

# CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025

CELEBRATING

100  
YEARS

*It's a Great Time*  
TO BE A GRIFFIN!

Meet Interim President,  
Brian McCloskey

Leading Ladies: a Conversation  
with CHC's Board Chairs

FY23/24 Donor Report

Continuing our 100 Years of Griffin Celebrations!

Dear Griffins:

What an exciting fall semester we had! As we finish the first half of our historic 100th year, we are looking toward the second half, with more exciting events, including our Centennial Soiree on April 26, 2025. We hope you can plan to be a part of the event. In addition, this coming June, the Archbishop of Philadelphia, the Most Reverend Nelson Perez will be celebrating a 100th anniversary mass in the Motherhouse Chapel.

After the fall semester settled down, we all enjoyed a vibrant Griffin Fest weekend in early October. Five of our sports teams played and the campus was bustling with future Griffins as we held our first open house of the year. Our sports teams and especially our student-athletes never disappoint. The highlight was our sprint football team beating Caldwell University in our home opener. The team finished the season tying for the best record in program history with a record of 5-2.

Chestnut Hill College was chosen by the non-profit organization Global Philadelphia to host one of 17 murals dedicated to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The mural, based on SDG 15 – Life on Land was painted by local artist Nile Livingston and is located behind the SSJ convent on our beautiful property. The mural will be displayed for a full year before moving downtown alongside the remaining murals to create one tribute to the UN goals, as part of America 250, taking place right here in Philadelphia in 2026. It is well worth the visit to see this beautiful display!

While we continue to focus on our future, we remain committed to our past, especially with honoring the Sisters of Saint Joseph. In the Hall of Philanthropy, there is a special 100th anniversary display commemorating our history, with pictures of many alumni, Sisters and friends, along with celebrations of past accomplishments. There is also a student/alumni curated art installation on the fifth floor of St. Joseph Hall. We invite all to relive the College's history by stopping by the exhibits.

The College celebrated our groundbreaking of the new Nursing Clinical Arts Center at the SugarLoaf campus in November of 2024. The event, covered locally by Channel 6ABC, was well attended. Local representatives, board members, donors, Sisters of Saint Joseph, and members of the Nursing Advisory Board, all attended. The culmination of the event was introducing our newest nursing students who matriculated this past fall. The \$4.5 million raised will renovate the previous conference center building into simulation labs and classrooms for our newest program. The College's fundraising goal was aided by a \$400,000 RACP grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In addition to our nursing program, the College welcomed our first cohort of MBA students. The College launched this asynchronous, online program in September of 2024, with great interest. Ours is the most cost-effective program in the region.

Chestnut Hill College has our first two endowed professors, Rebecca Eikey, Ph.D., is the Regina Cuta-Papa Endowed Professor of Chemistry and Professor Joseph Kulkosky, Ph.D., is the Regina Cuta-Papa Endowed Professor of Biology. Both positions are funded by the generous bequest of alumna Dr. Cuta-Papa '56.

Traditions like Carol Night and Christmas decorating continue to engage new Griffins and alumni from all over the region. It was a beautiful Christmas season on The Hill!

This spring, we are more excited than ever for the College's future. I've had the pleasure of meeting so many wonderful and dedicated alumni and hearing your stories of what makes Chestnut Hill College so special is inspiring.

With the brightest of futures, it's a great time to be a Griffin!

Sincerely,

Brian McCloskey

Brian McCloskey, D.M., M.B.A.  
Interim President/Vice President for Financial Affairs, CFO



SPRING 2025

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We invite your comments, questions, and suggestions by contacting the editor at: [magazine@chc.edu](mailto:magazine@chc.edu)

Greetings Griffins and Friends,

It's been an exciting year for the College community as we **Celebrate the Past** one hundred years and **Shape the Future** for the next generation. The 100th Anniversary Steering Committee and subcommittees have worked very hard on numerous events and it's wonderful to see them come together.

We began in September with a beautiful prayer service in the Rotunda. The prayers, songs and tributes engaged a full audience and were delightful to see! President McCloskey and Father Bob Mulligan's remarks wove the 100th Anniversary theme into a prayer of gratitude and hope. Long-time English faculty member, Barbara Lonnquist, Ph.D., delivered a heartfelt, moving, and humorous talk, which you can read on page 46 of this issue.

Griffin Fest was one of many fall events offering all a chance to join in the College's 100th Anniversary excitement. Alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends attended the festival, which coincided with CHC's open house for prospective students. In Saint Joseph Hall, visitors enjoyed the visual art exhibit on the fifth floor and a historical display of the College's first one hundred years in the Hall of Philanthropy. CHC athletes participated in a number of games, including volleyball, tennis and sprint football. The gorgeous fall day showcased our beautiful campus, decorated with 100th banners inside and out.

We also joined the Griffin community for a night at the Phillies game, a regional alumni brunch in northern New Jersey, and an expanded Holiday on the Hill weekend, which included the annual and beloved Carol Night and fireside chat about Christmas decorations at CHC. There was an alumni retreat and a winter athletic open house with doubleheader men's and women's basketball games.

The celebrations aren't over yet, as there is more happening this spring, including our marquee event, the Centennial Soiree, on Saturday, April 26, 2025 and a celebratory mass in June as part of an expanded reunion weekend. I hope to see you at the mass and soiree! Please check [www.chc.edu/100](http://www.chc.edu/100) for all upcoming events.

This anniversary year is a tribute to the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Chestnut Hill College, and I am very grateful to the members of the 100th Steering Committee and subcommittees, the College faculty staff, and personnel, alumni, board members and friends who made this Centennial happen. Their dedication, enthusiasm and time commitment is extraordinary. In the words of President McCloskey, "It's a great time to be a Griffin!"

Cheers to the next 100 years,

*Lynn M. Sharp*

Lynn Mulvaney Sharp '87  
Chair, 100th Anniversary Steering Committee



IN  
This  
ISSUE

4	CAMPUS NEWS.....	4
10	CELEBRATING OUR PAST On Solid Foundation: The Faith and Perseverance that Built Saint Joseph Hall ..... ASEC @ 25! A look back in gratitude at the African Sisters Education Collaborative .....	12 14
16	SHAPING OUR FUTURE Leading Ladies: A Conversation with CHC's Board Chairs ..... Lessons from the Wissahickon Valley: Biodiversity, Climate Resilience, and Community.....	17 21
23	DONOR REPORT The Caritas Society ..... The Fleur-De-Lis Society ..... The Hallmark Society..... FY24 Alumni Donors ..... FY24 Tribute Gifts.....	25 26 29 30 36
39	ATHLETICS Fall 2024 Highlights ..... What is Sprint Football?.....	40 42
43	ALUMNI RELATIONS Reflections ..... Class Notes ..... Reunion Weekend 2025 ..... In Memoriam ..... Get to know the Office of Institutional Advancement (OIA)!.....	44 45 48 50 51

## ATTORNEY CAROL STEINOUR YOUNG, ESQ. '82

*Named President of the Board of Dauphin County Court Appointed Special Advocates*

Dauphin County press release, September 18, 2024

Dauphin County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, announced the appointment of Carol Steinour Young, Esq. as president of its board of directors. Steinour Young had joined the CASA board in June 2022 and has chaired its Governance Committee since that time.

Carol Steinour Young has extensive experience with leadership roles in law, philanthropy and volunteerism. For 34 years, she was a trial attorney at McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC specializing in complex business litigation. She is the board chair and a longtime member of the Chestnut Hill College Board of Directors, as well as a School Board member of the East Pennsboro Area School District. Past roles include founding member and past chair of the United Way of Central PA's Leadership Committee; past chair and past board member of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Nature Conservancy; and a past board member of the Harrisburg Salvation Army.

Congratulations to our indefatigable board chair, **Carol Steinour Young, Esq. '82**, on her new appointment. 🌸



Carol Steinour Young, Esq. '82

## ARMY ANNOUNCED NEWEST SUPERCOMPUTER

*Named after CHC alumna*

The U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, known as DEVCOM, Army Research Laboratory's Department of Defense Supercomputing Resource Center will name its newest supercomputer "Fran" in honor of one of the original six ENIAC programmers, Chestnut Hill College alumna, Frances V. Bilas Spence '42.



Frances V. Bilas Spence '42

The ENIAC, which stands for Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer, was the world's first general purpose scientific computer. Of the six programmers who worked on it, two were graduates of Chestnut Hill College: Kathleen McNulty Mauchly Antonelli '42 and Frances V. Bilas Spence '42. 🌸

## CATHERINE GILSTEIN, MBA, PH.D.,

*Shares Insight and Wisdom in Her New Book*

Catherine Gilstein, MBA, Ph.D., assistant professor of business, and program director of organizational leadership at CHC, published a new book, "You're 18! Now What?" Packed with insights and practical advice, this book will help anyone navigate the exciting and sometimes overwhelming transition into adulthood. You can buy "You're 18! Now What?" at the CHC bookstore or directly from Amazon or Barnes & Noble. 🌸

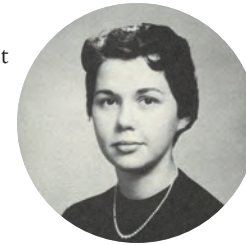


Catherine Gilstein, MBA, Ph.D.

