Golden Years
Mary Lou Sciarrillo ’66 guides a senior women’s basketball team to a title
Kicking off Harry Potter Weekend, members of the College’s Quidditch teams joined the Mask & Foil theater troupe (dressed as characters from the books) at the Top of the Hill Plaza. See page 9 for the full story.
The recently dedicated Commonwealth Chateau represents the growth and future of the College.

Mary Lou Sciarrillo ’66 guides the San Diego Splash to its sixth national senior women’s basketball championship.

A soon-to-be graduate learns the value of networking from the College’s Career Development office and alumni.

ON THE COVER: Mary Lou Sciarrillo ’66 regularly coaches the San Diego Splash at the Mission Valley YMCA. Photo by Susan Cooper.
Welcome to the fall issue of Chestnut Hill.

The beginning of a new academic year is always an exciting time on a college campus, as new faces arrive to complement the familiar ones returning back to campus. Chestnut Hill College is no exception. This fall, the second largest first-year class, the Class of 2015, entered the College full of anticipation and enthusiasm to start its collegiate experience. Little did we realize that Hurricane Irene would add to our “excitement” and pay the campus a visit just as students were moving back onto campus. Those who could quickly returned home for the weekend to ride out the storm, and the opening of the academic year was postponed a few days until the campus returned back to normal and the flooding subsided.

In this issue of Chestnut Hill, we have a variety of features that I hope you’ll find interesting. Our cover story spotlights alumna Mary Lou Sciarrillo ’66, a lifelong lover of basketball and no-nonsense instructor. Mary Lou coaches an energetic group of octogenarians known as the San Diego Splash that just brought home its sixth national senior women’s basketball championship. Our second feature showcases the recently dedicated Commonwealth Chateau, which marked the completion of a $6.2 million renovation to the mansion at Sugarloaf. Since the purchase of this property in 2006, the physical transformation of this campus is nothing short of astonishing, and the master plan for both campuses represents the growth and future of the College. It’s no surprise to anyone that in this challenging economic market, jobs are scarce for those with experience, let alone those just graduating with an undergraduate degree. Meet senior Jarreau Freeman, who discovered the importance of building professional relationships with alums while utilizing the services of Career Development.

As with every issue, our goal is for this collection of stories to connect you to today’s Chestnut Hill College. Let us know if there are particular stories you want to know more about; your feedback is important to us.

My best,

Kathleen M. Spigelmyer ’98
In October, the College hosted the First Annual Conference for Urban Sustainability for Colleges and Universities in the Delaware River Basin. It brought institutions together to find common ground on sustainability goals and practices.

“The overarching question was, ‘What would a collective commitment look like?’” said Mary Elizabeth Clark, SSJ, director of the SSJ Earth Center and special assistant to the president for sustainability. “Working together proactively, we can have a much stronger impact.”

Held at the Commonwealth Chateau at SugarLoaf, the conference drew approximately 50 representatives from schools such as Villanova University, St. Joseph’s University, Seton Hall University, and Columbia University. They discussed their own best practices for sustainability as well as opportunities for networking.

Sessions explored issues such as higher education in the age of ecology; how institutions can work with local communities for sustainability; and best practices for waste management and energy consumption. The keynote presentation from Miriam T. McGillis, O.P. of Genesis Farm, where people learn to live in harmony with the natural world and each other, issued a moral call in this critical time of global climate change.

“It’s what undergirds our work toward sustainability,” Sister Mary Elizabeth said. “It’s an overarching moral and philosophical approach.”

Sustainability continues to be a priority of the College. In addition to hosting the Sacred Earth conference in 2010, the School of Graduate Studies now offers a certificate program in sustainability and spirituality. The 12-credit program blends concrete objectives for sustainable living with a spirituality of eco-consciousness.

Led by Robert Meyer, Ph.D., professor of biology, and the SSJ Earth Center, the College also has a long-term vision for restoring the Wissahickon Creek that runs through its campus. Among small steps taken toward this goal was the planting of a walking path and storm water gardens on each side of the Earth Center. Meyer and a group of first-year students planted the gardens this fall with native, thirsty plants and trees and landscaped the area with debris they retrieved from the creek.

“This holds back some of the runoff of storm water that would have rushed into the parking lot and eroded the banks of the creek, ultimately ending up in the Schuylkill River,” said Sister Mary Elizabeth, who collaborates with the Philadelphia Water Department and secured a $5,000 “Change for Global Change” grant for the gardens.

“These are small steps, but they represent a real beginning.”

For more information, contact Sister Mary Elizabeth at mclark@ssjphila.org.
At the grand opening of its new fitness center in November, the College also introduced its new mascot. As this leaner and fiercer-looking figure — think Griffin 2.0 — bounded in, one could be forgiven for thinking it stole the show.

But then again, who better to represent this spectacular new space teeming with symbols of vitality and strength?

The fitness center has roughly four times more equipment than its predecessor. Treadmills with iPod compatibility and touch screens. Power racks with custom wooden platforms. Rows of free weights and resistance machines. There’s even lounge space for catching one’s breath or catching up with friends. You name it, they’ve got it.

“We’re ecstatic about this new fitness center,” said Sandy Dickson, director of fitness and recreation, “not only for the immediate tangible benefits for students, faculty, and staff but because of the catalytic role it plays for fitness, recreation, and health on campus.”

The College delivered on its promise to transform the old gymnasium beneath Clement Hall into a state-of-the-art, ADA-compliant, 5,000-square-foot fitness center. It’s also upholding the mission of providing holistic education.

Visitors are greeted by beautiful faux wood floors and a giant Griffin logo on the back wall. Natural light pours in from the mezzanine level. Students using the lounge space or cardio machines have a direct view of a newly landscaped extension of the piazza, highlighted by a cupola that serves as the entrance to the fitness center. There, visitors see a beautiful pavilion with a fleur de lis on the top and the College seal in granite on the floor. The pavilion connects the fitness center to the residence hall zone, creating a new hub of activity for students.

“This really takes the campus to a new level,” said Lauri Strimkovsky, senior vice president for financial affairs and chief of staff.

The fitness center is the first component of a $3.4 million complex provided by Jack and Rosemary Murphy Gulati ‘61, Michael and Margaret Carney McCaffery ‘77, and the state of Pennsylvania.
Religion and science — one might think that these fields clash, that scientists and theologians are not capable of communicating with one another. But this is not the case with the recently developed Institute for Religion and Science at the College. Its director, Kathleen Duffy, SSJ, Ph.D., professor of physics and director of the Interdisciplinary Honors Program, has been involved for the last 12 years with the Metanexus Institute, a group that stimulates collaboration between these fields of study. With the inception of the Institute, Sister Kathy expects to continue this work for many years to come.

“The Institute for Religion and Science promotes the constructive engagement of science and religion,” she said. “We would like to see interaction between the fields of religion and science rather than either their conflation or a perception that they are contradictory ways of knowing.”

For 12 years, the Philadelphia-based Metanexus Institute had been providing international conferences, lectures, and programs to those who are interested in the science and religion dialogue. When it recently decided to relocate from the Philadelphia area to New York City, its governing board voted to transfer some of its assets to the College. The goal was for Sister Kathy to establish the Institute for Religion and Science and continue to stimulate science and religion dialogue in Philadelphia.

The Institute will host events, some specifically for scholars and others welcoming the entire community. All will be focused on aspects of the science/religion dialogue. Sister Kathy isn’t taking on this task alone.

In January, the College will unveil the second — a new student lounge in what used to be the Social Room.

Picture a Cosí with a CHC twist. It’s vibrant while maintaining the character of the Social Room. In the center is a circle adorned with light poles conveying elements of the College’s mission, with a stone-clad fireplace also vying for attention. A café will serve specialty coffees and smoothies and Panini sandwiches, which visitors can bring back to the comfortable seating areas. Or, they can pull up a chair and take advantage of flat-screen TVs and Wi-Fi access.

Excitement for the new space abounds, especially in the admissions department. Highly visible to prospective students and their families, the lounge figures to boost the College’s appeal.

“If visiting the campus, prospective students will see our current students grabbing a coffee, relaxing with friends, or studying for an exam,” said Lori Boccuzzi, director of undergraduate admissions. “For a visiting family, witnessing those small moments can make or break a decision on which college to call ‘home.’”

> > COLLEGE LAUNCHES INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND SCIENCE

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“The Institute will be inviting people from a variety of religious persuasions and a variety of scientific disciplines to join us in this effort,” she said.

There is also an active inter-faith and inter-science advisory committee that will help to develop programming. The hope is that issues raised will help participants to deal with contemporary problems, stimulate inter-faith dialogue, and promote greater understanding among peoples.

The College and the community-at-large can look forward to interesting dialogue in the coming months, not only at the College but a variety of venues in the Greater Philadelphia region. This past semester, the Institute sponsored Sister Kathy’s faculty colloquium on the mysticism of French Jesuit paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and screened the new film, “Journey of the Universe.” Responses and discussion were led by Margie Thompson, SSJ, MFA, associate professor of art and Edward Devinney Ph.D., professor of astronomy at the College and Villanova University. A slate of events is being planned for 2012.

Teilhard de Chardin once said, “We are one, after all, you and I. Together we suffer, together exist, and forever will recreate each other.” The Institute for Religion and Science at Chestnut Hill College will certainly be focusing its energy in this direction.

For more information on the Institute for Religion and Science, contact Sister Kathy at institute4RS@chc.edu.

— Olivia Marcinka ’13

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Student-athletes using the free weights.
Michael Seiden, M.D., Ph.D., president of the Fox Chase Cancer Center, presented “The Evolution of Cancer: Past, Present, and Future” on campus September 28. He discussed the 50 years of progress in understanding and treating cancer, where cancer care could be in 10 to 20 years, and how scientific inquiry will aid in the quest to prevail over cancer.

Seiden’s research focuses on the clinical and translational studies in ovarian cancer that are designed to expedite the application of laboratory discoveries to clinical therapies for patients and use clinical insights to form testable questions in the laboratory to help advance our understanding of cancer biology.

As president and chief executive officer of the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Seiden is responsible for all strategic planning, finance, and operations and serves as principal investigator for many grants, including the NCI-sponsored Comprehensive Cancer Center grant and the NCI-funded ovarian SPORE grant.

Prior to the lecture, Seiden met with several students, offering educational and career advice. The lecture was part of the 18th Annual Biomedical Lecture series directed by Lakshmi Atchison, Ph.D., professor of biology. The series brings renowned members of the science and medical fields to campus to interact with the College community. Dawn Bonnell, Ph.D., Trustee Chair Professor, Materials Science and Engineering and Director, Nano/Bio Interface Center, The University of Pennsylvania, is scheduled to present the next lecture in the series on February 15.

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

The competition was fierce. Students from prestigious institutions such as Princeton University, Drexel University, Bryn Mawr College, Haverford College, and Cedar Crest College descended upon Thomas Jefferson University to present their scientific research on Sigma Xi Day.

But Kelly Kolson ’11, a double major in psychology and biology, was ready. For several months, she had been preparing to present her research on the effectiveness of the removal of total suspended solids and nutrient pollution from storm water sources at the Saylor Grove wetland project in Philadelphia.

Kolson’s hard work paid off, as she was one of just five undergraduates to be awarded a certificate and monetary prize. Asked whether she was nervous during her presentation, Kolson said, “When I was presenting, I felt both nervous and confident. But I was more confident than nervous because I had spent so much time conducting my research.”

The arduous journey to the Sigma Xi Day contest started in November of 2007, when Kolson began her sample collection with two test tubes of water for chemical testing. From there, an analysis of the sedimentation had to be performed, the clay and the split separated, the total suspended solids determined, chemical testing conducted, and a thorough analysis of the data performed.

The fact that Kolson’s determination resulted in an award-winning presentation didn’t come as a surprise to those who know her best. Joseph Kulkosky, Ph.D., chair of the biology department, regards his advisee as extremely dedicated.

“Kelly was a very interactive and focused student, and she enjoyed academic challenges,” Kulkosky said. “She was one of the most pleasant students, of the highest integrity, that I’ve advised.”

Kolson’s dedication and skill also earned her the Grace Banks Science Award, granted to an outstanding senior based on their academic record and strength of written essay, at Honors Convocation in May.

Following the strenuous demands of double majoring in college, Kolson is currently exploring possibilities and enjoying opportunities as they come along. She currently resides in Huelva, Spain and works as an English teacher. Kolson hopes to one day acquire a Ph.D. in science so she can have a “positive impact on other people and the world around [her].”

–Aizaz Gill ’14

Kelly Kolson ’11 received the Grace Banks Science Award at Honors Convocation.
As a family therapist for 20 years, Scott Browning, Ph.D. saw first-hand the increases in divorce and stepfamily situations. What he didn’t see, however, was a corresponding growth of understanding.

