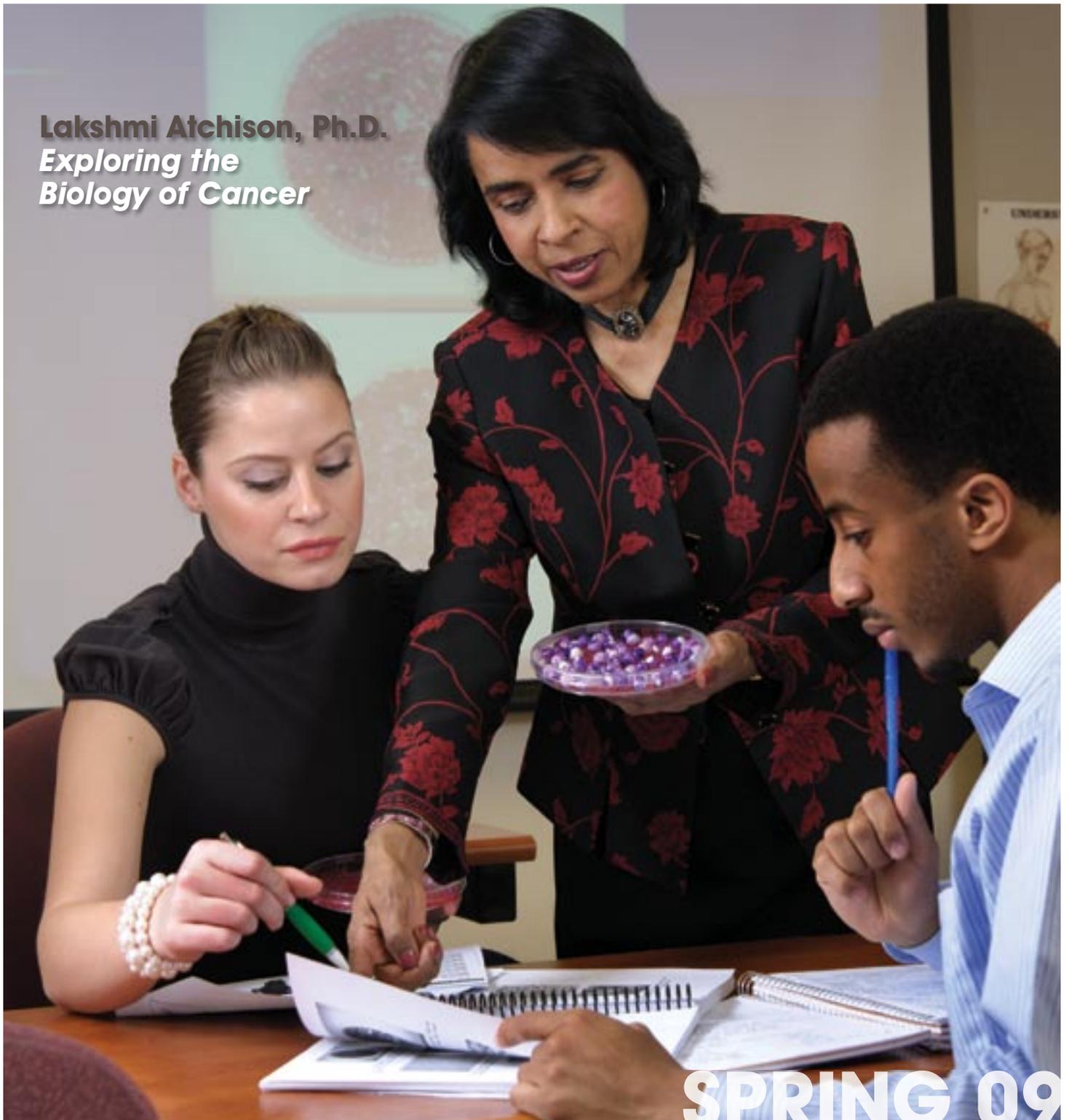


# HILL CHESTNUT

*the magazine of chestnut hill college*

**Lakshmi Atchison, Ph.D.**  
*Exploring the  
Biology of Cancer*



**SPRING 09**



# SNAPS HOT

Rehearsing for the spring production of "Fiddler on the Roof" are (counter-clockwise from left) sophomores Allan-Michael Meads, Joseph McGovern, Nicholas Raspanti, and Ashley Pavone.

# HILL CHESTNUT

the magazine of chestnut hill college



## >> FEATURES

By Ryan Dougherty

### >> A MODEL PROFESSOR :: 12

Lakshmi Atchison exudes a passion for life-long learning and teaching that connects her to — and lifts — the College community.

### >> GREATER EXPECTATIONS :: 15

Almost a year into the job, the Vice President for Academic Affairs assesses the College's academics and outlines a holistic approach to preparing students for life.

### >> STEPPING UP :: 18

Junior Julian McFadden rises to new challenges on and off the court.

## >> DEPARTMENTS

3 :: EDITOR'S NOTE

4 :: AROUND THE HILL

20 :: GRIFFINS SPORTS

22 :: ALUMNI LINK

24 :: LAST WORD

ON THE COVER: *Lakshmi Atchison, Ph.D., discusses cancer blood cells with seniors Raul (Angel) Garcia and Eridana Karaj.*

# SPRING 09

# Join the Crowd—

## VISIT CHC GRIFFINS ONLINE!



If you're a Chestnut Hill College graduate and have not registered on **CHC Griffins Online** — your free alumni online community — **check your magazine envelope for your personal identification number to log in for**

**the first time.** It's the six-digit number printed above your name.

After that, you can choose your own user name and password for all future visits.

Visit [www.CHCgriffinsonline.com](http://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
- Register for "Reunion of the Stars" 2009  
....and so much more!

Have questions? Contact Pat Canning at [canningp@chc.edu](mailto:canningp@chc.edu)



## >> FOUR EASY WAYS TO SUBMIT YOUR ALUMNI NEWS

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 August 15, 2009 for print consideration in the next issue of *Chestnut Hill*.

1. E-mail: [canningp@chc.edu](mailto: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.CHCgriffinsonline.com](http://www.CHCgriffinsonline.com)



Patricia Canning  
Director of Alumni Relations  
Chestnut Hill College  
9601 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

# EDITOR'S NOTE

## *Returning to Chestnut Hill*



You hold in your hands the latest chapter in the 71-year history of alumni publications at the College.

Chestnut Hill College's first alumni magazine, the *Bulletin of the Alumnae Association*,

*College of Chestnut Hill*, appeared in 1938. *Alumnae Bulletin* came along three years later and ran for the next 30 years. *CHC Alumnae Update* followed, published in somewhat of a newsletter format. We went back to a traditional magazine in 1986 with *The Hill*, which subsequently changed to *Chestnut Hill* from 1996 to 1999. Since then, we've shared College news with you through the *Chestnut Hill College Newsletter*.



Well, it's time for another change. And what better time than spring — with the azaleas and magnolias blooming on campus — to return to a magazine fittingly named *Chestnut Hill*.

Our objective was to return to a magazine format that would best communicate what makes Chestnut Hill College such a special place. We look forward to bringing *Chestnut Hill* to you twice a year, telling the stories of the people who shape and enliven our community. In addition to news articles and in-depth feature stories on alumni, students, and faculty, you'll receive first-person perspectives and vivid glimpses of College life in regular departments such as "Last Word" and "Around the Hill." Our goal is to inform you about — and connect you to — your *alma mater*, Chestnut Hill College.

Please don't hesitate to let us know how we're doing. We're looking forward to your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Spigelmyer '98

P.S. In keeping with the mission of Chestnut Hill College and our concern for the earth, please let us know if you'd prefer to read *Chestnut Hill* online instead of receiving a printed copy.

CHESTNUT HILL SPRING 2009  
*the magazine of chestnut hill college* (Vol. 1, No. 1)

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT  
KENNETH HICKS

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, EDITOR  
KATHLEEN M. SPIGELMYER '98

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER  
RYAN DOUGHERTY

ALUMNI LINK EDITOR  
PATRICIA M. CANNING '70

GRIFFINS SPORTS EDITOR  
GREG GORNICK

GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
JACKIE SERGO, MICHAEL STUMPF & ASSOCIATES, INC.

PHOTOGRAPHY  
JIM ROESE

NUMBERS TO KNOW  
ADMISSIONS 215.248.7001  
ALUMNI 215.248.7144  
ATHLETICS 215.248.7060  
CAREER SERVICES 215.248.7048  
DEVELOPMENT 215.248.7137

[WWW.CHC.EDU/MAGAZINE](http://WWW.CHC.EDU/MAGAZINE)

*Chestnut Hill*  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
9601 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
Phone: 215.248.7110  
E-mail: [magazine@chc.edu](mailto:magazine@chc.edu)

*Chestnut Hill* (Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 2009) is published twice per year by Chestnut Hill College and delivered to alumni, parents, and friends of the College. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official policies of Chestnut Hill College. © 2009 Chestnut Hill College.

In keeping with the mission of Chestnut Hill College and our concern for the earth, this magazine was printed on 100# Galerie Art gloss cover and 80# Galerie Art silk text with Soy Ink. Galerie Art paper is made with chlorine free (TCF/ECF) pulp using timber from well-managed forests and other controlled sources. Please recycle after use.



# AROUND THE HILL

Campus News



## >> STUDENT AND COMMUNITY CENTER COMING TO SUGARLOAF HILL

Renovations to the Greenfield Mansion at SugarLoaf are underway, with the property expected to function as a student and community center by January 2010.

“We’re completely renovating it,” said Lauri Strimkovsky, M.B.A., vice president for financial affairs. “It will provide us access to six classrooms as well as a new dining facility. We’re very excited to have even more life and activity on both sides of campus.”

Key to the process is restoring the mansion’s façade to how it looked in the 1920s. It had been modernized in the 1950s.

“We’re restoring it to a more traditional look,” Strimkovsky said, “one typical of the style of architecture you see elsewhere in Chestnut Hill.”

A dining room addition to the mansion will create space for up to 160 persons seated at round tables. This space will lend itself to College conferences and events, and will generate revenue through rentals to the surrounding community, said Strimkovsky.

The classrooms will be student-ready by the 2010 spring semester, holding undergraduate classes during the day and graduate and continuing studies classes at night.