## PROFESSORS JOSEPH KULKOSKY, PH.D. AND REBECCA EIKEY, PH.D.

*Named First Endowed Professors at CHC*

Thanks to a generous bequest of \$3.2 million from alumna Regina Cuta-Papa, M.D. '56, Chestnut Hill College was able to name



Regina Cuta-Papa, M.D. '56

its first ever endowed professors: Joseph Kulkosky, Ph.D., department chair and professor of biology, and Rebecca Eikey, Ph.D., department chair and associate professor of chemistry.

When asked about his newly endowed position, Kulkosky said, "This is, without question, the most meaningful accolade I have ever received. A review of Dr. Cuta-Papa's biography reveals a most exceptional individual, an immense scholar and healer of many. This

extraordinary gift is most appreciated especially coming from such an extraordinary person and alumna of this College. I am truly humbled and inspired, not only by this gift, but more so by coming to know from whom it is offered - a profoundly generous and magnificent spirit."

Eikey echoed the sentiment, adding "I am truly honored and grateful to hold a position endowed through the bequest



Joseph Kulkosky, Ph.D.



Rebecca Eikey, Ph.D.

of Regina Cuta-Papa, M.D. '56. This endowment allows me to continue my passion for teaching and mentoring the next generation of scientists and healthcare professionals, along with the resources to provide transformative learning experiences for CHC students."

Graduating cum laude from Chestnut Hill College in 1956 with a bachelor of science in chemistry, Regina Cuta-Papa cherished her time at the College. Active in the CHC community, Cuta-Papa was a member of the Kappa Gamma Pi Honor Society, served as vice president of the Science Club, was a member of the German and Glee Clubs, and was also the first woman awarded the Philadelphia "Engineers Award" at the College. 🌸

## CONSTRUCTION KICKS OFF FOR STATE-OF-THE-ART

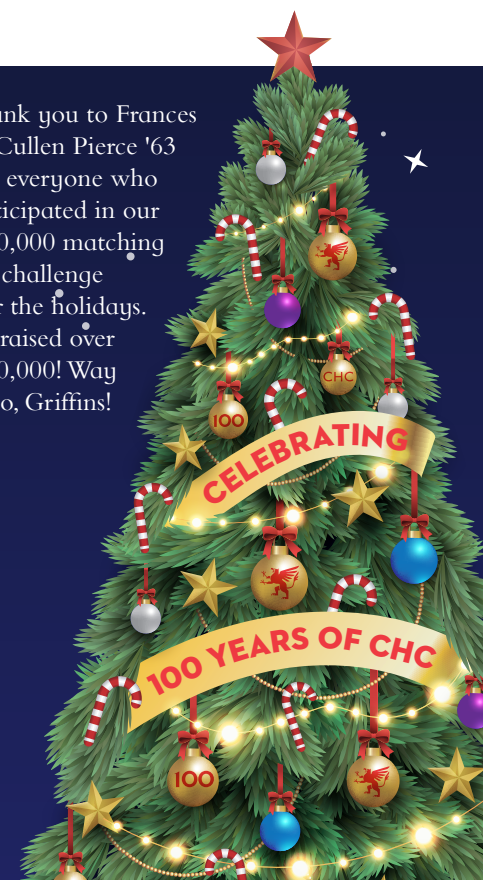
*Nursing Clinical Arts Center*



Chestnut Hill College welcomes six nursing students as part of the first cohort. From L to R: Interim President Brian McCloskey (far left), Director of Nursing Susan Apold (center) and SSJ Congregational President Sister Eileen Marnien (far right) joins six new nursing students (pictured in blue) from L to R: Roxie Mendoza, Paris Gray, Amanah Chiaka, Thomas Gallagher, Gabriella Vassallo, and Julianna DiFebbo

On November 19, Interim President, Brian McCloskey, D.M., MBA, led the construction kickoff ceremony for the new Nursing Clinical Arts Center on the SugarLoaf campus. Joining McCloskey to help celebrate this momentous occasion were esteemed healthcare colleagues, industry professionals, local elected officials, community leaders, the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and a contingent of the College's staff, faculty, board members, donors, and most importantly, the six nursing students who make up the first cohort in the program's history. 🌸

Thank you to Frances McCullen Pierce '63 and everyone who participated in our \$100,000 matching gift challenge over the holidays. We raised over \$260,000! Way to go, Griffins!



# ANNUAL GRIFFIN FEST AND FALL OPEN HOUSE

*Bring Energy, Excitement to Campus*

Posted online: October 22, 2024

By Marilee Gallagher '14

A sense of belonging, a sense of home – those were the themes that punctuated the 100th Anniversary Griffin Fest and Fall Open House on October 12, as alumni returned home to campus and prospective students had a chance to discover what may well become their new home one day.

“Open House was full of energy as families gathered together to explore all that Chestnut Hill College has to offer,” notes Chanel Young, M.Ed., director of undergraduate admissions. “It was an exciting day filled with engaging conversations, insightful presentations, and opportunities to learn about our vibrant campus community.”

Guests also had a chance to take in two special displays, the newly redone Hall of Philanthropy, which showcases curated artifacts and photos from the College’s rich history, and the 100th Anniversary Art Show on the fifth floor, displaying student, faculty, and alumni art along with the 100th Anniversary edition of *The Grackle*, featuring photos, poems, and stories capturing the College’s legacy over the years.

From inside the halls to outside on the hill, beautiful weather and activities awaited prospective students, visiting alumni, students, and community members at Griffin Fest. There were athletic inflatables allowing guests to test their strength, speed, and accuracy, pumpkin painting, tie-dye with special-themed Griffin Fest t-shirts, cornhole, a table for food pantry donations, balloon art, face painting, a Quidditch demonstration, ice cream, lunch, and more.



Alumnae Margot Mongil Kwoka '80 (right) and Emily DeMalto '15, '16 SGS (left), along with Janice Kuklick, CHC's former athletic director, take in a beautiful painting in the CHC Visual Art Show on the fifth floor of Saint Joseph Hall, which opened October 12, 2024 and runs through the end of June 2025.



New historic display celebrates milestone moments in the history of CHC.

All of this complimented the athletic competitions on campus which included women’s volleyball and women’s tennis, and men and women’s soccer just a few miles down the road. Even Big Griff made a special appearance, creating smiles and laughter everywhere he went.

“Griffin Fest was an exciting Centennial event – it was great to see so many people on campus,” notes Lynn Sharp '87, chair of the 100th Anniversary Steering Committee. “Many alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends attended the festival and took part in all the activities there were to offer. The campus was energized with the open house, art show, historical display, and so many athletic events creating chances to cheer on our student-athletes. The gorgeous fall day showcased our beautiful campus, decorated with 100th banners and decor, inside and out. It was a perfect way to ‘celebrate the past and shape the future!’

The daylong festival ended off campus at the A Field, home of Griffins’ sprint football team. Over 300 people came out to cheer on CHC to an almost historic result. The Griffins played the U.S. Naval Academy down to the wire, even leading going into the fourth quarter. Their valiant effort fell just shy of victory, but that didn’t stop GriffinNation from supporting and cheering all the way until the final whistle.

All-in-all, it was a day to remember and one that proved Jon Bon Jovi’s lyrics to be spot on, because ‘Who says you can’t go home?’ Certainly not Chestnut Hill College! 🦁

# You're Invited

Chestnut Hill College

## CENTENNIAL SOIRÉE

Saturday, April 26, 2025

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

*Sip, Savor, and Celebrate*  
THE INDUCTION OF OUR  
NEWEST LIBRIS SOCIETY MEMBERS.

To purchase tickets or sponsorships  
scan the QR code or visit  
[www.chc.edu/soiree](http://www.chc.edu/soiree)



# Meet Brian McCloskey

## INTERIM PRESIDENT OF CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE

### ON BEING A PHILLY GUY

I was born and raised in Philadelphia, taught by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in grade school at Saint Ambrose Parish. If you're from Philly, then you know we talk about parishes. I was raised in the Feltonville section of Philly, the second oldest of six, and we're all still in the tri-state area. We are a very close family, and being as large as we are, it's difficult to see each other often but we make it a point to get together for the holidays and a few times over the summer.

My college career is embedded in Philly as well. I went to the Community College of Philadelphia as an adult learner and earned my associate's degree, and then went to what was then Philadelphia Textile where I received my bachelor's in accounting. After Textile I went to Saint Joseph's University for my MBA. So, I'm a proud Philly guy. I did earn my doctorate from University of Maryland, the one time I left PA for education.

### ON BECOMING THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

I was hired in fall 2022 as the Vice President for Financial Affairs/CFO. The job was and remains challenging. In spring of 2024, When Dr. William Latimer stepped down, the board asked me step in as acting president. And then on July 1st, they had they appointed me unanimously to be interim president for the immediate future.



