

# CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE MAGAZINE

FALL 2024

CELEBRATING

100

YEARS



*Celebrating Our Past*  
SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Sister Mary Helen Kashuba's  
Journey of Teaching and Service

CHC Launches New Nursing Program

A History of Athletics





**FALL 2024  
100th ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION**

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# 100 Years of Griffins!

Dear Griffins and Friends:

As the College's Chief Financial Officer since 2022, I am honored and humbled to have been asked to serve as interim President for this historic 100th year at Chestnut Hill College. It is truly a privilege to help guide this vital Philadelphia institution through this year. Our College, rooted in the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, has many exciting events planned and I hope you will consider returning for one or more of these.

As we look to and through this 100th year, our focus is on our future, grounded in our past. Chestnut Hill College officially launched our new undergraduate degree in Nursing this fall of 2024, and the following year our Accelerated Nursing program will begin at the SugarLoaf campus. Aligned with the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, this innovative approach to immersion instruction in the demanding field of Nursing will provide our students an education like no other. Also launching this fall is the College's new, online M.B.A. program with an emphasis on strategic management and a focus on Artificial Intelligence, or AI.



The College continues to be a leader in educating the neurodiverse community and that pioneering spirit has led to the creation of the Life Skills Institute, which will train adults aged 21 and older on how to live independently, work in rewarding careers, and educate care-givers everywhere on how to assist this growing population. The target date for this program is January of 2026.

With summer ending and fall beginning, we are welcoming back our current Griffins and embracing our newest Griffins. There is much to celebrate for this year and beyond. In the last 15 months, the College has invested over \$2 million in capital projects, and this summer sees the completion of the third floor of the Fournier Dorm Renovation Project. Renovations to the dining facilities were also completed this past summer, with upgrades to kitchen equipment and the dining experience. We hope our current Griffins will enjoy more than just a Starbucks coffee.

With a passionate faculty and staff, a dedicated Board of Directors, and the unparalleled support of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Chestnut Hill College is poised to enter our second 100 years with much excitement. Serving the Dear Neighbor is the hallmark of our mission and will be embedded in all we do.

With a historic past and a bright future, it's a great time to be a Griffin.

Sincerely,

Brian McCloskey, D.M., M.B.A.

*Interim President/Vice President for Financial Affairs, CFO*

*Greetings, dear alumni and friends,*

My name is Carol Steinour Young '82 and I am the newly elected Chair of the Board of Directors. I am delighted to welcome you to the start of Chestnut Hill's second century of providing a transformative, holistic, liberal arts education.

Chestnut Hill College opened in 1924 with a dream and a purpose – "to offer to young women the advantage of a college education in the surroundings of religion and culture." In the ensuing 100 years, CHC has grown and expanded in ways unimaginable – still firmly rooted in its purpose of educating the whole person and still offering the dream of a college education to new generations of young men and women.

In 1978, I was one of those dreamers. I had visited our gorgeous campus when the dogwood was in bloom and I knew this was the place for me. Four years later, having survived the Interdepartmental Honors Program, co-captained teams in field hockey, basketball, softball, and lacrosse (thank you Coach Kuklick and Coach Bush!), and participated in student government, one act plays, and the liturgical singing group, I walked from our revered halls onto the lawn for commencement, not having any idea where my path would take me next. More education was in my future, this time at the Georgetown University Law Center. Although I loved my time at Georgetown and in Washington, nothing could supplant my love for CHC. It is my only true alma mater.

Fast forward a couple of decades. I had been an involved alumna by including CHC in my annual giving and attending every reunion and an occasional on campus event, and in 2015 I was invited to serve on the Board of Directors. I was so happy and pleased to have an opportunity to give back to a place that had given me so much. My board service has truly been a labor of love and has given me countless opportunities to stretch and grow and utilize my talents.

Our college community is blessed with outstanding, dedicated alumni who give so much to our alma mater. I offer gratitude and thanks, on behalf of all of us, for three of those extraordinary alumnae and Board leaders – Barbara D'Iorio Martino '60, Margaret Carney McCaffery '77, and Cathy Lockyer Moulton '92, '22 SGS. We have benefited greatly from their service and wisdom and are so fortunate that they continue to serve as members of the Board.

We also welcome Brian McCloskey as our interim president. Brian joined us two years ago as the Vice President of Financial Affairs and CFO and quickly gained the confidence of the entire college community. We look forward to Brian's dynamic and collaborative leadership as we launch our nursing program, a fully online M.B.A. in strategic management, and our neurodiversity initiative.

As we begin this new academic year, we stand on the threshold of our next 100 years. Our purpose and our dream remain the same – to educate young men and women in a holistic, inclusive, and supportive environment. We will step into this new CHC century, boldly and with faith, confident in our history of meeting any challenge with courage and the collective strength of our community.

I look forward to seeing you on our beautiful campus soon.

It's great to be a Griffin!



Carol Steinour Young '82  
*Chair, Board of Directors*







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## *Our Mother of Consolation* COMES TO CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE

**ON MARCH 21, 2023, Our Mother of Consolation Parish School in Chestnut Hill (OMC) suffered a fire that destroyed their 100-year old building. Out of the ashes rose a wonderful partnership between the elementary school and Chestnut Hill College.**

The blaze occurred after the regular school day; there were no injuries or lives lost; but the building was a near total loss. With months left to the school year, and a long road to replacing the building, the elementary school had limited options for moving forward.

Chestnut Hill College stepped in immediately to support the students and at the same time create opportunities for Chestnut Hill students. The College rapidly negotiated a contract to provide safe haven to roughly 230 students of Our Mother of Consolation, Pre-K through 8th grade, along with the school's faculty and staff.

Within a week, the College made Clement Hall classrooms available to the elementary school, by relocating College classes from Fournier Hall to other areas of the College, enabling the OMC students to complete the closing months of their 2022-23 academic year on the CHC campus.

As reconstruction of OMC's building in Chestnut Hill is a long process, the College and OMC agreed to extensions for the 2023-24 school year, and then for the 2024-25 year.

Both the College and OMC are benefiting from a \$100,000 grant from the Connelly Foundation to the College for collaborative projects engendered by this new partnership.

These have been carefully tailored by Chestnut Hill College faculty to engage and meet the needs of OMC students and allow them to work with Chestnut Hill faculty and students. It was a ready-made opportunity for Chestnut Hill and OMC students and faculty to interact and learn from one another.

The special projects created by Chestnut Hill College faculty in collaboration with OMC staff are designed to enhance OMC students' reading, writing, STEM, and critical thinking skills, and provide OMC teachers with training from CHC faculty.

- A place-based course explores how the geography of the Wissahickon Valley shaped how people have lived on and interacted with the land surrounding the Wissahickon Creek. (David Contosta, Ph.D. and Mia Grogan, Ph.D.)
- A critical literacy project provides OMC students with in-school and after-school tutoring sessions in reading and writing, offered by Chestnut Hill students. (Jamie Longo, Ph.D., and Keely McCarthy, Ph.D.)
- In the STEM project, Chestnut Hill College faculty and students work with OMC teachers to develop hands-on science experiments and science modules for the OMC curriculum. (Karen Wendling, Ph.D., and Hilton Oyamaguchi, Ph.D.)
- In the civic engagement project, Chestnut Hill College students are trained to act as coaches for a mock-trial program for OMC students based on narratives from literature. (Kathleen Smith, J.D.) 🦋





## From the Classroom to the Capitol: Political Science Students Receive Invaluable Experience at Policy Day and PPSA Conference

FEBRUARY 8, 2024 | Topics presented included public policy, human rights, international relations, economic development, civic engagement, and more. All are at the heart of becoming a political scientist or embracing one of several other careers for which the study of political science will aptly prepare one. At Chestnut Hill College, no one understands this more than Jeffrey Carroll, Ph.D., associate professor of political science and chair of the Center for Data & Society (pictured front row, left).



## Congratulations CHC Lacrosse Team!

One of the longest existing sports at Chestnut Hill College, lacrosse is also one of the most decorated in school history. Recently, the men's program dominated the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) with four consecutive championships, from 2021 to their latest in the spring 2024 season. Congratulations, Griffins!



*A class working in the new lab.*

## New Exercise Science Lab Unveiled

MARCH 25, 2024 | Chestnut Hill College announces the establishment of a state-of-the-art exercise lab, situated adjacent to the bookstore on the ground floor of Saint Joseph Hall. Formerly a computer lab, this space has been transformed to cater to the needs of students enrolled in courses including Exercise Physiology, Exercise Testing and Prescription, and Biomechanics.



## Chestnut Hill College Receives \$3.2 Million Gift to Create First-Ever Endowed Chair in the Sciences

MAY 23, 2024 | Chestnut Hill College is pleased to announce that it has received a \$3.2 million gift from the estate of Regina M. Cuta-Papa, M.D. The generous contribution is the largest faculty-focused gift in the College's history, and will support the creation of an endowed chair in the sciences, the College's first.





# Prayer SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024  
AT 2 PM • Saint Joseph Hall Rotunda

All are welcome to our opening prayer  
service to begin the celebration of our  
100th anniversary year!  
Reception to follow.

Visit [www.chc.edu/100](http://www.chc.edu/100) for  
more details on this and  
many other exciting events  
throughout the year.



## GRIFFIN FEST

SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 12, 2024  
FROM 12-4 PM

This family-friendly event for alumni,  
students, faculty, families and staff  
will feature vendors, music and  
festivities for all ages, food trucks,  
and opportunities to cheer on our  
Griffin athletics teams!

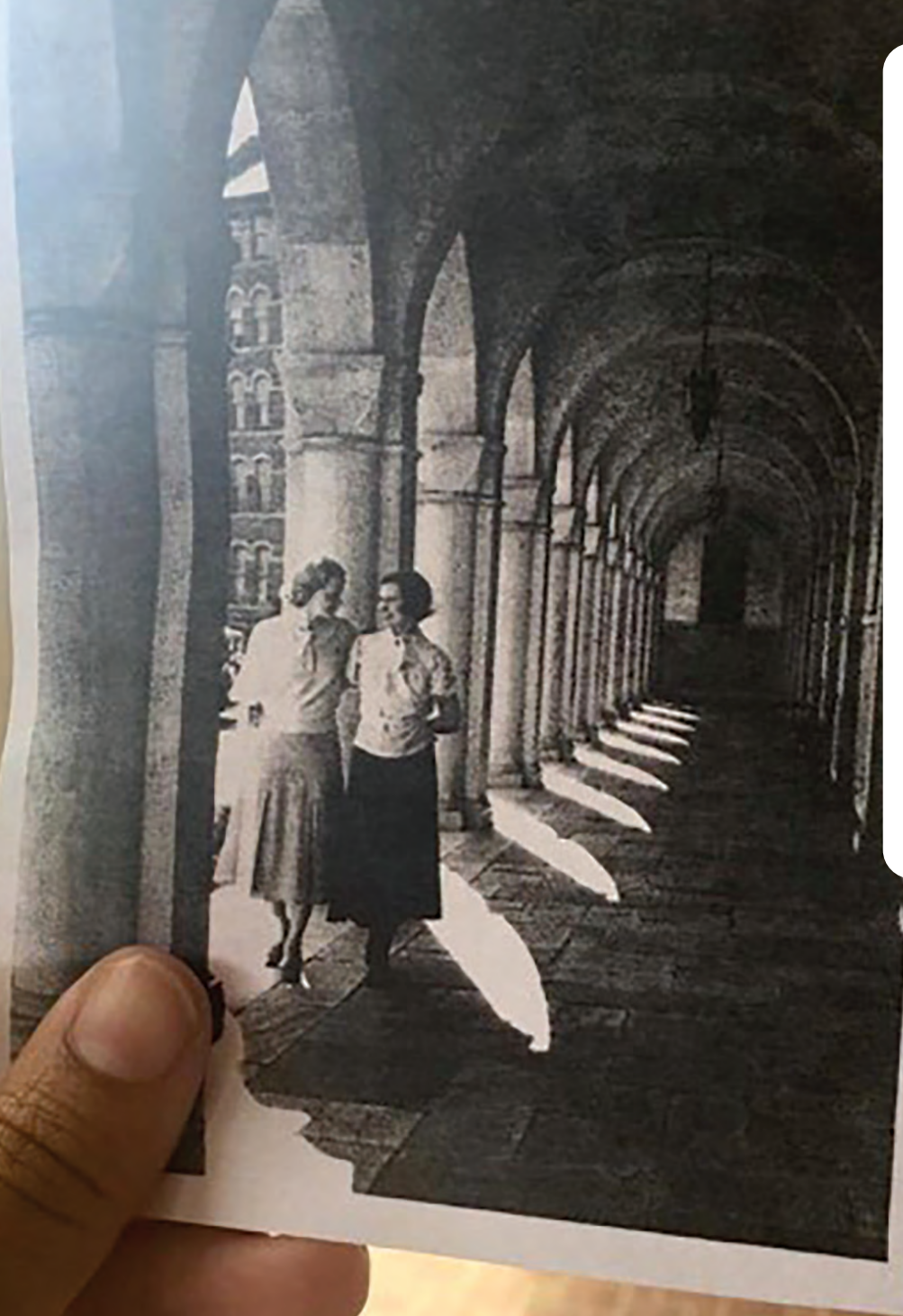


Visit [www.chc.edu/100](http://www.chc.edu/100) for more details on this  
and many other exciting events throughout the year.