“Every time I’d get on a plane and discuss what I know, people would say, ‘Wow, you’re talking exactly about my family,’” said Browning, professor of psychology. “I realized that a lot of people were hungry to hear more about this.”

The more people he talked to and patients he saw, the more Browning understood the nuances that differentiate stepfamilies from traditional families. He became very interested in helping therapists adjust their approach to treat the former, and noticed a dearth of guidance.

“There were books for stepfamilies, but amazingly little for therapists,” Browning said. “I saw a gaping hole and went for it.”

The result is “Stepfamily Therapy: A 10-Step Clinical Approach,” co-authored by family therapist Elise Artelt. The book integrates clinical interventions with an original framework for stepfamily therapy, in an attempt to foster positive communication between individuals.

The idea for the book originated in the classroom, where Browning creates situations in which psychology students portray stepfamilies. What Browning heard from the students didn’t differ from the sentiments of his patients.

“My patient was saying, ‘They were saying the exact same things,’” Browning said, “and it helped me to design a series of steps to help people understand the unique form of stepfamilies.”

After finding a publisher, Browning took a sabbatical to fully concentrate on writing and collaborating. Fittingly, he described the co-authoring process as “a little like a marriage.”

“It can get very intense,” Browning said, “a lot of talking and, at times, disagreeing.”

The process was worth it, however, with Browning offering his theoretical framework, to which Artelt applied case studies and a chapter on diversity within stepfamilies, resulting in a well-received work. It explores the history of stepfamily therapy, the limitations of the one-size-fits-all approach to family therapy, and the particular vulnerabilities of the stepfamily.

A key concept is subsystems, or the factions within a stepfamily. By gearing treatment to smaller groups of individuals first, the authors assert, therapists can help the larger group to become stable more quickly.

“A lot of times, stepfamilies look back on those first five to six years as a bad dream,” Browning said. “Along the way, they’ve become a healthy and happy family.”

At its quarterly meeting on December 5, the College’s board of directors reappointed Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D. as president for a fifth five-year term. This term spans July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2017.

The board unanimously approved the reappointment following a review of Sister Carol’s achievements as president from 2006-2011 and an articulation of her vision for the next five years. In the review, the board also cited Sister Carol’s leadership strengths as well as some of the challenges and recommendations involving leadership of the College over the next five years.

In a joint announcement to the College community, Barbara D’Iorio Martino ’60, chair of the board of directors, and Sister Anne Myers, SSJ, Ph.D., vice chair of the board of directors and president of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, wrote: “This decision was made with great thanksgiving and deep confidence in Sister Carol’s dynamic leadership and with recognition of the outstanding accomplishments of her presidency over the past 20 years.

“The board recognizes that Sister Carol’s faithfulness to the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and of Chestnut Hill College inspires and focuses her untiring efforts on behalf of the College,” they added. “The board also affirms the generous support, investment, and leadership of the administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni, benefactors, and the Sisters of Saint Joseph in enabling the accomplishments of Sister Carol Jean Vale.”
Avena has been fishing since he was two years old. He founded the College’s fishing club in 2009 and competed in FLW Outdoors college tournaments with classmate Troy Eikenberry and John Redding ’14, finishing as high as fourth.

In 2011, Avena competed in three professional tournaments, which presented a steep learning curve.

“It was different going against guys who have been doing it their whole lives,” Avena said, “but each time, I learned more and more.”

Avena’s professional journey continued at the EverStart tournament on Kentucky Lake in late October. Beyond that, his future was uncertain.

“Avena has earned enough points to qualify for the 2012 FLW Outdoors pro tour, consisting of 10 tournaments around the country. But the expenses are steep — upwards of $40,000 to enter a tournament on top of travel costs. Avena earned $29,150 from his Lake Champlain championship, but he’s looking to supplement that with sponsorships.

“It really would be special,” he said after a brief pause, “traveling around the country doing what I love.”

For more information, visit Avena’s Web site at www.adrianavena.com.
More than 2,500 fans of all ages watched the annual Quidditch tournament.

TOWN-GOWN EFFORT ENLIVENS HARRY POTTER WEEKEND

Their preparations completed and vision realized, the organizers of the first annual Harry Potter Weekend just hoped for a few hundred people to show up for the festivities. Instead, a crowd of 4,000 emerged.

“We were blown away,” said Mary Kate May of the town-gown steering committee that organized the community events. “We had to work around the clock to keep things going, but it was worth it to see how much fun people were having. Every kid you saw was beaming.”

From October 14-16, the shops and restaurants of Chestnut Hill magically leaped off of the pages of “Harry Potter” books. McNally’s Tavern became the Leaky Cauldron, serving Muggle muffins and a butterbeer rum concoction. O’Doodles Toys became Weasley’s Wizarding Wheezes, painting faces and dressing children in costumes. The Night Kitchen bakery became Madame Puddifoot’s Tea Shoppe, offering sustenance to wizards.

“It’s a great example of what can happen when the Chestnut Hill Business Association, residents, and the College work together,” McNally’s owner Ann McNally said of the steering committee’s efforts. “It’s great for the entire community.”

The weekend’s anchor, the student-organized Philadelphia Brotherly Love Cup Quidditch tournament, was held at the College for the second consecutive year. The steering committee’s goal was to support the growing trend of college students playing Quidditch and the popularity of Harry Potter and create a weekend of events in town with fun activities for all ages.

“We thought it was a perfect fit.” May said. “The College looks so much like Hogwarts and the town looks like Hogsmeade.”

The collaboration between key institutions in the area was unprecedented. Woodmere Art Museum offered the Owl’s Eye hay maze, while the Morris Arboretum held a scarecrow contest. The College’s Mask & Foil theater troupe performed as the Harry Potter ensemble, and local grade school students became the chess pieces of a live match between wizards. Other favorites included the Quidditch 101 training camp, a Defense against the Dark Arts class, a spooky ghost tour, and a scavenger hunt.

Visitors from as far as Virginia and Pittsburgh kept the registers ringing, with Starbucks reporting its best day ever, long lines snaking from Zipf’s Candies, and the Germantown Avenue pub crawl selling 200 shirts in a blink. The revelry made its way to campus, too, with more than 2,500 spectators watching the College’s Slytherin team defeat Penn State’s Three Broomsticks to claim the Cup.

Reflecting on the weekend of wizardry and wonder, organizers raved about the town-gown partnership and stressed how eager they were to raise the bar for next year’s events.

“This is just the beginning,” May said. “It’s rewarding to provide fun for the whole family while showcasing the College as the spectacular school that it is.”

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State-of-the art elevators are now in operation by the Dining Room and the Griffin’s Den, making transportation smoother and more accessible for the College community. Serving as the students’ main route to the residence hall and as a service elevator, respectively, the new elevators are part of a $1.2 million project that continues this spring with the addition of two new elevators in St. Joseph Hall. The project was supported by state grants and a bequest. The elevators replace the wire-cage ones original to the building in 1924 — “We sure got our money’s worth,” said Lauri Strinkovsky, senior vice president for financial affairs and chief of staff. [Pictured: Nicole Mezzanotte ’13, Anna St. Hilaire ’12, and Katherine Tohanczyn ’12]
IN RECENT YEARS, OCEANS OF INK HAVE BEEN
spilled discussing the price tag of higher education. Analysis after
analysis has been offered, or is underway, to discover why the
cost of attending college has risen to dramatic heights. What used
to be expensive, but within the reach of middle income families,
has escalated to a point that is making it increasingly impossible
for the average family to afford. While local, state, and federal
governments have sought to understand the phenomenon,
colleges and universities have failed to provide a logical and
understandable explanation for the rise in tuition prices.

In truth, this is a complicated subject, one not easily simplified
into sound bites and compelling headlines. Like many journalists,
who settle for the sensational at the expense of accuracy, many
interested parties have not spent the necessary time to consider
the variables and the factors that would help them grasp the
multifaceted considerations that determine tuition prices.
One critically salient fact is that not all institutions are driven by
the same exigencies when it comes to tuition income. The Ivies, the
Sisters, the elite universities and liberal arts colleges have little, and
perhaps nothing, in common with independent mid-size and smaller
institutions. While their academic programs are much the same,
their financial pictures bear no significant similarity. Because “one
size does NOT fit all,” it is an arduous and extremely complex task
to grasp pricing in higher education. This commentary will make a
small attempt to further the national conversation on this topic.

There are a number of factors driving today’s increasing prices.
Some are justifiable and predictable; others are not justifiable,
but expected.

Home owners know there are certain fixed costs associated with
maintaining a house. Electricity, water, heat, small repairs, large
replacement costs for siding, roofs, pavements, etc., must be taken
into account when planning for present and future budgetary
expenses. The same is true at colleges and universities, but on
a much larger scale. Most institutions are many decades old,
some more than a century, demanding huge investments in
infrastructure replacement, renovations, and deferred maintenance.

Colleges and universities must maintain a large staff to run the
institution. Not only administrators but staff who are hired to meet
each and every need of the community must be paid a just wage.
This includes, but is not limited to, large numbers of administrative staff,
maintenance staff, groundskeepers, housekeepers, food service workers, and
security personnel. Outsourced contracts, subject to external forces which determine
contractual increases, are responsible for millions of dollars in expenses
and, while there is negotiation, higher education institutions,
like everyone else, are often subject to the vagaries and demands of
the market.

Think of the expense of replacing yesterday’s state-of-the-art
technology with the latest technology. The minute the
update is purchased, it is outdated. There is a never-
ending creative cycle of
innovation and production driving
costs higher and higher as institutions
seek to remain on the cutting edge
in the technology used for business
operations, teaching and learning,
the physical plant operation, technology
for student uses and needs, etc.

While universities with huge endowments can
keep pace, the smaller institutions struggle to
compete while trying to pass as little of
the cost on to students as possible.

Salaries are a key element in
escalating costs. Faculty and staff
deserve to be paid not just a wage,
but a wage that recognizes their level of professional qualifications, expertise, and experience. Historically, teachers have been poorly compensated, especially given the critically crucial service they perform for society. For example, salaries and benefits at Chestnut Hill College account for approximately 53 percent of the operating budget. In order to attract and retain the best faculty, staff, and administrators, institutions create and implement compensation packages comparable to their benchmark schools. This is a costly, but essential, undertaking.

In addition, there are federal and state regulations that are multiplying at the expense of the colleges. As federal and state funding for education is cut, the institution must bear the burden and finance the deficit. For example, the maximum Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Authority (PHEAA) grant, the Pennsylvania student assistance grant, has fluctuated over the past few years, reaching a high in 2006-2007 of $4,700, dipping as low as $3,300, and rebounding currently to $4,348. Students require this money in order to meet their financial obligations. When funds are reduced, the amount of in-house student aid must increase so needy students can remain in school. Direct state aid to independent institutions in Pennsylvania has been reduced 33 percent over the past three years. This means a deduction from the operating budget to offset some of the cuts to student financial aid. Through fundraising, tuition increases, or internal budget deductions, the dollars from these Institutional Assistance Grants have to be replaced in order for colleges to meet essential financial obligations.

When the federal government decided to end their long relationships with loan guaranty agencies, such as PHEAA, and pass the responsibility for direct loan paperwork on to the colleges and universities, institutions were forced to hire personnel to handle the details. As a result, the government saved money by passing costs on to the higher education community.

Academic program development, creation of online courses, providing state-of-the-art classroom aids and instrumentation, and faculty and staff development all take significant bites from the budget. The learning endeavor is expensive, but no one would deny the essential nature of the expenditure of funds to support and enhance it.

Then there are the new buildings which must be constructed to meet the needs of increasing enrollment. Many of these structures are funded by gifts from generous alumni and friends of the institution, but the ongoing upkeep, maintenance, and care must be incorporated into the operating budget.

Everything mentioned above is a necessity, not a luxury. Each and every component is vital to the life and health of the institution. It is the administration’s responsibility to provide students with an inviting environment and modern, state-of-the-art instrumentation and equipment to support the academic and co-curricular programs of the institution. These expenses are covered by the operating budget — funds that are accrued through tuition revenues, gifts, grants, and transfers from the endowment.

However, there is another side to the costs driving tuition prices higher and still higher. These areas can cost more or less money depending upon student and parent expectations. These are the areas no one wants to discuss, but these are the areas that are most in need of being addressed.

“Because ‘one size does NOT fit all,’ it is an arduous and extremely complex task to grasp pricing in higher education.”