The mansion’s kitchen is being revamped, its finishes redone. Food service is scheduled to begin there in January, offering students who reside on the SugarLoaf Hill campus a convenient

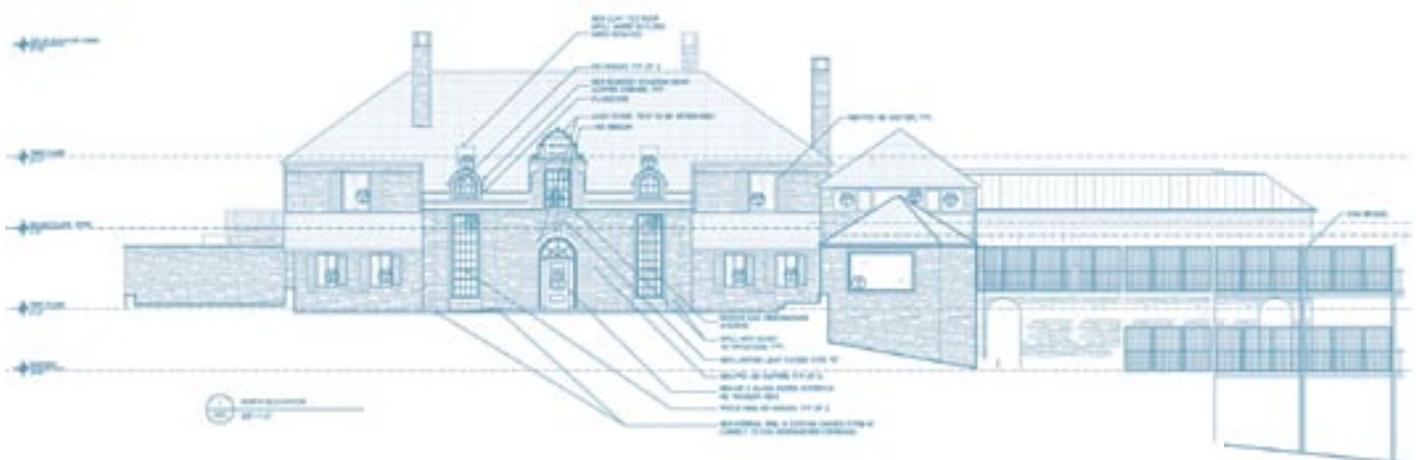
dining option. The renovated mansion will also provide students with lounge space in addition to the pool house.

Repairs and upgrades to the roof and the lighting, electrical, and HVAC systems continue. Construction went into full gear in March, with part of the construction cost covered by a redevelopment assistance grant from the state, Strimkovsky said.

SugarLoaf Hill, a 30-acre property situated diagonally across Germantown Avenue from the College’s existing campus, represented a unique opportunity to nearly double the size of the campus and allow for expansion to accommodate a growing student body. The acquisition, announced in August 2006, also enabled the College to avoid additional construction on the existing campus, thereby preserving its remaining open space. 🦁



*The mansion is being renovated to look like it did in the 1920s.*



## >> PROFESSOR SHARES HEMINGWAY EXPERTISE HERE AND ABROAD

Suzanne del Gizzo, Ph.D., traces her passion for the work of Ernest Hemingway back to her undergraduate honors thesis. After reading everything of Hemingway's she could get her hands on, del Gizzo analyzed the significance of how his characters wore their hair. Two years later, someone else published a successful book on the topic.

"I thought, 'Wow,' if I had known a little more, that could have been me," del Gizzo said. "I tried to stay away from Hemingway for a while after that, but he kept pulling me back in."

Now an assistant professor of English at the College, del Gizzo is a bona fide Hemingway expert. In June, she'll travel to Switzerland to prepare for her role as program director of next summer's 14th International Hemingway Conference. That follows an appearance this April on a panel convened by the Kansas City library system for its "Big Read" project; the community read Tobias Wolff's "Old School" and invited experts to represent the famous authors portrayed in that book, and del Gizzo represented Hemingway. She was also recently elected a trustee of the Hemingway Foundation and Society.

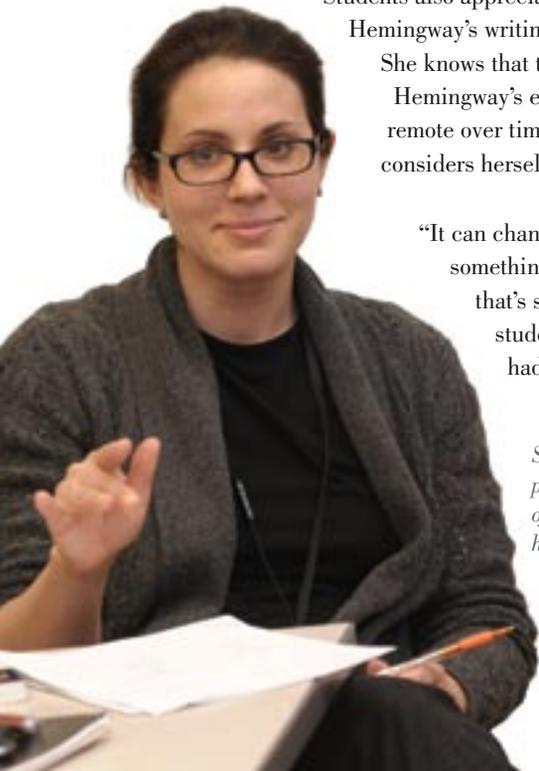
At the College, del Gizzo's passion for Hemingway's work helps to engage students, but she's quick to point out it's also important for them to relate to the material. Lately, she's seen his writings on war, such as "A Farewell to Arms," "Big Two-Hearted River," and "A Soldier's Home," achieve that.

"The students are really responding to them," she said. "A lot of them know people who are or were soldiers, and it makes me appreciate the writings more when I see them perk up with interest in what [Hemingway] has to say."

Students also appreciate the simplicity of Hemingway's writing style, del Gizzo said. She knows that tastes evolve and Hemingway's era will become more remote over time, but for now del Gizzo considers herself lucky.

"It can change, but there's something about Hemingway that's still really fresh for students," she said. "I've had an easy run of it." 🦁

*Suzanne del Gizzo's passion for the writing of Ernest Hemingway helps to engage students.*



## >> UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GETS BOOK PUBLISHED

To fulfill the Career Connections requirement of the College's core curriculum, many students spend a day as an intern. Rachel Hildebrandt wrote a book.

The senior psychology major parlayed a long-held fascination with abandoned buildings into the publication of "The Philadelphia Area Architecture of Horace Trumbauer," a look at the architect's wide range of residential, commercial, and civic structures.



*Senior Rachel Hildebrandt signs a copy of her book, "The Philadelphia Area Architecture of Horace Trumbauer."*

Hildebrandt's interests in architecture and history sparked a curiosity about Lynnewood Hall in Montgomery County, Pa., one of Trumbauer's designs. Hildebrandt researched the architect and found that he designed many interesting works, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Keswick Theatre located in Glenside, Pa. An e-mail she sent to a publisher seeking a book on Trumbauer's work took an unexpected turn.

"They said, 'Why don't you write it?'" Hildebrandt said. "I was taken aback but thought, 'alright.'"

Her next step was to contact Old York Road Historical Society, whose territory contained much of Trumbauer's work.

"Looking back on it, they were crazy for signing on to work with me, then a sophomore in college," Hildebrandt said with a laugh.

For the next two years — which included breaks to accommodate her College studies — Hildebrandt researched and wrote the book and culled its photographs. Libraries and archives became her second home. This past February, the book was released by Arcadia Publishing.

"It's all surreal right now," Hildebrandt said. "It was just a project in my room for so long, chapters divided into colored folders. But my family is so supportive and happy — my mom flipped at seeing her name in the acknowledgments."

Hildebrandt graduated in May and hopes to work for the City of Philadelphia in historic preservation or zoning. She doesn't have plans to write another book but didn't rule out the possibility of one day adding a second title the shelf. 🦁

## >> LECTURE SERIES ENRICHES FACULTY, COMMUNITY RETIREES

Promoting its commitment to life-long learning, the College is offering in-depth lectures — with topics ranging from ancient Egypt to the foreign policy challenges facing President Obama — to residents of two local retirement communities.

Shannondell (Valley Forge, Pa.) and Ann's Choice (Warminster, Pa.) have been the sites of lively exchanges between the College's professors and the communities' residents. The latter appreciate the chance to learn about topics they may not have had time to pursue when they were working, said Becky Gallucci, community resource coordinator at Ann's Choice.

"The residents look to enrich themselves and their lives by gaining knowledge," she said, "and they recognize what it does for them and their longevity and quality of life. Healthy minds, healthy bodies."

Also benefiting from the arrangement are the instructors, said Elaine R. Green, Ed.D., dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, citing their opportunity to share their expertise with different groups on specialized topics.

"What we've heard from the residents is they don't want overviews," Green said. "They want in-depth lessons. They want something intellectually stimulating and challenging."

Recent lectures from two faculty members in particular — Jacqueline C. Reich, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, and William T. Walker, Ph.D., who last year retired as senior vice president for academic affairs and is now a professor of history — were so well-received that they revisited the topics with a wider scope.



*William T. Walker, Ph.D., discusses the wilderness years of Winston Churchill with the residents of Ann's Choice.*

"[Reich] has a set of devoted residents who just love her," Gallucci said. "She engaged in dialogue with them — 'What courses would you like?' — and came back with a resident-requested program. She even submitted a reading list so they could read in advance."

Other recent topics presented at the two communities included a three-part series on Winston Churchill and a look back at the *other* Philadelphia baseball team, the gone-but-not-forgotten Athletics.

"Some of our residents attend for escapism, some to walk down memory lane, and some for a brain tease or an exercise of the mind," Gallucci said. "The instructors are really good at tapping into all those different levels." 🦁

## >> CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN BEREAVEMENT CARE LAUNCHED

The School Of Graduate Studies now offers a Certificate of Professional Development in Bereavement Care. The program, administered through the Holistic Spirituality department, responds to the growing number of persons facing end-of-life decisions for themselves and their loved ones as well as the grief that accompanies loss.

The Certificate of Professional Development in Bereavement Care is targeted toward persons working with dying patients and their families, such as nurses, social workers, pastoral care ministers, spiritual directors, hospice team members, and funeral directors.