*Celebrating*  
**OUR PAST**





# Discovering The World:

## SISTER MARY HELEN'S JOURNEY OF TEACHING AND SERVICE

By Jaime Renman '25 SGS



In the quiet halls of Chestnut Hill College, one figure stands out among the many who have dedicated their lives to education and service: Sister Mary Helen Kashuba SSJ, DML, professor of French and Russian. With a warm smile and a wealth of experience spanning decades, Sister Mary Helen embodies the spirit of curiosity, discovery, and dedication to her students that has defined her career.

Born into a world where learning and community were intertwined, Sister Mary Helen's path to becoming a Sister was inspired by the examples set by the dedicated educators who taught her in her youth. "I admired the sisters who taught me," she recalls fondly, reflecting on the pivotal role they played in shaping her decision to choose religious life. "They seemed to be of service to other people, leading lives of purpose and dedication."

Arriving at Chestnut Hill College in 1963, Sister Mary Helen found herself amidst a vibrant community of Sisters who were predominantly educators. Teaching became not just a profession but a calling—one that she embraced with passion and commitment. Her teaching philosophy, shaped by years of experience and reflection, centers on attentiveness to each student's needs and

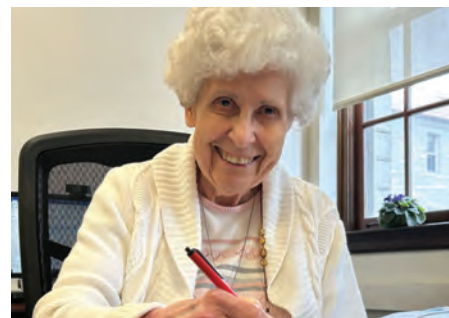
employs methodologies best suited to their learning styles.

"I believe in encouraging students and acknowledging their strengths," says Sister Mary Helen. "In teaching languages, for example, it's vital to create a relaxed atmosphere while maintaining a structured program. Students need to speak, write, listen, and read actively to immerse themselves fully in the language and culture they are learning."

Sister Mary Helen's dedication to immersive learning extended beyond the classroom. She vividly recalls organizing student trips to France and Russia, providing her students with firsthand experiences of different cultures. "These trips were not just about sightseeing," emphasizes Sister Mary Helen. "They were opportunities for students to navigate daily life in another country, to handle responsibilities independently, and to deepen their understanding of global perspectives."

Throughout her career, Sister Mary Helen has been a vocal advocate for a balanced education that combines practical skills with the liberal arts. "I teach liberal arts because it's not just about practicality—it's about learning how to think critically and adapt," she asserts. "I always encourage students to consider double majors, particularly with languages, to broaden their horizons." In 2019, Sister Mary Helen received the promotion of Commandeur of the Palmes Académiques, which is the highest order that recognizes distinguished academics and figures in French education and culture.

Over the years, Sister Mary Helen has witnessed significant changes both in education and in religious life. The reforms of Vatican II brought a new emphasis on relevance and engagement



*Sister Mary Helen Kashuba works on her new book in her office in Fournier Hall.*

with society, prompting shifts in how the Sisters of Saint Joseph lived and taught. "We moved away from a highly structured life to one that allowed more flexibility and interaction with the world," she notes. "Yet, the core values of service, community, and love have remained steadfast."

Despite her enthusiasm for her calling, Sister Mary Helen acknowledges the challenges facing religious life today. "Religious life has something to offer, and young people don't always see it that way," she laments. "Committing to a life of poverty and community can be difficult for young people today."

Nevertheless, Sister Mary Helen remains hopeful and focused on leaving a lasting impact through her work. "We hope we have inspired our colleagues and students to carry on our mission," she says optimistically. "I hope the tide will turn, and we will see more young women embracing religious life."

Reflecting on misconceptions about religious life, Sister Mary Helen emphasizes the community's openness and dedication to service. "People sometimes misunderstand us as living in an ivory tower, disconnected from the world," she explains. "In reality, we strive to embody love for our neighbors and welcome all people into our community."



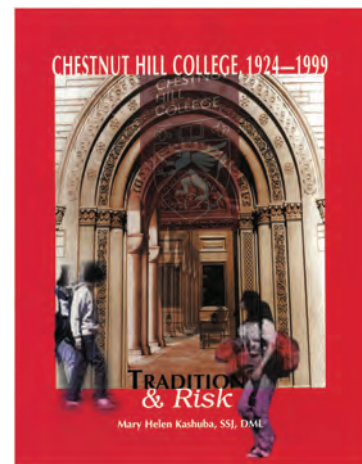
*Sister Mary Helen Kashuba early in her career.*



Looking back on the history of Chestnut Hill College, Sister Mary Helen remains actively engaged in preserving its legacy and adapting to changes. She is the author of *Tradition and Risk*, a chronicled history of Chestnut Hill College from 1924 to 1999, and is currently working on volume two. “We’re now working on documenting our history from 2000 to the present,” she reveals. “Researching archives and speaking with alumni and colleagues helps us understand how our institution has evolved.”

Proud moments for Sister Mary Helen extend beyond academic achievements to the personal growth of her students. “I’m proud when I see my students succeed, whether they win awards or simply persevere through challenges,” she shares warmly. “Every success, big or small, reaffirms the importance of what we do.”

As she nears her 61st year at Chestnut Hill College, Sister Mary Helen remains grateful for the opportunities she’s had to travel, teach, and inspire. “Not every moment has been perfect, but most have been happy,” she reflects with a smile. “I hope that students remember me as a kind and considerate teacher who left a positive impact on their lives.” 🦋



## PRESERVING CHC'S HISTORY

In December 2022, Chestnut Hill College was awarded a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC). The two-year, \$40,000 “Reframing the Institutional Saga” grant was received from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) program. The primary goal of the project is to tell the story of how Chestnut Hill College has transformed structurally, academically, socially, and culturally to serve all members of its increasingly diverse community guided by our mission and core values in the 21st century.

To ensure a diversity of voices and perspectives, the NetVUE grant committee is comprised of faculty, staff, students, and alumni who generously share their expertise and who are taking an active role in documenting the significant moments in the College’s history over the past twenty-five years. The committee has been planning grant activities and meeting regularly since January 2023, under the leadership of the project’s two co-directors—Mary Helen Kashuba, SSJ, DML, professor of French and Russian, and Ryan P. Murphy, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology.

Part of the team’s work has been data collection for the updated version of Sister Mary Helen Kashuba’s foundational work, *Tradition & Risk, Chestnut Hill College, 1924-1999*. Since 1999, the College has experienced numerous changes. To gather the most relevant memories and thoughts on pivotal moments in the College’s history, the team organized events and conducted research, including, but not limited to, interviewing alumni and recording oral histories, reviewing countless archival documents and photographs with archivist Lorraine Coons, Ph.D., and organizing a storytelling brunch for staff and faculty who have served at Chestnut Hill College for fifteen years or more. Sister Mary Helen Kashuba is again the lead author for the sequel, with the working title *Tradition & Risk: Volume 2*.

A key piece to achieving the grant’s objectives has been involving alumni and current students who continue to co-create the vibrant, diverse, and transformative campus culture

that is the hallmark of a Chestnut Hill College education.

To recognize and include the talents of our distinguished graduates, all alumni were invited to participate in this program by submitting their own original artwork or creative writing pieces. For current students, faculty identified two courses to engage students in this project: ARTS 281 – Painting with the Dear Neighbor and ENGL 250 – Creative Writing: CHC Stories. In ARTS 281—offered in both Fall 2023 and Spring 2024—students drew inspiration from the Sisters of St. Joseph’s commitment to serving every kind of Dear Neighbor without distinction. The artwork will be featured in the College’s 100th Anniversary Showcase in the campus Art Gallery, 5th floor, St. Joseph Hall, in Fall 2024. For ENGL 250—offered in Spring 2024—students wrote poems, essays, and similar creative pieces that connected to the College’s mission, history, and/or significant campus sites or events. The grant team will collect all creative expressions—art and writing—to be included in the 100th Anniversary Showcase, on the College’s website, and in a special 100th Anniversary edition of the College’s literary magazine *The Grackle*.

Finally, in Spring 2024, two Media & Communications courses incorporated NetVUE grant activities into course assignments—with students creating audio and video podcasts highlighting significant spaces around campus and interviewing faculty and staff.

“The timeliness of the NetVUE Reframing the Institutional Saga grant and the College’s 100th Anniversary in 2024 cannot be overstated,” says Ryan Murphy, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology and NetVUE grant co-director. “We are deeply grateful for this generous financial support and especially for the excitement around this project from College staff, faculty, students, and alumni. As we look forward to the next 100 years, we are excited to produce lasting artifacts that document Chestnut Hill College’s rich history.” 🦋



# My Pilgrimage to Le Puy



By Krista Bailey Murphy, Ph.D. | Vice President for Strategic Innovation | Title IX Coordinator



The winding cobblestone streets of Le Puy-en-Velay, France are a reminder of when travel was done more by foot than by car. In 1650, it was on these crooked and hilly streets that the first six Sisters of Saint Joseph were instructed by Father Jean Pierre Medaille, SJ, to circle the city with love and respond to the needs of the day. Any of us who know the Sisters of Saint Joseph instantly recognize the connection between today and their initial work, but at the time it was completely radical – they were one of the first groups of non-cloistered women to obtain ecclesiastical approval. I've always found myself drawn to this story of courage situated within an active inclusive love for all without distinction, while also having the practical sensibilities to actually make it happen.

It is almost with disbelief then, that I find myself on these same cobblestone streets, along with twelve remarkable women, in early June. I am even more blessed and honestly astounded that I am making this pilgrimage with Sister Michelle Lesher, SSJ, '00 and Danielle Rossi-Makoid, '97. We are pilgrims on a journey to the roots of our spirituality; we may not be related by blood to any of the foundresses, but we are connected in spirit and this connection is abundantly clear on every step of the journey.

We spend time in prayer and reflection, we visit the original kitchen where the sisters gathered each evening to make lace, we climb to the top of the Statue de Notre-Dame de France and Rocher Saint-Michel d'Aiguilhe, and on June 10th we walk the Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James) – we walk six miles out and six miles back; one mile in honor of each of the founding Sisters. The day begins bright and early with a Pilgrim's Mass at Cathedral Notre-Dame-du-Puy. In this sacred space pilgrims from around the world gather for a blessing before their journey. Mass is offered in French and I understand almost nothing and yet feel so welcomed and included.

Our pilgrimage to Le Puy began at Philadelphia International Airport and took us to Paris, then Lyon via train, and then Le Puy via another train – so many modern conveniences that make travel easy. My heart and mind cannot help but think about the spread of the Sisters of Saint Joseph from Le Puy to St. Louis in 1836, and to Philadelphia in 1847. Their journey did not involve GPS, airports, texts to friends and family back home, or pictures on Instagram. I am again so drawn to the courage and faith embedded in each of those trips.