Let’s begin with financial aid, which is extraordinarily complex and intricate with enough governing rules and regulations to give even experts intellectual indigestion. We can assume for sake of discussion that the tuition at a college, exclusive of room and board, is $30,000 — that is the sticker price, what one can expect to pay. However, that price is seldom paid at many institutions like Chestnut Hill, where the financial needs of students and their families are taken seriously. Tuition discounting is common practice in higher education. Certainly, you have heard friends talk about getting the “best offer” from a college and leveraging financial aid packages to determine which school a son or daughter will attend. In this environment, that discount may well be more than 40 percent of the sticker price. Of course, there are many places where it is less, perhaps between 30 percent and 40 percent. At the most exclusive and highest priced institutions, there may be little or no discount. At many colleges this discount comes in the form of a scholarship or merit award given to students who have grades and standardized test scores that deserve recognition. In other instances, the discount is offered to meet the financial needs of incoming students.
Let's look at two hypothetical financial aid packages. Student 1 is a member of a family of four with an income of $65,000. He received a merit award of $11,000, an athletic grant of $4,000, and other college discounts totaling $2,000; this represents a discount rate of 57 percent. This student also receives a state grant aid of $2,000, bringing the net tuition cost to $11,000. The total amount of the discount is $19,000. Thus, the sticker price of $39,500 is now reduced to $20,500. This student can further reduce the tuition amount with federal and alternative loans, which will be repaid after graduation.

Student 2 is a member of a family of five with an income of $69,000. She received a merit scholarship of $15,000 and other college discounts of $3,000 for a 60 percent discount rate. This student also receives a state grant of $1,250. The total amount of aid is $19,250, thus reducing the tuition cost to $10,750. The cost of tuition and room and board is now $20,250. The student can further reduce this payment by obtaining loans and will ease the burden of payment by participating in an interest-free college payment plan.

What was a total tuition, room, and board charge (including books) of $39,500 is now reduced by 48 percent and 49 percent, respectively. Is this too much to pay for a private college education, including room and board, for eight months? This price certainly is not as exorbitant as reporters and legislators would have us believe.

Yet, college prices could be lower. What contributes to the escalating price of education can be explained in two words: curb appeal. Nationally, to ensure curb appeal, there are practices that are driving prices upward and raising the level of inter-institutional competition for all size colleges and universities. First, there is a perception that a high tuition price means high prestige. Some consumers want to boast about how much they are paying for a college education; that is, to tout the "prestige factor" that high prices are thought to guarantee. In truth, even if they get a "best buy," they do not want to admit that they got one. On the other hand, in recent years, other consumers have been counseled by professionals to drive hard bargains with colleges in order to pay the lowest possible tuition. These consumers, in turn, own bragging rights to the huge deduction they negotiated.

There are two outcomes to these positions. First, in order to regain some of the discount, institutions are forced to raise prices the
Second, there are a growing number of students who want colleges and universities to provide amenities commonly associated with fine clubs or with a lifestyle they have not yet earned. Residence halls could be built for $45,000 per bed; however, these are not the residences students want. Instead, apartments with single rooms, private baths, and living room and kitchen space are increasingly sought. The cost to build these complexes rises to $85,000 or more per bed.

Third, athletic facilities can cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Build that football stadium that appears to be designed for a professional team, construct that deluxe field house with glitzy finishes, provide state-of-the-art baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and softball stadiums, create an equestrian center, install a golf course and, then, maintain them. The cost — astronomical. Do our children require luxury sports venues to improve the quality of learning? Certainly, they need and deserve fine facilities, no one would argue with that. There must, however, be a middle ground that meets expectations and is also faithful to the primary mission of higher education.

Fourth, the equivalent of the concierge is a fairly new member of the staff on some campuses — that is, the person(s) who makes certain that students can order tickets for events in town, helps plan where to take their parents when they visit and procures the passes for entrance, gets reservations at rated restaurants, makes them aware of the coming exhibits at the museums, etc. No need to worry about calling for tickets and reservations — this can be taken care of by the “five-star campus hotel” service. A need or a luxury?

These are a few of the facts some administrators across the country do not want to talk about, but they are realities that demand conversation. At Chestnut Hill College, we construct buildings when institutional needs demand new structures. While we strive to provide state-of-the-art facilities and appropriate amenities, we are conscious of our responsibility to spend donor dollars wisely and purposefully. Our students appreciate what they receive and, hopefully, learn from their college experience — not to settle for less, but to use what they have to its optimal potential.

The complexities of financing higher education are many. Most institutions have no intention to gouge families or to raise tuition to prohibitive levels. Meeting the demands of the annual budget is not the issue. Meeting the growing expectations of prospective students is more challenging. There are ways to reduce expenditures, but that will require a buy-in from all parties, such as higher education institutions, federal and state governments, and donors, and a willingness to provide college services, athletic facilities, residence halls, activities, etc., that are state-of-the-art, but are not lavish.

Educators maintain that every qualified applicant should receive an excellent education and graduate prepared to be successful professionally and personally. Ideally, it is also a goal to have students complete college with little or no debt. Chestnut Hill College is a learning community that develops the whole person — mind, body, heart, and spirit. Our responsibility is to teach students, not only what they need to make a living, but to challenge them to live conscientiously, compassionately, and justly in a society that needs desperately to understand that all people deserve to have “enough.” This begins by recognizing the difference between wants and needs and, then, having the generosity to use only what we need so others can have “enough.”

Sincerely,

Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.  
President
On a less tangible level, however, it marked the extent to which the College has grown — and the brightness of its future.

“The Chateau has the potential to be the cornerstone of our vision for Sugarloaf and the College,” said Lauri Strimkovsky, senior vice president for financial affairs and chief of staff. “It’s the hub of the Master Plan — the kickoff of what we plan to do.”

Offering a warm environment of elegance, the Chateau hosts graduate classes as well as various conferences and social events for the College and greater community. Once word of its amenities travels, the College expects the Chateau to generate significant rental revenue.

“The feedback thus far from guests of the conferences and events we’ve held there has been extremely positive,” Strimkovsky said. “It’s ideal for a variety of purposes. The space is just fabulous.”

WHAT’S OLD IS NEW IS OLD

The history of the Chateau traces back nearly as far as that of the College. The mansion was built in 1929 by the Steele family, which sold it to the Greenfields in 1952. At that point, the mansion was renovated to the style of the times.

To help restore the Chateau to its original look, one more befitting the architecture seen elsewhere in today’s Chestnut Hill, the College turned to Mark McGrath, its director of facilities and the long-time caretaker of the property. McGrath combed through old photographs to help architects recreate the building’s original facade and landscaping.

“The goal was to preserve the historic nature of the property while giving us a beautiful building to use for multiple purposes,” Strimkovsky said.

Supporting the College’s renovation of the Chateau was $3 million in grants from the state of Pennsylvania as well as the generosity of alumni and friends. The project included completely refurbishing all of the electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems; adding a new kitchen; expanding the dining room; and modifying the classrooms, library, and upstairs apartment.

“The original woodwork, such as that of the floor in the reception room and lobby, was used as much as possible and new wood chosen carefully to match. The Chateau also features some French-American touches, reflecting the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

“It’s the little things, the maps of France and Philadelphia in the library and the fleur de lis throughout, that tie into our iconic imagery,” Strimkovsky said.
The Commonwealth Chateau is the perfect setting for upscale events. Secluded on 30 wooded acres bordering the Wissahickon Valley, the Chateau offers a gracious yet intimate space that sets the tone for business and social events as well as conferences.

Guests will feel at home in the tastefully decorated spaces, moving from the foyer, with its elegant, sweeping staircase, into the grand salon and dining room. Resplendent with three exquisite chandeliers, the dining room can easily host up to 130 people for dinner and dancing, and the adjoining grand salon is perfect for guests to meet, greet, and socialize.

A well-proportioned library on the first floor is the ideal space to host a board meeting or small conference for 20 for less. The first floor’s panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows invite the lush splendor of the Wissahickon Valley.

On the second floor, four modern, technology-appointed salons provide classroom and breakout rooms for educational seminars and meetings that can comfortably seat up to 25.

Hidden on the top floor is the well-appointed Hermitage, which is perfect for use as a pre-wedding bridal suite or an overnight getaway. The homey but luxurious space sits on one of the topmost points of the Hill, offering a spectacular view of the SugarLoaf Hill landscape. It is not without its share of history, either, having been visited by John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson prior to their presidencies and Gerald Ford following his.

During the summer, Loyola Lodge offers 32 air-conditioned rooms suitable for overnight conference attendees. During the school year, it operates as a residence hall.
The recently dedicated Commonwealth Chateau represents the growth and future of the College.

In May, College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D. presided over the dedication of the Commonwealth Chateau. Attended by benefactors and former Pennsylvania governor Edward G. Rendell, the ceremony marked the completion of the $6.2 million renovation to the mansion at SugarLoaf.
RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

The College’s mission of concern for the earth has also been central to development at SugarLoaf. It showed a commitment to preserving the character of the community by limiting development to fewer than four acres of the property. With a $1 million Growing Greener grant from the state, it also preserved 10 acres as green space in perpetuity, and another nine acres will be preserved through easements.

Indeed, the College’s zoning status requires careful consideration of any environmental factors related to a project. In June, Philadelphia City Council approved the College’s request to rezone the campus from residential status to an Institutional Development District (IDD). The latter permits the construction of the new buildings shown on the College’s Master Plan as necessary without the College seeking a zoning variance each time. This change will save time and money, but the College also voluntarily amended its legislation to limit new construction to levels far below those of traditional IDDs.

While there is no further development planned in the short term, the Master Plan calls for new academic buildings and residence halls and a 450-car parking garage at SugarLoaf, as well as a performing arts center on the main campus. The overall plan is expected to take up to 25 years to complete and cost $350-500 million.

“With a continuously growing population of students, it is essential that new academic and social buildings be added to the magnificent structures that dominate this part of Chestnut Hill,” Sister Carol said. “We are planning for the future of the College and, at the same time, we are celebrating the great success we enjoy in the present.”

The $11 million purchase of SugarLoaf in 2006 was one of the most transformational moments in the College’s history — an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to nearly double the size of campus and meet the needs of its growing student body and community.

Its cornerstone, the Chateau, represents an important step in realizing the vision for the future. But it’s also a source of pride and momentum.

“When you can deliver on a project like this and show people how it impacts the lives of the members of our community, donors will step up to the plate,” Strimkovsky said. “They can see what a difference their money will make. That can only help us to follow through on the rest of our plans.”
Chestnut Hill College strives to keep a college education rooted in Catholic values within reach for students and families. Now, more than ever, academic scholarships play a crucial role in the pursuit of higher education. Scholarships ensure that the brightest, most dedicated students have access to the excellent educational opportunities Chestnut Hill College offers, regardless of their economic background. Your participation and generosity directly affects these students and the communities they serve after graduation.

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

Interested in learning more or joining the Gala committee? Contact Nicole Minardi at 215.753.3692 or minardin@chc.edu, or visit www.chc.edu/gala.
Mary Lou Sciarrillo ’66 guides the San Diego Splash to its sixth national senior women’s basketball championship.

WHEN MARY LOU SCIARRILLO ’66 AGREED TO COACH the San Diego Splash, she knew the stakes were high. Having won five gold medals in the 80+ age division and fallen a single point shy of two more, the Splash was firmly entrenched as the team to beat.

“Silver is not what they’re after,” Sciarrillo said. “That put a lot of pressure on me.”

A lifelong lover of basketball and no-nonsense instructor, Sciarrillo accepted the challenge.

“I told them we’d be using the John Wooden philosophy — if you’re fundamentally sound, you’ll win the majority of your games,” she said.

Beyond Xs and Os, however, Sciarrillo and the Splash forged a bond. They took to the 2011 National Senior Games in June as kindred spirits.

“If you knew these people, you’d want to do anything you could to help them,” she said. “They’re an inspiration to me and everyone who sees them compete.”
Sciarrillo stresses the importance of basketball fundamentals.
Splash captain Cori Thomson scans the court for an open teammate.
The Splash is a team of eight women between the ages of 82 and 86 who have played together for 18 years. Meg Skinner, who mourns the loss of her husband, plays beside Cori Thomson, a former Marine who beat cancer.

“They’ve endured bruises, broken bones, and the deaths of loved ones,” said Kirsten Cummings, founder of the National Senior Women’s Basketball Association (NSWBA). “They find joy in playing basketball. They are sisters, mothers, grandmothers, and friends.”

But before you get the wrong idea, it should be said that these are not grannies getting together in their leisure time. This is a group of dedicated players who work on their game all year around and will do whatever it takes to win — whether that’s diving for loose balls or taking a pounding under the basket.

“These athletes play serious basketball,” Cummings said. “Through sweat and sometimes blood, these women are living their athletic dreams.”

**A DIFFERENT TIME**

It’s no exaggeration to say that Cori Thomson, the Splash’s 83-year-old captain, waited all her life for a moment like the National Senior Games. Right from the first time she saw an older cousin play a high school game, Thomson longed to roam the court. By the time she made it to high school, however, the school district deemed basketball too rough and rugged for girls.

“That’s the kind of thing that sticks in your mind,” Thomson said.

She played intramural basketball in college before joining a recreational league in Las Vegas. But when she joined the Marine Corps, Thomson learned that female officers weren’t permitted to compete in team games.