### ON THE JOB

Since I started, I've visited probably 18 to 20 community colleges, and probably another ten high school and school districts. I've been visiting with the presidents of community colleges, not just in southeastern Pennsylvania, but also in New Jersey and out in Central PA. I've been either building or rebuilding relationships and partnerships, trying to shore up the transfer portal through the community colleges, and increase visibility of our brand. I've also had the pleasure of visiting many Archdiocesan high schools in the region talking to their presidents and principals about the programs here at the College. I want to remind everyone that Chestnut Hill College is here and that we are excited about our next century. The reception has been very welcoming, Chestnut Hill College and the Sisters of Saint Joseph are held in high regard.

I've also visited half a dozen four-year schools looking to expand relationships. For instance, we have a dual admission

with Temple University and their School of Pharmacy, so our students have automatic admission to the School of Pharmacy provided they maintain certain, specific, academic standards. We are talking with another local university about a similar pathway to a law degree.

### ON CHC'S CHALLENGES

Enrollment was impacted greatly by COVID-19. Bringing in larger classes improves the health of the College in many ways, so rebuilding the enrollment is the first priority. And that's improving steadily. We have had two straight years of record applications and acceptances. Our class for the Fall of 2025 is shaping up to be quite strong.

We also have a beautiful, charming 100-year-old campus, which we are celebrating all year. What comes with a facility of this age is deferred maintenance, and some facilities upgrades that are needed. We just invested in the dorms and the dining facilities upwards of \$2M in the last 12



to 18 months. Most of the investment is behind the scenes and is not readily visible, but it includes equipment in our kitchens, an upgraded HVAC in Martino Hall, the Starbucks coffee location in the McCaffery Lounge. It's nice to see reinvestment in our facilities.

### ON CHC'S STRENGTHS

I think CHC has so many strengths. The mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, has to take precedence; care for the dear neighbor, care for the environment and care for each other. The holistic education embedded in the roots of the SSJs is really at the core of what we do. I think that's a great strength. I mean, celebrating our 100th year - it's a significant accomplishment.

We have this beautiful campus in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia, I look across the street and I see Montgomery County. We're an urban college with a suburban setting, which I believe is another strength.

Our students, of course, are also a big part of who we are, and with recent initiatives like Pizza with the President I've had the chance to meet and talk with many of our students. A common theme is how much they love Chestnut Hill. Our alumni represent another of the

strengths here, they are so passionate and dedicated to this college and its success. I've had some wonderful conversations with folks from all years including the class of 1968 and 1971 during reunion weekend, and I've gotten to know some of them a little bit and learn from them what makes Chestnut Hill College special to them and their classmates. It was a real privilege.

I also must talk about the faculty. The faculty is incredibly dedicated, some of them have been teaching here for decades. You get individualized attention here. The faculty care deeply about this college, the Sisters, and our students. Many of our faculty go above and beyond every day, for our students.

I'm a big fan of student athletics and we are an incredibly strong Division II school. I've been to several of our football games, soccer games, and our women's volleyball games. Our student-athletes do themselves and the College, proud. Griffin Nation is adding two new sports soon: women's golf returns to the College in the midst of a worldwide golf boom driven by female golfers, and women's flag football arrives in advance of the sport's Olympic debut in 2028. We'll be hiring a coach very soon and recruiting players for next year. This is



very exciting!

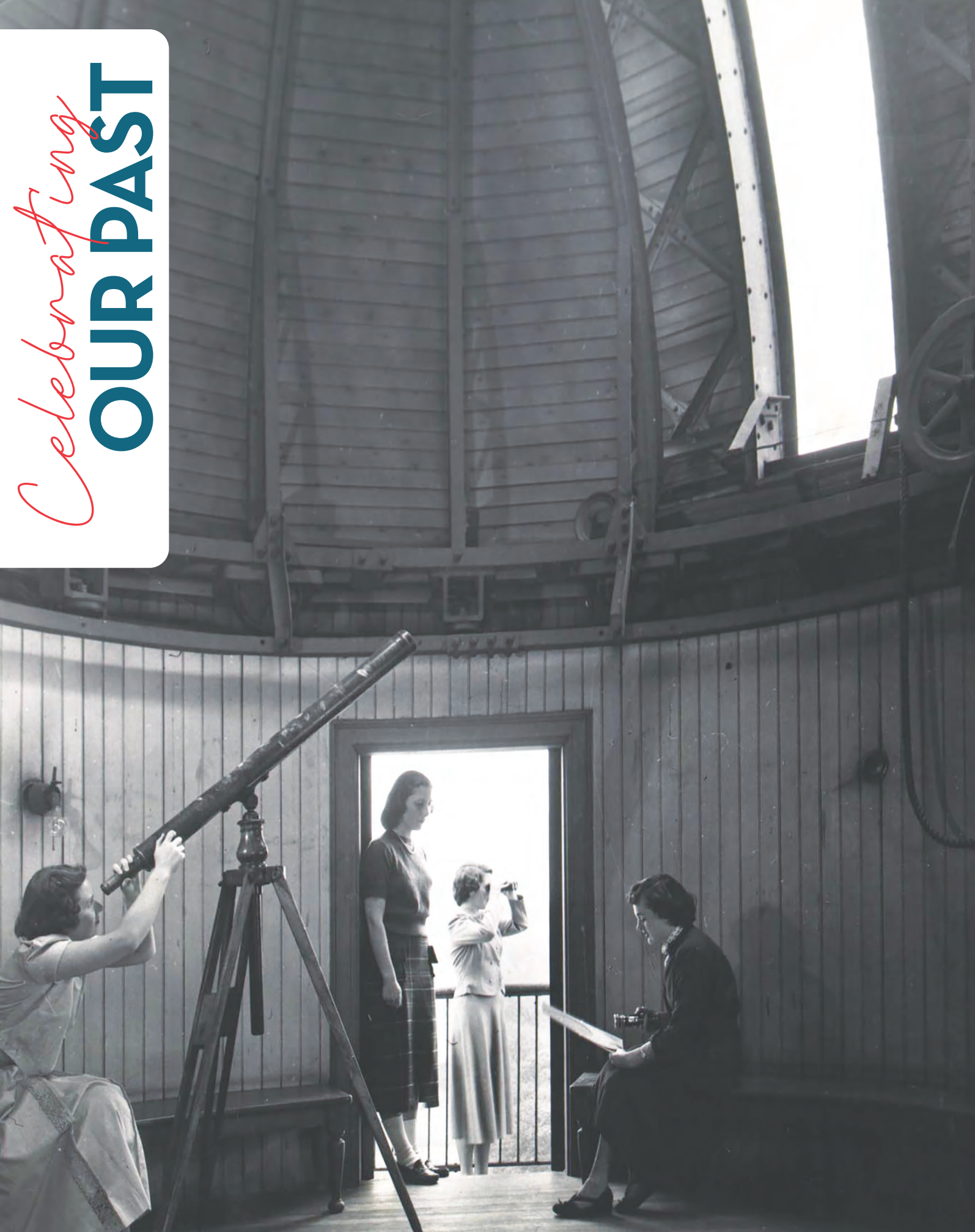
### ON THE NEXT 100 YEARS

I'm so excited at the start of this next century - I'm probably more excited for the start of this next century than the Sisters were 100 years ago and we are here now because of their efforts. We will never lose sight of our Catholic identity and the roots of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. They keep us grounded in who we are, and where we came from. They created the foundation that the school was built on, literally and figuratively. But new programs like nursing, the online MBA and the Life Skills through Career Program are going to create a name for the College, and the life skills program will serve a population that desperately needs our help. I think the sky is the limit of where we can go.

I envision a vibrant campus with a mixture of in-person and online instruction. I see both growing with more new programs, setting us apart from other regional colleges. We must be different, and we have to be better, and we will be both.

I'm so proud to be here for our 100th year, and I just keep thinking, it's a great time to be a Griffin! 🦊

*Celebrating*  
**OUR PAST**



# NEXT GENERATION **NURSING**

The NEW Nursing Program at Chestnut Hill College prepares students to become registered nurses armed with state-of-the-art skills, paired with the self-care training necessary to thrive in today's health care environment.