While our travel was facilitated by all sorts of modern transit, I continue to be drawn to my feet and their connection with

*Sister Michelle Lesher leaving the Pilgrim's Mass at Cathedral Notre-Dame-du-Puy.*





*Danielle Rossi-Makoid, Sister Michelle, and I in the kitchen where the original 6 Sisters would gather.*



*Sister Michelle's sneakers in front of a Scallop Shell marker – these markers indicate you are on the Camino de Santiago so pilgrims don't get lost.*



*Danielle Rossi-Makoid, Sister Michelle, and I on the Camino de Santiago.*

the physical streets of Le Puy. On the day we walked the Camino I could not bring myself to go home to bed; the next day, we headed to Lyon and I didn't want to leave these streets where I feel such connection. I stayed out by myself

– something I'm not typically inclined to do – to continue walking. By the end of the day I have 45,475 steps (19.2 miles for those keeping track) and it is safe to say that my feet are tired but my heart is very full. 🇫🇷



*Members of our pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago.*

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# Remembering John Lukacs

## AT THE CHC CENTENARY

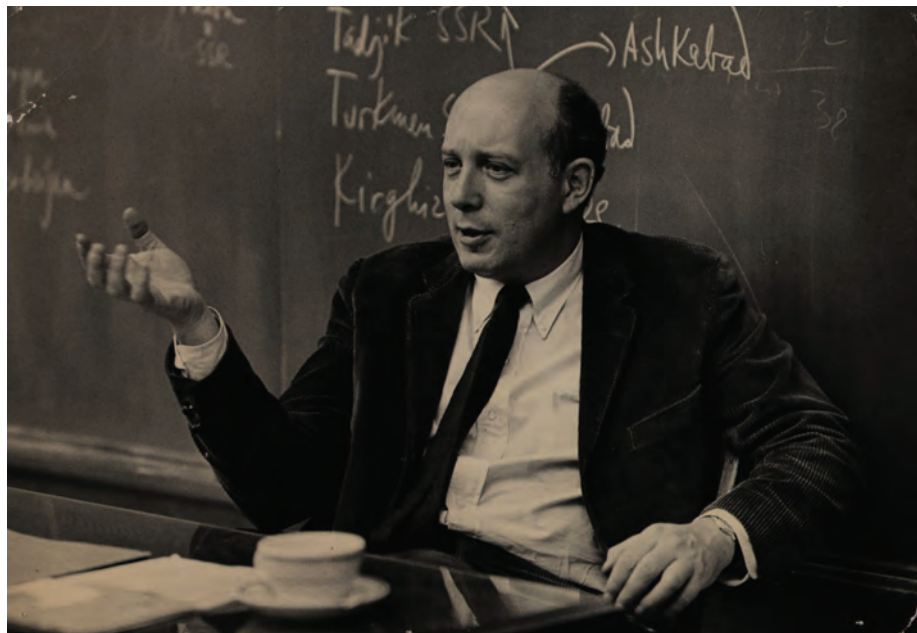
By David Contosta, Ph.D.



I knew of John Lukacs some years before I joined the Chestnut Hill College faculty, when one of my undergraduate professors assigned Lukacs's *New History of the Cold War* (1966). Admiring this book inspired me to respond to a job notice at the College, where I might meet and work with such an illustrious historian. Luckily, following a successful interview, Dr. Lukacs, whom I came to know as John, hired me to teach at the College, beginning in September 1974. That year marked the fiftieth anniversary of the College and John's fiftieth year of life, having been born in early 1924 in Budapest, Hungary, the year of Chestnut Hill College's founding. This year, 2024, marks the centenary of his birth—and of the College.

John wrote the fiftieth anniversary history of the College with words that were so beautiful and so revealing about his sense of history: "The forest outskirts of the placid, often somnolent city of Philadelphia: This was where fifteen homesick girls suddenly found themselves separated from the rest of the world on a beautiful September evening. . . . At night an added row of windows shown about the darkening silhouette of the rows and clumps of trees." These lines

**JOHN LUKACS WAS AN UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTER FOR MANY OF US WHO KNEW HIM. I CHERISH HIS FRIENDSHIP AND ENCOURAGEMENT.**



were by a man whose second language was English, and they appeared in one of the 37 books he published during a long lifetime.

From 1947 to 1993, John taught history at Chestnut Hill College. Students long remembered how "Dr. Lukacs" frequently made outlandish remarks in class to shock them into questioning some received verity in order to get his point across. Later, seated in the faculty lounge, he would employ the same tactic—throwing out provocative remarks to start heated debates among colleagues. John was also a talented amateur pianist, who loved to entertain us—faculty and students alike—by playing and singing Cole Porter songs on a piano in the rotunda of Saint Joseph Hall, his favorite being "You're the Top."

During my early years at the College, John advised me, based on his own experience, that it was more than possible—indeed advisable—to teach and write for publication at the same

time. Teaching, he believed, gave rise to ideas about research and writing, and they, in turn, enriched one's teaching. Accordingly, John encouraged me to write my first book, *Henry Adams and the American Experiment* (1980).

John lived just beyond Valley Forge Memorial Park, where Washington and his men had camped during the miserable, freezing winter of 1777-78. When I first knew him, his home was a converted, old country schoolhouse, to which he had added an attractive octagonal library. The land around it had belonged to his wife's family for some two centuries. He later built a modest but comfortable house on the same land, which included an even larger library. In his book, *The End of the Twentieth Century* (1993), John expressed his deep feelings about this land: "Sometimes after dinner I walk out to the grassy slope beyond our terrace. In those moments, the charm of the present is inseparable from a satisfying sense of



the past because it is good to know that everything I now see is still the same landscape that the American ancestors of my children saw 50, 100, 150, 200 years ago.”

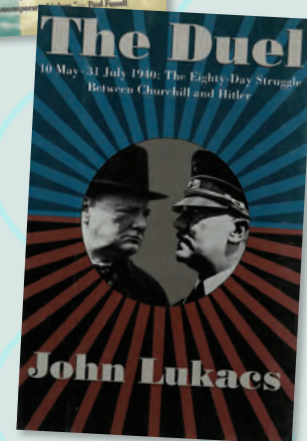
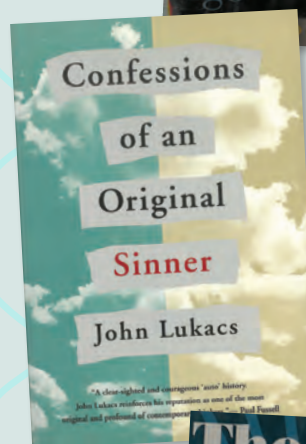
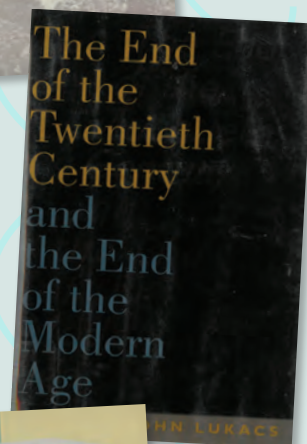
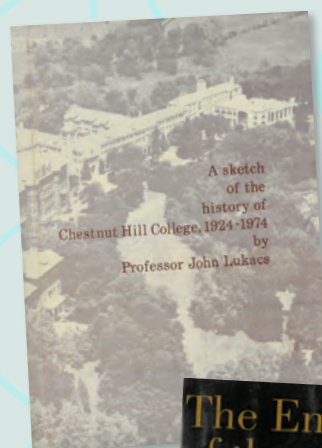
It was this sense of rootedness in the past that lay at the heart of John’s calling himself a “reactionary,” and not a conservative, as he was widely viewed in the United States and abroad. He believed that people calling themselves conservatives, by which he meant “libertarian conservatives,” cared nothing for “the conservation of the country and of the American land.” He was also a reactionary, not because he rejected the possibility of progress but because, as he wrote in his memoir, *Confessions of an Original Sinner* (1989), “Human nature does not change.” In this book John also relates how he resisted Germany during World War II and how he escaped from Russian domination after the war by finding a way to the United States and then to Chestnut Hill College from his native Hungary. There is also a chapter in *Confessions* about John’s experiences as a faculty member at the College. Anyone wanting to know more about his life would do well to pick up this book.

Any account of Lukacs as historian should note that he wrote voluminously about World War II. Among these titles

is *The Duel: The Eighty Day Struggle Between Churchill and Hitler* (2001). In it, as well as in other writings, John asserted that Churchill had quite literally saved Western Civilization. One of his prized possessions was a small bundle unsmoked of cigars once belonging to Churchill, given to him by this hero’s grandson.

I owe much to John Lukacs, as do generations of Chestnut Hill College students. For many years when I attended historical conferences around the country, people would remark on hearing that I taught at Chestnut Hill College, “Oh that is John Lukacs’s college!” For years, John represented the excellence of our college to the outside world. He died at age 95 in May 2019 in his library at home surrounded by some 20,000 books. Attending his funeral was the Hungarian Ambassador to the United States, and long newspaper obituaries appeared in many languages around the world praising him at his passing. In his native Budapest, there is now a John Lukacs Institute at Ludovika University, established in January 2024 in honor of his centenary.

John Lukacs was an unforgettable character for many of us who knew him. I cherish his friendship and encouragement. 🦋







## *From Mounties to Griffins:*

# A HISTORY OF SPORTS AT CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE

By Janice Kuklick (former CHC instructor, coach, and athletic director)



Athletics has played a particularly important role at Chestnut Hill College from its early inception. Founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph as Mount St. Joseph College, Chestnut Hill College had only 15 students and 14 faculty members when it opened in 1924. But in 1926, the College suited players for its first varsity sport, setting the framework for athletics at Chestnut Hill College.

The inclusion of sports at a college founded originally for women, is particularly significant for the time. In 1920, only 22 percent of universities in the U.S. had women's athletic programs, many of which were paltry. Myths about women harming their reproductive organs, or becoming unattractive to men, or not possessing the energy to engage in sport were prevalent at the time, so it was significant that the College took the path to encourage young women to play sports. The founding Sisters of Saint Joseph could not have foreseen the evolution of athletics at the College, but their recognition of sports as a crucial part of education led to the strength of the programs we enjoy today.

Because the College was originally called Mount St. Joseph College, the athletic teams were dubbed the "Mounties" with the first varsity sport, women's basketball, suiting up six players on the roster with a four-game schedule, two home and two

away. The games were played in an old gymnasium on the fifth floor of Saint Joseph Hall where it was sometimes reported that lights swayed in the dorm rooms below during games.

In 1932, field hockey became the second varsity sport, followed by tennis in 1933, golf in 1935, archery in 1939, swimming in 1941, badminton in 1944, lacrosse in 1960, softball in 1961, and volleyball in 1974. Although 10 varsity programs were offered, basketball, field hockey, tennis, badminton, softball, lacrosse and volleyball remained the mainstay of the program for many of the early years.



*Field Hockey, 1930s*





*Archery, 1940s*



*Swimming, 1940s*



*Golf, 1930s*



*Griffins Soccer, 2011*

In 2003, women's soccer replaced field hockey in the intercollegiate program. Also in 2003, with the inclusion of men to the program, men's basketball became the first men's program to debut. Following that, in 2004, men's soccer, men's tennis and men's and women's golf were added. And 2007 saw the start of the CHC baseball team.



*Tennis team, 1982*

## UNIFORMS

Uniforms changed dramatically over the years. The early Mounties sported black cotton stockings and gym suits, which later changed into brown and gold tunics, skirts, shorts, pants, briefs, tops and kilts of polyester brown and gold, depending on the sport. Along with this color change came the change of the mascot from the Mounties to the mythical Griffin, with the head, wings and beak of an eagle, a symbol of Saint John, and the legs of a lion. Although this Griffin was the official mascot, an unofficial one, by the name of Father John Casey and his dog Flyer, was the live emblem of the athletic program from the 70's through the early 90's.

The first home court was located on the fifth floor of St. Joseph's Hall, but in 1928, the old gym in the basement of Fournier would become the new home



*Griffins Basketball, 2018*



*Griffins Baseball, 2009*





*Father John Casey with campus dog, Flyer, 1970s*



*Women's basketball uniform, 1974*

Later, a part-time trainer was available for home games. After the arrival of Sorgenti Arena and grants from the NCAA, a full-time athletic trainer was added to the staff. Coaches, previously part-time, were awarded full-time positions. The wisdom in building a new athletic facility and the administration's willingness to increase salaries with grants for full-time positions made a big difference in the College's ability to hire and retain quality coaches.



*Sorgenti Arena, opened 2000*

court for the next 72 years. The fans would line up in the tiny gym and cheers could be heard echoing up the stairwell to the third floor. Basketball, badminton, volleyball played and practiced there, and it also served as a practice area for lacrosse, field hockey, tennis and softball. The ceilings were low, the lighting was poor, with little spectator space, and enough room for just one basketball court.