“It was just one thing after the other,” she said.

It may be difficult for today’s female student-athletes to grasp, but the 1950s and 1960s were a very different time.

“For many of these pre-Title Nine women, there just wasn’t a place or the time to play basketball,” said SWBA Director Susanne Carvalho. “It wasn’t socially accepted.”

But Thomson’s passion for basketball never faded. In 1997, she saw an article about a women’s basketball league in the newspaper, which led her to nationals in Tucson, Ariz.

“I watched these gals and thought, ‘I can do that. I can play with them,’” Thomson said. “I went down to talk to them after the game and they told me where they practiced. I showed up and have been here ever since.”

Reflecting on a long and winding path to the hardwood, Thomson’s feelings veer from wistful to thankful.

“I almost think it was meant to be,” she said. “If I had been allowed to play when I was younger, I may not have the knees to play now. And it was certainly worth the wait.”

**A PASSION FOR BASKETBALL**

Sciarrillo’s love affair with basketball began at the age of 12. Her prowess at the Academy of Holy Angels in Demarest, N.J., put her in its Athletics Hall of Fame. She also played ball for the College in the mid-1960s, before a brief coaching stint during her graduate studies at Georgetown University.

Sciarrillo spent the next 20-plus years in California building a successful career in human resources, but she never closed the book on her playing days. Just like Thomson, she stumbled upon a newspaper mention of a senior women’s league in San Diego.

“You would think there would have been something like that in Los Angeles County, but there wasn’t,” she said. “So I drove 260 miles round trip every Sunday to go down and play.”

Sciarrillo’s admiration for the players, some of them Splash members, took hold immediately.

“I looked at them and thought, ‘Who in this country can beat these women?’”

Sciarrillo joined the league in 1999 and has played three times a week since. She competed at nationals in 2003 and continued building a rapport with the Splash. Finally, they offered her a golden opportunity.

“She told us she wasn’t a coach,” Thomson said, “but you could have fooled me.”

Right from the start, Sciarrillo stressed fundamentals and basic schemes for offense and defense. The biggest key was understanding her personnel.

“It can be hard to teach an 80-year-old,” Thomson said, laughing. “Especially an 80-year-old out there playing basketball. We tend to have our own ideas.”

Sciarrillo agrees that patience is vital. Another consideration unique to coaching seniors is their health status. While some players can play the whole game, others get winded quickly.

“We have a rule where if you’re on the court and need to come out, you grab the top of your shirt, ‘I need out, I need out,’” Sciarrillo said. “One player is diabetic and has macular degeneration — I don’t know how she can even shoot, but she’s one of our best.”

Of course, the flip side of seniors playing basketball is that it adds vitality to their lives.

“Life becomes a lot more limited when you’re older,” Sciarrillo said. “Playing ball...”
is not only great exercise but a great outlet for them.”

Indeed, the Splash’s players have become a very close-knit community. A family, even. Together, they attend movies, the symphony, and local women’s college basketball games, and it’s common to see grandchildren roaming around.

“I’ve become very close with and protective of them,” Sciarrillo said. “They’re just delightful people with a genuine camaraderie. No other team would even think of trying to recruit them away.”

A HARDWOOD HAVEN

Following All-American status at Long Beach State and 14 years of playing basketball professionally, Cummings returned to her hometown of San Diego. She heard of the seniors competing at the local YMCA but had to see them for herself.

“I thought, ‘There’s a bunch of old women playing basketball? Are you serious?’” she said. “But then I walked into the gym and saw them competing. I immediately got goosebumps.”

“Here were these women laughing, sweating, rebounding, blocking shots, telling the referee what they thought about things, and playing basketball with a passion,” she added. “I couldn’t believe it.”

Cummings was so taken with the players that she became the California commissioner of senior women’s basketball and founded the NSWBA. Her purview includes the Senior Women’s Basketball Association (SWBA), in which the Splash competes. The league is the largest and longest-running in the nation, winning the most medals at the National Senior Games and inspiring senior women’s basketball teams far and wide. Indeed, San Diego can be fairly considered the city for senior women’s basketball.

“What helps is they play four seasons a year here,” Sciarrillo said. “Also, teams here are used to playing people much younger than they are. The older ones really look forward to nationals where they can go up against people their own age.”

SWBA basketball is three-on-three, half court. There are two 12-minute halves of play with a running clock. The other major difference between this and men’s basketball is height, with few players here eclipsing five and a half feet.

Less size doesn’t translate to less toughness, however. Players practice as often as four times a week, taping up skinned knees and fingers and affixing braces. And the games do get physical at times.

“It’s much rougher than it was for my cousin,” Thomson said. “You couldn’t even touch each other back then. Couldn’t set a pick. Now, it depends on the referee.

“You’ll see plenty of contact on rebounds and loose balls, and we’ve suffered our share of injuries,” she added. “One gal had to take a break at age 86 because of two broken wrists and a broken finger.”

GOING FOR THE GOLD

Sciarrillo is “in awe” of the Splash for their toughness and dedication to the game. Between that and the time and financial commitment players made to travel to the 2011 National Senior Games in Houston, Tex., she was determined to get every player into the action.

“At their age, you have to wonder whether this will be their last chance,” she said.

Competing against teams from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and New Mexico, the Splash lived up to its billing and weaved through the round robin tournament to the final game. But with a sixth gold medal near its grasp, the Splash got off to a poor start.

“Here we are at halftime and it’s 7-3, and we’re the one with three,” Sciarrillo said, laughing. “I told the team, I can’t go out there and score for you and help you move the ball around. This is yours to win, and if you don’t you’ll be second-guessing yourselves for years.”

Sciarrillo sent her two “bigs” — at 5’7” and 5’8” — in along with high-scorer Grace Larsen. Slowly, the tide turned. First 7-5, then 7-7 — “we tied it, up, yes!” Sciarrillo said. Then the Splash took a 9-7 lead. Then they scored again, and again, while the seconds winded down.

“Trust me, when that final buzzer rang, I just raised my arms over my head,” said Sciarrillo. “‘It’s over, oh thank you lord!’”

Once again, the Splash players were champions.

“We made it by the skin of our teeth this time, but we made it,” Thomson said. “We were as happy for Mary Lou as we were ourselves.”

Like any good coach, Sciarrillo deflected credit to her players. But she brought more than a gold medal home from Houston.

“Coaching this group of people really meant a lot to me,” she said. “Besides the fact that I aged a few years!”
The San Diego Splash.
Back row: Jackie Ives, Cori Thomson, Meg Skinner, Marge Carl;
Front: Dolly Scott, Fran Styles, Grace Larsen, and Toodie Wright.
A soon-to-be graduate learns the value of networking from the College’s Career Development office and alumni.

By Jarreau Freeman ’11

As excited as I am to graduate from the college, the recession and uncertain job market make me apprehensive. According to the online job site CareerBuilder, less than half of employers surveyed in 2010 were hiring recent college graduates. Faced with that stark reality, I knew I needed an internship to prepare me for the professional sphere, but I didn’t know where to begin.

I sought counsel in Nancy Dachille, director of the College’s Career Development office. She advised me to review the department’s Blackboard site and connected me to Jamie Dunn Roche ’04. Roche knew of an internship opening at a company where she was previously employed, Association Headquarters (AH), an association management company.

I was initially nervous about contacting her, but once we talked on the phone and exchanged e-mails, I was so glad I did. Roche encouraged me to apply for the public relations internship at AH, and gave me indispensable information about the company, such as the office climate — something I could not have learned from just perusing its Web site. She even gave me advice on the types of questions to ask to impress the interviewer. When I was hired as the public relations intern, I was excited, and I knew that I could not have done it without Roche’s guidance and encouragement. Without this support from a College alumna, my experience at AH could have been much different.
“It’s so important for students to build professional relationships with alumni, for their personal development as well as career growth,” Dachille said. “It’s also very rewarding for alumni to build relationships with students and to share the common bond of being part of the CHC community.

Roche, who graduated from the College with a bachelor’s degree in communications and computer technology and a minor in English, remembers all too well what it’s like to be an undergraduate student in search of internship and job opportunities.

“Before I graduated, Christina told me not to get frustrated in my job search, because I could explore many career paths with my liberal arts degree,” Weaver said. “She also advised me not to get discouraged and intimated by the clients I’d serve in the business world — that my role is to assist the customers to the best of my ability.”

Roche has indeed succeeded. She currently works as the associate director of donor events at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. Although she has a busy schedule, Roche has made an effort to remain actively involved in the College community by attending alumni networking events, and has assisted undergraduate students such as myself with their career pursuits.

Last year, Roche participated in the annual Alumni Career Night discussion of first-job strategies, which was held during the Career Development office’s “Backpack to Briefcase Month.” (See page 47 for information on next year’s events.)

“I hope to do so again in the future,” she said. “Also, I try to keep an eye out for internship or employment opportunities as I see them, and let Career Development know. Sometimes, a small tip can spark a great opportunity for a student.”

Roche is far from the only College alumna to know what it’s like to be a recipient of valuable career advice as they prepared to brave the competitive work world. Devon Weaver ’11 remembers soaking up helpful advice from other alumni and Student Accounts representative Christina Tomaselli.

“Alumni can volunteer to mentor students by sharing their expertise about how to navigate the work world, or participating in various career events,” Dachille said. “However, we’re also available to assist alums with their own career development by providing job search assistance — meeting with them for an individual appointment, advising them on their resume, reviewing their cover letter and doing mock interviews. We’re always happy to have alums attend our career fairs as recruiters or job seekers.”

To say that I appreciated all of Roche’s assistance as I pursued my internship would be an understatement. Her simple acts of kindness, such as taking my phone calls and returning my e-mails, meant a lot to me. Sometimes the smallest gestures make a big impact.

“Offering a tip on a job opportunity, talking to a student — these are easy things to do and can sometimes really impact someone’s life and career path,” Roche said. “Staying connected and offering support is something small we can do to give back to a place that gave us so much.”

That support is more important than ever, as it’s certainly not getting any easier for recent graduates in the current job market. The U.S. Census Bureau recently released data indicating that one in three people between the ages of 20 and 29 are unemployed. With grim statistics...
Offering advice to students at the annual Alumni Career Night were: (standing) Cecelia Englebert-Passanza ’77, Teri Meniketti Wiedeman-Rouse ’05 SGS, Kelly Carroll ’06, Jillian DiMuzio ’95, Danielle Griesbach Santacroce ’07, Jamie Dunn Roche ’04, and (kneeling) Annie Pearsall ’09.

like these, CHC graduates must network and seek advice from successful people in their fields. Alumni are an invaluable resource of professional advice that can help undergraduate students determine their career path.

Indeed, Roche’s involvement and the involvement of many other CHC alumni in the College community demonstrates that once you’re a Griffin, you’re always a Griffin.

Jarreau Freeman graduates from the College in December with a degree in communications and English. The Elkins Park, Pa. native contributed to the College’s literary magazine, The Grackle, and the student newspaper, The Griffin. She previously wrote for Chestnut Hill in the Fall 2010 issue on her and her classmates’ experience student teaching in Tanzania. 🦁
FROM THE HILL TO THE EMERALD ISLE

The Griffins are really taking the concept of road games to another level.

In August, the women's soccer team left the familiarity of The Hill for Ireland, spending 10 days competing against club teams and exploring the lush countryside.

“I didn't think I would ever get to take a trip like this,” said Shannon Catts ’13. “Playing soccer in Ireland and experiencing the culture with my teammates is a once in a lifetime thrill.”

For Lauren Brown ’12, the highlight was the team’s ascent of the awe-inducing Cliffs of Moher.

“It was a little scary,” she said, “but we made it to the top, and we’re all still here.”

Other team-bonding moments were impromptu, such as encountering a beach in South County Galway. One by one, the student athletes stepped off of the bus and clasped hands before dashing into the ocean.

“It felt like an ice bath,” exclaimed Lauren Riff ’12.

Another time, the Griffins took a run through town of Kinvara and discovered a castle. After attending mass in a tiny church, they surrounded the priest in the courtyard for a photo.

The Griffins did, however, balance work and play. They competed in three matches with club teams full of more-experienced players, including members of Ireland’s national team.

“That's what you want — play the best to get better,” said women’s basketball coach Laura Pruitt, who accompanied the team.

An Ireland native, Pruitt relished experiencing her country through the players’ eyes.

“It was a special bonding moment for the team,” Pruitt said, “and it reinforced the high caliber of student-athletes we have at the College.”

Offering student-athletes opportunities to compete abroad is a terrific recruiting tool for the athletics department, and the women’s soccer players weren’t alone. Also in August, Dan Comas ’12 of the men’s basketball team traveled to Munich, Germany and Prague, Czech Republic to compete with professional club teams and experience the cities’ rich cultures.