Two new **BSN and Accelerated BSN degree programs** combine traditional science curriculum with modern techniques in the field, for an education that is:

**INNOVATIVE** — Teaching self-care strategies as a foundation to helping others

**IMMERSIVE** — Providing hands-on experience for real world success

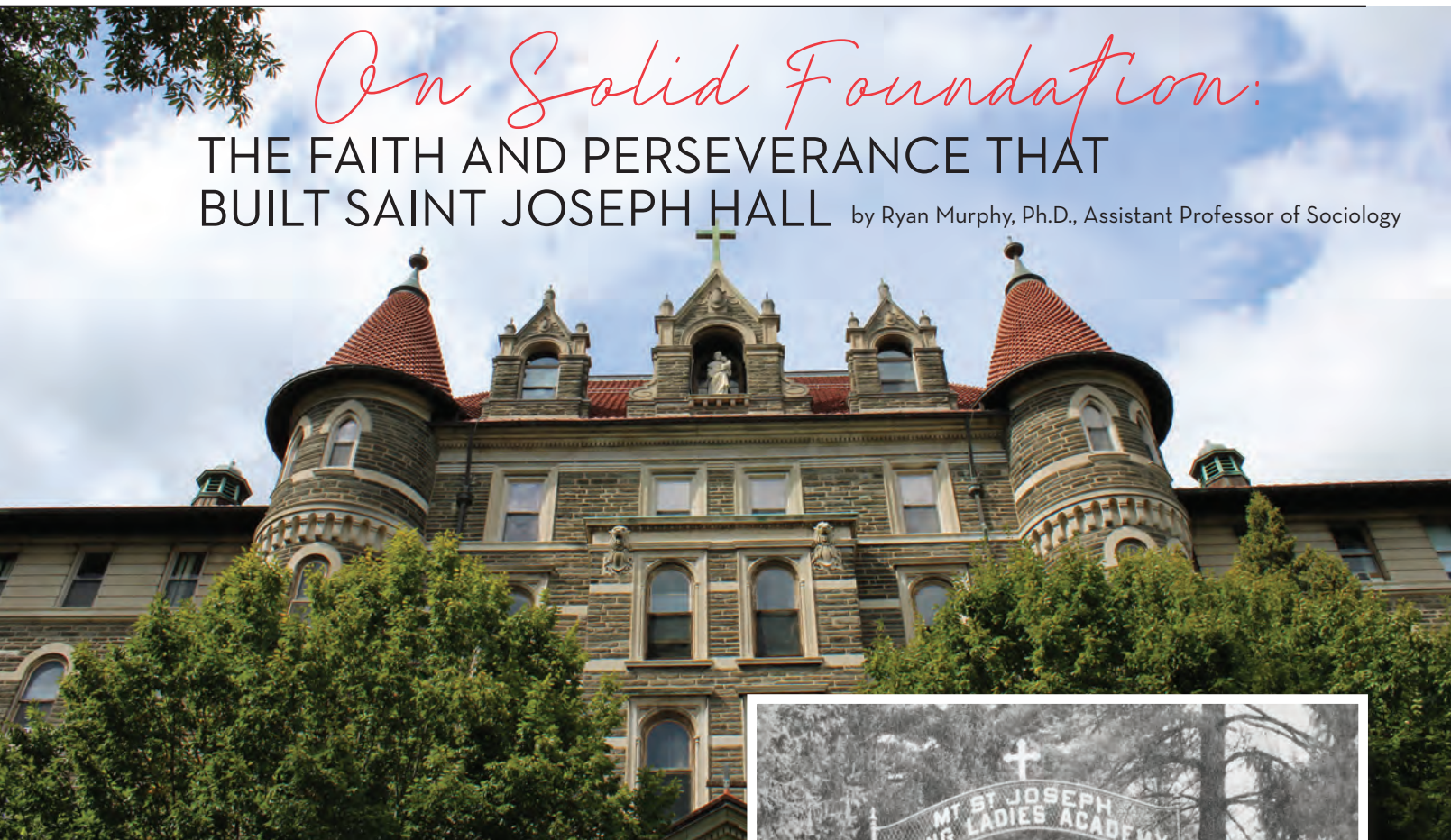
**INCLUSIVE** — For traditional undergrad students as well as those looking for a second career



CHESTNUT  
HILL  
COLLEGE

**APPLY  
TODAY**





# On Solid Foundation:

## THE FAITH AND PERSEVERANCE THAT BUILT SAINT JOSEPH HALL

by Ryan Murphy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology

Sister Saint Ephrem Sneeringer, directress of Mount Saint Joseph Academy wrote in 1909, “When going into the new building, it was our intention to have a Collegiate Institute... The Professors who were teaching the Sisters the Classics at the time, urged very, very strongly that we do college work and call the school Mount Saint Joseph College.” The new building that Sister Saint Ephrem mentions is what we now know as Saint Joseph Hall, which opened its doors to students 121 years ago. However, our beloved Saint Joseph Hall with its majestic rotunda, chestnut staircase, and grand balconies—the centerpiece of countless memories for faculty, staff, students, and alumni—almost never came to be. Tragedy struck during the building’s initial construction, and if not for the Sisters’ unyielding perseverance, along with prayers and generosity from friends of the congregation, it is likely that the jewel of Chestnut Hill College’s campus would not be here today as we celebrate our centennial.

The building’s story goes back nearly fifty years before it welcomed its first students in 1903. On October 4, 1858, the Sisters of Saint Joseph opened Mount Saint Joseph Academy, just six weeks after arriving in Chestnut Hill. Earlier that year, with the help of Bishop (now Saint) John Neumann, the congregation purchased the Joseph Middleton estate, a lush and sprawling piece of land spanning both sides of what we now call Germantown Avenue. When the Sisters of Saint



Main entrance to campus from Germantown Avenue, c. 1875

Joseph took ownership of the property that August, the former Middleton family mansion quickly became a multipurpose facility, serving as both the Academy and the Motherhouse and novitiate for the Sisters. The Academy, or “The Mount” as it is known today, soon embraced its mission “on the education of women largely depends the future of society,” and became one of the preeminent secondary schools for young women in nineteenth-century Philadelphia.

A few decades later in 1894, Archbishop Patrick Ryan appointed Reverend John W. Shanahan as the first Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In his first annual report, Father Shanahan noted the “urgent need of the establishment in the city of Philadelphia of a Catholic High School for Girls.” Following this call, the

Sisters of Saint Joseph—already at the forefront of secondary education for young women in Philadelphia—seemed poised once again to respond to the changing educational needs in society, this time exceeding Father Shanahan’s call by awarding baccalaureate degrees. The Mount Saint Joseph Academy catalog in 1897 notes, “By our charter [1872] the Academy enjoys all the rights and privileges of the first College Institutes of the State,” and thus began the first stirrings of college work in Chestnut Hill.

As the congregation engaged the first significant discussions about sponsoring a college, they also faced the realities of their limited space. In 1898, Mother Mary Clement Lannen, congregational Superior General, raised the issue of expansion with the Sisters of Saint Joseph leadership council. Mother Clement advised separating the sisters and Academy students—having the students move to a new space that she envisioned building just east of the mansion on the Bullitt family farm that the congregation acquired in 1875. Mother Clement secured the congregation’s support and was soon authorized to make her dream of a new Academy building a reality.

After borrowing the necessary funds, the congregation broke ground for the new Academy building in May 1899, and the cornerstone was laid in April of the following year. Progress on the building moved rapidly throughout the spring and summer of 1900, and by late fall it was ready for the roof. Then overnight on November 20, 1900, disaster struck when the front of the building and the open rotunda collapsed. Over the next several days, the rest of the structure fell until all that was left was an overwhelming mess of mortar and rubble. The magnitude of the loss—both financial and emotional—is hard to overstate, and the community was not sure it would ever recover. Writing to a fellow congregational superior in 1901, Mother Clement said, “Many a night have I lain awake trembling in bed fearing lest we had incurred the displeasure of God, and this was our punishment, but even so, His goodness was great in not letting the building be finished and saving lives.”

Despite the tremendous disaster, Mother Clement found grace and comfort in the fact that no one was injured and that the building collapsed before it was occupied by students and faculty. Mother Clement’s faith would continue to be tested during the grueling process of disentangling the financial implications for the congregation and contractor. The community planned to finance Saint Joseph Hall’s construction, and they had already paid a significant portion of the \$175,000 estimated cost (about \$6.6 million in today’s dollars). Recognizing that lengthy litigation would be both painful to the community and bring it unwelcome notoriety, Mother Clement made the difficult decision to absorb the entirety of the loss. In the end it is likely that a lawsuit would have resulted in the same outcome, as the architect did not cover the project with insurance and the subcontractor that he hired for cement work cut costs by using inferior mortar.



Collapse of Saint Joseph Hall, November 1900.

Months went by and as the congregation reeled from the catastrophe and discussed how to proceed, the rubble laid where it fell the previous November—an eyesore and constant source of sadness for the Sisters and students. Despite her initial reluctance, in 1901 Mother Clement made a public appeal for donations arguing that the loss was not just theirs, but that of everyone in Philadelphia who valued Catholic education. Further, the congregation was permitted to mortgage the new construction on Mother Clement’s bullish enrollment projections for the Academy and the anticipated increased tuition revenue that would follow. On March 20, 1902, a new cornerstone was laid. Over the next year, Saint Joseph Hall rose again—this time on a larger footprint and a full story taller than the original structure—and on September 29, 1903, Sisters and students finally entered their new Academy building.