## BUILDING A BETTER PROGRAM

In the late 1990's, as colleges started to realize the importance of strong sports programs to the overall success of the institution, they placed a higher emphasis on athletics. Co-educational colleges started adding money to their athletic budgets, increasing staff size, improving facilities, recruiting student athletes and increasing coaching salaries. CHC was not there yet as was typical of most all women's colleges at the time.

The move to the NCAA and related conferences provided the push needed to move athletics at CHC forward. Many much-needed improvements came about as a result. In June of 2000, as the need for improvement was recognized, the

College demolished the old science building and constructed Martino Hall, thanks to a generous contribution from Rocco Martino, Ph.D. and Barbara D'Iorio Martino '61. Inside, was the brand new Sorgenti Arena, named after benefactors, Harold Sorgenti & Ann Rusnack Sorgenti '58, the College's first million-dollar donors.



*Demolition of Science Building to make room for Martino Hall, 1999*

Beside the beautiful new arena, areas were added for coaching offices, locker rooms, and athletic training facilities. None existed prior to Sorgenti Arena's appearance. There was no space for coaches and no athletic training facilities. In fact, there was no athletic trainer. Early on, students and coaches took care of all athletic injuries. Someone would run to the cafeteria and get a bag of ice when needed, or a coach would administer a little tape.



*Gulati Complex, opened 2010*

The new arena helped coaches with successful recruitment efforts. The decision to go co-ed gave the program the extra jolt it needed as well. As a result, the pool of prospective athletes significantly increased from those wishing to attend and play at an all-women's institution (which was few) to those wishing to attend a co-ed college and play sports (which was many). Better facilities, additional staff, better pay for coaches and bus transportation all started to make a big difference in CHC's ability to once again compete on a level playing field.

Outdoor facilities were another area that plagued the program. The original tennis, field hockey/lacrosse and softball fields were tormented by the flooding of the Wissahickon Creek at various times inundating the areas and rendering them

unplayable. In the late 60's, the College persuaded the Wissahickon to take another route, and a new regulation field hockey/lacrosse field was built along with eight new tennis courts.

In 2003, the hockey/lacrosse field was converted to a soccer/lacrosse field when field hockey was eliminated as a varsity sport. The playing area was significantly expanded and improved, but later that year, the Wissahickon struck again, and teams were forced to play off campus until repairs were made. With the expansion of programs, now male as well as female, additional playing areas became a challenge and various off campus facilities are still utilized today.

The early years saw no fitness/weight room facility. It wasn't until the 80's and 90's that makeshift fitness rooms popped up throughout the College, equipped primarily with hand-me-down cardio bikes and a few hand weights. No one dreamed of programs to strengthen players to enhance athletic performance or prevent injury, particularly for women. Eventually, strengthening programs were included in the training of the athletes, but it wasn't until 2010 that a state-of-the-art fitness center added a much-needed step up to the program, thanks to generous donors Jack Gulati and Rosemary Murphy Gulati '61.



*Make-shift workout room*



*State-of-the-Art Fitness Center, opened 2010*



## CHAMPIONS

Over the years, teams tallied many wins and losses. Prior to the switch to the NCAA and inclusion of men to the program, the women's teams accumulated 24 championships in the Philadelphia Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (PAIAW) and four in the Atlantic Women's Colleges Conference (AWCC). In the early 80's, the first of many athletes in the school's history to score 1,000 points in basketball was recorded. As a member of the NCAA and with the inclusion of men, 2004 saw the first NCAA tournament appearance followed by years of many, many individual players and coaches awarded honors, championships, team wins, and significant milestones.

The College administrators from the earliest years through the present have always valued sport as an integral part of the educational experience. This philosophy has provided thousands of student athletes with collegiate opportunities that have enhanced their undergraduate years at Chestnut Hill College. The solidly laid foundation from these humble beginnings now ensures that each student can enjoy the educational experiences that a strong athletic program offers. From the early beginnings of a single sport six-person roster to a steadily growing Division II institution with 18 varsity teams, that seed has taken hold. It is the gateway through which the athletic program has emerged and continues to grow today. 🍀

**“While Janice Rensimer Kuklick was inducted into the USA Lacrosse Hall of Fame, many of the students she coached at**

**Chestnut Hill College had never even played the sport.** I was one of them. She coached players of all levels bringing her teams to win their division in the PAIAW 14 times. I was lucky to be on the championship lacrosse team for my senior year of 1984. We had so much fun on the field. Did we trip, fall or drop the ball? I know I did. It was not a problem because one of us would reach out to help a player back up while another grabbed the ball and ran. Coach Rens taught us valuable life lessons. Support one another and never give up. To this day, my CHC friends still have my back and I have theirs. No matter what happens we will just keep trying our best.

In the photo I am wearing my team shirt while holding the wooden lacrosse stick used in those days. This wonderful lacrosse stick belonged to Coach Kuklick with her initials JRK. CHC was truly blessed to have such a caring enthusiastic role model for decades.”

– Peggy Barry '84

*Visit Peggy Barry's uniform, Janice Kuklick's lacrosse stick and much more on view in the 100th Anniversary historic display on campus, located in the Hall of Philanthropy (the old “Zebra Lounge”) off the rotunda.*





# 100 Years of Transformational Growth... IN NUMBERS



**12** years of  
Steinway concerts  
& 12 years since  
McCaffery  
Lounge opened ▶



**16** years of  
honoring Golden  
Griffins – alumni  
who graduated 50  
years ago or more  
(2008)



**1** SingularVision by the Sisters of Saint Joseph: “to form Catholic young women, strongly grounded in the faith, and capable of taking their part creditably in intellectual and social life.”

**17** years as an  
NCAA Division  
II School (2007) ▶



**8** graduates in the first class in 1928



**21** men graduated in the first  
co-ed class, Class of 2007



**25** years of ASEC, African Sisters  
Education Collaborative (1999)

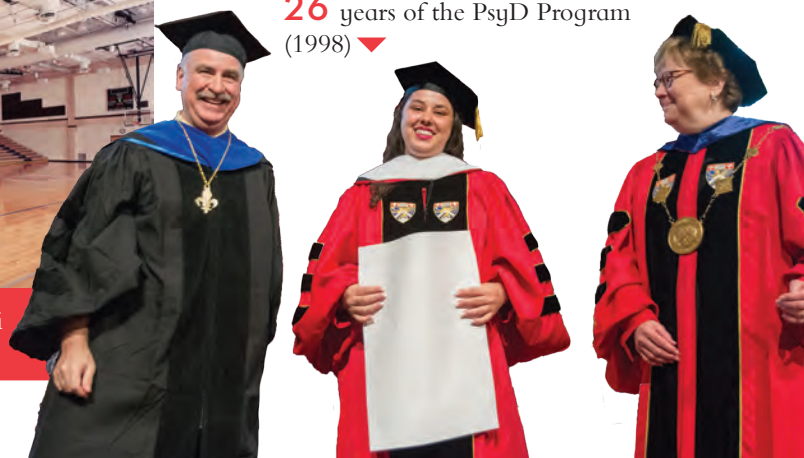


**11** years since Gulati Complex opened



**23** years since Sorgenti  
Arena opened

**26** years of the PsyD Program  
(1998) ▼







**24** years since Martino Hall transformed campus thanks to a generous donation from Rocky and Barbara D'Iorio Martino '60



**28** years since the continuing education program began, now called the Accelerated Adult Degree Program (AADP)

**54** years since the dress code was abolished (1970) ▶



After **79** years as a women's college, CHC became co-ed (2003)



**30** acres added to CHC with the acquisition of SugarLoaf



**97** years of Christmas decorations (1927) ▶

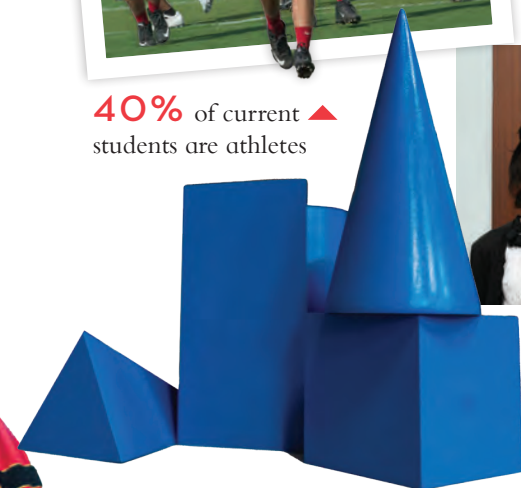


**40%** of current students are athletes ▶

**60,000** books were transferred by students to the new Logue Library (1962)



**98** years of women's basketball, the oldest sport at CHC (1926)



**50** years of the Montessori Teacher Education program, which was the only one at the time on the East coast and one of three in the nation (1975)



**75** members of the Caritas Society, who have made lifetime gifts of \$500,000+



**100** amazing years of excellence in education



# *Shaping* **OUR FUTURE**





*Rendering of Basic Skills lab which will be used to teach nursing skills using state-of-the-art medical manikins and routine care equipment in a hospital setting. Image courtesy of Brawer Hauptman + Larkin Architects.*



## *A Shot in the Arm:*

## CHC LAUNCHES NEW NURSING PROGRAM THAT FITS PERFECTLY WITH MISSION

Dr. Susan Apold had been waiting for the day.

On May 9th, during National Nurses' Week, the College received approval for two nursing programs from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: a traditional Undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and an Accelerated second degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSBN). Both options will prepare graduates to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and practice as registered nurses.

The timing of the new programs is perfect. The United States is facing a critical shortage of nurses, and the Philadelphia area is projected to see a significant increase in nursing-related jobs. "Given the tremendous change that our society has experienced in health care over the past five years, nursing remains the backbone of the healthcare system," says Dr. Susan Apold, director of the new program. "Predictions of a worsening shortage, sweeping retirements from the profession, and the aftermath of COVID have made one thing crystal clear: our nation needs nurses now."





*Health Assessment room. This lab is a ward-style room where students will learn how to perform physical assessments.*

*Image courtesy of Brawer Hauptman + Larkin Architects.*

The profession of nursing is clearly aligned with the mission, vision, and values of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Chestnut Hill College. As the College continues to respond to the evolving needs of society, launching a nursing program is not only a logical step but also a moral imperative.

### A MULTIFACETED APPROACH

Chestnut Hill College's program is unique. By re-thinking current nursing education, Dr. Apold has created a plan that is beneficial to both the nursing students and the patients they will one day treat. This new format will better prepare nurses for the realities of their jobs, and will include a combination of classroom and clinical education; a concerted focus on health care of the aging adult; and self-care and counseling for health care professionals.

Students in the traditional undergraduate nursing program will start their foundational classes on main campus. For their advanced course work, they will join the accelerated students on the SugarLoaf Campus at the new Nursing Clinical Arts Center (NCAC).

The historic Commonwealth Chateau on the SugarLoaf Campus will become home to the new NCAC. The clinical/basic nursing skills lab will occupy much of the first floor, while the second floor will house classrooms, a health assessment lab, and a fully-equipped simulation skills lab where highly specialized medical manikins called "simulators" will relay results to students as if they were treating a real patient. Like flight simulators for pilots-in-training, these medical simulators can be programmed to test a student's knowledge of a variety of conditions. Simulators have hundreds

of programmable features including vital signs like a pulse and a heartbeat; they can have breathing problems like wheezing and coughing; and there is even a pregnant simulator that can give birth to a simulator baby complete with umbilical cord and placenta.

To provide real-world experience in clinical patient care, the College has several agreements with local hospitals and healthcare facilities. Included among them is St. Joseph Villa, which allows the College to further support its mission as a sponsored work of the SSJs.

Working with the Villa also fulfills a key tenet of the new nursing program, a focus on health needs specific to adults as they age. The 65-and-older population is growing, underlying the importance of coursework that specifically addresses social, economic, and lifestyle needs of this population.





*Rendering of Simulation Lab, which will consist of five private hospital rooms with two-way mirrors, command centers and high-fidelity medical manikins called “simulators” which can be programmed with a variety of symptoms. Image courtesy of Brawer Hauptman + Larkin Architects.*

## SELF-CARE FOR NURSES

In addition to the innovative curriculum, Dr. Apold has designed an intentional focus on self-care and mental health promotion to address the problem of attrition in the nursing profession. Burnout, long shifts, and compassion fatigue are just a few factors that have led to high numbers of nurses leaving the profession before the age of 40. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, things have only gotten worse. Sixty-six percent of acute care nurses are considering leaving the profession.

