Engagement Award for the second year running.

The Senior Women Administrators of the CACC made the award based on CHC’s Midnight Madness presentation Friday, October 18, 2013, which best embodied the values of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II model.

The evening included the men’s and women’s basketball teams showcasing their skills in scrimmages, a three-point shooting and dunk contests and the kick-off of National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week.

Through an NCAA CHOICES grant, workshops and presentations have been made throughout the year to the CHC community on alcohol, sex and drug education as part of a continued effort to educate, increase awareness and benefit the student-athletes and their surrounding communities.

The Engagement Award is presented annually to one institution that best promotes the community engagement initiative adopted by NCAA Division II.

»GRIFFIN TENNIS RETURNS TO NCAA REGIONAL PLAY

»GRIFFINS EARN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD AGAIN
Whether memories of your commencement are sharp and clear as yesterday or have dimmed with the passage of time, you share a lifelong relationship with all those who call themselves alumni of Chestnut Hill College — and a relationship with the College itself.

The Alumni Association was founded in 1929 by Eleanore Dolan Egan ’28, a member of the College’s first graduating class. Of course, then, its name was “alumnae” and was later changed in 2007 as the first coed class graduated from Chestnut Hill.

Although the makeup of the student body has changed, the mission of the Alumni Association has remained the same: to strengthen the relationships among the graduates of all three schools and between the College and its graduates by promoting the interests of Chestnut Hill College; maintaining a spirit of fellowship and service among its former students; and rendering financial support to the College.

The members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors are dedicated volunteers who give their time, talent and treasure to help advance this mission and make positive things happen at and for CHC. We sincerely thank them for their generous service to the College and to the Alumni Association.

In May, the Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomed the following new members to their first two-year term: Debra Dee Bradford ’14 SCPS is the owner of Bradford Financial Consultants, Inc. in Reading, Pa. Saxon Nelson ’08 is the education manager for the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. And Jennifer Wilmot ’06 is school operations manager at OmniVest Properties Management, LLC.

Amy McLeer ’94, serving her term as a director on the board, was elected to the position of board secretary.

Thank you to the board members who have completed their terms: Margaret C. Moran ’67, Mark A. Hammons ’08, ’10 SGS, Jane Marie Fearn-Zimmer, Esq. ’88, Kathleen O’Boyle ’84, ’97 SGS, George Roitzsch ’07, ’09 SGS, and Tan T. Tang ’07.

— Catherine E. Quinn ’78

INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

We encourage you to explore the many possibilities for getting involved with your alumni association. Serve on a committee, volunteer at an event, become an alumni career or admissions ambassador and help young students just starting out. You can even nominate yourself to become a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Contact Cathy Quinn, director of alumni relations at quinnm@chc.edu or 215-248-7137 or visit the website at www.chc.edu/alumni/get_involved for more information.

LET’S TALK!

It’s easier than ever to stay connected and up-to-date. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. The Office of Alumni Relations can be found on Twitter @CHCAlumni and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/chcalumni. Alums of all schools are encouraged to register on these sites for ongoing updates, discussions and more. For information, contact Fran Vorsky at vorskyf@chc.edu.
I can clearly see Dr. Conner finishing the St. Crispin’s Day speech from “Henry V,” whipping off his half-glasses, slamming his hand down on his book and saying, “My God. That’s great!”

That was 47 years ago, and I still smile when I think of it. I have many memories to smile about and lifelong friends from my Chestnut Hill days to share them with.

Something else I seem to share with a lot of my classmates is a desire to see the world. I spent part of my honors program parsing the symbolism in James Joyce’s “Ulysses,” which instilled in me a desire to visit Dublin on Bloomsday, something I plan to do next June. I also gained the skills to pursue a lifelong passion for education — my own as well as others, which is why I chose educational publishing as my field after graduation.

My newly minted English degree set me on a traditional course for an English major — a career in publishing. First, I wrote “Perky Puppet Puzzle Pages” and features and edited stories and articles for Jack and Jill magazine in Philadelphia. After I earned my master’s degree in American studies from New York University, I returned to Philadelphia to work in the educational publishing division of J.B. Lippincott. Thus began my odyssey up and down the East Coast.

The years from the ’70s to the ’90s were turbulent ones in educational publishing, as one company after another merged or was bought out. I relocated to New York, then to Boston and then back to New York. Fortunately, each move brought promotions and increased responsibilities, ultimately ending with the position of vice president/publisher.