"Since bereavement, in its many forms, is a certainty in all of our lives, this certificate is relevant to the general public as well as those who benefit from an enhanced understanding in professional applications," said Jayne F. Mashett, director of admissions for the School of Graduate Studies.

Courses include Ethics in the Health Care Context, God and Human Suffering, Death and Dying across Faith Traditions, and Bereavement Counseling. It should be noted that successful completion of the program does not constitute certification in bereavement counseling.

Admission to the certificate program will follow the same guidelines as applying to the School of Graduate Studies, with the exception of a standardized test. Students who complete the certificate program can continue their studies in the master's program after consultation with the department chair and submission of standardized test scores.

For more information, contact Marie Conn, Ph.D., department chair, at [mconn@chc.edu](mailto:mconn@chc.edu) or Jayne Mashett at [mashettj@chc.edu](mailto:mashettj@chc.edu) or 215.248.7020. 🦁

## >>QUIDDITCH TEAM RECRUITING FOR SECOND SEASON

Preparing for another run at the Intercollegiate Quidditch World Cup, the Chestnut Hill College Activities Team (CHAT) held Quidditch 101 day in April, raising the profile of the real-life version of the magical game made famous by the “Harry Potter” book series.

Members of the College’s team, which finished third at last year’s Cup despite learning and practicing the game in just two weeks, offered newcomers instruction and hands-on practice. After all, running with a broomstick between your legs while hurling a dodge ball at an opponent is a learned skill.

“Last year, the students were hesitant to sign-up to play in our [on-campus] tournament because they were unfamiliar with the game,” said CHAT President Lindsay Sladowski ’10. “So our hope for Quidditch 101 day was to recruit players for the fall and make the game accessible to everyone.”

To gear up for Quidditch season, CHAT is raising funds for authentic Quidditch brooms. Players will also compete in the second annual Quidditch on the Hill tournament on Friday, October 2, which will kick off the College’s annual Family Weekend. Later that month, the best players will form the College’s team that travels to Middlebury College in Vermont to compete for the Cup. Win or lose, it’ll be a magical time for all. 🦉

- Max Kaplan ’11



The annual Quidditch 101 day introduces potential players to the magical game.



Donna Mumford, recipient of the law enforcement scholarship, graduated in May.

## >>SCHOLARSHIP HELPS POLICE OFFICER COMPLETE DEGREE

Asked to recall her reaction upon finding out she received a scholarship to cover her last two semesters at the College, Donna Mumford smiled broadly.

“I was walking down the hallway and [Elaine R. Green, Ed.D., dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies] grabbed me and said she had something to tell me,” Mumford said. “I thought she was going to say the scholarship went to someone else, but she said I got it. I had to remember where I was, because I wanted to do cartwheels backwards.”

Mumford, who has been a Philadelphia Police Department officer for 12 years, wrote about the obstacles she overcame, personally and professionally, in her application for the scholarship.

“It was kind of an easy decision for us,” Green said. “She had been at the College for a long time as a student and earned a reputation for strong effort and character.”

The scholarship is one aspect of the College’s support of local law enforcement officers, Green said. It also offers a 30 percent tuition discount and the equivalent of 30 criminal justice credits to police academy graduates, in addition to a

\$2,500 tuition credit to the academy graduate with the highest grade-point average who does not have a college degree.

Mumford plans to stay at the police department, in part to maintain stability for her five-year-old son. Following an internship with the Police Athletic League (PAL), however, she’s also interested in working on ways for law enforcement to more proactively protect and serve children.

“I was sent there to complete three credits, but it was so much more than that,” she said. “Being able to help children is an incredible reward.”

She’s also pursuing a master’s degree in administration of human services at the College. The thought of leaving didn’t occur to her.

“Where else could you go where not only the teachers but administrators and staff come up to say hello and call you by name?” she asked. “It’s a very warm environment here, one that taught me about the fellowship and kindness present in the hearts of people.” 🦉

## &gt;&gt; FACULTY PROMOTIONS

The board of directors announced the promotion and/or tenure of the following faculty at its February meeting.

**Sara Kitchen, J.D.**, associate professor of sociology to professor of criminal justice, effective July 1, 2009.

**Margery Covello, Ed.D.**, assistant professor of education to associate professor of education, effective July 1, 2009; awarded tenure, effective July 1, 2010.

**Nancy DeCesare, I.H.M., Ph.D.**, assistant professor of human services to associate professor of human services, effective July 1, 2009; awarded tenure, effective July 1, 2010.

**Robert Durney, M.B.A., M.E., P.M.P.**, assistant professor of business to associate professor of business, effective July 1, 2009; awarded tenure, effective July 1, 2010.

**Joseph Kulkosky, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biology to associate professor of biology, effective July 1, 2009; awarded tenure, effective July 1, 2010.

**Keely McCarthy, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of English and coordinator of the writing program, to associate professor of English, effective July 1, 2009; awarded tenure, effective July 1, 2010. 



Front (left to right): Keely McCarthy, Ph.D., Nancy DeCesare, I.H.M., Ph.D., Margery Covello, Ed.D. Back (left to right): Joseph Kulkosky, Ph.D. Sara Kitchen, J.D. Not pictured: Robert Durney, M.B.A., M.E., P.M.P.

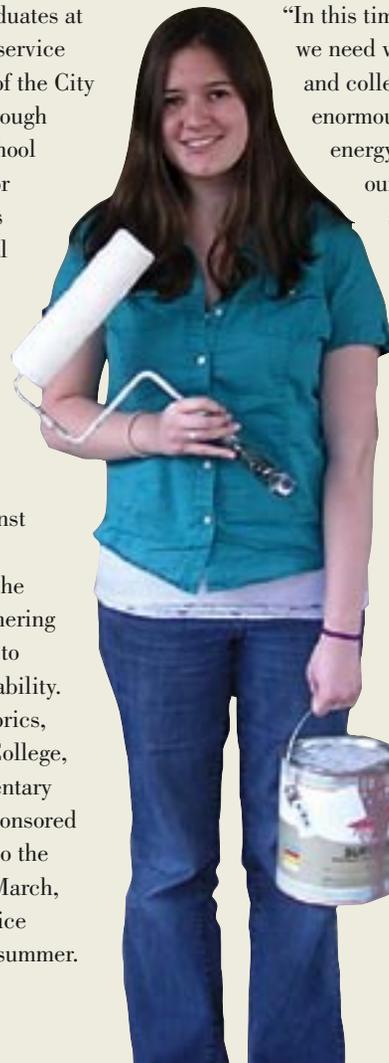
## &gt;&gt; COLLEGE RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Corporation for National and Community Service recently honored Chestnut Hill College with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service to America's communities.

The Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can earn for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a variety of factors, including the scope and innovation of their service projects and percentage of student participation in service activities.

The College has been involved in many service learning initiatives as a member school of PHENND (Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development) and is in the process of incorporating service learning across all curriculums. It was chosen as one of eight schools in the area to receive support from the three-year "Learn and Serve America" grant to support service-learning initiatives on campus.

Ten percent of the undergraduates at the College participate in a service learning course. The Heart of the City course partners with Roxborough High School to help high school seniors complete their Senior Project, and several sections of the Introduction to Liberal Arts course are partnering with St. Joseph's Villa to visit with retired Sisters and document histories of their lives. In addition, the Global Awareness Seminar is working with the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger in the Food Stamp Enrollment Campaign, and the Entrepreneur course is partnering with the Impact Thrift Store to help with a project on profitability. Students in Writing and Rubrics, an education course at the College, tutor children in local elementary schools. The College also sponsored an alternative spring break to the Appalachian Mountains in March, as well as an upcoming service learning trip to Mexico this summer.



"In this time of economic distress, we need volunteers more than ever, and college students represent an enormous pool of idealism and energy to help tackle some of our toughest challenges," said Stephen Goldsmith, vice chair of the board of directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "We salute Chestnut Hill College for making community service a campus priority, and thank the millions of college students who are helping to renew America through service to others." 

*Sophomore Ally Antonini volunteered her time on an alternative spring break to the Appalachian Mountains.*

## >> STUDENTS, FACULTY PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL SURVEYS

In spring 2007, the Chestnut Hill College class of 2010 took the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE, pronounced “nessie”). Launched in 2000, NSSE has gathered data about how students at more than 1,200 institutions spend their time and what they gain from their college experience. In spring 2008, our faculty took the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE, “fessie”), a companion study that explores faculty practices and perceptions of students.

NSSE and FSSE are part of a national call for institutional accountability in higher education. Colleges use their survey results to identify areas in need of improvement and assess improvement efforts. Students, parents, and guidance counselors use the results to discover how a student might learn and develop at a particular college. Both NSSE and FSSE aim to stimulate a national conversation about quality in the college experience. Instead of ranking colleges, NSSE attempts to identify the strengths and weaknesses that make each institution unique and uniquely right for certain students.

The NSSE report organizes survey results in a general way around five NSSE Benchmarks of Effective

Educational Practice. The chart (below) displays a sampling of how Chestnut Hill College students in the Class of 2010 responded. It is important to remember that these responses focus on engagement, but rather a high level of engagement. A “good” report does not mean achievement, but rather a high level of engagement.

When NSSE and FSSE survey results are connected, interesting priorities can emerge. For example, the combined group of the College’s faculty and students reported these top areas of student growth:

- Thinking critically and analytically
- Acquiring a broad general education
- Writing clearly and effectively
- Using computing and information technology
- Working effectively with others

Care is needed to interpret NSSE/FSSE results appropriately. The surveys measure not achievement, but engagement, so these results do not mean that the College’s students are excellent critical thinkers, but that the students and faculty perceive that our students have grown in their critical thinking abilities. This growth required significant engagement in various academic activities. However, research shows that pre-college experience may account for

some or even most of this engagement. So the College cannot take credit for creating this engagement level. What it can claim is that it has capitalized on the students’ engagement to benefit their critical thinking abilities and other important goals of a college education.

The College has just begun to use NSSE/FSSE results to understand its students’ college experience better and plan improvements. Next year, the Class of 2010 will again participate in NSSE, this time as seniors. This will give the College comparative data on two survey groups containing many of the same students, which will provide clearer insight into how effective its programs and services are in different areas. As part of ongoing assessment efforts, the College plans to participate in NSSE every third year and FSSE every sixth year.

For more information about NSSE and FSSE, visit [www.nsse.iub.edu](http://www.nsse.iub.edu). 