In partnership with the College’s Counseling Center, programs of meditation, reflection, relaxation, yoga, stress recognition and stress reduction are available to students. The importance of self-care is built into the program, into student learning outcomes, and evaluation measures. The Counseling Center’s director, Sheila Kennedy, SSJ, Ph.D. ’76, will direct the program. A licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania,

Dr. Kennedy will help the new nursing students understand how to manage their own self-care.



*Sheila Kennedy, SSJ, Ph.D. ’76*

According to Dr. Apold, this approach goes above and beyond traditional nursing programs by recognizing the unprecedented challenges faced by today’s healthcare providers. It integrates current research on nursing resilience and coping mechanisms to equip students with the skills not only to handle the demands of the profession, but also to identify and manage stressors

on themselves and practice self-care.

“Chestnut Hill College’s curriculum will focus on preparing nurses to be practice-ready to prevent illness and manage disease across the lifespan,” said Dr. Apold. “It will assure that our students have immersive clinical experiences, current knowledge to prepare them for an aging population and, perhaps most important, the skills and knowledge to care for themselves so as to prevent burnout and compassion fatigue in this demanding career.”

**THE NEW NURSING  
PROGRAM IS A NEW  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
CONTINUE THE  
COLLEGE’S MISSION,  
AND WILL BECOME A  
VALUABLE RESOURCE  
FOR HEALTH CARE  
EMPLOYERS**



Specific statistics drive both the urgency and opportunity for introducing such a program:

- According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 23% of RNs will retire over the next five years.
- In their 2023 market research study, the Huron Consulting Firm found that Pennsylvania is one of the largest markets in the region, with 152,000 nursing jobs available.

### BRINGING THE PROGRAM TO LIFE

After receiving approval from the Board of Nursing of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dr. Apold began hiring nursing faculty and staff. She has

established both a Nursing Advisory Board and a specialized committee for the nursing academic curriculum, both comprised of members of the health care industry in Philadelphia.

Both the SugarLoaf facility and the science labs located on the fifth floor of Saint Joseph Hall will undergo renovations. Updates include the addition of cutting-edge science equipment and instruments necessary for the new students to succeed in the health care field.

### OPENING DAY

Though CHC has several current undergraduate students who have signed up to start their foundational coursework this fall, the College will officially welcome new students into

both programs in fall 2025.

“We’re introducing a nursing education program here at Chestnut Hill that’s distinctive, it’s challenging, and we know it will satisfy the academic and career interests of quality students,” said Dr. Apold. “At the same time, it will produce nursing professionals well-prepared to readily step into a variety of health care settings throughout the Delaware Valley and beyond. This is a winning combination.”

To learn more about the program and how to apply, scan the QR code with your phone’s camera and click the pop-up. [www.chc.edu/nursing](http://www.chc.edu/nursing)



*Photo courtesy of Susan Apold*

### SUSAN APOLD, PH.D., RN, ANP, BC, FAAN, FAANP

*Founding Director, Nursing Program  
Chestnut Hill College*

With 40 years in the nursing profession, with a Ph.D. in nursing, Dr. Susan Apold is well-suited to introduce and direct CHC’s newest academic program. She spearheaded its curriculum development and the identification and selection of clinical immersion partners.

An experienced nursing leader, clinician, educator, and seasoned educational administrator, Dr. Apold has served in a variety of capacities in clinical practice and higher education. She was vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty at the College of Mount St. Vincent, and is the founding dean/director of BSN and masters programs at Concordia College New York and Iona University.

Her peer-reviewed publications are extensive, her expertise is recognized and requested by multiple colleges and health care institutions, and she is much in demand as a speaker on professional practice, accreditation standards, quality improvement, evidence-based practice, leadership changes in nursing administration, and the future of nursing.

Dr. Apold is a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow, a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She is a graduate of Holy Family University (BSN), the University of Pennsylvania (MSN), and Adelphi University (Ph.D.). Dr. Apold is a certified adult gerontologic nurse practitioner and has maintained an active practice in primary care (adult/geriatric care) for more than 25 years





# Make a Lasting Impact

**Join the Hallmark Society by naming  
Chestnut Hill College in your will.**

Future Griffins will benefit from the lasting  
impact of your generous choice.

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**You can choose to designate:**

- a fixed amount from your will to Chestnut Hill College,
- a percentage of your estate, or
- a residual gift, leaving whatever is left over from your estate to CHC

**Your thoughtful contribution will help Chestnut Hill College attract and retain talented faculty, maintain the campus's historic buildings, and help keep tuition within reach of our students and families.**

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For more information or questions about including Chestnut Hill College in your will,  
contact Gini Calcerano at (215) 242-7762 or email: [calceranog@chc.edu](mailto:calceranog@chc.edu)





*Felix Rosado (bottom row, far right) and his students pose for a photo during one of their Restorative Justice courses.*

## *From Incarcerated to College Professor:* Felix Rosado Shares Inspirational Journey as He Joins CHC to Educate on Restorative Justice

Posted online: June 4, 2024 | By Jaime Renman '25 SGS



Felix Rosado joins the Chestnut Hill College community as an inspiring and unconventional adjunct professor. Just two years ago he was serving a sentence of death by incarceration (more commonly known as life without parole) from which he was freed via governor clemency after 27 years. Rosado said that while incarcerated, he rediscovered his Catholic faith, was introduced to the concept of restorative justice, and sought to make amends for his crime by educating and serving others. Rosado finished teaching two courses this spring semester on restorative justice under the Justice Studies Department. Lauren Barrow Ph.D., chair, Center for Education, Advocacy & Social Justice and associate professor for criminal justice first met Rosado at a training 10 years ago through Inside-Out. The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program facilitates dialogue and education across profound social differences—through

courses held inside prison, involving students from a higher education setting and incarcerated students.

“I was first introduced to the visceral and emotional power of restorative justice when I started at Chestnut Hill College in 2011. One year later, during my week-long training for Inside-Out at state correctional institution, Graterford, I met Felix for the first time. So, when he reached out to me last semester regarding the departmental search for a new restorative justice instructor, it was an easy ‘Yes!’ to bringing him on board. I had no doubt he would impact CHC students in all the right ways, and he has not disappointed. He and his class have encouraged and empowered our students to envision themselves as real changemakers,” says Barrow.

This is the first time Rosado has taken the experiential-learning workshop he created via Let’s Circle Up at

Graterford State Prison to a college classroom. Let’s Circle Up focuses on the invaluable worth in the lived experience of everyone who sits in their circles to talk about restorative justice and what it can look like. “It’s been a joy and a gift to teach these courses at CHC,” says Rosado. “This is the first time I’ve adapted the workshops I’ve done to include readings and essays that stretch out for a 14-week semester.” Rosado emphasizes his alignment with the College’s core values, especially pertaining to the pursuit of just relationships with his values of restorative justice. “Both stress the interconnectedness of all people and the importance of repairing harm in relationships when it occurs. Additionally, these values advocate for the proactive building of positive relationships to prevent harm,” says Rosado.

With those core values in mind, Rosado uses a transformative



educational approach focused on building community and prioritizing relationships. He emphasizes creating a space where students feel comfortable being open and vulnerable, facilitating discussions rather than lecturing. This approach, influenced by *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Friere, aims to draw out students' existing knowledge and wisdom rather than simply imparting information. Rosado's philosophy and pedagogy were shaped through his experience with Inside-Out and Let's Circle Up inside prison.

Sarah Somers '24 noted that her experience in class made her closer to her peers. "Professor Felix's class helped me build connections with peers who I have had other classes with since my freshman year of college. It wasn't until his class I was able to get to know them on a deeper level. We were able to open up with one another without any judgment. Professor Felix created a space where everyone felt comfortable to share their stories."

Jonathan Oister '24 was impressed with Rosado's class. "This class has had a huge influence on my career aspirations. I work in a juvenile detention facility and this class has been a reliable framework in assisting my approach with the residents. While working at a detention facility can be extremely difficult, this class has allowed me to implement community building and community circles into the schedule for the residents. It has encouraged me to take an approach to guide them in reflecting on their actions and decisions throughout their time at the facility. Not only has this class assisted me in implementing the curriculum but it has educated me about a solution I can utilize when experiencing difficult situations in my career field."

Outside of teaching, Rosado works as program manager of Healing Futures, a youth restorative justice diversion program at YASP (Youth Art and Self-Empowerment Project). Healing Futures receives referrals from the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office of young



*Rosado on a panel at an art exhibit featuring art by incarcerated artists.*

people who have been arrested for various crimes and facilitates restorative justice processes that bring together the harmed parties and those who caused harm. Through weeks of preparation, both sides are guided to understand

each other's perspectives, leading to crafting apology letters and developing restorative plans. This process results in the dismissal of charges. For Rosado, both jobs are a natural extension of his experiences.

"My biggest takeaway from this class," says Somers, "is that justice looks different for everyone. Justice doesn't have to look like what we traditionally see it as, or I should say we're conditioned to see justice as. Professor Felix's class taught me that healing harm shouldn't be one-sided. Healing takes all those involved in harm to reconcile and try to repair that relationship as best as possible."

Says Rosado, "If you wanna learn more about yourself and what it means to be human in a world laden with harm, restorative justice is not only a philosophy of practices, but a lifestyle that applies everywhere. This might seem like something that is about 'criminal justice,' but in reality, it's just a way of life we should all learn about and practice." 🦋



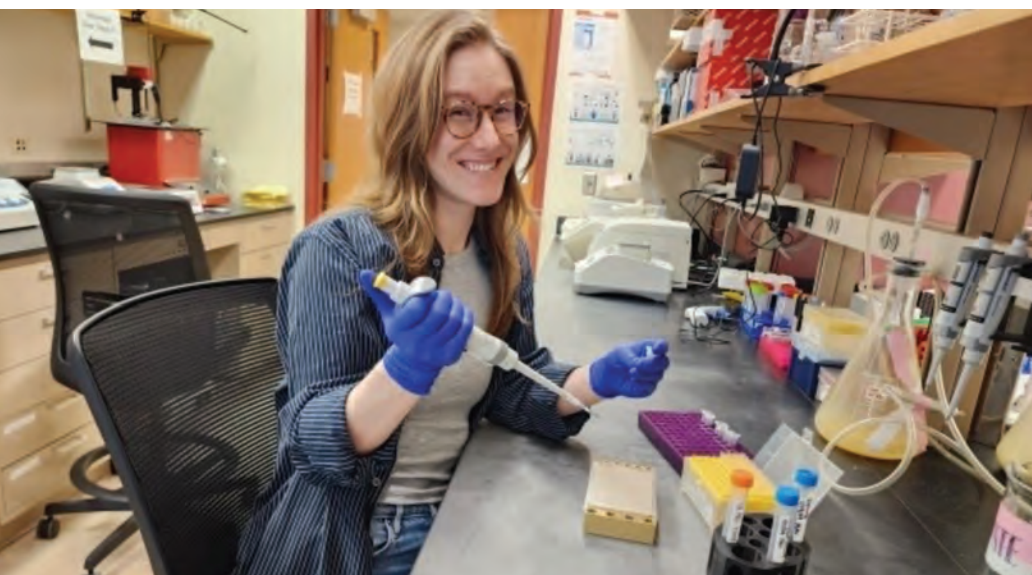
*Felix Rosado emceeding this year's annual Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration (CADBI) rally in Harrisburg.*



## *Decade-Long Partnership with Fox Chase Cancer Center*

# CONTINUING TO CREATE CONNECTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Posted online: April 18, 2024 | By Jaime Renman '25 SGS



*Jade Wilson '18 works in the lab during her internship experience at Fox Chase Cancer Center.  
Photo courtesy of Jade Wilson*

In 2013, Chestnut Hill College student Kelsey Haugh '14 received the opportunity of a lifetime, to complete an internship at the Fox Chase Cancer Center (FCCC) where she studied under Richard Katz, Ph.D., and Siddharth Balachandran, Ph.D. The internship saw Haugh spend several months researching a virology project, often including work late into the evenings. Haugh left the internship with an incredible experience, connections with highly established scientists, and a pathway to medical school. Haugh was accepted into Yale University's Virology/Microbiology program, considered one of the best immunology departments in all of the U.S.

And it all started with FCCC.

"She did so well and was so into science, she kept coming after the summer ended," Balachandran noted when interviewed in 2016 for the Chestnut Hill Magazine.