After years of packing and unpacking, I had had enough, and 17 years ago, I started my own editorial development company. Today, I have excellent subcontractors who work with me on projects in a variety of subject areas for educational publishers. I am editor, writer, bookkeeper, account executive and quality control manager. One of these days, I will again decide that enough is enough and take up basket weaving full time. (Seriously, I weave and sell baskets.) I’ll also take classes, volunteer at Chestnut Hill College and other nonprofits and maybe, finally, learn to cook.

The legacy of my Chestnut Hill years consists of two important things: lifelong friends and flexibility. It may be considered a cliché, yet a liberal arts education does broaden horizons and open windows to the world. The ability to think differently and see the bigger picture has served me well as I’ve moved through my professional life from editorial positions to marketing to management, with the attendant responsibilities of each new position.

As I prepared to move back to Philadelphia, I became more involved with Chestnut Hill College, thinking it would be a great way to renew friendships and make new ones. I started out by serving on the Alumni Association Bylaws Revision Committee and by working with our class officers to ensure a healthy turnout for Reunion Weekend. I was then asked to join the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and now, I serve as class president.

I continue to stay involved because I believe in the mission of the College, which has evolved with the times: to educate young women and men, many of whom are first-generation college students.

Last spring I reached my term limit on the board. Through my time there and by attending events at the College, I have met many wonderful students and alumni. Because I want to pass on the Chestnut Hill experience, I have endowed a scholarship to enable future students to build successful careers and their own unique experiences — and perhaps develop a little wanderlust along the way.
REUNION 2014: WELCOME BACK!

From the pristine College grounds to the educational and entertaining programs and events to the excellent food — Chestnut Hill College’s 68th Annual Reunion was a rousing success. More than 220 alums from the classes of 1949 to 2009 joined together for a weekend of memories, laughter and fun.

Plenty of opportunities to create new memories were on tap, from Friday’s Hi! Tea to a day chock-full of programs and events on Saturday, ending with a hilarious water pong tournament and caricatures and Sunday’s tour of SugarLoaf Hill and the refurbished Commonwealth Chateau.

The traditional Reunion Luncheon was held in Sorgenti Arena and featured a presentation by President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., in which she highlighted CHC’s outstanding graduates of 2014 and shared her insights on why she believes in Chestnut Hill College.

Throughout the day, lectures were given by four members of CHC’s faculty. We are all grateful to Scott Browning, Ph.D., professor of psychology; Marie Conn, Ph.D., professor of religious studies; David Contosta, Ph.D., professor of history; and Joseph Kulkosky, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, for sharing their time and knowledge. The Annual Reunion Memorial Mass was followed by the President’s cocktail reception.

The newest “Golden Griffins,” members of the class of 1964, celebrated their 50th anniversary and were honored at a special dinner Saturday night.
I BELIEVE IN CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE BECAUSE...

Teachers saw in me what I couldn't see... thank you! - anonymous 24

All Texts are anonymously typed. The authorship of the quote is unknown, but it is attributed to a classmate of the author, Jane Smith. The quote is from the class of 1984.

Students, faculty, and alumni gathered for the 2014 reunion weekend at Chestnut Hill College. The event included social events, reunions, and a farewell to the departing faculty. A series of images captured the joy and camaraderie of the gathering.
»IN MEMORIAM
Margaret Mary “Peg” Kelly Baumgardner ’40
Katherine Hinches Forsythe ’42
Eleanor Kane Decker ’43
Ave “Pinky” Little Rawdon ’43
Helene Mary Purcell McIntyre ’44
Jacqueline Carroll O’Donnell ’45
Eleanor Kirk Wilson ’45
Barbara Wilderotter Rinkor ’46
Helen Decker Saile ’46
Eleanor Newell Hofkes ’48
Mary Ellen McVeigh ’48
Mary Jane Klinges Carlin ’49
Lillian Elizabeth “Lee” McBride Jacobs ’49
Rosemary Campbell Romasco ’50
Patricia Stillmun Shelton ’50
Margaret “Peggy” Richardson O’Rourke ’51
Mary Ellen Carroll Brown ’52
Elizabeth Ann Croake ’52
Maria Schlott Decker ’52
Anne “Jockie” Crowhurst O’Brien ’52
Marguerite Heiren Breslin ’54
Elizabeth “Betsy” Leddy Ledwith ’54
Madeleine Glynn Whittaker ’55
Anne Senser Byrne ’57
Margaret “Peggy” Clark Schott ’62
Mary Schuhsler Spangler ’64
Vicki Veronica Vola ’67
Kathleen Lutz Ruberg ’74
Lou Ann Gessner Zimmerman ’75
Sister Rose Mary Collins, SSJ ’76
Maria Jo Haines Kyriss ’78
Leilani Fairman McCall ’93 SCPS
Bradley “Brad” David Amerman ’14

»BIRTHS
Adrienne Zemnick Fuscellaro ’05 (elementary education) and her husband, Anthony, became parents to Anthony Christopher Fuscellaro Jr. on May 2. Baby Anthony is pictured here on his first Mother’s Day with his proud mom and grandmother, Carole Voelmle Zemnick ’75.