Over the next two decades, Saint Joseph Hall was home to Mount Saint Joseph Academy and a curriculum of college-level courses that would eventually form the basis for a separate college for women. Ultimately, in 1924, the congregation’s once-lofty goal of opening a college came to fruition, with the first class graduating from Mount Saint Joseph College-on-the-Wissahickon on June 4, 1928. The College used this name until 1938 when the name was changed to Chestnut Hill College to differentiate it from the many other schools named Saint Joseph’s, especially Philadelphia’s Jesuit University. The Academy and the College continued to share Saint Joseph Hall and the expansive Chestnut Hill Campus until 1961, when The Mount moved to its present location on the 95-acre Rex Farm in Flourtown.

Thanks to the unwavering faith and determination of those who had a vision for the future, Saint Joseph Hall with its imposing stone walls, soaring interior, and red terra cotta roof is still standing more than 120 years later. As Chestnut Hill College celebrates its 100th Anniversary, thousands of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who have passed through the corridors of Saint Joseph Hall will undoubtedly reflect on how central this building is to our College’s identity and steadfast influence on higher education in Philadelphia. 🌹

*ASEC @ 25!*

# A LOOK BACK IN GRATITUDE AT THE AFRICAN SISTERS EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

By Kathryn Miller, SSJ, Ph.D. '70 and Lisa Olivieri, SSJ, Ph.D. '76

On December 7, 2024, the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC) celebrated its 25th anniversary with its **Igniting Hope, Building Bridges, Creating Impact** gala held in the rotunda area of Chestnut Hill College. The gala recalled the simple beginnings of ASEC in honoring three of its founding mothers, Sister Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Sister Anne Munley, IHM and Sister Mary Reap, IHM who first recognized the growing need for adequate education for religious sisters in Africa in order to meet the needs of their people.



Sister Barbara Spears, SNJM, ASEC Board Chair, presents the Founding Mothers Award to Sister Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, at the ASEC 25th anniversary celebration. "My association with ASEC is one of the greatest privileges of my life. We started, literally, with nothing but hopes and dreams. Through persistence and faith, resources magically amassed and permitted dreams to take flesh in reality. 'There is nothing as powerful as an idea whose time has come,'" says Vale.

## BRIEF HISTORY

African sisters play an essential role in providing education, healthcare, and social services in their communities, but often lack the formal training and resources to excel in their leadership roles. Following a needs assessment and



HESA students receive laptop computers for orientation course in Nigeria

site visit to Africa in the mid 90's, a small group of women religious – presidents of several colleges/universities and their founding congregations – came together at Chestnut Hill College to consider how to provide education for the growing number of religious sisters in Africa. As a result of the meeting, Chestnut Hill College, Marywood University, Rosemont College, and Neumann University, together with presidents of their founding congregations, joined hands and hearts to work collaboratively toward the goal of education for African Sisters. Since its inception, ASEC has been committed to increasing the educational opportunities available to



ASEC board member Brighid Blake instructs SLDI students in Malawi.

African sisters, helping them obtain higher education degrees, leadership skills, and professional training to better serve their communities. As ASEC celebrates its 25th anniversary, we recognize with gratitude the profound impact ASEC has made on the lives of countless women religious and the broader communities they serve in eleven countries in Africa.

## KEY PROGRAMS

In 2007, ASEC launched the **Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI)**, a program that provides training for women religious to enhance their skills in leadership, management, finance, and technology. SLDI has impacted thousands of African sisters, giving them the tools to lead educational and social institutions, and to meet the overwhelming needs of the poor in their communities. To enhance a spirit of collaboration, representatives of ASEC often teach SLDI courses in Africa, and others attend graduations bringing greetings and affirmations from their partners in the United States.

Over the years, more than **4,500 sisters** have completed the SLDI Program.

In 2008, ASEC expanded its service in Africa through the development of a **Service-Learning Program** which allows college students, faculty, and religious sisters of charter institutions to give service in a chosen African country where ASEC serves. Prior to the trip, students complete a three-credit orientation course, meet other participants, and learn more about the country in which they will serve. They are then immersed in a wide range of service opportunities, working side-by-side with African sisters, providing service at various schools, orphanages, feeding programs, refugee centers, and hospitals.



Chestnut Hill College and Marywood University students during a Service Learning trip to Ghana

Since 2008, **164** students and mentors have participated in ASEC's service learning program.

In 2014, ASEC introduced **Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA)**. Through partnerships with the US colleges/universities affiliated with ASEC and several African universities, ASEC provides opportunities for African sisters to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in various fields, including education, health, social work, and more. Sister students initially study online with one of the ASEC charter member institutions in the U.S. and then complete their degrees at a participating school in Africa.

To date from all the African countries involved in ASEC, **2,334** sisters have completed baccalaureate degrees. In



Founding Mothers and ASEC Board of Directors, including Sister Eileen Marnien, SSJ Congregational President, and Brian McCloskey, CHC Interim President at the ASEC Gala in Saint Joseph Hall on December 7, 2024.



Sister Lisa Olivieri, ASEC Advisory Committee member, teaches an orientation course to HESA students from Nigeria and Ghana

addition many earned master's degrees and several doctoral degrees. Sisters frequently graduate with honors.

Over the past 25 years, the number of countries ASEC serves has grown to eleven, including Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Cameroon, Lesotho, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe. As ASEC celebrates its **25th anniversary**, it reflects on its original mission to provide educational opportunities and leadership training for African women religious. Through its various programs, ASEC has had a profound impact on the lives of thousands of sisters, helping them to become better leaders, educators, and agents of change in their communities. Looking ahead, ASEC continues to work toward empowering more women religious across Africa, enabling them to break down barriers, drive social change, and promote the well-being of those they serve. 🦋

Sister Kathryn Miller, SSJ, first Coordinator of ASEC Activities and ASEC Board Member Emerita, also received the Founding Mothers Award presented by Isabelle Henry, ASEC Program Director.

## ASEC'S IMPACT

- Nearly **32,000** sisters have participated in ASEC programs. However, **48%** of the women religious in sub-Saharan African countries that ASEC serves are still in direct need of training and education.
- ASEC alumnae serve over **seven million** people annually in poor, rural communities across Africa
- Through training in grant writing and other means, alumnae and their mentees have raised **\$56.3 million** dollars in funding for community sustainability and improvement projects
- Educated sisters have mentored more than **41,000** people sharing the skills they have learned with other sister and community members.

For more information on ASEC, visit our website; <https://www.asec-sldi.org/>



## Leading Ladies:

### A CONVERSATION WITH CHC'S BOARD CHAIRS

Interview by Michelle Budenz Presnall



Carol Barbara Cathy Margaret

Since its inception in 1924, Chestnut Hill College has been governed by a board of trustees who are responsible for making some of the College's biggest decisions. For decades, the board chair had been the president of the Sisters of Saint Joseph congregation. In 2008, Barbara D'Iorio Martino '60, stepped into the role and became the first lay-board chair, forever changing the role with her visionary leadership and extraordinary generosity.

Since then, CHC has been fortunate enough to attract board chairs who are talented, dedicated, and successful, whose selflessness and hard work have driven CHC forward into a new century of exciting possibilities.

Below is a conversation that took place on October 23, 2024 via Zoom with the four extraordinary alumnae who have each served as CHC's board chair.

In order of service, they are: Barbara D'Iorio Martino '60, Margaret Carney McCaffery '77, Cathy Lockyer Moulton '92, and Carol Steinour Young '82, who is the current board chair.

**Interviewer:** Welcome Barbara, Margaret, Cathy, and Carol and thank you for coming together for this conversation. First, let's talk about how you got involved with CHC's board.

**Barbara:** I received a letter from the then chair of the board, Sister Dorothy Newell, SSJ and she said she would like me to join the board. Sister Matthew Anita was president at the time, and she was starting a capital campaign to do renovations. I thought that was all well and good. Then Sister Matthew Anita said, "I want you to lead it" (laughs) so that was my introduction to the board!

We started the campaign and then a bombshell fell when Sister Dorthy

Newell said the college had to search for a new president because a Sister of Saint Joseph could only have two terms as president. The board was really in an uproar because we were in the middle of a campaign and Sister Matthew Anita had made many contacts and supporters. The board proposed a written ballot to retain her presidency, and the congregation extended her term for two years until the campaign was completed.

**Carol:** Some of you might remember Cathy Quinn. She was a very dear friend, who taught me in high school, and was one of the most influential people in my life. Cathy is the reason I went to Chestnut Hill College. In 2015, both Cathy and I were nominated to the Libris Society. She was dying — it still brings tears to my eyes. She was at the Villa and couldn't attend so she joined us by phone. Later that summer, I got a call from Sister Carol asking me to join the

Photo by Melissa Kelly

board. It seemed like a natural extension of my love for Cathy and my dedication to the college. It seemed like the right time in my life.

It all started with my connection to Cathy Quinn and the way she just opened my heart to so many things.



Cathy E. Quinn '78 SCPS

**Margaret:** That's a lovely story. Mine is a little different.

My husband Mike was writing a check for Princeton – he was a very loyal alum – and he said to me, by the way, how much do you give to Chestnut Hill every year? And I said, oh, I give to the annual fund, you know, \$100. And he's like what?