Haugh's experience and the subsequent experiences of Kelly Dunleavy '15 and Jason Wasserman '16, with the program were enough to lead Joe Kulkosky, Ph.D., chair of the biology department at CHC, to further engage in discussions with Katz and Balachandran about creating a permanent partnership between CHC and FCCC. In the summer of 2015, that alliance was born as the College and FCCC began an immersive undergraduate research program offering CHC students a chance to learn all aspects of research science, acquire skills in communicating science, and the opportunity to have that research published in a peer-reviewed science journal, much like Haugh.

It is rare for undergraduates to have their work published, something that Balachandran explained sets the CHC/FCCC program apart from even some of the most prestigious scientific institutions in the country. "Even at Stanford and

MIT, there is no dedicated program that takes students interested in biology and puts them in the lab where the expected outcome is a published paper," he noted.

One of the greatest benefits of the immersive research experience is the potential for student interns to earn authorship in high-profile research-based journals. The credentials of such publications can help students further their careers, including pursuing medical school and graduate school.

Katz, who has worked with CHC students since the beginning of the partnership, appreciates the qualities among the interns of being dedicated, self-motivated, curious, and kind-spirited. "I feel most proud of these undergraduate students when they become competent and efficient when they correct me on something, and when they take off on their own and run their project," says Katz.

Chestnut Hill College prides itself on its relationship with the cutting-edge research happening in Philadelphia and the opportunities undergraduate students have had to be a part of that world by working with scientists at FCCC.

"CHC is indeed very fortunate to have such a strong and enduring relationship with FCCC which spawned two Nobel prize winners as well as a number of members in the National Academy of Science," says Kulkosky, who himself did research at FCCC studying the mechanism of HIV DNA integration. An accomplished scientist in his own right, Kulkosky has been teaching at the College for over 20 years and has mentored his fair share of biology majors who have gone on to excel in the FCCC program.



This list includes Jade Wilson '18, who is currently pursuing a dual M.D./Ph.D. program at Temple University following her time at CHC and FCCC.

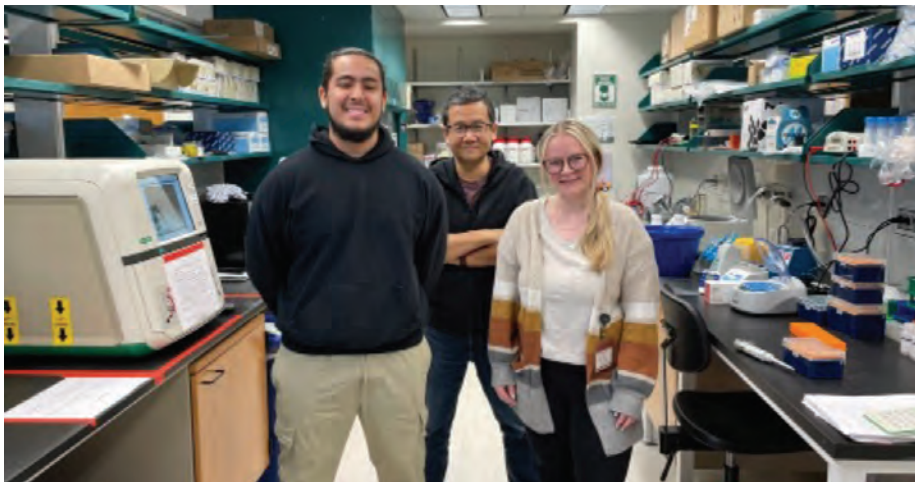
“My time at Fox Chase opened a lot of doors to other opportunities,” says Wilson. “At the same time, the support of Chestnut Hill College professors like Dr. K got me to where I am now.”

Wilson majored in biology with a concentration in bioscience technology and minored in chemistry while at CHC. She worked with Katz during her internship at FCCC and, as Wilson noted, it was the connections she made in her internship and the ability to work with people at the top of their field while practicing using innovative technology, that helped define her career path. Currently, Wilson works in the cancer epigenetics lab at Fox Chase run by Johnathan Whetstine, Ph.D., who presented at the College's 32nd Annual Biomedical Distinguished Lecture Series in April 2024.

Each year, FCCC invites a select few junior and senior CHC students to be a part of the internship. Throughout the academic year, students commit to at least one summer and two regular undergraduate semesters (approximately 15 months) conducting research.

In addition to the immersive internship experiences, the College has an educational partnership with FCCC. This includes a special senior-level course entitled “The Cure: From Benchtop to Bedside” where students are taught by top-notch post-doctoral fellows from FCCC. Through this course, biology majors are exposed to learning from scientists in the field.

As the CHC/FCCC partnership enters the next decade, Kulkosky hopes that the internship can continue with more FCCC researchers taking on students in their labs to produce more talented scientists in the field. “FCCC researchers and the institution itself have been honored with many accolades over its long history as a highly recognized



*Michael Lopez-Zabala stands with his FCCC mentor Sunny Liu and fellow student Rebecca Smith.  
Photo courtesy of: Michael Lopez-Zabala*

and prize-winning cancer research and treatment center. CHC science majors are especially blessed because FCCC is right in our own backyard,” says Kulkosky.

Michael Lopez-Zabala '26 is one of those science majors taking advantage of the opportunity the partnership with FCCC affords. A sophomore interning with FCCC under principle investigator, Dr. Yu Liu, Lopez-Zabala is conducting experiments such as miniprep, a technique that allows scientists to isolate plasmid DNA from bacterial cultures, and has started his own independent investigations.



*Joe Kulkosky (L) and Johnathan Whetstine have both been helping strengthen the partnership between CHC and FCCC.*

*Photo credit: Marilee Gallagher '14*

“I initially had some doubts about my abilities when I first started in the lab as a sophomore and was unsure if I would be able to contribute effectively,” says Lopez-Zabala. “However, over time, I have come to appreciate the lab’s valuable learning opportunities. I have realized that it is okay not to know

everything and that making mistakes is a natural part of the learning process. I have adopted a more positive mindset, and now I am open to experimentation and learning from any setbacks.”

Yu’s lab is focused on optimizing miniprep procedures to achieve a higher DNA concentration for cell line development and potential modifications using CRISPR technology. Lopez-Zabala emphasizes that he is interested in pursuing an M.D./Ph.D. program because of his experience in the lab.

“Being in the lab early on has sparked my interest in research even more,” he says. “I am feeling increasingly ambitious about applying for this program and delving deeper into the world of research. I am motivated to join the fight against cancer, as I know many people who have been affected by this terrible disease. Whether as a doctor, a Principal Investigator, or both, I am eager to contribute to making a difference in this field.”

“The reputation our CHC student interns and some CHC graduates have left by their excellent work over these past 10 years has garnered a legacy such that researchers at FCCC readily take on our student interns in a variety of labs mostly dedicated to high-profile cancer research and treatment,” says Kulkosky. 🍀



## *Neurodiversity Initiative Expands* UNDER DR. STEPHEN STUNDER

Chestnut Hill College is excited to announce the inception of the Life Skills through Career Program, as of July 1, 2024. This program will serve adults with developmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder over the age of 21, and anticipates a launch in 2026. This underserved population will come to Chestnut Hill College for a two-year program centering on independent living, vocational training, life skills, family systems supports, and a career of their choice. As members of the Chestnut Hill College community, these individuals will be provided mission-based services, with a unique blend of human service ideals on a college campus. This program will build on the current services provided by Chestnut Hill College through the traditional Undergraduate Neurodiversity Program.

To lead this program's development and launch will be Stephen Stunder, Ed.D.. He is Chestnut Hill College's former assistant professor of human services and Director of the Human Services

management graduate program, who has been named executive director of the Life Skills Through Career Program. Having worked with a committee of administrators, faculty, and staff on an interdisciplinary team to develop this model for the last several years, Dr. Stunder will now be charged with partnering with the state of Pennsylvania, as well as local organizations and the community, to create services that will be innovative and develop best practices for the Adult neurodiverse population.

Dr. Stunder worked in the field of human services for 15 years for several large providers, before coming to Chestnut Hill College as a faculty member. He has built a network of partners throughout the country in hopes of creating opportunities for individuals to receive the tools to live a life of their choosing, focused on independence, dignity, and choice.

Dr. Stunder will also be overseeing the undergraduate program for neurodiverse



*Dr. Stephen Stunder heads the new Life Skills Through Career program.*

students for the 2024-2025 academic year. As Chestnut Hill College looks to continue to serve Neurodiverse students, Dr. Stunder hopes to build on the foundation of the work done by Laura Sibbald and Julia Dugan to create valuable educational experiences and career placement for traditional undergraduate students. 🦋

“MY HOPE IS THAT CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE WILL BECOME A DESTINATION FOR INDIVIDUALS TO BE PROVIDED WITH THE SUPPORTS THAT THEY NEED TO LIVE A LIFE WITH DIGNITY, CHOICE, AND INDEPENDENCE.”

*- Dr. Stephen Stunder.*

# THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUND



*Join us as we celebrate  
Chestnut Hill College's  
100th Anniversary!*



**To make sure our next 100 years are as successful as our first, please consider a gift to the 100th Anniversary Fund. The fund will bolster the College's current amazing programs, and help start new, innovative ideas for the future.**



Gifts of any amount will help and are always deeply appreciated, even \$5! Scan the QR code with your phone's camera and click the pop-up or use the enclosed envelope to make your contribution.







## WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE EXPERIENCE!

The Alumni Office is inviting all alumni to share your unique connection and experiences with the College through our Oral History Project. As part of our 100th Anniversary Celebration, we are offering an accessible platform for you to narrate your CHC journey in your own words. These personal stories will be compiled into a collection that celebrates our alma mater and its enduring legacy. The final collection will be available for you to purchase as either a bound book or a digital collection.

This initiative is made possible through a partnership between the College and Publishing Concepts, Inc. (PCI). In addition to gathering stories, PCI will assist us in updating alumni biographical and contact information, which will remain confidential, helping us maintain accurate records, strengthening the connection between our alumni and CHC.

Look for a postcard or email from PCI in the upcoming months. It will contain detailed instructions on how to share your story, but you will be taking the initiative on whether to participate. Stories will be gathered by a skilled member of the PCI team. Simply follow the steps to update your information and set up a time to share your story with one of their staff members.



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**Celebrate our 100th Year by sharing your experience  
with your fellow alumni of all generations!**



Igniting Hope, Building  
Bridges, & Creating Impact

# ASEC 25th ANNIVERSARY GALA

SATURDAY **7** DECEMBER  
2024

Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, PA



The Gala will honor Founding Mothers, **Sister Anne Munley, IHM, Ph.D., Sister Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D., and Sister Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D. '78.**

The mission of African Sisters Education Collaborative, or ASEC (AYE-sek), is to educate Catholic women religious in Africa to strengthen their leadership capacity to provide services that address local and global challenges.



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# CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MERCHANDISE!



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or visit [chc.edu/100](https://chc.edu/100)

*A portion of the proceeds will go to Chestnut Hill College*







# Athletics



# Spring 2024

## SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

By Bob Heller, Director of Athletic Communications  
Photos by Jim Roesse



The 2024 spring sports season saw four programs compete at the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference championships, as our men's lacrosse team captured their fourth consecutive CACC title, the men's tennis team finished as conference runner-up and several members of the women's and men's track and field teams produced all-conference performances at the CACC championship meet.

Men's Tennis kicked off the championship week as Chestnut Hill College again served as the host for the championship match on April 30. The Griffins faced top seed and defending champion, Jefferson University. Chestnut Hill College fought hard throughout the match, but the Rams came away with a 4-1 win. **Pedro Vicente '25** provided the only point for the Griffins with a win at #6 singles.

Prior to the tournament, Griffin tennis players **Noah Cutting '24** and **Antonio Franquis '26** were named to the All-CACC Team. **Joao Sousa '24** earned

the CACC Top XVII Award, given to the athlete with the highest G.P.A. competing in the men's tennis conference championship.

The track and field championships were held at Georgian Court University on May 4-5. The meet was highlighted by several all-conference performances by Griffin athletes and a trio of school records being broken.

**Cole Stanchina '24** earned two All-CACC honors with second place finishes in both the 5,000 and 10,000 meter runs while **Emanuel Preston '26** broke the school records for both the 100 meter dash (10.93 seconds) and 200 meter dash (21.80).