Caitlin Wilshe Domanico ’05 (elementary education), ’08 SGS and her husband, JP, welcomed daughter Genevieve Julia on July 19, 2013.

»WEDDINGS
Katie Harmon ’11 (Spanish) and Justin Rison were married in Maryland on October 26, 2013. Katie’s CHC roommate, Brittany Martyn ’10 was an attending bridesmaid.

Chestnut Hill publishes all information received, reserving the right to edit for space or style. Please send all class notes to alumni@chc.edu. Deadline for the next issue of Chestnut Hill is January 15, 2015.

Photo policy: Please send any images as a jpg file at 300 dpi. We welcome all photos and will publish as many as space permits.
’40s
Agnes B. Leonard ’49 (home economics) is enjoying her retirement in Virginia, doting on her three grown children, five grandchildren and four grand-dogs. She tells us, “The halls of Chestnut Hill definitely instilled in my life a responsibility to family and friends and gave me a positive outlook on life which has carried through to the present day.”

 Members of the Class of 1958 have enjoyed their mini-reunions for more than 40 years. Twenty-one classmates enjoyed their most recent gathering in Sea Girt, N.J.

’50s
Elizabeth M. Greene ’50 (Spanish) received an award from Bishop Howard Hubbard, bishop of Albany, distinguishing her as a “Woman who has said yes to God.” The award recognizes women in the community for their services to their church and their faith community.

Elizabeth “Betsy” Harvey Majane ’57 (chemistry) was inducted into the Alumnae Hall of Fame at Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls in Philadelphia. Betsy’s husband, John, accompanied her to this special ceremony which was held at the school on May 12. Betsy graduated from Little Flower in 1952.

’60s
Nancy Koonmen Schmidtmann ’61 (English) has been awarded the 2014 Mary A. Grant Volunteer Award for her generous and tireless service to the Catholic Library Association at the national, section and chapter levels. In addition to serving as CLA president from 2009 – 2011, Nancy was also the Local Committee Chair for the CLA 2012 Boston Convention and helped to revitalize the Brooklyn/Long Island Chapter.

Pat Olwell Hoglund ’67 (psychology) was proud to announce that her daughter, Maeve Hoglund, performed an afternoon of opera at the Sisters of Saint Joseph Motherhouse Chapel in April. The professional soprano presented this special benefit concert in honor of the jubilee of her aunt, Sister Marie Olwell, SSJ.

’70s
Rosemary Griffin Carolan ’72 (elementary education), currently a Ph.D. candidate in literacy education at Rutgers University, presented her research on literature circles for underprepared college students at the Learner Conference in July in New York City. Her research interests include the New Literacy Studies and helping underprepared college students succeed academically.

’80s
Lisa Porter Kuh ’84 (early childhood education/Montessori education) has written a new book titled “Thinking Critically About Environments for Young Children: Bridging Theory and Practice,” published by Teachers College Press. This edited volume reflects Lisa’s long career in early childhood education and her ideas about what is important in teaching environments — beginning with her CHC education. Lisa is currently an assistant professor in family studies at the University of New Hampshire and lives in Cambridge, Mass., with her husband, Ed, and two teenaged sons, Evan and Joshua.

’90s
Georgette Aitken Antelo ’91 (accounting) joined the senior leadership team as chief of staff for the president of SAP Americas in February. Georgette is a 20-year veteran of SAP. She started her career in business development with a focus on Latin America and later moved into SAP Americas to head the field pricing team and build best practices for the region. Following this role, she was VP of global field pricing COE, where she established practices for all regions of SAP. Georgette previously worked at KPMG. She is fluent in Spanish, English and German and lives with her husband in the Philadelphia area.
Renee Haggerty ’90 (political science) has been promoted to senior vice president at Intertrust groups based in Wilmington, Del.

‘00s

Maureen O’Mara Baldino ’01 SCPs (music) has been putting her music degree to good use, teaching chorus, orchestra and guitar. She was recently awarded Teacher of the Year at Coca Beach Jr./Sr. High School.