*-Patricia O’Donnell, SSJ, Ph.D. ’61  
Director of Institutional Research*

BENCHMARK	ENGAGEMENT LEVEL OF CHC RESPONSES IN A FIELD OF 610 COLLEGES	SIGNIFICANT RESPONSES TO INDIVIDUAL SURVEY ITEMS
Level of Academic Challenge	at the average of the top 50%	65% frequently work harder than they thought they could to meet faculty expectations
Active and Collaborative Learning	at the average of the top 50%	70% frequently discuss readings or ideas from coursework outside of class
Student-Faculty Interaction	at the average of the top 10%	74% frequently get prompt verbal or written feedback from faculty
Enriching Educational Experiences	slightly above the average of the top 10%	72% frequently have serious conversations with students different from themselves in race, religion, or political/personal views
Supportive Campus Environment	slightly below the average of the top 50%	88% have a favorable image of Chestnut Hill College

## >> INSTITUTE OF FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION LAUNCHED

Seeking to foster a culture of unity as a way of life, the College has launched the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation.

Described as “a learning laboratory for research and scholarship where forgiveness and reconciliation are explored as alternatives to violence and conflict,” the Institute will touch every aspect of the College and beyond.

“We’re providing a motivation for respecting each other and going out of our way to let go of grudges,” said Catherine Nerney, SSJ, Ph.D., associate professor of religious studies. “It’s about calling each other to a higher level of life together.”

A March lecture delivered by international author and peace activist John Dear, S.J., “To Change the World, We Must Change Ourselves,” marked the launch of the Institute. Father John also met with students to discuss forgiveness and reconciliation before leading a procession to the recently dedicated Garden of Forgiveness to bless the Institute’s upcoming work.

The College has for years offered retreats for faculty, administration, and staff to promote forgiveness work as integral to the legacy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The participants of a recent retreat came away hoping to “institutionalize” what they learned, which led to the Institute. While there is a specific class on forgiveness and reconciliation offered by the Religious Studies program, Sister Cathy stressed that the participation of all faculty and staff is essential to the success of the Institute.

“Every discipline of faculty and staff contributes to and benefits from this value-based learning environment,” she said. “It’s a



*John Dear, S.J., speaks to the College community, launching the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation.*

culture we’re creating together, one in which unity and reconciliation become a way of life.”

Students will not only learn about the College’s culture of forgiveness at orientation day but pledge to help shape it for one another. A specific idea is to teach students conflict resolution skills to apply to social-networking sites like Facebook.

“They’ll quickly get to know who we are, and that here at CHC we don’t hold grudges,” Sister Cathy said. “We talk about leaning toward forgiveness — it’s a process that’s worth the effort. It’s a promise we’re making together. At this little Northwestern corner of Philadelphia, we can make a difference in our world.” 🦁

## >> FACULTY, STUDENTS DECORATE CHESTS FOR HOPE

Margie Thompson, SSJ, M.F.A., associate professor of art, alumna Andrea O’Driscoll ’97, adjunct faculty member, and students Caitlin Shuker ’10, Alison Borden ’10, and Erica Nix ’10, decorated three wooden chests donated to the “Chests for Hope”

fundraising event. The chests raised \$1,700 for the March event, benefitting the expansion of The Breast Care Center at Lankenau Hospital. O’Driscoll decorated a chest (pictured left) inspired by the medieval and baroque eras; Sister Margie

decorated another (center) inspired by scenes from Tuscany; and O’Driscoll, Sister Margie, and the three students collaborated on a third chest (right) inspired by the artist Frida Khalo. 🦁



## >> CAMPUS LECTURES



**Archbishop Agostino Marchetto**, secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, spoke at the College on January 22. His lecture was based on the 2004 instruction from the Pontifical Council, *"The Love of Christ Toward Migrants"* (*Erga migrantes caritas Christi*). Bishop Marchetto is visiting American Catholic colleges and universities across the United States speaking about the importance of the Catholic community's role in offering hospitality to all, both domestic and international persons.



**Lawrence Little, Ph.D.**, associate professor of African-American history at Villanova University, addressed the College community on the subject of "The Quest for Black Citizenship and the Future of America" in February. The lecture was sponsored by the History Department and *Phi Alpha Theta*, the national honor society for history.



**Suzanne Conway, M.A.**, associate professor of art history, recently offered a lecture at the Woodmere Art Museum in February on "Cecilia Beaux in France." Cecilia Beaux (1855-1942) was a Philadelphia-born American society portrait artist known for her craftsmanship and extraordinary output of work.



**Fernande Davis** of Gwynedd, Pa. shared her story as a young girl growing up during the time of the Belgian Resistance of WWII with the College community in late March. Her lecture, "She Chose to Resist: Fernande Davis and the Belgian Underground," was based on her recently published memoir, "Girl in the Belgian Resistance: A Wakeful Eye in the Underground," a recount of how her courage and bravery helped combat oppression in a world torn apart by war.



**Randall W. Culp, M.D.**, award-winning surgeon and hand and wrist consultant for the Philadelphia Phillies, presented the lecture "Hand Surgery Challenges in 2009" on March 11. Dr. Culp's lecture, presented as the 16th Annual Biomedical Seminar Series, discussed what a hand surgeon does, what challenges lay ahead in the field of hand surgery, and what the future holds for the specialty.



**Jay McDaniel, Ph.D.**, professor of religion at Hendrix College, discussed "The Prophetic Witness of Chinese Spirituality for World Christianity" on February 26 at the College. Dr. McDaniel spoke about the intellectual movement in China called "constructive postmodernism," which seeks the emergence of sustainable communities as its guiding ideal.

- Lisa Mixon

# LEAVING YOUR *Legacy*



*Everyone has many loves in life.  
Is Chestnut Hill College one of yours?*

By naming Chestnut Hill College as part of your estate, your legacy can

- Continue the support you have shown during your lifetime
- Guarantee that your positive influence will carry on
- Invest in the future of your *alma mater*

For more information, please contact Mary Theresa Shevland, SSJ, in the Office of Planned Giving at 215.753.3617 or shevlandm@chc.edu

[www.chc.planyourlegacy.com](http://www.chc.planyourlegacy.com)



# a model

## PROFESSOR

*Lakshmi Atchison exudes a passion for life-long learning and teaching that connects her to — and lifts — the College community.*

### ONE MINUTE, YOU'RE ASKING

Lakshmi Atchison, Ph.D., a question about her teaching style. The next, she springs out from behind her desk to show you a cancer cell model she developed, sparking an impromptu lesson. She speaks quickly but clearly, blending exuberance and authority. Before you know it, your eyes are wide, your curiosity piqued.

Question answered.

Over the course of her 17 years at the College, Atchison, professor of biology and chair of the Division of Natural Sciences, has earned the reputation of a professor who connects with students through her passion for teaching. She recently wrote a cell and cancer laboratory manual and created a cancer cell model to help students visualize blood cell biology. These and other learning tools bring Atchison's subject matter to life, earning her kudos from students and peers.



More impressive, however, is how genuine and selfless she seems. Asked to name the reward she gets from teaching, Atchison shared a letter she recently received from a student whose aunt was battling breast cancer. The letter thanked Atchison for all that the student learned in her Biology of Cancer class, which prepared her and her family for the challenges ahead.

“My students telling me how much the classes affect them is my reward,” Atchison said.

## THE PATH TO THE CLASSROOM

Atchison says that for as long as she can remember she has loved biology and the life sciences, and that by the 10th grade she dreamed of making it a profession. As for what led her to become a teacher, the College can thank the judges from a series of student science competitions and debates Atchison competed in.

“I always won prizes,” she said, shaking her head. “I somehow had the ability to face the audience and deliver what I knew. I realized I could connect with the audience, which made me think there might be something in my nature that lent itself to teaching.

“When [the audience] understood what I was explaining,” she continued, “it made me feel good. Ever since then, I’ve known that teaching was my forte.”

A native of Bangalore, India, Atchison did her doctoral and post-doctoral studies at New York University, completing in 1984. She researched cell and molecular biology and the human genome for Fox Chase Cancer Center’s medical oncology department until 1991. When she came to Chestnut Hill College as a full-time faculty member in 1992, however, “there was no turning back.”

“I told [the administration] I could teach anything I put my mind to,” said Atchison, who has since taught classes in an array of biomedical subjects, including human anatomy and physiology, endocrinology, molecular biology, and DNA technology. “You have to be a jack of all trades here — flexible enough to teach anything under the life sciences. That suits me. I enjoy jumping into any class and shifting gears.”

## CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS

If there’s one thing a teacher can count on their students to provide, it’s brutal honesty. Which makes the ratings and raves Atchison earns from her students particularly impressive. The Web site [www.RateMyProfessors.com](http://www.RateMyProfessors.com) contains overwhelmingly positive student opinions of Atchison. Many students talked about her being exceptionally knowledgeable, dedicated, and caring. One went so far as to express an interest in sitting in on more of Atchison’s classes — despite no longer being enrolled. Tellingly, the only category for which Atchison did not receive a near-maximum score was “average easiness” of the class.

“She’s very demanding, but the students respond to it,” said Cecelia J. Cavanaugh, SSJ, Ph.D., dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies. “She treats them like professionals. It works because they know that she’s an expert, and because she has the ability to get people excited about what she’s doing.” Ask Atchison for the secret to her success with students, and she’ll point to the lack of hierarchy in her classroom.

“I respect them as a teacher but also as a friend — there’s no curtain between us,” she said. “I give them the freedom of interaction, and a give and take of respect, and they love that. I often remind them that I didn’t become a teacher all of a sudden, that I was once a student and can see things from their perspective.” Also key to her rapport with students is Atchison’s aim for them to never be afraid to ask a question or offer criticism. “I say, ‘If you tell me something you missed out on or wasn’t clear, tell me and I’ll repeat it. Just don’t go behind the door and criticize me. Tell me to my face and we’ll address it.’ My students appreciate that,

and it carries me through. I’ve never felt threatened by the classroom.”

## CANCER TOUCHES ALL

Increasing Atchison’s rapport with students in her Cell and Cancer Medicine class is the pervasive effect of the subject matter. “Cancer affects one in three, so they have family members with cancer,” Atchison said. “Right away, the course touches their lives. And it’s important for the students to know what can go wrong.”