On the women's side, **Anastasia Watson '25** broke the school record for the shot put (11.20 meters) and also earned all-CACC honors with a second place finish in the discus throw, her second all-CACC accolade in the event over the past three seasons. On the track, **Gabby Hassler '26** took home a second place finish in the

3,000 meter steeplechase while **Sydney Watts '25** was second in the 5,000 meter run as both ladies earned all-CACC honors.

As a team, the women placed seventh overall while the men placed ninth.

The conference championship week and the Griffins' spring sport season concluded on a high note on May 5, as the men's lacrosse team successfully defended their conference championship with a 17-8 win over Wilmington University in Orangeburg, New York.

The win marked the fourth consecutive conference title for the Griffins and the third time in four years they have defeated the Wildcats in the championship game. Junior **Sam Slater '25** scored a career-high seven goals and was named the Tournament Most Valuable Player.

Post-season honors for the Griffins included **Julius Sorino '24** being named the CACC Goalkeeper of the Year and **Daniel Grubb '23** earning Defensive

Pedro Vicente '25



Antonio Franquis '26



Noah Cutting '24



Joao Sousa '24



*Cole Stanchina '24*



*Emanuel Preston '26*



*Anastasia Watson '25*



*Gabby Hassler '26*



*Sydney Watts '25*

Player of the Year honors. Sorino finished with the lowest goals against average in all of NCAA Division II, giving up just 7.10 goals/game. Also earning All-CACC honors were **Noah Hammon '25**, **Chase Snyder '24**, and **Kyle Gartenmayer '24**. The Griffins as a team also had the best scoring defense in all of NCAA division II, allowing just 6.87 goals/game.

The Griffins' baseball, softball and women's lacrosse teams were competitive throughout the season but did not qualify for post-season play.

In the classroom, the Griffin athletes posted a department G.P.A. of 3.207, their highest in the post-pandemic era with 122 athletes earning a 3.50 or better for the semester. 🦊



*Kyle Gartenmayer '24*

*Sam Slater '25*



*Julius Sorino '24*

*Daniel Grubb '23*



*Noah Hammon '25*

*Chase Snyder '24*





# THE NEW ONLINE MBA PROGRAM IN STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

Want to transform your career? Want to increase your salary potential? Want to open doors to leadership jobs in business, nonprofit, social work team, or counseling programs? Want to do it all from home? Then enroll in CHC's new online MBA program!

The MBA program allows you to set your own pace. All courses are online, asynchronous, and you can complete the program in as little as one year. For those with a non-business degree, we offer foundational self-study courses in accounting, finance, economics, and statistics that will prepare the non-business major for success in the MBA program.

Contact the Center for Business Director, Rita Borzillo (borzillor@chc.edu) with questions. 🦋



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# Save the date CENTENNIAL SOIRÉE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025 • FROM 6-10 PM**

**This ticketed celebration will be held on CHC's campus.  
Join us for cocktails in the Rotunda  
followed by food, music, and fellowship.**



Visit [www.chc.edu/100](http://www.chc.edu/100) for more details on this  
and many other exciting events throughout the year.





# *Alumni* **RELATIONS**





## *A Message from our Alumni Board President*

Dear Griffins,

It is with profound honor and sincere enthusiasm that I assume the role of Alumni Association Board of Directors President for Chestnut Hill College. As an alumna deeply rooted in the mission and values of our College, I am privileged to serve in a capacity that allows me to contribute to the ongoing legacy of our alma mater. The opportunity to lead the Alumni Board is not just a personal privilege but a commitment to fostering connections, celebrating achievements, and ensuring the continued growth and success of our College community. I am grateful for the trust placed in me and look forward to deep and meaningful collaboration with alumni in the years ahead.

Reflecting on the past year, I am filled with pride at the remarkable accomplishments of our fellow alums. Whether in our professional pursuits, community service, or personal milestones, Chestnut Hill College graduates continue to impact the world positively. Our commitment to the values instilled during our time on campus is evident in how our alumni contribute to society.

As we look ahead, the Alumni Board is excited to announce upcoming events and initiatives to enhance the CHC alum experience further. The Board is brainstorming ways we can involve more alumni athletes in campus life, planning new opportunities and events for young alumni, as well as planning for the 100th Anniversary of Chestnut Hill College. Our goal is to strengthen the relationship between the College and graduates of all three of its schools. We encourage you to stay connected, participate in events, and share your stories and ideas, as your experiences and achievements are integral to the Chestnut Hill College narrative.

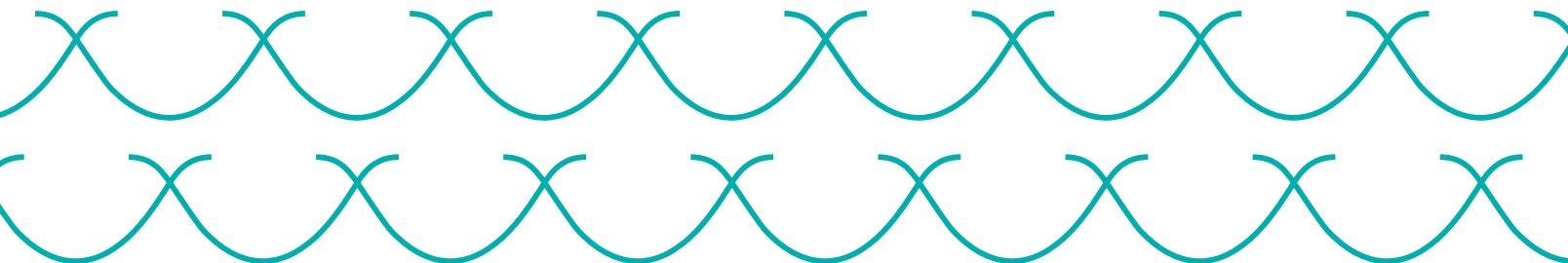
In the spirit of giving back, I also want to express our gratitude to those who have generously supported the College through their time, talent, and financial contributions. Your commitment to advancing our alma mater ensures that future generations of students have access to the transformative education we received as Chestnut Hill College students.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of the Alumni Board and each member of the alumni community for your continued dedication and love to our College. Together, we can build on the legacy of Chestnut Hill College and our beloved Sisters of Saint Joseph and create a future filled with shared successes and lifelong relationships.

Wishing you all the very best,

*Cristina D. Achuff*

Cristina Diaz Achuff '15  
Alumni Board President





# LIFELONG LEARNING



It's never too late to take a class, learn a new skill, or explore a topic that interests you.

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# CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE

# Joan Lunney, Ph.D., '68 Recognized with DISTINGUISHED VETERINARY IMMUNOLOGIST (DVI) AWARD

Posted online: March 27, 2024 | By Jaime Renman '25 SGS



Joan Lunney, Ph.D., '68 followed an unorthodox path in her successful career in animal science through decades of persistence, resilience, and commitment to inclusivity.

Recently, Lunney accepted the Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist (DVI) Award from the International Union of Immunological Societies and Veterinary Immunology. Presented at the 2023 International Veterinary Immunology Symposium in Kruger National Park, South Africa, the award recognizes her achievements in science and the creation of immunological toolkits, in-field innovation, and mentoring of new generations of veterinary immunologists.

For over 40 years, Lunney has worked as a distinguished research scientist in the Agricultural Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) where she is known for her work on swine immunology and genetics.

Lunney graduated from Chestnut Hill College with a degree in chemistry and a minor in social work. Although a commuter student, she found ways to be involved in her community, both on campus and locally in Philadelphia. She was treasurer of her class, tutored in the city, and became involved in the women's rights movement. Before senior year, wanting to get involved in research, she wrote to 13 chemical companies in search of a summer job, and landed one at Corning Glass Works in New York, where she researched the safety of glass containers for baby food.

Graduating during the height of the civil rights and women's rights movements, Lunney wanted to pursue a socially relevant career. But after teaching chemistry for three years at Camden



*Joan Lunney (center) holds her award as she stands with friends and colleagues at the IVIS 2023 event.*

*Photo courtesy of: Joan Lunney*

Catholic High School, she realized her greater desire was to pursue research.

Lunney got into Johns Hopkins for her doctoral studies. She notes that a life of learning has been a critical factor to the longevity of her scientific career. "I never had a virology course, a microbiology course, at all when I started my graduate degree," says Lunney. "It was more about learning all along the way."

While getting her degree, she worked at the National Institutes for Health (NIH) where she studied using pigs as transplant models. "I am known as the 'swine' lady at the USDA, even though I grew up in Philadelphia and went to a zoo for the first time when I was 21 years old," says Lunney.

Upon completing her Ph.D., Lunney continued her career as an independent researcher at the USDA, where she still works in the laboratory at 78 years young.

Says Lunney, "My career was serendipitous; I was at the right place at the right time, and the civil rights

movement shaped my career, as did having good mentors. I've had to be resilient; things don't always work out and as a scientist, I had to get used to failure. And most of all, I've had the persistence to trust myself that I had good ideas and followed through with them."

She is a Hall of Fame scientist at the USDA. She has been active in international societies and held leadership positions at animal immunology societies while ensuring diversity among the leadership boards. In 2022 Lunney received the U.S. Presidential Rank Award as a Meritorious Senior Professional, recognizing her sustained record of exceptional scientific achievement on a national and international level at the Department of Agriculture.

"My legacy is the people I've trained and the next generation of scientists," notes Lunney. "Having a job I love keeps me working. It's been a pleasure to be doing so many things for the advancement of science, women, and those around me." 🦋



# Alumni Awards

## BESTOWED AT REUNION 2024

At Reunion 2024, four notable alumni were presented with awards for their various contributions to Chestnut Hill College. Congratulations!



Andrew Conboy '18 (l) and Cristina Diaz Achuff '15 (r)

**Andrew Conboy '18** received the **Young Alumni Impact Award**. The award recognizes alumni for outstanding service, advocacy and contribution to the alumni association and/or the College. The award is given to someone who graduated in the last 20 years. Andrew has remained in close contact with CHC since graduating in 2018. He regularly returns to campus to volunteer for events such as Carol Night and Reunion and is an active member of the Alumni Association Board. Professionally, he has gained over 200 thousand followers on TikTok as @andrew\_the\_arborist, sharing his deep knowledge and love of trees and plants. He is an excellent representation of what it means to be a Griffin!



Sister Carol Jean Vale, President Emerita (l)  
and Sister Mary Theresa Shevland (r)

**The Eleanore Dolan Egan '28 Award for Outstanding Service to Chestnut Hill College** recognizes the special contributions of Chestnut Hill College alumni to the College through its Alumni Association. The award is named in memory of the first president of the Alumnae Association, who was a member of the College's first graduating class and who founded the Alumnae Association in 1929. This year, **Sister Mary Theresa Shevland '73** received the award. Sister Mary Theresa has been a fixture at CHC for nearly 20 years, using her gift of relationship-building to secure millions of dollars in donations to the College. In a devastating turn of events, Sister Mary Theresa passed away just 3 weeks after receiving the award. She was thrilled to be recognized, and our hearts are comforted knowing that she knew how much her work meant to all of us.

This year, two special alumni received the **Distinguished Achievement Award**. This award identifies graduates of the College who have produced a history of accomplishment in their business or profession, or in civic, philanthropic, or other volunteer activities.

**Dr. Deja Barone Gilbert '04**, President and CEO at Gaudenzia, has dedicated her career to saving the lives of those affected by substance use disorder and mental health conditions. In her current role as president and CEO at Gaudenzia, she is responsible for overseeing the agency of 1,200 healthcare professionals who treat more than 15,000 clients annually.

Dr. Gilbert is a licensed therapist with extensive experience facilitating individual, group, and family treatment services.

After receiving her Master of Science in counseling studies from Chestnut Hill College, she pursued a Doctor of Philosophy in counseling studies from Capella University. She is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, as well as a member of American Counseling Association, Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling, Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling and Internal Association for Resilience and Trauma Counseling.

We at Chestnut Hill College are grateful for her hard work - especially as it relates to our mission.

**Sister Eileen Jude Wust '72** received the Distinguished Achievement Award for her many contributions to the field of education in the tri-state area. An area director for the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister Eileen spends much of her time counseling and caring for her fellow Sisters. Her niece, alumna **Jen Johnson Kebea '05**, bestowed the award in front of many extended family members. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Sister Eileen!