Caitlin Wilshe Domanico ’05 (elementary education) recently won two awards from Montco Happenings — Best Child Photographer in Montgomery County (for the second consecutive year) and Best Teacher in Montgomery County for Photography Workshops for Women.

Melissa Schoerke Koomson ’00 and her husband, Kwesi, were presented with the first Friends Council on Education Leadership Award for Service to Society in an April ceremony in Philadelphia. Dr. Jill Biden made the keynote address and presented the couple with the award. See full story on page 5.

Madeline Martinez ’07 (psychology) is spreading her love of CHC to the next generation. Her daughter, Jizelle Byrd, is already showing her CHC pride.

Dan Burke ’08 (psychology) has been named head men’s basketball coach at Wilmington University in New Castle, Del. Dan was a captain of CHC’s men’s basketball team and after graduation, he joined the staff as an assistant coach.

Lauren Trusa ’09 (biology) graduated in July from the five-year veterinary program at the Royal Veterinary College in London, England, earning her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). She passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination last December, which allows her to practice in North America in addition to Great Britain and Europe. She is currently planning to work in Sheffield, UK, with hopes of someday relocating to the Philadelphia region. Her area of interest is small animal cardiology.

Kate Sprandio ’10 (English literature) received her master’s degree in creative writing from Arcadia University in 2013. Recently, her short story, “First Kiss” was published in “Suddenly Lost in Words, Volume 4.” The book is currently available for purchase from Amazon.

Kimberly Nichols ’11 (biology) received her AAS in Veterinary Technology from Globe University-Green Bay in June. She also passed the Veterinary Technician National Exam and state licensing exam and is now a Certified Veterinary Technician in Wisconsin.

Kelly Wilson ’11 (music education) and Anna St. Claire ’12 (math) founded the Avenue Theater Company, a community theater dedicated to a progressive and collaborative theater experience, in 2013. Their premiere production was Stephen Sondheim’s “Into the Woods,” presented in July and August at the Adrienne Theater in Philadelphia. The pair has production experience, however, this undertaking was their largest and most challenging. Aside from this partnership, Wilson is program manager for the Pennsylvania Girlchoir and St. Hilaire is a mortgage closer for Ditech Mortgage. They are joined in this venture by...
Westly Mandoske ’13, Ashley Pavone ’11, and Jessica Veazey ’13. The Avenue Theater Company can be found online at www.avenuetheater.org.

Donna McVicker ’12 SCPS (administration of human services) has been promoted to director of provost operations and assistant to the provost at Drexel University. In this position, she assists the provost in his role as the university’s chief academic officer responsible for all academic functions.

Fran Wasserman ’12 SCPS (human services/psychology) was featured on the CBS show, “Brotherly Love,” in a segment about her non-profit, The Baby Bureau. The Baby Bureau, located in Fort Washington, is a volunteer organization that helps underserved mothers by providing bundles of clothing for their newborn babies. The bundles are distributed by community social service organizations.

Chris Dunn ’13 (history) has joined Bryn Athyn College as an annual giving officer.

Maura Gilbert ’13 (elementary education) is currently teaching first grade at Our Lady of Sorrows/St. Ignatius School in Philadelphia.

In March, several alums participated in an Alumni Mocktail Networking Event. This event helps students learn the art of networking and the skills to be successful in a supportive environment.

Christopher Hess ’13 (political science), Jessica Day ’09 (psychology/human services), Kate Sprandio ’10 (English literature), Olivia Marcinka ’13 (English literature), Danielle Griesbach-Santacroce ’07 (history/secondary education), Carli Matticks Vizak ’07 (international business, language and culture), Daniel Vizak ’07 (biology) and Alexander Kowalski ’09 (biology).

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Nominations Invited for 2015 Alumni Association Awards

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

Profiles of award recipients, nomination criteria and nomination forms are accessible at: www.CHCgriffinsonline.com/Awards

Nominations may be submitted online or printed from the website and postmarked by December 12 to:

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

For information, contact Catherine E. Quinn, director of alumni relations, at quinnc@chc.edu or 215.248.7137.
In celebration of the College’s 90th anniversary, nominations are now open for candidates for induction into the Libris Society.

Created in 2005, the Libris Society recognizes graduates who have applied the College motto of Fides, Caritas, Scientia to their personal and/or professional lives. The nomination form and a complete description of criteria for nominees can be found at www.chc.edu/alumni.