A few years back, Atchison began calling publishers to find a laboratory manual to help her students see and, therefore, understand cancer. What she found out is that one did not exist, and one of the publishers suggested for Atchison to write one. “At first, that was an intimidating thought,” she said, “but then I realized I should.”

Atchison spoke to leaders in the field, garnering their support, and took to the task. She researched and wrote the book, “Cell Biology Laboratory Manual with Cancer Applications,” with her husband, Michael Atchison, Ph.D. (a professor of biochemistry at the University of Pennsylvania), taking three years to complete the project. Published by McGraw-Hill in 2008, the all-in-one manual helps students understand the basics of 12 major cancers, blood cells, blood cell cancer, and the molecular changes associated with cancer. It also helps them detect leukemia and colorectal and breast cancer. The manual is in bookstores, and many colleges have expressed interest in it, said Atchison.

In addition to the manual, Atchison bolstered her students’ understanding by developing a make-shift model of colored beads in plastic cases to represent the various types of blood cells and platelets.



*Nobel Laureate Stanley B. Prusiner, M.D., shares his research on the phenomenon known as “mad cow disease” with biology students.*



*Dean W. Richardson, D.V.M., discusses the surgery of the Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro at a recent Biomedical lecture.*

“I used to show students a drop of blood in a microscope, and they’d say, ‘I can’t see anything,’” Atchison said. “I would be up at night wondering what I could do to show them. Then I realized I needed to make a macroscopic model they could look at up close to help them understand. They picked up on it right away — ‘Wow, these are my blood cells!’ After that, they never got confused when looking at cells under the microscope.”

Atchison said she recently took the cell model to a scientific conference, where it was very well received. One peer told her to patent it. So she applied to do so, and as of late March her fingers were crossed that the patent would soon be approved.

“I want it to reach the outside world as a learning tool,” Atchison said. “The nice thing is you don’t need to be a hematologist or biologist to understand it. A layperson of any age can look at and understand it.”

## LEARNING OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Atchison’s commitment to students transcends the classroom. She started the College’s Biomedical Lecture Seminar Series, which has for the past 16 years brought to campus big names from the biomedical field to lecture and interact with students.

“The idea was to invite famous and important people in the field so the students

could meet them and make contacts,” Atchison said. “It’s been extremely successful, and no one I’ve invited ever said no. These big wigs do it out of professional courtesy.”

Recent speakers have included Dean W. Richardson, D.V.M., chief of surgery and professor of equine surgery at the University of Pennsylvania, who was also the surgeon of the recent Kentucky Derby horse Barbaro, and Randall W. Culp, M.D., an award-winning surgeon and professor of orthopedic, hand, and microsurgery at Thomas Jefferson University, who is also a hand and wrist consultant for the Philadelphia Phillies.

“The [series] is an extraordinary accomplishment,” said Sister Cecelia Cavanaugh. “The students are excited to hear from these well-known people and then get the chance to sit down and talk with them. The speakers often hand the students their business cards, and some of those connections pay off.”

Introducing students to leaders in the biomedical field is not the only example of how much Atchison cares about helping them excel in the medical field, said Sister Cecelia.

“Our students weren’t doing well on the MCAT [Medical College Admission Test],” she said. “Here’s a professional researcher who could have just thrown her hands up in frustration. But what does [Atchison] do? On her own time, she organizes sessions for them to get ready for the MCAT — ‘you need to do better on this, and here’s how.’”

## LOOKING AHEAD

Asked for her future plans, Atchison mentions the short-term goals of receiving the patent for her cell model and updating her cancer manual. But her long-term goal is to continue on the path of life-long learning and teaching.

“I love to teach, and my dream is to do it as long as I can,” she said. “Teaching gives me flexibility and professional freedom. I can take my work home any time and balance that with being a mom. It’s been wonderful — no regrets.” And no matter how high her star rises in the biomedical field, don’t look for Atchison to leave the College any time soon.

“This is the place for me,” said. “There’s a peaceful, loving atmosphere here thanks to the small class sizes. It’s one of respect and caring and being one in the classroom, not of the student being just another head to count. I wouldn’t trade that for anything.” 

# G R E A T E R EXPECTATIONS

*Almost a year into the job, the Vice President for Academic Affairs assesses the College's academics and outlines a holistic approach to preparing students for life.*

**ASK KENNETH J. SOPRANO, PH.D.,** about the role of Academic Affairs, and he'll tell you it's not only to set the curriculum but to give students the tools to succeed.

After all, it's one thing for students to graduate from the College and find jobs, and quite another for them to thrive.

"They won't be working in a vacuum — they need a wide range of knowledge and experience, and they must be able to interact with their co-workers," said Soprano, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty. "It's very important to get them thinking about that while they're still students here."

"With parents paying as much money as they do for their children to go here," he continued, "it's our job to make them competitive for graduate schools, professional schools, and the workforce. We take that responsibility very seriously here."

## **A DEDICATED FACULTY**

While interviewing for his position, Soprano met and spoke with Chestnut Hill College faculty, and he came away from those discussions "extremely impressed"



with their dedication to students and high level of scholarly activity. Almost a year later, he cites it as the strength of the College.

"The dedication here is tremendous, more than you see in bigger schools," Soprano said. "It's about effort and energy and taking a personal stake in the school's mission. They're open in terms of exchanging ideas about the curriculum and wanting to be active participants in those discussions."

Faculty members here are active with scholarly pursuits (such as submitting journal articles, lecturing on and off campus, and inviting noteworthy guest

lecturers in their field to speak on campus), Soprano said, exposing students to an array of out-of-classroom learning opportunities. But it's what goes on inside the classroom that makes the College special.

"Whatever the program here, whether it's English, biology, political science or business, our faculty take teaching very seriously and bring the best out of each individual student," Soprano said. "Quality one-on-one time with faculty can make a poor student good, a good student excellent, and an excellent student outstanding. And all of our programs offer that feature."

Part of bringing the best out of each student is making our programs and courses as relevant and innovative as possible, Soprano said. For example, the chemistry program now features a forensic sciences major, and an International Business, Language and Culture (IBLC) program was created in response to the increasingly connected nature of the disciplines and the popularity of similar majors across America. There are also plans to develop a certificate program in Environmental Science and Sustainability for students interested in green initiatives.



*Soprano regularly meets with fellow administrators and faculty to discuss the College's academics.*

"All of our programs are moving in that direction, expanding to new areas the faculty feels are critical for their students to know," Soprano said. "It strengthens our curriculum and makes our students more competitive as result."

What's evolving is not just what is taught but *how* it's taught, Soprano said. Faculty members have incorporated Web-based components to traditional course structures and varied the presentation of material to appeal to the computer savvy of today's student.

"We need to continue to enrich our courses to appeal to those senses and learning styles," Soprano said. "We'll continue to recruit bright, energetic faculty to keep that going."

### **BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

Complementing the improvements to the curriculum are community-wide initiatives to foster learning. The over-arching example is "Greater Expectations," a set of learning outcomes desired for each student that was developed by faculty, staff, and students to create an environment throughout campus conducive to students becoming stronger in every area of their lives. Each student has a Personal Learning Plan that is tracked to not only assess his or her progress but the effectiveness of the academic programs themselves.

Service learning is another opportunity offered to students, one that gives them

experience in their fields and contributes to the community beyond campus, Soprano said. Students recently worked with a local high school to help its seniors complete their Senior Project, and others partnered with a local thrift store to develop a profitability plan.

"These programs permeate the whole College and staff," Soprano said.

"We're offering tools of the trade, such as analytical thinking and interaction with others, which aren't discipline-specific, and they can be taught in a variety of ways throughout the College."

One of Soprano's initiatives is the re-establishment of a professional committee for students who are interested in medical or law school. The committee will do more than help students to complete applications — it will review their academic progress and, when necessary, administer tough love.

"We'll have to tell some of them that they aren't going to make it, based on their grades or standardized test scores, and help them find an alternative that fulfills their goals and is more practical," Soprano said.

Also available to students are several learning centers, in which they can receive academic help from not only faculty and staff but their peers.

"We really want students to be aware of all the help available to them on the academic side before it's too late," Soprano said.

"It can be hard to convince them of how much more quickly things move in college than they did in high school, but it's the truth. Here, you can get halfway through the semester before you know you're in trouble.

"We're constantly trying to improve the process of issuing warnings and providing help to students who fall behind," he continued. "What we find is many of them who fail never came to anyone for help. Our policies have to constantly remind students that they're not alone and that they should take advantage of these resources. I tell students at the beginning of the year that it's my responsibility to see that all the tools are available to them and make sure there are enough people around to assist them. Again — it's personal attention."

### **A COLLEGE-WIDE COMMITMENT**

In the same way the College's academics and learning tools transcend the classroom, so does commitment of not only faculty but staff members and the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Soprano said.

"I noticed right away that it's not just a job for them," he said. "People here see it as more than that, and it's reflected in their dedication to get the job done and give the students the best experience possible. The students learn not just from books and PowerPoint presentations but from how they're treated here."

Asked for what he would like Chestnut Hill College to be known for, Soprano didn't hesitate.

"I hope people will see us as a place that does an excellent job preparing students to live good lives — a place that helps students to be successful not just in their careers but in their communities," he said. "A place that prepares them to be good people. We have to teach lessons they can take into their daily work and home lives that will be contagious, carrying our mission beyond Chestnut Hill College. That has to be our legacy." 

# “A DIFFERENT KIND OF RIGOR”

**NEXT YEAR’S FRESHMAN CLASS COULD TOTAL 350 students** — larger than the entire traditional undergraduate school not too long ago.

This surge, due partly to going coed, allows the College to raise the qualifications of applicants; diversify the student body; and offer a wider array of academic, social, and athletic programs to meet new demands.

But it also leads some to perceive that the academic rigor Chestnut Hill College has long been known for is declining. That’s not the case, said Cecelia J. Cavanaugh, SSJ, Ph.D., dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies, who earned a bachelor’s degree from the College and has taught here since 1991.

“That perception is in some ways a natural function of things like the general preparation of high school graduates being lower these days, the disadvantages of technology (such as the students never learning to conceptualize math because of calculators), and our commitment to first-generation college students,” Sister Cecelia said.

“But we still ask a lot of our students in and out of the classroom. We encourage the faculty to be demanding, to maintain rigor,” she continued. “We want to set the bar high, but it’s about building a better ladder for the students so they can reach the bar. It’s about offering them more steps, more scaffolding.”