Deja Barone Gilbert '04 (l)  
and Maureen Fisher McLaughlin (r)

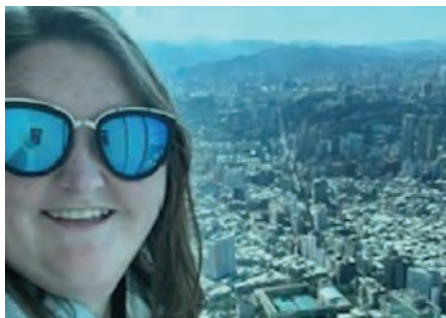


Jen Johnson Kebea '05 (l) and Sister Eileen Jude Wust (r)

# Class Notes



Getting by with a little help from our Griffins, **Marilee Gallagher '14** married **Greg Gorski '07, SGS '17** on April 13, 2024. Both Marilee and Greg are employees at Chestnut Hill College, having worked here since their respective graduations. It was an honor to have so many Griffins of all generations present and involved in the ceremony with CHC alums in the bridal party and helping provide the videography, music, and more. Once a Griffin, Always a Griffin!



**Caitlin Kain '13** is doing just fine.



**Lisa Fiorillo Perfidio '84** has published two children's books and is working on a third.



**Kathy O'Boyle '84** is working on a master's degree of liberal arts (MLA) at the University of Pennsylvania and moving toward her capstone

which will be "American Irish identity in today's America."



**Sean Herbert '13** and **Kate Macomber Herbert '13, SGS '14** welcomed baby Campbell.



**Katie O'Neill Rotondo '15, SGS '16** and **Brandon Rotondo '16** welcomed Seamus Jude on March 27, 2024. Seamus already loves the Rotonda!



**Emma Burkey Hill '13** and Christopher Hill welcomed Aurora Mae on November 24, 2023



# *Eulogy for Mary Theresa Shevland, SSJ* THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024

By Sister Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., | President Emerita, Chestnut Hill College | Edited 7/9/2024



Here, we honor the life of a truly beloved woman. Mary Theresa Shevland, Sister Teresita Marie, Teresitie (as my family called her), Shevy (her nickname in the postulate), Aunt Mary, by whatever name we knew her, to experience her person was life-affirming.

Mary was the oldest of four children and grew up in a charming home in Havertown, Pennsylvania. After attending the parish elementary school, Mary went to Archbishop Prendergast High School for girls, graduating in 1964.

I first encountered Mary on September 12, 1964, when, with 95 other young women, we became postulants in the Sisters of Saint Joseph. I came to know and love her as a friend when we were missioned together at Notre Dame de Lourdes Parish in Swarthmore.

When I lived with Mary I was fascinated by her perpetual motion. Not only did she teach first grade, more arduous an endeavor than the uninitiated will ever realize, she was also a music teacher, which meant she taught lessons before school, at

noon, after school. She led the rehearsals each week for Sunday Mass. When she was neither in her first-grade classroom nor in the music room, she was on the phone calling people who were seeking her counsel or writing notes to console, encourage, or celebrate with those she knew. The word “idle” was not in her vocabulary.

It was in Swarthmore that I started to admire Mary’s ability to nurture deep and lasting relationships with women and men from a variety of generations and walks of life. Mary was masterfully adept at fostering friendships and she was a frequent guest in the homes of parishioners, some of whom became lifelong friends. This was her pattern every place she served. She collected and connected friends, creating ever widening circles of warmth, love and inclusion.

The year before Final Vows, our party had the opportunity to take a class taught by a renowned theologian, Father Thomas Dubay, who, over the course of the year, introduced us to contemplation. I believe it was then that her hunger and thirst for God became the focus of her life in a more expansive, all-encompassing way.

At the Mass of Thanksgiving after her profession of Final Vows, she selected a communion meditation from Saint Augustine’s Confessions. The exquisite passage, “What do I love, when I love my God,” reveals a God who is knowable, reachable, touchable, though altogether ineffable, a God who fills us with Divine Light and Love in an inexpressibly overarching way. This was Mary’s God and daily Eucharist was her lifeline to the Holy Mystery.

Faithfully, Mary prayed for others and their intentions. She had a mantra that she prayed while driving or waiting for whatever was next, inserting different names into her petitions. A friend told me that when she thanked Mary for her prayers, Mary responded, “It is the best gift I have to offer.”

Not surprisingly, Mary exhibited great gratitude for the least and greatest acts of kindness or thoughtfulness and she did not just say thank you once, she said it 3 times! She never failed to be appreciative for the goodness that came her way, never took a good deed for granted.

Her positive example attracted young women to ask her to sponsor them when they desired to enter the Sisters of Saint Joseph, clearly pointing to the fact that her manner of relating inspired others to emulate her and follow in her footsteps.

She spent 18 years at Chestnut Hill College as the Director of Planned Giving. I doubt we will ever know the incalculable

difference her service made in the lives of our alumnae and alumni. Her attentiveness to each one's needs was unmatched. She genuinely cared about each person she contacted and stayed in touch with them for years. She sent birthday cards, attended funerals, visited the sick at their homes and in hospitals, and prayed with alumni who needed her.

Most recently, though feeling unwell herself, she spent hours on the phone for many nights with an alumna-friend in North Carolina, whose husband was dying. When he died, Mary wept with her and for her. Her job may have been planned giving, but the central focus of her ministry was the person. It is no wonder that she was so successful in fundraising.

Of course, she was not perfect. She never would have been invited onto a cooking show for her mastery of the culinary arts; nor the first one picked to be on a sports' team. Her unfamiliarity with golf was blatantly evident when she tried to take a full swing with a putter to hit a ball lying on the green; her technology skills needed attention and updating, but boy, did she know how to use the iPhone. And, alas, she liked speed. Several of us went to spend the day with a friend in Jersey and Mary was driving. We overstayed our intended departure time and needed to return to our convents ASAP. This was in the 1970's. Do you remember how in those days cars started to shimmy when they sailed past 70? Well, we shimmied all the way home as Mary hit 80 and kept the pedal to the metal while our hearts throbbed in our throats.

Mary loved the theater and was also passionate about the Philadelphia Eagles, but at the top of her list of "likes," was the



Jersey shore, or any shore for that matter. Her affinity for the ocean and beach are well known. She loved life and savored God's beauty wherever she found it, drawing energy and peace from the ocean's waves, the sound of the gulls, and warmth of the sun and the surprises hidden in places she visited at home and abroad.

Last, but not least, she loved her brothers and sister and their children, whose lives she followed with great interest. If a big event was looming or a sickness or a need, she was quick to ask us to pray for them. They were lights in her life.

Her last days were spent in the ICU at Cooper Hospital in Camden. No matter what procedure she had to endure, her response was thank you – and yes, sometimes, she said it three times. In addition, her filter gone, she quipped hilarious one-liners to her caregivers. I could hardly believe how funny she was in the middle of all she was going through.

Grateful, witty, selfless, full of God, she surrendered herself to the circumstances she could not control.

On June 22, our beloved Mary Theresa, faithful friend of God, surprised us by going to her eternal home. To borrow from Shakespeare, Dearest Mary, we bid you farewell -- for now. "Good night, sweet friend, may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest." ✠



**TO DONATE TO THE SISTER MARY THERESA SHEVLAND  
MEMORIAL FUND, USE THE ENVELOPE ENCLOSED OR  
SCAN THE CODE WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA.**





# *In Memoriam*

Alumni deceased since last publication | (Notification to CHC: September 30, 2022 to June 30, 2024)

Elizabeth Moonan Tome '45	Mildred Renner Pfeifer '55	Rita McAlarnen Stracka '65
Helene Boffa McGuinn '47	Beverly Kray Connolly '56	Jane Burkee '66
Patricia Elder Bonacarti '49	Joan Marrone '56	Virginia Ott Grant '66
Janet Waller Hynes '49	Esther Moriarty McCarthy '56	Mary J. Salzmann '66
Anna Gene Hurst Madonna '49	Patricia Andris Walsh '56	Patricia Brumberger Shields '66
Mary Connor Brandt '50	Letitia Hickey Ward '56	Mary Jo Platten Barbi '67
Therese Garvey Fox '50	Rosemarie Schmitt Clark '57	Marilyn Hennessey DiMuro '67
Marie Rosato King '50	Marie Albert Hetzel, SSJ '57	Rosemarie Litterio Shannon '68
Gerda Steinhauer Koetter '50	Annette Marschang O'Donnell '57	Carol Dragonetti Avicolti '69
Virginia Grant Robinson '50	Katherine Schlott Slavin '57	Eleanor Yoa Ayers '69
Bernardine Keeler Abbott '51	Constance Weber Cahill '58	Kathleen Debow Karsch '69
Elizabeth Fang Chang '51	Rosemarie O'Brien Cleaver '58	Theresa Cappelli, SSJ '70
Carolyn Baldino Conboy '51	Suzanne Dufrasne '58	Lynne Giletto '70
Patricia Higgins Green '51	Racine Ellis Murdock '57	Dorothy Prettyman, SSJ '70
Theresa Hunt Imms '51	Constance Inglesby Perotti '58	Christine O'Donnell Carroll '71
Adelaide Brothers Palmer '51	Marie Roche Sweeney '58	Elaine Cullen, SSJ '71
Therese Zogby '51	Charlotte Kelley Hyer '59	Ann Kramer, SSJ '72
Mary Merz Berko '52	Natalie Busse Burr '60	Rose Battistelli Poekert '72
Ruth Wingel Doyle '52	Ellen Barrett '61	Maria Martinez '73
Elizabeth Wright Fury '52	Barbara Piontek Carpenter '61	Mary Theresa Shevlard, SSJ '73
Anne Duffy Mirsch '52	Rosemary Magee Cicchiello '61	Marianne Fieco, SSJ '77 SCPS
Eileen Kelly Lammers '53	Kathleen McCarthy Doyle-Kelly '61	Judith Oliver, SSJ '77
Mary M. Martire, Ed.D. '53	Marilyn Johnson McCarron '61	Marjorie Topper Mannix '78
Elizabeth Muscarelli Rodenbaugh '53	Judith Scranton, SSJ, Ph.D. '72	Valerie Lee Jeter-McKenzie, M.A. '79
Jane Anderson, ACJ '54	Margaret Fick Edmonds '63	Anne Thomas Taylor, SSJ '87 SCPS
Marie McCradden Burke '54	Linda Davis Evans '63	E. Kathleen Sweeney '94 SCPS
Mary Teresa O'Hara Dwyer '54	Paula Nyhart Gowen '63	Francine D'Amore '96 SCPS
Anastasia "Nancy" Donleavy Girod '54	Sandra Cupini Hagenbarth '63	Dianne Nicely '96 SGS
Patricia Crane Lynch '54	Flora Hoelderle '63	Albert Ferguson '99 SGS
Mary Gertrude Hayes Reardon '54	Joan Willey Thirion '63	Robert Wayne Linde '01 SCPS
Jane Maguire Starke '54	Ruth Walker '63	Christopher M. Evans '19
Patricia Hickey Fabricius '55	Eleanor Bringenberg, SSJ '64	Malcolm Sesay '24
Kathleen Masse Minutella '55	Katherine Magee '65	



**OUR MISSION** - Chestnut Hill College, an inclusive Catholic community rooted in and animated by the Mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, is committed to transformative holistic education, just relationships, innovative thinking, and responsible action toward a more unified global society and sustainable Earth.





**CHESTNUT  
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9601 Germantown Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19118



FOLLOW CHC ON SOCIAL MEDIA  
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**CHESTNUT  
HILL  
COLLEGE**

1924 — 2024

***Make a plan to join our celebration of  
Chestnut Hill College's  
100th Anniversary,  
kicking off in fall 2024!***



### **PRAYER SERVICE**

**Wednesday, September 25, 2024  
at 2 pm • Saint Joseph Hall Rotunda**

All are welcome to our opening prayer service to begin the celebration of our 100th anniversary year!

Reception to follow.

### **GRIFFIN FEST**

**Saturday, October 12, 2024  
from 12-4 pm**

This family-friendly event for alumni, students, faculty, families and staff will feature vendors, music and festivities for all ages, food trucks, and opportunities to cheer on our Griffin athletics teams!

### **CENTENNIAL SOIRÉE**

**Saturday, April 26, 2025  
from 6-10 pm**

This ticketed celebration will be held on CHC's campus. Join us for cocktails in the Rotunda followed by food, music, and fellowship.

Visit [www.chc.edu/100](http://www.chc.edu/100) for more details on these and many other exciting events throughout the year.