The form can be completed and submitted online or printed and mailed to the Alumni Relations office. The deadline for nominations is December 12.

Awards will be presented at the College’s 90th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, May 16, 2015.
TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH ALUMNI & FRIENDS

APRIL 18-26, 2015
NATURAL WONDERS OF COSTA RICA
Witness bountiful wildlife in its natural habitat, enjoy dips in ecothermal hot springs and learn about the Costa Rican culture. Some of the highlights of this tour include Tortuguero National Park, Arenal Volcano, and Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve in Monteverde, home to jaguars, monkeys, ocelots and many species of birds. This is an action-packed trip filled with wildlife, scenic waterways, tropical rainforests and knowledgeable guides.

JUNE 26-JULY 11, 2015
ICELAND & FJORDS
Don’t miss this spectacular 14-night cruise aboard the Celebrity Eclipse, roundtrip from Southampton, England. Visit Iceland and the spectacular Norwegian fjords from the comfort of one of the world’s most dazzling cruise ships. With 85 percent of all staterooms offering sweeping veranda views, the Eclipse is a wonderful showcase for the vistas of this cruise, including Reykjavik, Geiranger and Olden among many other attractions.

AUGUST 14-22, 2015
CHATEAUX, RIVERS & WINE
This popular trip presented by Viking River Cruises explores the Bordeaux region of France, famous for its food and wine. Visit the vineyards covering the rolling hills and the city of Bordeaux at the region’s heart with its grand architecture, tempting cafes and superb museums. Enjoy an in-depth view of this region while cruising the Dordogne, Garonne and Gironde rivers, all while celebrating the native joie de vivre found in the region’s wine, oysters, truffles and cognac.

For information and/or reservations, contact Craig (x103) or Christie (x107) at Cruisin’ & Main Line Vacations (800.506.7447), or visit Alumnivacations.com and click Schools.

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

Keep in touch with your friends and classmates! Career news, advanced degrees, births, marriages, deaths — whatever your news, share it with us. Submit items by January 15, 2015 for print consideration in the next issue of Chestnut Hill.

1. E-mail: quinnc@chc.edu
2. Fax: 215.248.7196
3. Mail: Alumni Relations Office
   Chestnut Hill College
   9601 Germantown Avenue
   Philadelphia, PA 19118
4. Online: www.CHCgriffinonline.com
My wife, Krista, and I have worked at Chestnut Hill College for nearly a decade. We were dating before either of us came to the College, but it is clear to us and to those around us that our relationship as a married couple has been strengthened through the community at Chestnut Hill College. In May 2013, we welcomed our first child, William “Liam” Ignatius into our lives.

As I type this, Liam is upstairs taking his morning nap on a beautiful, warm and sunny day in early June. I am home this summer ostensibly to work on some writing and research for my graduate program, but truthfully, I am much more excited to be playing Mr. Mom for the months of June and July. Liam just turned one a few weeks back, and like most new parents, Krista and I are left wondering where the last year has gone — passing in a blur of interrupted sleep, mashed sweet potatoes and Instagram pictures. Each milestone has been dutifully captured on film and shared with friends and family members who have probably grown weary at the picture texts from Krista and me.

What we did not anticipate, however, was the overwhelming outpouring of love and support we have received from the College community since we announced that Krista was expecting. In hindsight, we probably should not have been surprised at all. We are truly blessed by the relationships we have formed with the students, faculty, staff and alumni over the years. Our joy around the birth of our first child was enriched by the knowledge that whoever this new little person would be, he or she would be warmly welcomed there.

From the moment Liam was born, the well-wishes, prayers and generosity in all forms came pouring in from our extended College family. Liam is fortunate to snuggle at night in one of many crocheted blankets made by Sisters and faculty members.

At just a few weeks old, Liam made his first of many trips to campus where he has been cradled in the loving arms of countless students, faculty and staff over the months. During the past year, our son has become somewhat of a fixture at evening programs, new student orientation and in the dining hall, to the point where Krista and I question our judgment. “Perhaps we have him here too often?” we ask each other. We quickly put those fears aside when we’re asked where he is, when he is not with us.

Of course, we love having Liam on campus so that he can learn firsthand about the spirit of inclusivity that embodies the College. Our students have warmed our hearts — from bringing him adorable outfits and toys, to questioning why they can’t receive Federal Work-Study earnings for babysitting, to insisting that #LiamIgnatius become a viral social media trend.