Comas and the rest of the team also got to go to Disneyland in November, competing in the Disney West Coast Tip-Off Classic in California against fellow Division II teams such as the University of California San Diego and Western Washington University. The team went 2-1 and Comas earned All-Tournament honors.

“We were excited to open our season in the place where dreams come true,” said head coach Jesse Balcer. “Hopefully, in the end, our dream of a CACC championship will also come true.”
The leadership of seniors such as Ebony Washington (below) eased the transition to coach Pruitt’s style.

She only moved six inches down the bench, but Laura Pruitt’s view changed dramatically.

“It’s just amazing how your perspective shifts,” said Pruitt, who was an assistant coach for six years before coming to the College as its head coach of women’s basketball. “It’s most certainly been an adjustment.”

Not so much with the Xs and Os, as Pruitt was well prepared by respected Dowling College head coach Joe Pellicane. Rather, it’s managing personnel — and personalities.

“You basically have 17 daughters,” Pruitt said. “We want them to be not only the best players but the best people they can be. It’s creating a family.”

Indeed, it was the welcoming, family-like environment that attracted Pruitt to the College. But it was also about the chance to tap the team’s potential, building the foundation for perennial Division II success.

“You basically have 17 daughters,” Pruitt said. “We want them to be not only the best players but the best people they can be. It’s creating a family.”

“You basically have 17 daughters,” Pruitt said. “We want them to be not only the best players but the best people they can be. It’s creating a family.”

“I’m an inpatient person,” Pruitt said. “I don’t want to wait years for the turnaround.”

Key to a turnaround is the implementation of a relentless defensive style with which Dowling led all of Division II last year in opponent field goal percentage.

“It’s all about having a ticker and being smart and getting after it,” Pruitt said.

The defensive style was a major adjustment for the Griffins, and the team had its ups and downs in the preseason. But days before their first scrimmage, Pruitt and her players could see the results.

“We’ve done so many defensive drills that if I were an opposing team I wouldn’t want to deal with us,” said Ebony Washington ’12, a leader on both ends of the court. “Defense is more than just a part of the game for us now — it’s our heart.”

Coming off of five-win and seven-win seasons the past two years, the Griffins hope to compete for a conference championship this season. While that may seem a lofty goal for a first-year head coach, Pruitt points to the “priceless” leadership of Washington and fellow seniors Aiesha Smith and Ashlen Stayrook.

“The upper classmen have really taken it upon themselves to first buy in [to Pruitt’s approach] and then filter that to the younger players,” Washington said. “This is the last chance for us seniors, and we plan on going out with a bang.”

GRIFFINS SPORTS HAS ARRIVED!

Opponents near and far will know the Griffins are coming when they catch their first glimpse of “Big Griff.” The vibrant colors and logo of Griffins sports adorn the College’s new 33-passenger club bus. Driven by transportation coordinator Frank Dealy, Big Griff personifies the school’s spirit as the head of its fleet. 🦁
Memories abounded at the Commonwealth Chateau in October when the Athletics Department honored its foremothers at the inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame Induction.

Inducted were Betty Buckley (administrator/coach 1942-1977, posthumously), the 1950s archery teams, Betty Shellenberger (coach 1950-1977), Lorraine Busch (administrator/coach 1977-1999), and Janice Rensimer Kuklick (administrator/coach 1977-present).

“It was an honor,” Kuklick said. “All of the inductees played an instrumental role in the development of the athletics program.”

Betty Buckley was a pioneer in an era when women’s sports weren’t taken seriously. As administrator, she led a dramatic expansion of sports and recreation programs at the College, and coached field hockey, tennis, swimming, and badminton. She became the College’s first athletics director in 1970 and wrote “Sixty Years of Sports at Chestnut Hill College 1924-1984.”

The archery teams of the 1950s reached unrivaled levels of success and popularity at the College. Led by their captain, Patricia “Holly” Hollingsworth, they went undefeated for four straight seasons from 1952-1955. They also won two National Section for Girls’ and Women’s Sports championships and a Division for Girls’ and Women’s Sports championship.

Betty Shellenberger coached badminton for more than 20 years, field hockey from 1964-77, and lacrosse from 1965-77. As a competitor, her 21-year run on the U.S. national field hockey team remains the longest in history. Shellenberger was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1986 and named a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania in 1987.

Lorraine Busch became the College’s athletics director upon Betty Buckley’s retirement in 1977. She served until 1991 and coached volleyball, basketball, and softball. Her dedication and passion for softball, in particular, energized the program and fostered the construction of a new field.

Since joining the College in 1977, Janice Rensimer Kuklick has served 14 years as athletic director and coached a combined 54 seasons of badminton, field hockey, and lacrosse. She is now an associate professor of physical education and chair of the department. Kuklick inspires the community to live healthfully, instructing on everything from general nutrition to yoga and Pilates. She wrote “Sports at Chestnut Hill College Continued 1924-2007,” a follow-up to Betty Buckley’s book.

Lynn Tubman, director of athletics and recreation, praised all of the inductees for their key contributions to the development and success of Griffins sports.

“Their exceptional character and commitment to the College and the athletics department in particular exemplifies what it means to be a Griffin.”

ALUMNI SURVEYS TRIGGER TWO NEW EVENTS

Alums who responded to surveys and polls posted in the “AlumNews” e-newsletters prompted the introduction of two events this year. Alums voted “yea” to a one-day, adults-only campus activity featuring faculty-led sessions, and to an adults-only holiday party.

First up, the October 1 Alumni Fall Festival, a new event that presented two blocks of four concurrent sessions each on topics presented by faculty members, an alumna, and a financial advisor. Topics ranged from effective communication in the home and office, Rembrandt’s Jesus, the legacy of two interesting decades on today’s world, and antiques and Persian rugs — guided by Abrash Gallery (Connecticut) owner Karen Reddington-Hughes ’85 (psychology) — to the unique qualities of Philadelphia’s Wissahickon Park, costume and character in the works of three British authors, and financial issues for both newer grads and seasoned alums.

“Everything from that day was enjoyable and informative,” said Adriana Guerrini ’09 (international business, language, and culture), who chose two financial advice sessions conducted by Edward Jones Investments consultant Christopher Kemezis. Adriana works in New York City for Access Industries, Inc., a privately-owned international holding corporation. “I had a great time and would absolutely return for other events.” Other alums enjoyed presentations by Assistant Professor of Art History Kathleen Szpila, SSJ, Ph.D.; Assistant Professor of Political Science Jacqueline Reich, Ph.D.; Director of CHC Counseling Center Sheila Kennedy, SSJ, Ph.D. ’76; Professor of History David Contosta, Ph.D., and Associate Professor of English Barbara Lonnquist, Ph.D.

An Oktoberfest lunch of Bavarian delights preceded the sessions, which were followed by the first-ever Alumni Beer Garden. The Summerhouse proved the perfect venue, as alums closed the day over a brew or two, enjoying the gathering and recounting the sessions they attended. Many alums made a full day of it from the morning Annual Fall Conference for Alumni Volunteers through the Oktoberfest Lunch, afternoon Fall Festival, and late-afternoon Alumni Beer Garden.

Read/view more: www.CHCgriffinsonline.com/festival2011recap

Missed the Alumni Fall Festival?

Two sessions are available exclusively on www.CHCgriffinsonline.com for alums with registered e-mail addresses. Don’t miss out on seeing Professor Lonnquist discuss “Costume or Character? Decoding Fashion in Austen, Woolf, and Wilde,” and Professor Reich on “The Legacy of the Sixties and Seventies.”

In response to online voting for an adults-only holiday party, the first Cocktails with the Clauses on Sunday, December 4, piggybacked onto the annual afternoon Christmas Concert. This Redmond Room gathering of alums and guests concluded two weekends of holiday festivities beginning on December 2 with Carol Night and the Alumni Holiday Cheer and December 11th’s family-friendly Breakfast with Santa.

Counseling Center director Sheila Kennedy, SSJ, Ph.D. ’76 leads the Alumni Fall Festival session on effective communication in the home and office.

Adriana Guerrini ’09 and other alums enjoying workshop discussions during the Oktoberfest Lunch, which preceded the Alumni Fall Festival.
The Alumni Association board of directors welcomed new members Kathleen Donahue Bruyere, USN (ret.) ’66 (political science), Cecelia Englebert-Passanza, CRNP ’77 (American Studies), Jane M. Fearn-Zimmer, Esq. ’88 (English), Joanne Fink ’76 (art history), Margarita (Margo) Mongil-Kwoka ’80 (psychology), and Teri Meniketti Wiedeman-Rouse ’05 SGS (elementary education) to a two-year term beginning July 1, 2001. George Roitzsch ’07 (biology), ’09 SGS (administration of human services) and Jo Marie Victor ’04 SCPS (business communications) were reelected to a second two-year term.

Read more: Profiles of new and returning alumni board members, www.CHC.edu/griffinsonline.com/board

ALUMNAAE ARCHERY TEAMS AMONG HALL OF FAME CHARTER INDUCTEES

CHC history was made on October 21 when members of the 1950s archery teams joined four former coaches in being named Charter members of the College’s Athletic Hall of Fame. Coaches inducted to the inaugural list include the late Betty Buckley, Betty Shellenberger, Lorraine Busch, and Janice Rensimer Kuklick. Miss Shellenberger was especially inspiring as her biography noted the start of her field hockey career at the Agnes Irwin School (Class of 1939) and moving into many other sports as player and coach throughout the next 50-plus years. Proof enough of her love of athletics and good sportsmanship was the fact that this multi-sport, multi-national and international Hall of Famer only hours earlier officiated a middle school field hockey game.

The reception and celebration dinner honored the College’s first sport to score four consecutive undefeated seasons, two at the national level. In accepting induction for the teams, archer Margaret Fleming, SSJ ’56 (mathematics) noted the contributions of the late Patricia (“Holly”) Hollingsworth ’56 (sociology), 1951 National Junior Women’s Champion, to the College’s winning record. Susan Moran Ryan ’57 (English) joined her as another team inductee, which included the following varsity and junior varsity archers:

Christine Brennan Conover ’56 (sociology)
Alexandra Budha Golaski ’57 (psychology) – JV
Barbara Burke Bernsten ’59 (German)
Delores Dillon Regan ’54 (chemistry)
Margaret Fleming, SSJ ’56 (mathematics)
Kathryn Hibbs Voit ’58 (mathematics)
Patricia (“Holly”) Hollingsworth ’56 (d.) (sociology)
Carole McAnulty McGeehan ’57 (mathematics) – JV
Susan Moran Ryan ’57 (English)
Helen Murphy Fitzpatrick ’50 (English)
Patricia Nichols Brady ’53 (psychology)
Irene Nowak Musman ’57 (Spanish) – JV
Ursula O’Connor Fleming ’50 (d.) (psychology) – JV
Shirlee Repak Gubernat ’50 (psychology)
Kathleen Spiegel ’59 (chemistry) – JV
Marie Annette Tropiano Goodman ’57 (English)
Barbara Uttinger Martin ’54 (chemistry) – JV
Juliana Weber Mazuzzo ’59 (mathematics)
Patricia Whalen Bolger ’51 (English)
Jean Williams Harris ’57 (Latin) – JV
Martha Wohlfert Cacciamani ’59 (English) – JV

Class of 1956 Yearbook.

CHC introduced archery in 1939 as its fifth sport, on the heels of basketball, field hockey, tennis, and golf. Play sparkled throughout the ’50s. In April 1955, CHC’s team scored a #1 standing in the Chicago Contest of the Olympic Bowman League sponsored by the National Archery Association of the Unites States of America. The following year, Chestnut Hill took first place in its class of women’s teams at the Annual Intercollegiate Archery Tournament, besting the University of Arizona and Arizona State. A championship season also occurred in 1959, when CHC won top prize over San Bernardino Valley College and Long Beach City College at the annual intercollegiate tournament. Other women’s teams competing at the time represented Rutgers, Stanford, Brooklyn College, Stetson University, Barnard College, Agnes Scott College, Willamette University, Trinity College (D.C.), and other institutions across the country.

Archery ended its run as a competitive sport at CHC in 1966. Students once again have an opportunity to enjoy archery, reintroduced this year as a club and directed by William Herron, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry.

View more: www.CHCgriffinsonline.com/AHF
Read more: See page 31 or visit www.griffinathletics.com and click Athletic Hall of Fame.
WHAT’S HAPPENING ALUMNI-WISE

Lots. In fact, four months of activities and events that attracted alums of all ages and a variety of interests.

Annual Fall Conference for Alumni Volunteers (October 1): “Volunteerism with a Purpose”

This year’s program for alumni association board members, class officers, committee members, and other alumni volunteers featured keynote Joseph Geraci, alumni director at New York’s Adelphi University, who related ways his alumni organization partners with the university in carrying out Adelphi’s goals. Additional features included updates by College President Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., Vice President of the Alumni Association Mary Ann Stahl Patton ’87 (psychology), and the admissions (Lori Boccuzzi ’10 SGS, administration of human services) and alumni relations (Patricia Canning ’70, political science) directors.