He said, you got a scholarship to go there, didn't you? You need to be giving a lot more than that. So, we wrote check for \$25,000. Sister Carol received the check on a Friday and called me immediately to thank us.

She and I developed this comfortable relationship and maybe two months later she called and said she wanted me to join the board. I said, Sister, I'm honored, but I live in California. She said, you know, it's only four times a year, and if you can't go, you can't go. Mike was very supportive and he said, Marg, you're gonna learn so much. You're gonna meet so many great people. And so I said yes. And, what is it now... 19 years? Best decision that I could have made.

**Cathy:** My story is similar to **Carol's**. My grandmother had been serving on

the board for a number of years and she was very dedicated. We talked about our involvement with Chestnut Hill College a lot because she was the Class of '42 and I was Class of '92.

She always said that she didn't sit on the board; she worked on the board. So when she became too ill to continue serving, she felt really bad about occupying a seat, and she wanted somebody else to work on the board in her place. I was young, 29 at the time, and I thought, they're going to get somebody really qualified to fill that seat. And a few months later, Sister Carol and Sister Pat Kelly, who was the then vice chair of the board, both came to my grandmother's house for their final visit and they asked me to sit to take my grandmother's chair on the board. So, of course I said yes.



Elizabeth Clime Lockyer Merriam '42,  
Cathy's grandmother

**Interviewer:** Thank you all for your service.

Let's talk about your time as board chair. What are the challenges you faced, and is there anything that you're particularly proud of?

**Margaret:** It was so long ago, but the thing that probably stands out as a real moment for me was when I was asked as board chair to give the welcome address at graduation. I was just so honored... and so nervous. What I could say that was going to be meaningful?! I put a lot of thought into it. I just wanted it to be as upbeat as possible.

There were stressful times, but Sister Carol and Sister Anne, who was vice chair, and I developed the most amazing relationship. Every time I left a board meeting, I was overwhelmed with the integrity, intelligence, and panache of all of the Sisters. I learned so much from Sister Pat. I used to tell Mike, she could run IBM, she just was that savvy.



Martino Hall

**Barbara:** In the late 90's, Sister Carol envisioned the necessity for a new building. The last new building on campus was Logue Library which was built in the early 60's. My late husband, Rocky, had a business that he was divesting, and he approached Sr. Carol about a new building. He always had a love for the Sisters of Saint Joseph because his mother died when he was eight and it was the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Toronto that took care of her, so that is how Martino Hall came to fruition. It was the largest gift ever at the time. That was monumental!

A bigger challenge was when we decided to go co-ed. It meant converting bathrooms, and dorms, and so many things and Sister Carol pushed ahead. We wondered how many men we were going to get. The year we opened we had 37% men enrolled! No one could believe it. That was a milestone!

**Cathy:** My time as board chair is defined by a lot of change. Sister Carol was retiring after 30 years as president, and starting a search for a new president, which hadn't been done in 30 years, was brand new to everybody (except for you, **Barbara**). At the same time, we wanted

to make sure that we were properly honoring Sister Carol. We also began an ambitious fundraising campaign that would preserve the financial foundation of the College and honor Sister Carol, too. So there was a lot of change during my time as chair.

A major function of our role as board chair is to be a friend and partner to the president. It's lonely, that role as president, and it's really our job to help shepherd them along and help them see around corners that hear things that they may not be told by other people. Like **Margaret** was saying, I experienced a lot of personal and professional growth during that time. After every meeting, whether it be the full board or a small group, I felt an overwhelming sense of support.

**Carol:** If I might add, **Cathy**, you showed your mettle during the last year of Sister Carol's tenure, without a doubt. I remember thinking you were a great confidant to her and Sister Maureen.

**Cathy:** That means a lot coming from you.

**Interviewer:** What about you, **Carol**?

**Carol:** I joined the board in 2015. After the giddiness of being able to see "behind the curtain," I had to figure out what my role was. I found that our strength as a board is because of the trust that we have in each other and the love that we have for this institution. We're facing some things that are not easy. We've got challenges with admissions. We've got challenges with dollars. We've got challenges with deferred maintenance. We've got challenges with some kids coming to campus who are not fully prepared for college. But what really excites me, is when I look around the table, I see tremendous talent. I see tremendous heart. I see tremendous love and dedication, and I am just so honored to be in this position and to be given this opportunity to do good. We've got a great leader in Brian [Brian M. McCloskey, Interim President], who I have such respect for. The guy is working

his tail off. We have all kinds of new ideas coming to the forefront. That's one of the things I want to shepherd as we move forward into our next century. What are the big, hairy, audacious goals? Let's bring it all out. Let's figure out the path.

Sorry, when you get a lawyer going... (laughs).

**Interviewer:** Do you want to continue? I want to hear more about the big hairy, scary goals.

**Carol:** They call them B-HAGs: Big, Hairy, Audacious Goals. When I think about where we are right now, launching the nursing program, and money is starting to come in, thanks in big part to **Margaret** and Mike. **Marg**, I love that story about Mike. Is he a hugger? Because he's getting a hug.

**Margaret:** (laughs) Oh, yeah.

**Carol:** And every conversation I have with Rita Borzillo [Chair of the Center for Business and an assistant professor in business] just blows me away. That woman is dynamite. Same with Susan Apold [Director, Nursing Curriculum Development]. My gosh, such talent!

**Margaret:** When does she sleep, right?

**Barbara:** I agree. Cathy and I were at a meeting with Susan Apold and she is just dynamite. She was a real find.

**Carol:** I think we have a lot of people in the right places and I feel that way too about the board. I think people feel empowered to come forward with new ideas and programs. And that's really our future. What do we have to offer this next generation of college students? We've got to meet people where they are. So we're looking at the needs of society and what kinds of jobs are out there. Rita Borzillo is leading an online MBA because we've got athletes who have a fifth year of eligibility and they want to do the work here. Let's give them an opportunity. So I am bullish on Chestnut Hill College. I think we've got a great future.

**Margaret:** I'll chime in about our future. I came back after the last board meeting and Sister Carol sent a letter asking for a donation for the nursing program. I mean, she's retired but still working for CHC, and she's just such a pro, right? She talked about how we're serving the needs of society and how it aligns with our mission. I had a conversation with Mike and I told him why I think this is so important for us to support. And he said, you're right. I'm on the board of our local hospital and they fly in nurses from the Philippines because of the shortage of nurses here. We have got to make the nursing program happen.

I'm also really happy for Dr. Steve Stunder [Executive Director, Life Skills through Career Program, Director of Neurodiversity Initiatives at CHC], who has done so much work on that. I have a vested interest in this topic, and it's exciting to see it happen. It's an exciting time to be a Griffin.

One more thing: I am so, so pleased with Brian McCloskey. I think he's an amazing man who's just given everything to the College and certainly not being paid what he should be paid.

**Barbara:** He's wearing two hats. CFO and Interim President.

This is a wonderful opportunity to applaud our Catholic identity. We are a Catholic college, and we have certain values along with the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. We are multicultural and diverse and accepting of everyone, and we must continue with our mission as a Catholic institution.

**Carol:** I'm really glad you mentioned that, **Barbara**, because this afternoon I'm having a meeting to talk about Mission and Ministry at the college. We really do want to double-down on that and make sure it continues to be the heart of this college.

**Interviewer:** **Cathy**, I think you have the last word. What would you like to say?

**Cathy:** I look at the arc of our family’s history as it is connected with Chestnut Hill College. My grandmother came onto campus for the first time in 1938. So, not 100 years ago, but close.

**Barbara:** That’s the year I was born (laughs). I’m not 100 yet.

**Cathy:** (Laughs) Thanks, **Barbara.**

My own daughter attended Chestnut Hill College as well (class of 2020). I’ve told parents on campus that the things that are most emblematic of Chestnut Hill College have remained the same over the years. That is our commitment to Catholic education, commitment to the Dear Neighbor, commitment to serving our students and society where we need it the most. The majors have changed and will continue to change, but those values have remained the same. I think that’s really beautiful. We’ve done many board orientations, and I feel like I’ve sat in most of them over the past 24 years. During one of those board orientations, we were talking about the viability of Chestnut Hill College in the future. We talked about how we need to be really clear on who we are and what we do best – and to be the best at those things. When we get really clear on what we’re best at delivering, we can be the best holistic educator in the region. So long as we stay focused on the mission and the values, Chestnut Hill College has a place in this world.