To explain the analogy, Sister Cecelia stressed the College’s community-wide commitment to learning and the hands-on and interdisciplinary opportunities afforded to students here.

“It leads to a different, more holistic kind of rigor — like a total-body workout,” she said.

Specifically, Sister Cecelia praised the unique and demanding Interdisciplinary Honors Programs and the International Business, Language and Culture (IBLC) program. These and other opportunities prepare students for today’s job market — one in which employers look for not just a great grade point average but tangible achievements and abilities.

“With the IBLC program, we’re saying you can’t be in the business world without being able to relate to people,” Sister Cecelia said. “And you can’t do that if you don’t at least try to speak the other person’s language or you don’t understand their culture.”

Also gratifying to Sister Cecelia has been the rebirth of the College’s music program. As soon as she became Dean in 2002, she had the “heartbreaking” task of informing music majors that their major was being dropped.

“Now, they’re not only receiving an excellent academic background, they’re learning theory, and they’re leaving with a portfolio of important experiences,” said Sister Cecelia, citing recent student-run productions of “Charlie Brown” and “Godspell.” “By the time they leave the school, they will have had the opportunity to produce a show two or three times. Imagine taking *that* to a job interview.”

After all, Sister Cecelia said, it’s not only what you learn but what you can *do* that matters. 🦋

*The revival of the music major is just one example of thriving academics at the College.*



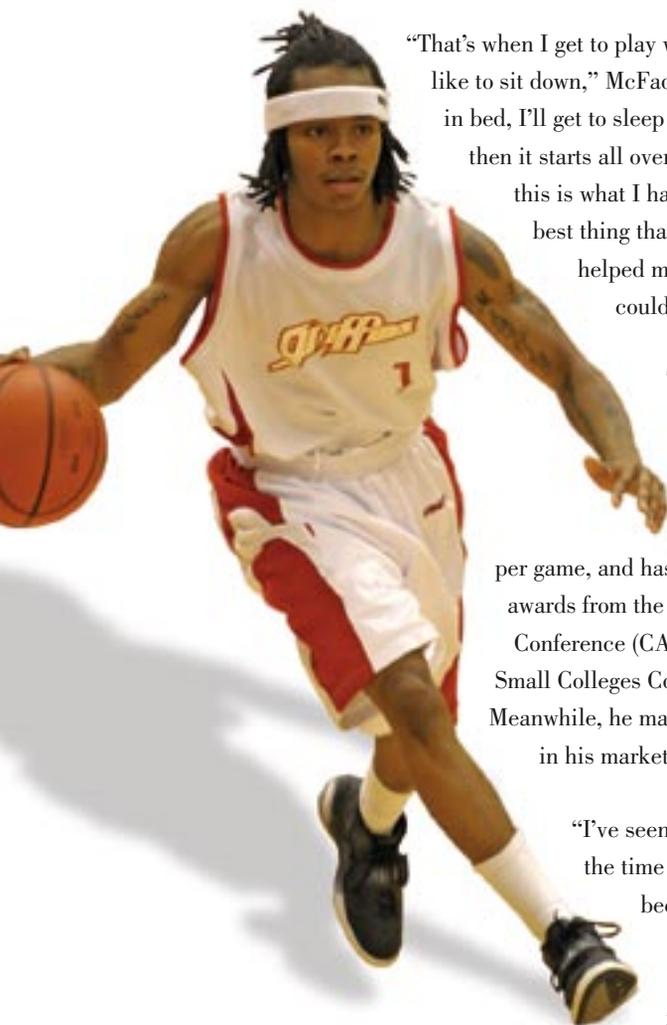
# STEPPING



*Junior Julian McFadden Rises to New Challenges On and Off the Court*

## YOU COULD FORGIVE JULIAN MCFADDEN FOR COMPLAINING.

On a typical weekday, his alarm clock rings at 3:30 a.m. He drags himself to work, a high-pressure shift at the Philadelphia airport's Transportation Security Administration. When that's over, he drives to Chestnut Hill College for several hours of classes and studying. After that, it's basketball practice. If he can squeeze in a shift at the restaurant he cooks at near campus, he does. But it's not until he gets home at night that his real full-time job begins: being a father to his young son, Julian.



"That's when I get to play with a two-year-old who doesn't like to sit down," McFadden said, smiling. "Once he's in bed, I'll get to sleep for four or five hours if I'm lucky, then it starts all over again. But I'm not complaining — this is what I have to do. My son being born is the best thing that's ever happened to me, and it helped me grow up faster than I ever could have imagined."

That maturity is earning McFadden kudos on and off the court.

He plays point guard for the Griffins, leading the team in scoring (11.6) and assists (3.3) per game, and has this season received a string of awards from the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) and Philadelphia Area Small Colleges Coaches Association (PASCCA). Meanwhile, he maintains a 3.3 grade point average in his marketing program.

"I've seen him grow up so much from the time he was a freshman, and it's been extraordinary," said Griffins head coach Jesse Balcer, who nominated McFadden for PASCCA's Sam Cozen Player of the Week Award, honoring

student-athletes who best personify the spirit of small college basketball. "He's dynamic — incredibly fast and talented with a huge heart. But more than that, he's exactly the kind of kid any coach would love to have in their program."

As a freshman, McFadden joined a strong Griffins team with established scorers, so his job was to come off the bench and score. He did, earning the nickname "Hot" (short for hot hand). But the next year, the Griffins moved up a level to Division II and McFadden moved to point guard, and he struggled. Also weighing on his mind was that he had a baby on the way.

"It was a case of a boy trying to be a man and not being ready for it," Balcer said. "His head was all over the place. I was hard on him, but at the same time, I understood what he was going through. It's hard enough at that age to play ball at the college level with zero distractions. When you add these new responsibilities suddenly, it can be a real struggle."

It wasn't long, though, before basketball became McFadden's release — his time to just be a kid and play his game. He steadily adapted to the stronger competition and learned to do all of the little things required of the point guard, from knowing when to pass or shoot to putting his teammates in optimal position. McFadden's game and stature on the team have progressed to the

point that Balcer recently spoke with him about leading the 2009-2010 Griffins.

“I’m trying to develop that part of my game,” McFadden said. “I have some bad habits, like getting down or making faces when things didn’t go right, which I’ve had to work on. My teammates do look up to me, though, as much as I can forget that. But I’m taking that leadership role more seriously.”

That theme of being in over his head at first but settling into success with the help of others also applies to McFadden’s fatherhood. He was only 18 when his son was born, and couldn’t wrap his mind around what fatherhood meant.

“But it didn’t take long to realize it wasn’t just about me anymore,” McFadden said. “I had to put food on the table and have somewhere for him to live. It really didn’t click in my mind until about a year ago that I’m somebody’s father, but now I love it. It keeps me grounded and humble.”

*“He’s dynamic — incredibly fast and talented with a huge heart. But more than that, he’s exactly the kind of kid any coach would love to have in their program.”*

McFadden would be the first to tell you he could not and does not do it alone. He credits his mother, Cheryl, and his older sister, Tiffany, for helping to take care of his son when he’s at work or school. Although his father, Hartwell, passed away from the effects of diabetes when McFadden was a freshman at Chestnut Hill Academy, McFadden says, “I know he’s watching me,” and credits him for instilling character-building values.

“He has great family support,” Balcer said. “If you were around them for ten minutes, you would know exactly why Julian is the person he is. They’re caring, loving people. He was brought up the right way.”

As for the future, McFadden dreams of playing basketball professionally, possibly in Europe. But he knows that what’s best for his son will be the top priority, and that his marketing degree will provide a valuable fall-back option. “I just want to be a success and do something that makes my mom proud,” he said, “making sure that Julian has the best life possible

and gets to do everything that he can.”

In the meantime, he’s counting his blessings.

He knows that he’s missing

out on college life — that he can’t sit around and talk with his teammates after games, or hang out with friends at parties or in the dorms. But he’s still not complaining.

“I try to focus on the positive,” said McFadden. “On the real hard days, the days when I have to work both jobs and study for a test and practice, I have to focus on the positive, or I won’t get through them. A lot of times, the only thing that I can be happy about is that when I get home, my son is going to make me laugh. But that’s all I need.” 🐉

Balcer (center) is counting on McFadden to lead the Griffins next season.





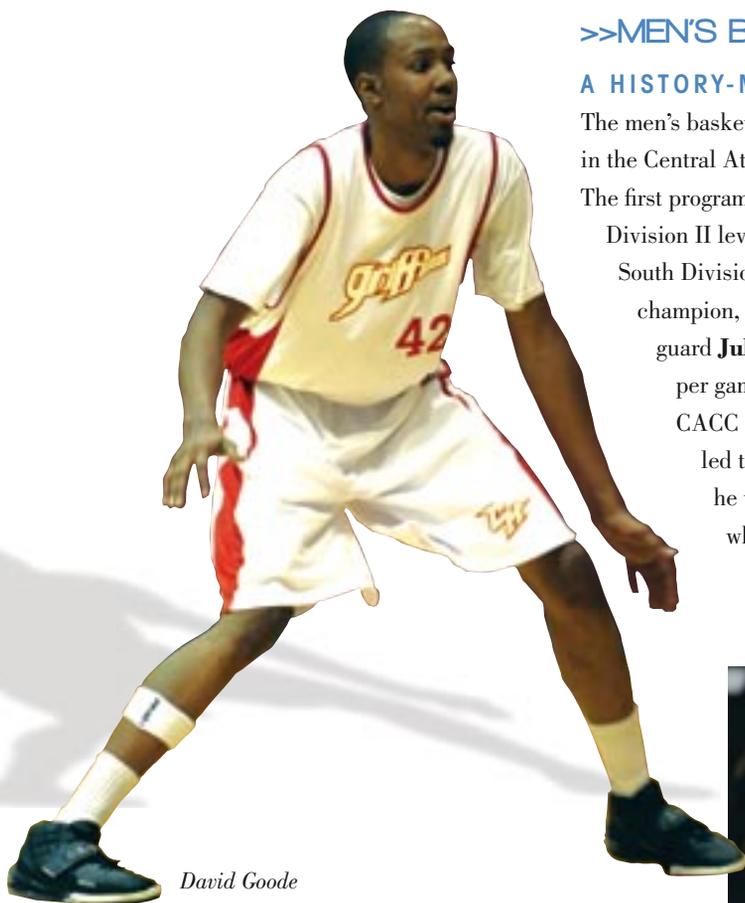
# GRIFFINS SPORTS

*Winter Wrap-Up*

## >>MEN'S BASKETBALL

### A HISTORY-MAKING SEASON

The men's basketball team made history this year with a postseason appearance in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Championship Tournament. The first program at Chestnut Hill College to reach postseason play at the NCAA Division II level, the men's basketball team faced Philadelphia University in the South Division Quarterfinal. The Griffins fell 67-63 to the eventual conference champion, finishing the year 6-22 overall and 5-11 in the CACC. Junior point guard **Julian McFadden** led the Griffins in scoring with 11.6 points per game (PPG) and assists (3.3) to garner an honorable mention for the CACC All-Conference Team. In the paint, senior forward **David Goode** led the Griffins in rebounding with 6.2 rebounds per game (RPG); he was trailed closely by sophomore forward **Trenton Davidheiser** who provided 6.1 RPG. Guard **Ryan Cook** was a four-time CACC Rookie of the Week and finished as the team's second leading scorer (11.3 PPG).