The annual conference, conducted on a Saturday morning this year, welcomed alums from every decade and the largest number of newer grads in recent years.

Read/view more: www.CHCgriffinsonline.com/Conference2011recap

Alumni Affinity Groups Introduced

Apart from associating with a class or program, many alums also relate their CHC experience to specific clubs, organizations, and majors. Efforts to tap these affinities got underway this fall with events and activities directed at alums from the sciences, history and political science, and art, as well as attorneys and others in legal services, and alums who belonged to the Mask & Foil drama club and One-Act Play Night casts and crews.

The October 4-5-6 Science Week focused on the business side of science. Themed “Science Futures: Thinkers … Doers … Producers,” the three-day collaboration of the Natural Sciences Division and the Office of Alumni Relations surveyed the business outlook for industries and occupations in science, technology, math, and engineering; examined the knowledge and skill sets that business and industry will be seeking, and identified companies and industries that are doing exciting, interesting, and promising work.

Michael Cohen, managing director of the international global drug sourcing firm Myoderm, delivered the keynote address — “The Business Side of Clinical Research” — while an alumni-student exhibit displayed science research and photography in the Dowley Art Gallery, and alums working in science-based occupations or businesses enjoyed a closing reception on the third evening. Alex Duffy ’11 (biology) spoke briefly about his route to employment at Aquatrols, emphasizing the need to leave no stone unturned. Students joined alums for the reception while also exploring graduate and professional school opportunities during an information fair in the Rotunda organized by Associate Professor of Biology Joseph Kulkosky, Ph.D., Science Week co-director.

Science Week opened with an exhibit of posters of professional or academic research displayed by swine flu research expert Joan F. Lunney, Ph.D. ’68 (chemistry); Joseph McGovern ’11 (forensic science), now with the University of Pennsylvania; Michael Kelly ’11 (forensic science), now newly teaching in Vietnam, and Carl Luongo ’10 (chemistry), now in graduate school at Purdue, alongside exquisite photos of flora and fauna taken by senior Ryan Quinn during his environmental studies research conducted off the coast of Africa last summer.

Read/view more: www.CHCgriffinsonline.com/SciWK2011recap

Students enjoying samples of alumna Joan Lunney’s professional research alongside photographs shared by senior environmental science major Ryan Quinn from his summer research off the coast of Equatorial Guinea.
Welcoming Future Alums

New and returning undergraduate and graduate international students were welcomed to CHC in the early weeks of the semester during an evening reception co-sponsored by the Office of International Student Services and the alumni relations office.

Read/view more: Article by Hannah Green ’12, The Global Griffin e-newsletter — www.CHC.edu/GG

Nostalgic Note Marks Reunion Weekend 2011

If for nothing else, Reunion of the Stars 2011 will be remembered by all who attended for its place in CHC history as the final reunion of all-women’s classes. The Class of 2007, the College’s first coed full-time, traditional-age undergraduate class, will celebrate its first five-year reunion next June.

Weekend festivities acknowledged this significance with activities and features that referenced the French roots of the College’s founding religious community. Saturday night’s dinner of French fare and wines was followed by Riviera on the Hill, a bistro-cum casino-cum jazz-cum art exhibit evening in the Alumnae Reference Room of Logue Library. Complimentary berets, cigarette holders, and caricatures added just the right ’50s Gallic ambience.

Twenty percent of eligible alumnae registered for Reunion Luncheon, the keystone event of the weekend, the oldest continuous reunion activity, and the traditional barometer for measuring CHC reunion response. The luncheon for these classes five years ago generated registrations from 18 percent of eligible alumnae, this year producing an 11 percent increase over 2006 registrations.

The Golden Griffins Class of 1961, at 26 percent of total registrations, led the four largest groups, followed by 1966 (45th reunion – 16 percent of total), 1971 (40th reunion – 14 percent of total), and 1976 (35th reunion – 11 percent of total).

Responsibility for reunion volunteers changed in 2011 with the new committee structure created by the revised Alumni Association bylaws. The Outreach Committee, chaired by Maryanne L. Walsh ’98 (communications), ’02 SGS (applied technology), held overall volunteer responsibility, carried out by longtime volunteers co-captains Kathleen Quigley Grimm ’88 (biology) and Kathy Shea Pié ’87 (English), and directed by Jackie Gutshall, assistant director of alumni relations. Several members of the alumni board were on hand throughout the weekend, as well, staffing a number of key activities along with veteran reunion volunteers.

Read/view more, including photo galleries for each of the three days: www.chc.edu/alumni/reunion/recap
“Undeniably Different” Sets Reunion Weekend 2012 Theme

Traditional undergraduate classes ending in 2 and 7 will celebrate their reunion weekend on June 1-2-3. The Class of 2007, joining the reunion ranks as the first coed, full-time traditional-age cohort, provides this year’s reunion theme through the title of its yearbook. The weekend retains the traditions that most alums love, but it will also be “undeniably different,” as the 2007 yearbook says, in its composition, several schedule changes, and updated programming. Each eligible alum received a personalized save-the-date postcard in early October. All are urged to provide the alumni office (canningp@chc.edu) with their e-mail address to receive the “ReunionNews” e-newsletter on a regular basis.

Read/view more: www.chc.edu/reunion/

New Benefit Offered CHC Alumni

Golfers dreaming of sun on the links this winter are urged to consider membership opportunities in two private country clubs located in Pinehurst, N.C. Through a special agreement with the Talamore Family of Clubs, CHC alums may choose from multiple price-attractive membership packages, including non-golf, for Talamore Golf Resort and the Mid South Club. Both offer on-property accommodations. Membership in one of these corporate-owned clubs permits play at the other, as well as at Talamore Country Club (Ambler, Pa.), Applecross Country Club (Downingtown, Pa.), and Old York Country Club (Chesterfield, N.J.). Click www.TalamorePA.com/CHC for details.

We’re Social . . . Let’s Talk

Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn now sport a consistent CHC Alumni Office signature, with assistant director Jackie Gutshall administering all three networks. Alums of all Schools are encouraged to register on these three sites for ongoing updates, discussions, and other communication. Contact gutshallj@chc.edu for information.

Downsizing?

Looking for a good home for your CHC yearbook and Grackle literary magazines? The pages of several books maintained by the alumni office have become well-thumbed, while others have been damaged over time. Please contact Jackie Gutshall at 215.248.7016 or gutshallj@chc.edu if interested in contributing to our inventory. Of particular need — 1940s and 1950s.
**IN MEMORIAM**

Mary Fleming ’38
Eileen Finucane McKenna ’39
Mary Thompson Wagman ’39
Joan Burnham Guokas ’40
Marie Esther Kenny, SSJ ’41
Dolores Lopez Jesurun ’42
Rosemary Leaming Zipley ’43
Marie Scanlon, SSJ ’44
Grace Helsel Kaiser ’46
Margaret Etta McFarland ’46
Elizabeth Stroud Giordano ’46
Marie Esther Kenny, SSJ ’41
Mary Thompson Wagman ’39
Eileen Finucane McKenna ’39
Greg, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 29, 2010.

**CLASS NOTES**

### ‘40s

Jeanne Grant O’Neill ’47 *(English)* celebrated her 85th birthday by jumping out of an airplane! That’s right, skydiving. Jeanne is a proud mother of 11 adult children, the grandmother of 35, and the great-grandmother of 11. This wasn’t her first trip, either. Jeanne took her first plunge on her 80th birthday, soaring two-and-a-half miles through the sky with her instructor. She had taken flying lessons in her 30s and always loved the open sky. She has been on helicopters, hot air balloons and gliders, but she says skydiving is an exhilarating experience that tops them all. “It was absolutely fantastic,” Jeanne said. “I can still feel the marvelous sensation of soaring like a bird on wind currents. My body was as light as a feather. I felt one with the universe.”

Carolyn Baldino Conboy ’51 *(mathematics)* is working part-time at St. Anastasia Church in the CCD office.

Ellen “Sperky” Whiteside Byrne ’56 *(chemistry)* shares, “I love to travel. If my husband can’t go, Ann Corr Potterton ’56 *(French)* and I have traveled to China, Egypt, Canadian Rockies, and Hawaii (the last two with husbands). This fall we’re touring her native city, Chicago, with my Questers Group.”

Anna Palermo Streeter ’58 *(biology)* and her husband, Greg, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 29, 2010.

### ‘50s

Rosemary Carr Rinehart ’50 *(sociology)* has been blessed with three more great-grandchildren in 2010. She now has six grandchildren, two boys and four girls.

Elizabeth Stroud Giordano ’50 *(fashion design)* moved from Catskill, New York, to Atlanta, Georgia, this past August.

Patricia Whalen Bolger ’51 *(English)* writes, “Since the dog died and the children left home, I have time to enjoy watercolor and writing poetry. There is also time to travel to Ireland to revisit relatives and friends. I’m also taking aerobics three times a week!” Pat’s recent poetry was published in Philadelphia Poet in 2009 and 2010.

### ‘60s

Christine Desrochers Smith ’60 *(fashion design)* writes that she and David will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on December 30.

Lynne Smith Brown ’61 *(English)* worked in the publishing industry for eight years after graduation. She married and raised two sons with her husband, Howard, a CPA and partner in a mid-size accounting firm in New York City. In 1978, Lynne returned to the corporate world and for 16 years worked in and learned the quarry (stone and cement) business in Rockland County, New York. Lynne and Howard retired in Boulder, Colorado, in 1994 after many vacations there, due to their genuine love of the West and the Rocky Mountains. Her son Douglas, 44, is in the automotive business in Denver and is married and the father of a 12-year-old daughter. Her younger son, Stephen, 42, works for a Wall Street firm and lives in Wilton, Connecticut, with his wife and three sons. Lynne and Howard say that retirement has been wonderful and they are enjoying family, bridge, hiking, attending sporting events, book clubs, a wine-tasting group, tennis, traveling, volunteering for historic preservation, singing with the Sweet Adelines, and many activities at the University of Colorado.

Rosemary Magee Cicchiello ’61 *(English)* volunteers once a week at the Blue Bell (Pa.) Library. She is also involved with two organizations associated with the Epiphany of Our Lord Church in nearby Plymouth Meeting. Rosemary enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, reading, vacationing at the Jersey Shore in the summer, Florida in March, and numerous other trips. She booked a trip through the Chestnut Hill College travel group to London for three days, followed by five days on Cunard’s newest ship, The Queen Elizabeth.

Beatrice Gallagher Grabish ’61 *(English)* retired from teaching English at Montgomery County Community College (Pa.) in May. She enjoys traveling, spending time with her 17 grandchildren, and writing. Now that she is retired, she is the self-proclaimed “babysitter-in-chief,” and was looking forward to her trip to Israel in November 2011. Beatrice volunteers for the Sisters of St. Joseph, helping new immigrants at the Kensington (Philadelphia) Welcome Center site.

Rosemary Murphy Gulati ’61 *(English)* is enjoying retirement. She had worked as the Director of Marketing at TekAlarm, LLC., where she headed their advertising department, worked in sales, created brochures and manuals, and created
TOUCHING THE HEART: QUIET, HUMBLE, INSPIRATIONAL

“For some reason this morning I decided to put my sister’s and college name in the search engine to see if anything popped up,” wrote Patricia Newton of Seattle, Washington.

“It did in your Alumni List,” she added, before informing the alumni relations office that Anna Claudette Simpson ’65 had passed away 24 years ago.

Mrs. Newton continued with the story that Claudette was the first of her parents’ eight children to graduate from college. The family lived in neighboring Mount Airy, and Claudette graduated fourth in her class from Germantown High School.

“She was the one who inspired five more of us to attend and graduate from college,” her sister said. “Three graduated from Temple University, one graduated from Drexel University, and I graduated from the University of Washington.” Of the other two, one graduated from a vocational school, and one entered the military.

“Claudette,” however, “was the trailblazer for us. Because of her stellar academic performance in high school, she was given a four-year scholarship to Chestnut Hill College.”

The yearbook entry for this chemistry major indicates she belonged to the Science Club for four years and the Literary Club for two. She’s described as one with “quiet wisdom, desert dry wit, and patience plus” who displays “brilliant nonchalance,” and is an “ethical friend, undercover athlete, a calm, cool contralto.”

Indeed, song came naturally to Claudette and to the rest of her family. A front-page article, “Singing Family’s Credo: ‘We Do the Lord’s Work,’” in Philadelphia’s The Sunday Bulletin (October 23, 1966) profiled these Church of God members and highlighted the demand for their performance of sacred music from churches across the country and Canada.

At the time of her death in 1987, Claudette was working as a substitute teacher in the Philadelphia school district following a career as a chemist with the Philadelphia Water Department. She had earlier taught at St. Joseph’s College, now University. Claudette also composed music.