**Margaret:** So, there’s your final paragraph!

**Interviewer:** Well said, Cathy.

Thank you all for your dedication, talent, and service to CHC, and thank you for joining me today to give our readers a glimpse “behind the curtain.” I really appreciate your time. 🍁

# BOARD CHAIRS

*Years of Service*



**BARBARA D’IORIO MARTINO** ’60 had served 18 years on the Board when she became the first lay member of the board to become board chair in 2008. She served four years as board chair, 2008 – 2012, and returned to the board in 2023 as a Board Member Emerita, for a total of **24 years of service.**



**MARGARET CARNEY MCCAFFERY** ’77 had served six years on the board prior to election as board chair in 2012. She served five years as board chair from 2012 – 2017. She served two years as Immediate Past Chair, 2017 – 2019. Then, served six additional years on the board without break in service, for a total of **19 years of service.**



**CATHERINE LOCKYER MOULTON** ’92 had served on the board 16 years when she became board chair in 2020. She served seven years as board chair, 2017 – 2024, and is serving one year as Immediate Past Chair (2024–2025), for a total of **24 years of service.**



**CAROL STEINOUR YOUNG, ESQ.** ’82 served her first term in 2015 – 2016, and was elected board chair in 2024, for a total of **nine years of service.** She is the current board chair.

# *Lessons from The Wissahickon Valley:*

## BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND COMMUNITY

By David Contosta, Ph.D. and Hilton Oyamaguchi, Ph.D.

For the past three years, as professors of biology (Hilton Oyamaguchi) and of history (David Contosta), we have been teaching a seminar in Chestnut Hill College’s Interdepartmental Honors Program (IDHP). Using the Wissahickon Creek and Valley as an outdoor laboratory, we have been exploring with our students the importance of protecting these resources to promote biodiversity and resistance to climate change. At present, we are working with two students from the seminar (Elizabeth Figiel and Glenda Garcia), as well as Greg Gorski ’07, ’17 SGS from the College’s audio visual department, to create a documentary film funded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph that will disseminate what we have learned to a wider audience.

In 1868, land along the Wissahickon Creek within the city limits became part of Philadelphia’s larger Fairmount Park System. In the process of creating and improving the park, the park commission demolished the dozens of water-powered mills that once lined the valley in an effort to restore the valley to a more natural appearance. Now spanning over 1,800 acres and boasting some 50 miles of trails, Wissahickon Creek and its surrounding parkland (located directly across Germantown Avenue from the College) offers various forms of recreation. The park also provides essential ecological services: it mitigates flooding, reduces the carbon footprint, and lowers temperatures in northwest Philadelphia, thereby contributing to the city’s resistance to summer heat.

Heat waves are now the number one cause of weather-related deaths in the United States. Since the 1960s, the average number of heat waves in the country has increased from two per year to six per year, and their average



*Biology students from the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Seminar. Top left to right: Kaitlyn Turpin, Dung Nguyen, Samuel Hallak, and DeAnna Otero. From the bottom left to right: Stefanie Black, Riley Regan, Brianna Rider, Nora Adam, and Shamica Fordyce.*

duration has stretched from three days to four. Aggravating these heat waves in Philadelphia (and in other large cities) are dense concentrations of buildings, along with paved parking lots, roads, and streets, which trap heat. This phenomenon is called the “urban heat island effect.” It makes urban spaces like Philadelphia more vulnerable than suburban or rural areas to the impact of heat waves.

The vegetation of the Wissahickon Valley helps to reduce the intensity of the heat island effect. Its trees and plants provide shade and release moisture into the air through transpiration, which cools the air and reduces the severity of heat waves. Vegetation from the valley has also been allowed—and even encouraged through intentional plantings—to spill out for several miles into adjacent communities. This phenomenon has been called the “Wissahickon Style” of landscaping.

According to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, the Chestnut Hill neighborhood, which borders the Wissahickon Valley, has about 60% tree cover, which helps to make it one of the coolest neighborhoods in the city. In addition, according to the *Inquirer*, Chestnut Hill is 15 to 20 degrees cooler during hot summer days than the Kensington section of Philadelphia, which has only a 7% tree cover. Not surprisingly, stark socioeconomic differences between these two communities help to explain these temperature disparities. For instance, the median income in Chestnut Hill is nearly three times greater than in high-poverty Kensington, allowing for greater investments in green spaces and green infrastructure by residents of Chestnut Hill.

The Wissahickon forest represents about 20% of Philadelphia’s total green space. Like all wooded valleys, it acts as a



Non-biology majors from “Inquiry Into Life” class explore biodiversity in the Wissahickon Valley. From left to right: Dillon Raparelli, Scott Campbell, John Adu-Marfo, Christina Contreras, Abdoulaye Kamagate, Oliver Karlin, Traore Sekou Sacko, Genevieve Washington-Vasquez, Luciana Sulpizi, and Abraham Kamara.

“carbon sink” by absorbing carbon dioxide from the air through the process of photosynthesis and storing it in biomass—its trunks, branches, leaves, and roots— as well as in the soil. In absorbing carbon, the valley’s vegetation helps to reduce the overall greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

Warmer air, as a consequence of climate change, holds more moisture, resulting in a greater frequency and intensity of rain. However, the vegetation in the Wissahickon Valley allows varying amounts of this excess water to infiltrate the soil and recharge groundwater supplies. This process also reduces the volume and speed of storm water runoff, thereby lessening the risk of flash floods and the burden on urban drainage systems.

Fortunately, local civic groups have worked for over a century to preserve the natural resources of the Wissahickon Valley within the city. In the early 1900s, residents of northwest Philadelphia signed petitions and held an equestrian demonstration to oppose motor vehicles in the valley. In the process, they convinced the park commission to ban cars and to change the name of the creek side road to Forbidden Drive.

More than a century later, cars are still banned from Wissahickon Park. A more formal and longer-lasting organization, the Friends of the Wissahickon, was established in 1924 and is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. During the mid-1930s, this group strenuously opposed the park commission’s plan to set up recreational facilities and refreshment stands within the valley. The organization eventually convinced the commission to back down.

These volunteer efforts offer our students, and students from other schools, many valuable lessons, including how to limit the proliferation of invasive plants and the damage they create in the ecosystem, along with how civic groups play an important role in environmental advocacy. Last year, we created the Wissahickon Card Game with our IDHP seminar students to engage our current generation, and to make them feel more connected to our urban forest. We immersed them in the Wissahickon trails and asked them to choose native and non-native species to research. Then, based on these species, we developed a board game where players learn about the Wissahickon biodiversity, its ecological interactions, and the impact



of human activities on the environment. This game was based on the Phylocard game that integrates core ecological concepts like biodiversity, trophic levels, and species interactions while also considering human-environmental interactions. By creating this board game featuring the biodiversity of the Wissahickon Valley, students have gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of our local ecosystem. At the end of our seminar, we published the Wissahickon board game with our IDHP students on the QUBES educational resources platform for other educators to use in their classrooms.

In sum, our students have learned what is needed to sustain a healthy balance of nature, the effects of climate change locally, and the ecological history of the area around the College. Such lessons can be applied elsewhere in the nation—and beyond. 🍁

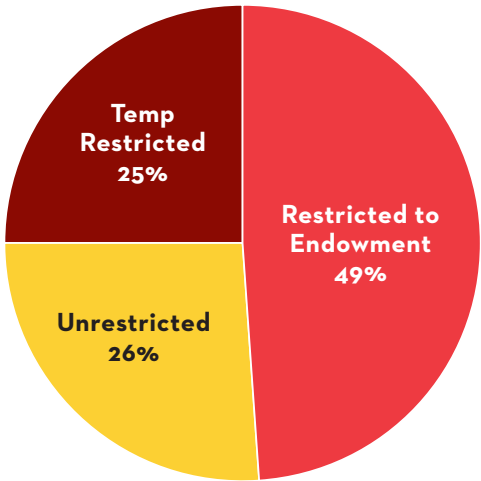


# GIVING WITH PURPOSE

The Griffin community showed extraordinary love through gifts totaling over \$8 million at the close of fiscal year 2024! The impact of these gifts has been enormous, and our heartfelt thanks goes out to all donors for their generosity and commitment to the mission of Chestnut Hill College.

## FY24 GIFTS BY PURPOSE

PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Unrestricted	\$2,088,087
Temporary Restricted	\$2,034,189
Restricted to Endowment	\$3,935,080
Total Giving	\$8,057,355

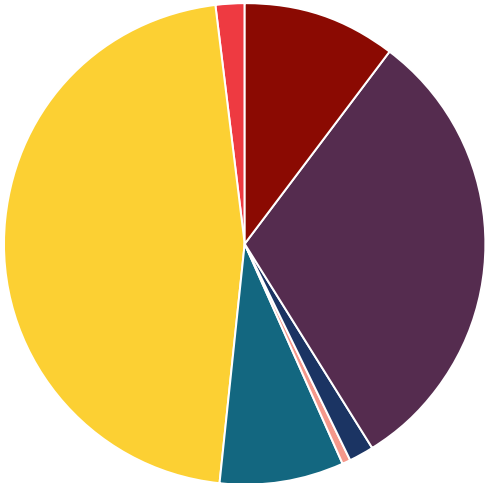


## FY 24 CASH RECEIVED BY SOURCE

SOURCE	AMOUNT REC'D	PERCENT
Alumni (including spouses)	\$1,474,710	18%
Estates and Bequests	\$4,303,827	53%
Board of Directors (including members who are alumni)	\$272,017	3%
Corporations (including matching gifts)	\$34,110	0% (0.40%)
Foundations and Organizations	\$1,113,152	14%
Friends, Parents and Employees	\$624,197	8%
Government Grants	\$235,342	3%
Total Raised in FY24	\$8,057,355	100%

Gifts from Alumni who are membes of the Board are counted under Board of Directors.