*David Goode*

## >>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

### PREVIOUS WIN TOTAL TRIPLED IN COACH'S FIRST SEASON

Under head coach Kiesha King, the women's basketball team finished 6-21 overall and 4-14 in the CACC — tripling their win total from the 2007-2008 campaign. The team was led by junior forward **Jenna Beck** and sophomore **Jessica Pruiti**. Beck showed true leadership as captain, accepting a reserve role in order to provide a short-handed roster with support off the bench. She led the team with 10.7 PPG while collecting 5.4 RPG. Pruiti registered closely behind with 10.4 PPG and contributed 74 assists. Joining Pruiti in the backcourt, juniors **Maryanne** and **Carley Glass** combined to provide 161 assists, 7.7 RPG, and 12.7 PPG. Junior forward **Davina Yacab** led the Griffins with 8.1 RPG. In their freshmen year, forward **Jenn Delahanty** led the team in blocks (8) and forward **Ashlen Stayrook** earned a CACC Rookie of the Week Award.



*Jessica Pruiti*

# >>SPRING PREVIEWS



Dan Etherton

## >>BASEBALL

### HOPES RUN HIGH IN YEAR TWO

In their 2008 inaugural season, the Griffins finished 7-34 overall with a 5-22 mark in the CACC, but came away with a core of talented young players that led the CACC in stolen bases (11th nationally).

Both sophomore outfielder **Dan Etherton** and sophomore shortstop **George Kochu** are among a host of returning starters this season. Etherton led the Griffins in batting average at .403 (50-for-124) while knocking in 21 runs and stealing 17 bases to earn a spot on the CACC all-conference second team. Kochu, the team's shortstop and lead-off batter, hit .282 (40-for-142) and earned all-conference honorable mention. **Carlo Petrillo** transferred from Rider University and should contribute at bat and in the field. Etherton and Petrillo were named in *Collegiate Baseball* as the 2009 East Region Player to Watch (Etherton) and Newcomer to Watch (Petrillo). Junior **Ryan Weber** and sophomore **Tommy Walton** will anchor the pitching rotation.



Garrett Senior

## >>MEN'S TENNIS

### GRIFFINS ENTER CACC COMPETITION

Head coach Albert Stroble has led the men's tennis team to two seasons of consistent improvement, doubling its 2007 win total last season. With a wealth of young talent joining the roster this spring,

the Griffins look to test their potential in their first season in the CACC. The Griffins had an 8-12 record in 2008. Sophomore **Carson Richter** led the way with a 12-8 individual mark in the top singles flight. He also teamed with Shane Leshner for a 13-7 record at number one doubles. Also returning to the roster are seniors **Garrett Senior** and **Kyle DeRiemer** and junior **Reese Brown**. Senior finished with a 12-7 singles record last season and a 9-10 record at number two doubles, competing alongside junior **Jim Stewart**.



Katie Donovan

## >>WOMEN'S LACROSSE

### TEAM RELYING ON SENIOR LEADERSHIP

The CACC adds women's lacrosse to its catalog this spring with six participating members, including Chestnut Hill College. Led by head coach Lauren Sherman, the Griffins return seven seniors and

three juniors. Headlining that group is senior captain **Katie Donovan**, who has established herself as a team leader and an offensive powerhouse over her collegiate career with 187 goals (210 total points). Last year, she ranked among the top 30 nationally in points (68), points per game (4.53), and goals per game (4). The offense also

returns junior sisters **Carley** and **Maryanne Glass**, who will take over the midfield wings. The defense features seniors **Leann Caldwell**, **Rosie Gavin**, **Colleen Harner**, and **Sarah Possinger**, and junior **Kera Cathel**. They will support senior goalkeeper **Stephanie Jordan**, who finished among the top 30 nationally in several categories.



Michael Gibbons

## >>GOLF

### TEAM DRIVEN TO EARN ITS FIRST WIN

The Chestnut Hill College golf team returns three of its top four members from last season. With such experience remaining on the roster, head coach Jesse Balcer is confident that Chestnut Hill College can

earn its first golf victory since joining the Central CACC and Division II. Headlining the roster are junior **Michael Gibbons**, sophomore **Darrell Bachman**, and senior **John Durante**. This group will need to perform well to make up for the loss of John McLaughlin, the team's number two swinger from last season. Gibbons led the golf team in each event last year, including his 34th place (2 Rounds – 178) finish at the CACC Championship Tournament. Bachman and Durante averaged 95.8 and 110.6 strokes per round, respectively. Other notable returnees include junior **Robert Larkin**, junior **Andrew Thorne**, and sophomore **Jill Shoenherr**.

## >>SOFTBALL

### SUCCESS HINGES ON SENIOR LEADERSHIP

The softball team, which finished 12-33 overall and 8-24 in its first season in the CACC, welcomes a new generation of players for 2009. Head coach Steve Carr has been a member of the softball coaching staff for 10 years and enters this season impressed with his team's dedication to getting better. The Griffins will look to senior captain **Jessica Day** to lead. Day is a career .293 batter (86-for-294) and achieved a program record last year with 35 hits. Joining Day in the outfield are fellow seniors **Anne Pearsall** and **Colleen Devlin**. Pearsall had her best season in 2008, batting .300 (21-for-70) with eight stolen bases, and Devlin continues to cover a lot of ground as the Griffins' athletic centerfielder. Senior sisters **Amanda** and **Ashley Corcoran** anchor the infield. The Griffins welcome the return of **Shannan Burdziak** and the addition of freshmen **Alyssa Miller**, **Kayla Shoap**, and **Kami Shoap** to the rotation.



For updated spring sports news and results, visit [www.chc.edu/athletics](http://www.chc.edu/athletics)

Jessica Day



## >>IN MEMORIAM

Pauline Beach Dickel '39  
Jane Fraser Mahan '42  
Ann Donohue Metz '45  
Patricia O'Connor Farley '47  
Antoinette Maselli Belisari '48  
Adele Pudrowski Hudson '48  
Amelia Pascuzzi '48  
Marie Hogan Sullivan '50  
Marion Morris Bergan '53  
Mary Jane Gillespie '56  
N. Susan Hayes McMahan '70  
Linda Constantine Segreti '79  
Linda Raffter '81  
Sheryl Bird '96 SGS  
Christine Corbo '05

## >>MARRIAGES

Lisa Fiorillo Den Hamer '84,  
now Lisa Fiorillo Perfidio  
Elizabeth Pomidor '94 to Eric Santos  
Stacy Davis '06 to Paul Serwinski

## >>BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Ethan Zane to  
Michelle Leshko Kaschak '97  
James Frederick Henderson to  
Fatima Henderson '03  
Victor to  
Bertha Lam Lukov '05

## >>NEWS AND NOTES

### '60s

**Kathleen McNicholas, M.D., J.D. '69** (*biology*), associate chief of cardiac surgery for Christiana Health System (Del.), accepted a new position as Christiana Care's medical director for performance improvement and surgical utilization management, a role designed to achieve organizational quality and safety goals. She is a graduate of Jefferson Medical College and completed her training in cardiac surgery at Columbia Presbyterian in New York City. Before joining Christiana Care, Dr. McNicholas was director of pediatric cardiovascular surgery at Deborah Heart & Lung Center (N.J.). She is also a member of the Delaware Bar, having earned a Juris Doctor degree *cum laude* from Widener Law School, where she is a member of the board while also a student in the master's degree program in health law.

### '70s

**Roberta Burns, M.D. '71** (*chemistry*) was recently appointed assistant professor of medicine at Meharry Medical College. She reports that she is one of the first two hospitalists in the institution's new program at Nashville General Hospital at Meharry.

The Honorable **Katherine Regan DuPuis '72** (*English*) began a new assignment on February 1 as presiding judge of Union County's (N.J.) family division. The Seton Hall Law School graduate began her legal career as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Vincent P. Biunno. She later joined the Union County prosecutor's office before

entering private practice. She was named to the bench in 1993 by Governor Jim Florio and has served in all three divisions of Superior Court.

**Rita Baker Kaplan '75** (*business administration*) was recently named to the board of Historic Yellow Springs, an Early American village located in the heart of Chester County, Pa. She retired nine years ago from a 25-year career as a commercial property and regional insurance broker.

### '80s

**Amy Molloy Cordasco '82** (*elementary education*) reports that during the weekend of February 6, while accompanying students on an Urban Challenge retreat day at the Romero Center in Camden, N.J., she met another Chestnut Hill College alumna, **Kathleen Hatzell '87 SCPS** (*religious studies*), also chaperoning a group of students. Amy teaches at Paul VI High School in Haddonfield, N.J., and Kathleen is at Maria Regina High School in Hartsdale, N.Y. Urban Challenge is the signature program of the Romero Center, named in memory of martyred Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, which combines volunteer service in the city with work, study, and prayer.

**Karen Murphy Lash '87** (*political science*) was profiled in *The Northeast Times* (December 4, 2008) article "The Battle of Holmesburg" for challenging Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter's plan to close the



Cooler by a mile! Christmas 2008 greetings from Bob and Ellen (Sperky) Whiteside Byrne '56, capturing a family reunion in Avalon, N.J., with their children and grandchildren, including curly-topped Griffin commanding the sole center seat, third row from the top.

century-old Holmesburg Library, one of 11 neighborhood branches of the city's library system threatened by city budget cuts. Following graduation, she spent eight years in management and fundraising for non-profit organizations, including the Red Cross and the Leukemia Society, but has always been an activist for schools and libraries in Northeast Philadelphia. For several years, she has served as president of the Friends of the Holmesburg Library. The newspaper coverage was prompted by a community rally she launched to protest the mayor's budget cuts to library and other essential city services.