The 1965 yearbook describes Claudette as “a math major’s match,” a point her sister eagerly confirms. “She took her math skills and tutored our youngest brother who was 15 years her junior,” whom she felt was not getting all he needed to be successful.

“I am sure without her making her trips across the city to do this, today he would not be a partner at Accenture,” Mrs. Newton said.

“Without [Chestnut Hill’s] generous support, Claudette would not have been able to attend college. I will always remember this school for opening doors not just for one student but for a whole family.”

Eileen Pollock Holden ’61 (psychology) has been married to Bill Holden since 1964. They have one daughter, Julie, and two grandsons. Eileen and Bill lived in Connecticut for 30 years, during which Eileen owned her own decorating business. In 1995, they retired in Savannah, Georgia, which they still enjoy very much. Even through the hot/ humid summers, they don’t miss the New England snow and ice. As Eileen says, “Been there, done that, ain’t doing it again!” They enjoy volunteering with Meals on Wheels and the church soup kitchen every week. One of her biggest surprises in life was seeing Kay McCarthy Doyle-Kelly ’61 (psychology) on a trip to Turkey. The two friends had not seen each other since graduation 46 years earlier. “Kay still looks exactly the same. We had a wonderful time.”

Mary K. Kenny ’61 (Spanish) worked part-time as an adjunct Spanish professor at Drexel University during three recent terms. She credits her knowledge of the Spanish language to “Mrs. Josephine Procopio Albarelli and the tuition arrangements for payments.”

Janice Grabowski Messer ’61 (speech) retired from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) as executive director of alumni relations and development, where she established the alumni relations program and was involved in alumni major fundraising. Janice traveled throughout the country, building alumni relationships, and worked closely with the college president. She was awarded the MCLA Alumni Award for Outstanding Service to the college and is the first non-alumna to receive this award. She is now working part-time for a major fundraising campaign at MCLA and volunteers for the Cancer Society and North Adams Regional Hospital in Massachusetts. Janice enjoys theatre, reading, traveling, and spending time with her 17 grandchildren.

Barbara Holm Quinn ’61 (speech) earned a master’s degree in theatre from Villanova University in December 2010.

Irene Loughman Kutner ’62 (English) writes, “Fred and I are enjoying our retirement at the Jersey Shore. We spend the cold winters in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. I am leading a mom’s group, Ministry of Mothers’ Sharing, at my parish (St. Mary’s in Manahawkin, New Jersey). I’m delighted to have another CHC graduate in the kin.” Irene is having lots of fun with her three grandsons and one granddaughter.

SaraLee Hayden Murphy ’63 (fashion design) welcomed her first grandchild, Vivian Hayden Murphy, in January 2011. SaraLee and her husband, Bill, split their time between Jackson, Wyoming, and Vero Beach, Florida.
Grace McGlynn Herold '64 (biology) was honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2257 for her service during the Vietnam War. Grace is a retired U.S. Air Force captain, having trained at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks City Base, Texas. She started to fly with wounded service personnel returning home from Japan in 1969 during the Vietnam War. She joined the military in 1967 and retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1974. Grace and the many other flight nurses were described as “the angels of the skies.” She is currently a chaplain for her local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and an active lay nun of the Trinitarian order. Their goals are “to help all who suffer, to work for peace in the universe, and to make God laugh.”

Anne O’Donnell ’65 (English) was slated to appear as Rose on ABC-TV’s Desperate Housewives on October 2 in a scene with Vanessa Williams at a senior center, but, she says, “you never know what’s going to survive in TV/Film-land! I did end up with a cameo at least,” she continues, “in Transformers: Dark of the Moon as the HR Lady.” She also completed two films that she relates were hits in last year’s Sundance (Sound of My Voice) and Cannes (The Artist) Film Festivals. She cautions, though, that “since I didn’t make it to Festivals. She cautions, though, The Artist and Cannes (Sundance (Sound of My Voice)) relates were hits in last year’s completed two films that she “in a cameo at least,” she continues, TV/Film-land! I did end up with center, but, she says, “you never

Kathleen McGrath Beirne ’66 (English) is self-employed working at S&K Publishers. She is interested in healthy relationship skills and, with her husband, offers programs for engaged and married couples. Kathleen believes healthy marriages are the bedrock of our communities and researches ways to incorporate relationship skills in the materials and programs she offers. She also volunteers in the Odyssey of the Mind program for children.

Frances Coyle Brennan ’66 (English) directs social services at the Mary Manning Walsh Home (NYC), supervising social workers in providing for the psycho-social needs of the frail elderly. Frances enjoys reading, sailing, and traveling.

Kathleen Donohue Bruyere ’66 (political science) was recently elected to the Chestnut Hill College Alumni Association Board of Directors. She is a retired captain from the United States Navy. Kathy enjoys traveling to visit extended family and friends throughout the U.S. She also helps with two caregiver support groups, sharing her experience as a caregiver to her late husband, Tom. Kathy is the board president of the Parkinson’s Association of San Diego; president of Silver Strand Chapter (Coronado, California) Military Officers Association of America, and advisor to the United Veterans Council of San Diego. She was the longest distance traveler to reunion in June, coming from Chula Vista, California, which is seven miles north of the Mexican border.

Mary O’Connor Gentile ’66 (English) retired in 2009 from a position in public school administration. She is currently enjoying her four grandchildren, all under the age of 3, with two more coming this year. Mary now volunteers on many fronts, as a consultant for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, evaluating teacher training programs, with the American Association of University Women, and for the Youth Aid Panel, Northampton Township, Pennsylvania.

Elaine “Shelley” Sprague Guerard ’66 (mathematics) was re-elected president of the Martin Memorial Hospital Auxiliary in April for a second term. Martin Memorial is a two-hospital system with more than 900 volunteers. She also serves on the Martin Memorial Medical Center board and Martin Memorial Foundation board.

Mary Alice Stein Feichtel ’66 (art history) writes, “My husband Greg and I are retired and living at The Villages in Lady Lake, Florida. We especially enjoy golf and travel. For me, relaxing is doing bead weaving and calligraphy.”

Jo Anne DiGiacomo Lechowicz ’66 (French) has served two terms on the Bucks Association for Retarded Children (Pa.) board of directors and has been invited to join the Foundation board.

Susan O’Brien Snyder ’66 (French) is the vice president of the Washington/Baltimore Screen Actors Guild and has also served on the Hollywood national board. She volunteers for Right-to-Life, Women in Film and Video, Gospel Choir, and the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation.

Constance Miller Anderson ’67 (art history) shares, “I continue to enjoy painting and am active in garden clubs in Washington, D.C. and Nantucket, Massachusetts. We are enjoying more time with our three children and three grandchildren now that Frank has retired from his Neurology Practice and N.I.H.”

Teresa Clark Trudeau ’68 (psychology) shared happy news that “Océane Julia Minick, born on September 12, 2011, is now a part of the family of Genevieve Trudeau Minick, M.D. ’94 (chemistry) and Marion Bruce Minick,” becoming Terry and John’s 10th grandchild.

Océane Julia Minick with Genevieve Trudeau Minick, M.D. ’94

Patricia McHale O’Neill, Esq. ’69 (history) recently invited retired Professor John Lukács to speak at St. Mark’s High School, her late husband’s alma mater and now her grandson’s school. Dr. Lukács spoke to Advanced Placement history classes on a number of topics, including his observations on Thomas Jefferson as well as the differences between the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. “The kids had great, bright questions,” Pat remarks. “He was very impressed. They had also Googled him and asked questions about Churchill and why he thought so highly of him. His day at St. Mark’s was covered by The Dialog,” she writes, the Catholic newspaper for Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore.
Tara Funk Grim ’70 (art) recently signed on as a partner with Gallery One in Ocean View, Delaware. Tara continued her education at Kutztown University, earning teacher certification. She’s a signature member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society and a member of the Mid-Atlantic Plein Art Painters Association, Rehoboth Art League, and Ocean City Art League. Tara also owns Tara’s Studio Art Gallery in Bethany Beach. Her works can be viewed at www.tarastudio.com and at www.galleryonede.com.

Annamarie “Kathy” Baker Ennis ’71 (chemistry) is working at Siemens Healthcare in Newark, Delaware, as a regulatory affairs manager. She deals with government regulations on diagnostic products and their components. Kathy and her husband, Andrew, enjoy traveling and hope to do more in retirement. They’ve recently been to Belize, St. Martin, Ireland, Williamsburg, Cape Cod, Grand Canyon, and Mexico.

Barbara Sailer Hee ’71 (English) is a self-employed certified laughter yoga leader and motivational speaker. Her business, Lighten Up With Laughter, sponsors programs on laughter and humor and teaches stress relief techniques and laughter exercises to help participants discover ways to have more fun in their lives. Barbara retired from her position as sales manager of Forest Hills Cemetery and Shalom Memorial Park. She is currently a member of the Huntington Valley Camera Club and the Fox Chase Library Book Club. She was awarded a certificate of appreciation for being the volunteer speaker at the Annual Doctor/Patient Conference of the Pemphigus/Pemphigoid Foundation in 2009 and 2010.

Marilyn McCarthy Marschel ’71 (French) teaches Spanish in the International Baccalaureate Program in the Florence School District in South Carolina. She enjoys traveling to visit her Phoenix, St. Louis, and Philadelphia families. Marilyn recommends trying HomeExchanges.com, which allows her to swap homes for extended stays.

Catherine Myers ’71 (mathematics) is working at Crown Consulting, Inc. as the program manager of the Department of Energy programs, providing support to the energy information administration for survey data. Catherine volunteers as a lector for the St. Martin of Tours Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and is a member of its liturgy committee.

Cecilia Zogby Rowland ’71 (psychology) is employed at the Yale University Medical School as the child study center program coordinator of intensive in-home child and adolescent psychiatric services. This therapy program is primarily for children at risk of psychiatric hospitalization. She manages the program and provides clinical supervision. In her free time, Cecilia enjoys gardening, reading, and furniture refurbishing. She recently toured China, and for her 40th wedding anniversary in October, Cecilia and Pat enjoyed a cruise to the Hawaiian Islands.

Roberta Rothwell Schillo ’71 (German) retired from the Department of Public Assistance (Pa.) in March 2010. She is now working as the minister of music at St. Columbkille Church, planning music for liturgies, funerals, weddings, etc. Roberta plays the organ, keyboard, piano, and teaches cantors and choir at rehearsals. She also enjoys spending time with her grandchild.

Mary Kelly Whalen ’71 (biology) is a physical therapist at Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital in Malvern, Pennsylvania. She also teaches yoga classes part-time at a retirement community and enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

The American Paleontologist published an extensive memorial for Patricia Kane-Vanni, Esq. ’75 (art studio) in its fall edition. Patti passed away during the summer following a three-year struggle with ovarian cancer. “An artist by training and a lawyer by profession, Patti was a dedicated amateur paleontologist. While fostering her young son’s interest in dinosaurs, she caught the fossil bug herself and never overcame it,” the journal notes. She served as vice president and program chair of the Delaware Valley Paleontological Society for more than 10 years, and her illustrations and photographs appeared in The American Paleontologist and in several books on dinosaurs published by the University of California Press and Princeton University Press.

Kathleen Wall ’77 (psychology) is a non-profit organization located in the northwestern section of Philadelphia that services pre-teens and teens with recreational and service opportunities. In her free time, Marianne enjoys needlework, sewing, gardening, reading, and spending time with her children. She volunteers as a Chestnut Hill Community Association director and works with the God’s Child project in Guatemala. Her volunteerism also includes the Chestnut Hill Business Association, DeSales Service Works in Camden, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and fundraising for Face to Face in Germantown.

Kathleen McCarron Sikora ’76 (mathematics) received the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award for eliminating graffiti and vandalism in her hometown of Augusta, Maine. Kathleen fell immediately in love with her capital city and particularly enjoys its walking trails. Offended by “vandal art” along the Rail Trail and in other public places, she sought city permission to voluntarily, single-handedly, clean up the debris and other unsightly trash. Hundreds of hours of hard work and countless messy projects later, Kathleen’s one-woman city beautification campaign is a remarkable success story. She credits a third-grade teacher for promoting her strong work ethic that makes cleaning messes sort of fun — “a work of love.”

Kathleen Wall ’77 (psychology) is self-employed at Senior Caring Solutions, a geriatric care management business located in Mount Gretna, Pa. She works with families who are caring for their parents, helping them solve problems and connect with community resources.
TOUCHING THE HEART:  
GRATEFUL, AT PEACE, INFLUENTIAL

“She loved everything about the school,” Frank Sessa says about his late wife, Ronnie, “especially the teachers.”

So much so that during her trips from nearby Lafayette Hill to Chestnut Hill Hospital for cancer treatments, Veronica Sessa ‘93 SCPS (psychology) would have Frank turn left into the campus, drive down Brennan Drive, swing around the tennis courts to exit at Murphy Drive, stopping for the real reason she dropped by, to visit the Lourdes Grotto.