Like all parents, we wish for peace, love, success and happiness for our child and vow to do all we can to provide him the opportunities to bring the same to others. Liam is a blessed little boy. Though he has already been welcomed with open wings into the Griffin community, we look forward to continuing to watch Liam grow up on campus and eventually become an official Griffin, Class of 2035.
ALUMNI FALL CONFERENCE/HOMECOMING
Saturday, September 27
Rotunda, St. Joseph Hall
Information: 215.248.7016

22ND ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL LECTURE SERIES
“E. Pluribus Unum: Leukemia From Patients to Bench and Back Again”
Wednesday, October 1, 3:30 p.m.
Speaker: Jack Goldberg, M.D., F.A.C.P., Chief of Hematology and Medical Oncology,
Clinical Professor of Medicine at the Abramson Cancer Center at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center
East Parlor, St. Joseph Hall

INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND SCIENCE
“Kanzi, Pan-Homo Culture and Theological Primatology”
Speaker: Nancy Howell, Ph.D., professor of theology and philosophy of religion,
St. Paul School of Theology
Tuesday, October 7, 7 p.m.
Commonwealth Chateau, SugarLoaf Hill
Information: www.irands.org

BOOK PRESENTATION & SIGNING
“The Outsider: Albert M. Greenfield and the Fall of the Protestant Establishment”
By Dan Rottenberg
Thursday, October 9, 7:30 p.m.
Commonwealth Chateau, SugarLoaf Hill
Registration requested: westveerd@chc.edu

32ND ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL
Monday, October 13
Wittemarsh Valley Country Club
Reservations: 215.753.3692

HARRY POTTER WEEKEND
Harry Potter Academic Conference
Friday, October 17, 2 - 6 p.m.
High School Invitational, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Rotunda, St. Joseph Hall

Music Concert
Harry and the Potters
Friday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.
Sorgenti Arena, Martino Hall

5th Annual Philadelphia Brotherly Love Quidditch Cup
Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Location: Quidditch Pitch (softball field)
Information: 215.248.7083

INTERDISCIPLINARY HONORS PROGRAM ALUMNI REUNION
Sunday, October 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Commonwealth Chateau, SugarLoaf Hill

LEGACY OF WORLD WAR I:
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE
November 14-15
Commonwealth Chateau, SugarLoaf Hill
Keynote Speakers: Jay Winter (Yale) and Laura Lee Downs (European Historical Institute, Florence, Italy)
Registration required.
Information: www.chc.edu/worldwar1/or contact wwalker@chc.edu

INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND SCIENCE
“Working at the Subtle Edge: The Intersection of Science and Religion”
Speaker: Michelle Franci, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, Bryn Mawr College
Tuesday, November 18, 7 p.m.
Commonwealth Chateau, SugarLoaf Hill
Information: www.irands.org

ADHD TREATMENT WORKSHOP
Friday, December 5
The professional psychology department will co-sponsor with CORA a full-day workshop on ADHD treatment. Fee.
Information: 215.248.7077

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Friday, December 5, 7 p.m.
Rotunda, St. Joseph Hall
Information: 215.248.7164

ALUMNI HOLIDAY CHEER
Friday, December 5, 8:45 p.m. -10:30 p.m.
Commonwealth Chateau, SugarLoaf Hill
Reservations: 215.248.7016
All alumni welcome

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Sunday, December 14
Details coming soon

INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND SCIENCE
“Curiosity: Foundation of Science, Theological Guide, Killer of Cats”
Speaker: Elliott Tammaro, Ph.D., assistant professor of physics, CHC
Monday, February 2, 2015, 7 p.m.
Commonwealth Chateau, SugarLoaf Hill
Information: www.irands.org

88TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT
Saturday, May 9, 2015, 10:30 a.m.
Information: chc.edu/graduation

CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE’S 90TH ANNIVERSARY
Saturday, May 16, 2015
Details coming soon

69TH ANNUAL REUNION
June 5 to 7, 2015
School of Undergraduate Studies classes ending in “0” and “5”
Reservations: 215.248.7137

EXHIBITION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STUDIO INCAMMINATI
“Face to Face: The Craniofacial Program Portrait Project Exhibition”
Continuing through October 14 in the Rotunda at St. Joseph Hall
Chestnut Hill College

For the latest event information, visit www.chc.edu and www.chcgriffinsonline.com
90TH ANNIVERSARY
CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE
Celebration

MAY 16, 2015

TOWER OF TREASURES • STUDENT SUPPORT LIVE AUCTION
LIBRIS SOCIETY INDUCTION • DINNER AND DANCING

All funds raised will support academic scholarships.