### '90s

**Michael Flood '98 SCPS** (*management*) is vice president of operations at the Woodruff Arts Center, a major venue for the visual and performing arts located in Atlanta. He brings to the position more than 20 years of executive experience in facilities management for hospitals and health care facilities. Woodruff Arts Center includes the Alliance Theatre, High Museum of Art, Young Audiences, 14th Street Playhouse, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

**Holly Layton Mackley '98** (*psychology*) wrote in January that she and Dr. Heath

Mackley "have settled in the Hershey [Pa.] area, and are enjoying raising our family," consisting of Charles James (CJ; then age 2 1/2), Lillyanna Katherine (then 16 months), and identical twins Elizabeth Laura and Esther Rose, born seven weeks early on September 21, 2008.

### '00s

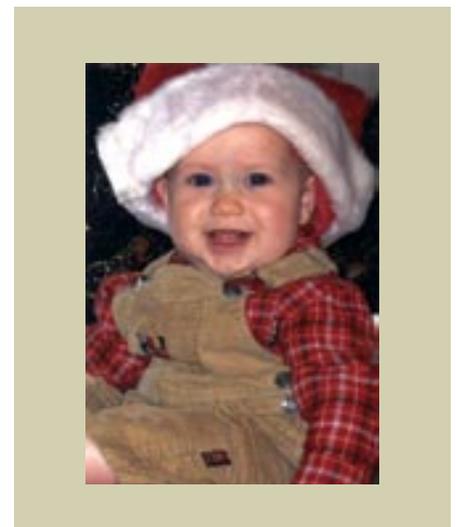
**Francine Barbetta, Psy.D. '03 SGS** (*clinical psychology*) recently published "A Pebble in His Shoe: The Diary of a Straight Spouse," an account of the author's "passion for forgiveness," which she says gave her courage and great strength to help her husband on his quest for himself. She is a member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapists and other professional organizations.

Thirteen alumnae gathered during the Christmas holidays at the famed Moshulu Restaurant on the Philadelphia waterfront for a mini-reunion to kick off their five-year reunion in June. Most were from the Class of 2004, writes **Diana Sucharski '04** (*environmental science*), but a few from the Class of 2005 and Class of 2003 joined them, with the latter reporting "what a wonderful time they had at last year's 'Reunion of the Stars.' The pre-reunion

get-together included **Mary Platt '04** (*early childhood education*), **Cara Caruso '04** (*history*), **Maureen Stolzer '04** (*computer & mathematical sciences*), **Ericha Farrington '04** (*communications*), **Erin Beirne '05** (*biology*), **Felicia Trujillo Bryan '04** (*music education*), **Rachel McAnally '04** (*psychology*), **Julie Dressler '05** (*communications*), **Melissa Stavey '03** (*history*), **Heather Hadley '03** (*environmental science*), **Kathy Reinoele Neely '04** (*music education*), and **Jamie Dunn Roche '04** (*communications*).

**David Kempf '08 SGS** (*administration of human services*) was profiled in *The Advance of Bucks County* (December 24, 2008) for his recent success as a published author of horror fiction short stories. Beginning with publication in *The Grackle*, the College's literary magazine, Kemp's works have since been accessible on the American Web site [www.horrormasters.com](http://www.horrormasters.com) and on the British site [www.mastershorror.co.uk](http://www.mastershorror.co.uk). 

*We welcome wedding, baby, and classmate pictures from alumni of all Schools of the College for publication here, space permitting, and with no space limitations on [www.CHCgriffinsonline.com](http://www.CHCgriffinsonline.com) (click on Member Photos).*



Enjoying his first Christmas was Brennan William Slaughter, son of John and Mary Beth Minnick Slaughter '97, born March 2008.

# LAST WORD

*Shedding the Security Blanket*  
by Rachel Steinberg '09



“Man, I can’t wait to graduate, is it May yet?” I often hear this spoken by my fellow seniors, and I can’t help but think to myself, *Should I be feeling the same way?* While I cannot wait for all this schoolwork to end, I’m really not ready to graduate. Not yet.

As a senior in high school, the thought of college was a little scary, but very exciting. My older sister was about to graduate from college at the time, and she told me to cherish the four years you have, because they go by too quickly. I brushed off this nonsense; high school did not go by fast at all, and I couldn’t imagine college flying by. Looking back, I realize how right my sister was and how short-sighted I was.

I thought college would last forever. Well, no, I didn’t really think that, but I wanted it to last longer than this.

Chestnut Hill College has become a security blanket that I’m not ready to let go of and leave behind for the real world.

I could say I’ve sat down and really started thinking about my future, but that would be only half-true. I’m trying, though. I’ve gone to many events that Career Services has hosted: workshops where I learned the do’s and don’ts of a successful interview and how to write a professional and eye-catching résumé; a dinner where I learned tips on etiquette; and the job fair, where I met with various employers from the Philadelphia area.

Even with these confidence boosters, I’m still afraid to graduate. I feel like May 9 will come and go, and I’ll still be jobless because of this unprecedented

economic recession. But I realize that while the job market may be tough, I’m very fortunate to have attended Chestnut Hill College, where the small size and mission to create a bridge between school and work has been to my advantage. Don’t get me wrong, I’m still nervous, but I can’t help but feel optimistic about my future.

Here I discovered my passion for layout and production work by being part of the College newspaper and the literary magazine. I joined the student newspaper, *The Griffin*, my freshmen year as a staff writer, but I always knew I was interested in

*I’m very fortunate to have attended Chestnut Hill College, where the small size and mission to create a bridge between school and work has been to my advantage.*

print design. My sophomore year, I asked to be part of the layout team, and the editor-in-chief at the time gave me permission to help. I really enjoyed helping with the layout of the newspaper, but I wanted to do more, so my junior year I signed up to be the head layout editor of the student literary magazine, *The Grackle*.

Looking back, I still can’t believe that by my senior year, I became the editor-in-chief of the newspaper and sat on the senior editorial board of the literary magazine. It really helped that I attended such a small school. I know that if I went to a big university, I would have been one of many students and faded into the background; I would never have been recognized for the work that I did, and I most certainly would

not be in the leadership roles that I hold here at Chestnut Hill.

Not to sound overconfident, but I think that my liberal arts education, in addition to my intense hands-on experience in these and other clubs and organizations (including being a member of the tennis team, secretary of *Sigma Tau Delta*, the English honor society, and a founding member of the computer club) will give me an advantage when I graduate. I really can’t imagine having had this rich and diverse experience at any other college.

Now that it’s almost over, it’s really all bittersweet. I won’t lie and say I love studying and writing papers, because I definitely don’t; I won’t miss the schoolwork. What I will miss, though, is the time spent away from

home; being actively involved in different clubs and organizations; forming long-lasting friendships with kind, intelligent people; and growing as a person, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. I look back on my time spent at Chestnut Hill with no regrets, because that’s not what life is about. It’s about making the most out of any situation, to learn from mistakes made, to grow and become the best person one can be. So while I may not be ready to graduate, time won’t let me have a say in the matter. In May, I’ll take my pictures of wonderful memories off my wall and pack all the belongings I collected over the years. I’ll look around the almost bare room, and I’ll close the door, leaving behind the security blanket that will rest on the bed. 🦋

# Calendar of Events

## 62ND ANNUAL REUNION: REUNION OF THE STARS 2009

June 5-6-7

School of Undergraduate Studies classes ending in "4" and "9"

Information: 215.248.7144

Reservations: 215.753.3666

## 2009 GOLDEN GRIFFINS MASS & BRUNCH

Sunday, June 7

School of Undergraduate Studies Class of 1959 and earlier

Reservations: 215.753.3666

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE RECEPTION

Sunday, September 20

## FAMILY WEEKEND

October 2-4

## 16TH ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday, October 7

Speaker: C. Lowell Parsons, M.D.

Professor of Surgery, Division of Urology,

San Diego School of Medicine, CA

Information: 215.248.7159

## 27TH ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL

Monday, October 12

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club

Reservations: 215.753.3666

## 2009 ANNUAL FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, October 25

Reservations: 215.753.3666

## 11TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWL DINNER AND FUNDRAISER

Thursday, November 19

## CAROL NIGHT

Friday, December 4, 7:30 p.m.

Rotunda, St. Joseph Hall

Information: 215.248.7194

## 4TH ANNUAL ALUMNI HOLIDAY CHEER

Friday, December 4, immediately following Carol Night  
Brittingham's Irish Pub, Lafayette Hill, Pa.

Reservations: 215.753.3666

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

## Travel the World with Alumni and Friends

### JULY 2009

12-Day Glacier Bay & Klondike Explorer Cruise  
Tour, aboard the *McKinley Explorer Rail*, *mv Yukon  
Queen II*, and the *ms Volendam*.

### AUGUST 2009

7-Night Bermuda Cruise, August 9-16,  
aboard the *Norwegian Dawn*.

### SEPTEMBER 2009

"Path of the Vikings" 11-night sailing from London  
on the *Norwegian Jewel* to the Shetlands, Iceland,  
Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia. Includes air  
to London. Add a 3-night pre-cruise package in  
London for only \$500 per person.

### OCTOBER 2009

14-Day China & Vietnam, October 23-  
November 9, aboard the *ms Volendam*.

### JULY 2010

11-Day Alpine Explorer with the Glacier Express &  
Oberammergau Passion Play, July 6-16, 2010.

Visit [www.alumnivacations.com](http://www.alumnivacations.com) and select  
Chestnut Hill College from the drop-down menu.  
Special pricing is available on selected trips,  
subject to space availability. For information  
and/or reservations, contact Craig or Christie  
at 800.506.7447.



# Imagine

HAVING THIS MUCH FUN *And*  
SUPPORTING CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE!

## SAVE THE DATE!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009

*27th Annual Golf Invitational*  
Whitemarsh Valley Country Club  
Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania

For more information on  
sponsoring or participating  
in this event, call 215.753.3666.