“She never got out of the car,” Frank says, “but she said a few quiet prayers, thanking Blessed Mother for another day.” Even during the days following September’s damaging rains, “she found a way to make those visits happen.”

Doctors tried to contain Ronnie’s liver cancer, diagnosed in February, but to little avail. Turning her sights to Keystone Hospice for ongoing in-home care, Ronnie found comfort in her visits to the Grotto, which Frank observes is “very similar to the grotto at Notre Dame.”

Ronnie earned her undergraduate degree through the adult continuing education program while employed as Director of Human Resources for MossRehab, part of the Einstein Healthcare Network, located in Elkins Park. She had previously managed human resources for the Saint Goban Co. and was associated with Bryn Mawr Hospital as benefits manager.

“She had planned on continuing on with a master’s degree at Chestnut Hill, in human services,” Frank notes, “because she was so satisfied with her undergraduate education and wanted to continue with a graduate degree from the same college.” Ronnie passed away on October 1.

Frank is now retired and spends time with their son, Frank, Jr., and his family who live near Ocean City, N.J. “Ronnie’s other prayers might be answered, too, some day,” Frank notes, “as our grandchildren come along to apply to colleges. Ronnie would be thrilled to have them attend Chestnut Hill, the college she loved so much.”

In November, Frank established the Veronica Sessa Memorial Scholarship in gratitude for the experience that Ronnie enjoyed at CHC and to make this “same sort of education possible for another, for someone who needs tuition assistance.” Friends and relatives have since added gifts to the endowed fund.

‘80s

Samuella Lazzara Donnelly ’81 (Spanish) is employed in the Bethlehem Area School District. She teaches English as a second language and chairs the English acquisition department at Liberty High School. Samuella enjoys reading, walks with her husband, trying new restaurants, and visiting her daughter in Philadelphia.

Kristine Higgins ’81 (biology) is currently employed in the Philadelphia School District as a science teacher. She became recertified in biology (after 25 years) so she could return to teaching, her true passion. She is now “retirement eligible” from 22 years with GMAC as a financial specialist. Kristin is looking forward to her upcoming trip to Ireland where she plans to visit schools and pursue her family history.

Mary Pat Feeney Kessler ’83 (psychology) ran the 26.2-mile Philadelphia Marathon on November 20, reaching 35 percent of her goal of $14,600 for the Gift of Life Family House Adopt-A-Family program.

Mary Pat’s dollar goal equals close to a year’s care for families of transplant patients staying at Family House.

Brigid Gordon Castro ’86 (biology) is a radiologist at Fairfax Radiological Consultants in Virginia.

Anne Bradley DeMasi ’86 (biochemistry) is a hazard communication and regulatory specialist in the Environmental, Health, Safety and Sustainable Development division of Rohm and Haas Company. She spends the majority of her time preparing for the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals for several countries that will be implementing the new system. Her previous work included analyzing properties of polymers and developing industrial coating products for wood and plastic substrates. Anne is vice-chair of the American Chemical Society’s Corporation Associates Committee. She has served in many positions for the Philadelphia section of ACS, including director, secretary, chair-elect and chair, and she has been a member of numerous ACS committees. Anne is also a member of the Society for Hazard Communication and she has been featured in ACS’s 2005 book, Successful Women in Chemistry: Corporate America’s Contribution to Science.

‘90s

Catherine Lavelle Kessmeier, Esq. ’91 (political science) is deputy assistant general counsel in Manpower and Reserve Affairs for the United States Navy. Catherine supervises legal advice as related to military and civilian personnel. She enjoys spending time with her children and family.

Charis Lasky ’91 (Latin) was published in The Bulletin, journal of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, Volume 58. The article outlines the history of the first traveling carillon to arrive in the U.S. All of the information in Charis’ work comes from her ongoing efforts to research and compile the history of this four-ton instrument of tuned bronze bells.

Diane Lennon ’93 (elementary education) had been a sixth-grade teacher at Neshaminy Middle School in Langhorne, Pa., since September 1993. She teaches social studies and earned a master’s degree in educational psychology.
Julie Fleisher ’94 (accounting) earned a master’s degree in accounting from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in March 2011.

Cindy Marx Davidson ’97 (English) is working in the editorial office of the Annals of Thoracic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Evin Bail O’Keeffe ’98 (fine art studio and communications) writes that she and her husband, Conor, welcomed Liam Barra in November. The happy family lives in Cork, Ireland, where Evin creates the blog www.evinok.net.

‘00s

Cara Caruso ’04 (history) is teaching literacy in English as a second language in Burlington, New Jersey. Cara was very involved as a CHC student in Mask & Foil and is now directing the spring musical in her school district.

Julia Dressler ’05 (communications & technology) and Mike Grey tied the knot at the Casa Ybel Resort on April 9, 2011 in Sanibel Island, Florida. Out of 75 guests, 14 were CHC grads, either classmates or cousins of mother-of-the-bride Suzanne Schulz Dressler ’71 or classmates of the bride. Julie, a die-hard Philadelphia Phillies fan, promised that the groom would always be her MVP, that she “would share their road trip of life together through many championship seasons.” The groom, a collector of antique Jeeps, promised a life of love and excitement that would be as much fun as driving a rugged trail Jeep with no windshield, no doors or top! This happy couple obviously knows the value of a sense of humor within married life.

Leslie Truluck ’07 (English & communications) is applying her CHC degree as editor of SpringfieldPatch. Visit the Web-based news and community hub at Springfield-pa.patch.com.

Raul “Angel” Garcia ’09 (biology) was quoted in a piece on nj.com, Everything New Jersey (Aug. 1) regarding the entering Class of 2015 at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Angel is one of 150 students selected from an applicant pool of 4,000 to begin medical studies this year at the Stratford, N.J.-based school of osteopathic medicine. He references his first exposure to medicine while job-shadowing at Cooper University Hospital with his mother, Maritza, a registered nurse. Angel continued his education, earning a master’s degree at Drexel University, before moving into his medical studies.

Brittany Martyn ’10 (elementary education) graduated in May 2011 with a master’s degree in education and a certification in special education. She will be working locally and living right outside Chestnut Hill in Roxborough.

Derek Pascarella ’10 (psychology) is working toward a Psy.D. in child psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles.
Nominations Invited for 2012 Alumni Association Awards

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

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

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

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

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

Erica Torres ’10 (forensic sciences) is pursuing a master’s degree in forensic science at Arcadia University in Glenside, Pa., and is on track to graduate in May of 2012. Erica is planning to further her education with a doctorate in toxicology.

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

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

Keep in touch with your friends and classmates! Career news, advanced degrees, births, marriages, deaths — whatever your news, share it with us. Submit items by February 15, 2012 for print consideration in the next issue of Chestnut Hill.

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

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

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

4. Online: www.CHGriffinsonline.com

Alumni Relations Office  
Chestnut Hill College  
9601 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118
If you’re a Chestnut Hill College graduate and have not yet registered on CHC Griffins Online — your free alumni online community — contact gutshallj@chc.edu for your personal ID number to log in for the first time.

Visit www.CHCgriffinsonline.com to:

• Send e-mail and instant notes to friends and classmates
• Search the alumni directory
• Register for alumni and other College events
• Post wedding, baby, and other family photos
• Display your résumé
• Receive instant news from the College
• View job opportunities and classifieds
• Voice your opinion on the message board
• Join the 1,339 alumni already on board

We’re also on Facebook — become a fan by typing in Chestnut Hill College.
The desk, one cumbersome chunk of oak, has a sturdy wooden top connected to a massive wooden chair. Messy yellow chalk dust consumes the blackboard. A timid freshman nervously approaches the room and desperately searches for a back seat. The search is futile when the professor suggests students arrange the desks in a circle. There is no place to hide. The year — 1974; the school — Chestnut Hill College; the freshman — me!

The heavy desks are gone. Instead, comfortable chairs (detachable!) are arranged in pairs behind lightweight tables. There is no blackboard, certainly no yellow chalk dust. Instead, dry-erase markers accompany a shiny whiteboard. There is a computer and a projector. A somewhat older student confidently bursts into the room and rockets for a front row seat. There are no nerves and no need to hide. The year — 2011; the school — Chestnut Hill College; the somewhat older student — me!

Proposed budget cuts in education prompted me to return to Chestnut Hill College 33 years later. As a music teacher in the public school system, I am in a fragile position. Will my job be eliminated? The buzzword marketability certainly resonated for me. What could I do to enhance my marketability in a competitive, financially struggling educational system? I decided to return to the institution that awarded me an undergraduate music degree and pursue certification in elementary education. This past summer, I attended elementary methods classes at night on Mondays and Wednesdays and writing rubrics in the morning on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The excitement and enjoyment of being back in class surprised me.

Things are so different at the College. The Sisters wear fashionable dress. The Music Department proudly upgraded to all Steinway pianos. Some of the wooden doors have been refurbished with large panes of glass. International students enrich the College, the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation offers guidance, and participation in the Martin Luther King day of service reflects the mission. The air-conditioned Fitzsimmons Hall features a stylish student center with large-screen T.V. and a pool table. And we can’t forget the friendly CHC dogs, Kostka and Griffin, who ostensibly own the Office of the President.

Men are on campus. Technology is state-of-the art. There is an exciting new fitness center. Fournier Café offers cappuccino and French vanilla coffee. The Griffins Den provides quick, tasty meals...fast food that is actually healthy!

But things are still the same at Chestnut Hill College. The friendly staff is on a first-name basis. Thank you to the kitchen staff. Your attention to detail over my meals made me feel like a queen. Thank you to security. When my battery died, you quickly started my car. Thank you to Dr. Pate for advising me on course work, Sister Barbara Glennon for arranging my summer residency, and Sister Kathryn Miller for being my personal cheerleader. Thank you to professors Needleman and Goodman for helping me teach a subject other than music. Thank you to Ms. Lee for correcting my bow arm, vibrato, and shifting techniques with precision. Thank you, Dr. Silva, for painstakingly editing a large volume of writing assignments. Your motivation, praise, and encouragement prompted this very article.

It’s a breathtakingly beautiful August afternoon as I’m preparing to leave the College once again. The aesthetically lush campus, vivid with emerald green grass and spectacular trees, perfectly frames the College’s noble Romanesque architecture. I’m reminded of John Knowles’ “A Separate Peace”: “Between the buildings, elms curved so high that you ceased to remember their height...an untouched, unreachable world high in space, like the ornamental towers and spires of a great church.

Thirty-seven years later, that same feeling of nostalgic melancholy engulfs me. Sadly, I am leaving friends, a home, a retreat.

Maryanne J. Kane, Ph.D. ’78 teaches music for the Upper Darby School District (Pa.).
Calendar of Events

BACKPACK TO BRIEFCASE SERIES
Sponsored by Career Development and Alumni Relations
Career-related events at 2 p.m., 6:30 p.m., or 7 p.m. every Wednesday in February
Information: 215.248.7048

19TH ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL LECTURE SERIES
Wednesday, February 15, 4 p.m.
Speaker: Dawn Bonnell, Ph.D.
Director Nano/Bio Interface Center
The University of Pennsylvania
Information: 215.248.7159

STEINWAY ARTISTS SERIES
Performance by Meral Güneyman
Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m.
Rotunda, St. Joseph Hall
Information: 215.248.7022

3RD ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA
Saturday, April 21, 6 p.m.
Rotunda, St. Joseph Hall
Information: 215.248.7159
www.chc.edu/gala

COMMENCEMENT
Saturday, May 12

66TH ANNUAL REUNION WEEKEND
June 1-2-3
School of Undergraduate Studies classes ending in “7” and “2”
Information: 215.248.7144
Reservations: 215.753.3666

2012 GOLDEN GRIFFINS MASS & BRUNCH
Sunday, June 3
School of Undergraduate Studies classes ending in “7” and “2”
Information: 215.248.7144
Reservations: 215.753.3666

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE DONOR RECOGNITION CELEBRATION
Sunday, September 22

30TH ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL
Coming this Fall
Reservations: 215.753.3692

14TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL DINNER
Mid-November TBD
Sorgenti Arena, Martino Hall
Information: 215.248.7095

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

Travel the World with Alumni and Friends

JUNE 2012
BALTIC TREASURES
10-day cruise from Copenhagen to Stockholm aboard Marina, Oceana Cruises’ magnificent new ship, plus spend two full days in St. Petersburg and other stops in Gdansk, Riga, Tallinn, and Helsinki. June 30-July 12.

AUGUST 2012
BONNIE SCOTLAND
9-day tour of Highland vistas, the Isle of Skye, the charming cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and more, including entrance to the world-renowned Military Tattoo, a spectacle of Scottish pipe bands performing on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. August 1-9.

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

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