- Alumni (including spouses)
- Estates and Bequests
- Board of Directors (including members who are alumni)
- Corporations (including matching gifts)
- Foundations and Organizations
- Friends, Parents and Employees
- Government Grants



# THE CARITAS SOCIETY

Caritas is one of the three core values in Chestnut Hill College’s motto:  
**Fides – Caritas – Scientia (Faith, Charity, Knowledge).**

The Caritas Society recognizes alumni and friends who have contributed or made irrevocable gifts of \$500,000 or more in cumulative lifetime giving. Chestnut Hill College is most grateful to these donors for the transformational impact their gifts have on the College, its students and faculty.

The list below represents donors from fiscal year 2023–2024, which ended June 30, 2024.

## \$5,000,000 AND ABOVE

Michael G. McCaffery &  
Margaret Carney McCaffery ’77 (D)  
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

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Rosemarie O'Brien Cleaver '58 <i>William &amp; Marguerite Stein Zuccarello '58</i>	Kathleen McCarthy Doyle-Kelly '61 <i>Harrison G. &amp; Tina McCarthy Ball '66</i>
Frances Kirby Clime <i>Robert &amp; Carol* Lockyer</i>	Suzanne Dufrasne '58 <i>William &amp; Marguerite Stein Zuccarello '58</i>
Margaret Atanasio Colucci '63 <i>Alison Turnbull Kelley '63</i>	Margaret Fick Edmonds '63 <i>Alison Turnbull Kelley '63</i>
	Mary Levin Englebert '50 <i>Thomas &amp; Cecelia Englebert-Passanza '77 (AD)</i>
	Msstr. Michael F Farina <i>Scott &amp; Elizabeth Green Perkins '73</i>
	Constance Peacock Feraco '53 <i>Margaret Feraco Frampton '79</i>

Sister Catherine Frances, SSJ <i>Alexander &amp; Eileen McCoy Cioffi '62</i>
Gertrude Dearie Frekko '63 <i>Charles &amp; Jane Wylie Quest '63</i>
Rosemary McCullough Goldner '63 <i>Robert &amp; Patricia McCullough Flite '73 Joseph &amp; Elizabeth Tucker Werner '63</i>
Paula Nyhart Gowen '63 <i>Patricia May Agger, LLD '63 Mildred Allen John Avicelli Paul &amp; Shauna Barbeau Wallace &amp; Sue Nolan Berkeley '63 Marion Williams Berry '63 John Biemer John DiSabatino Gail Drummond Dulin United Methodist Coop Preschool Von &amp; Jane George Michael Gray Michael &amp; Sheila Duffin Gray '63 Morie Kato David &amp; Mary Kronbar Kibler '63 Marie Koegel Thomas T. Loder Gail McConnell John McDonald Alan Novak Michael J. O'Rourke Lawrence H. Pockers Charles &amp; Jane Wylie Quest '63 Joan Robinson Stephanie Rogers Donna Romano Ryad Salame Kathryn Satori-Palko Shawn Wanner Kathleen Williams</i>
Virginia Ott Grant '66 <i>Francis &amp; Mary O'Connor Gentile, Ed.D. '66 E. Michelle Sprague Guerard '66</i>
Leonard E Gricoski, my father and supporter of education <i>Martin Keszler, M.D. &amp; Mary Lenore Gricoski Keszler, M.D. '74</i>
Sandra Cupini Hagenbarth '63 <i>Marion Williams Berry '63 Charles &amp; Jane Wylie Quest '63</i>
John Hennessy <i>Patricia McGee Sharkey '63</i>
Marie Albert Hetzel, SSJ <i>Grace McGuirl '87 SGS</i>
Emory and Esther Johnson <i>Emory Johnson, III '03 SCPS</i>
Mary O'Neil Keegan '60 <i>Robert &amp; Mary Serroi Jaklevic, M.A. '60</i>
Honor Keirans, SSJ, Ed.D. <i>Timothy Coughlin &amp; Colleen Mooney, Ph.D. '04</i>

Marie Rosato King '50 <i>Mary Armentano David* &amp; Mary Tannev Bradley '61 Aimee Christian Tracie Cicchitti Ernest &amp; Jane King Gerald McHugh Dr. Mark D. Nanni Stephen Rubin Richard &amp; Antonia Schaefer</i>
Catherine Knobbs, SSJ <i>James &amp; Anastasia Hagan Bacon, Ed.D. '60 Abigail L. Palko '96</i>
Gerda Steinhauer Koetter '50 <i>Cornelia Koetter</i>
Regina Franco Kriskey '58 <i>Mary Jane Pasha Franco '58 William &amp; Marguerite Stein Zuccarello '58</i>
Ann Gilsenan List '66 <i>Carol-Jane Piltz Guardino '66</i>
Carol A. Lockyer <i>Sean &amp; Cathy Lockyer Moulton '92, '22 SGS (D)</i>
Mary Henry Loughran <i>Ellen Loughran, Ph.D. '72</i>
Sister Eva Maria Lynch , SSJ , PhD <i>Eduard Dachowski, M.D. &amp; Alice Ann Gricoski Dachowski, M.D. '77 Martin Keszler, M.D. &amp; Mary Lenore Gricoski Keszler, M.D. '74 Bonnie Word, M.D. '78</i>
Linda Pellicore MacLachlin '71 <i>John &amp; Blanche Goffredo Haughton '71 Richard &amp; Ann O'Connor Levering '71 Elizabeth Harvey Majane '57 John Majane</i>
Marjorie Topper Mannix '78 <i>Laura McCandless Green '78</i>
Sister Anthony Marie, SSJ <i>Anonymous</i>
Albert and Cecilia Marino <i>Lawrence &amp; Cynthia Marino O'Toole '72</i>
Bernadette Bennis Marshall '65 <i>Carol Lowe Ambacher '65 Bonnie Vasey McDonald '65</i>
Robert Martin <i>Patricia McGee Sharkey '63</i>
Mary M. Martire, Ed.D. '53 <i>Ann Esposito Joan McIlvaine</i>
Amelia & Michael Massey <i>John &amp; Gloria Massey Harkins '53</i>
Kay McNulty Mauchly '42 <i>Gini Mauchly Calcerano (S)</i>
Anne Keeler McBride '48 <i>Bruce &amp; Patricia McBride Haines Eric &amp; Mary Beth McBride Peabody</i>

Sister Maria Augusta McCandless, SSJ <i>Estate of Madeline D McCandless Joseph &amp; Mary McCandless</i>
Marilyn Johnson McCarron '61 <i>Joseph &amp; H. Barbara Johnson Hock '59</i>
Esther Moriarty McCarthy '56 <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Michael Bailey Marty &amp; Andrea Kupprion</i>
Kathryn Balsama McCullough '62 <i>Kenneth &amp; Ann Curran Brown '78</i>
Joan Wood McEnaney '53 <i>John &amp; Siobhan McEnaney-Hayes '82</i>
Therese Benedict McGuire, SSJ, Ph.D. '62 <i>Charis Lasky '91</i>
Eileen Finucane McKenna '39 <i>James &amp; Mary McKenna Thorne '71</i>
Robyn Lynn Mickinak '91 <i>Brian &amp; Jessica Flattery Cole '91</i>
James and Valerie Mikula <i>Robert &amp; Valerie Mikula Hughes, D.D.S. '74</i>
Dolores B. Metzke Mitchell '66 <i>Carol-Jane Piltz Guardino '66</i>
Mr. & Mrs. Francis H. Muldoon <i>F Patrick &amp; Mary Tyler Muldoon Holmes '73</i>
Teresa Daley Muldoon '57 <i>Adam* &amp; Joan McFadden Sawoski '57</i>
Martha Hentz Murray '56 <i>Philip Murray</i>
Aurelia O'Donnell, SSJ <i>Immaculata Pelone Maria Pelone '11</i>
Philomena O'Hanlon '46 <i>Anna Victoria Duzinski '17 Stephen &amp; Roseanne O'Hanlon Duzinski '71</i>
Ellen Marie Mullany O'Laughlin '51 <i>Mary Ellen O'Laughlin, Esq. '76</i>
Nancy Peck Perkins '43 <i>Judith Perkins '70</i>
Gilda Petrongolo <i>Anthony &amp; Camille D'antonio Maglio</i>
Janice McDugall Pfeiffer '71 <i>John &amp; Blanche Goffredo Haughton '71 Richard &amp; Ann O'Connor Levering '71</i>
Vicki Fella Pleier '78 <i>James &amp; Maria Fella Cain '84</i>
Patricia Kenney Quinn '74 <i>Robert &amp; Elizabeth Mallon Hunter '74</i>
Mary F Quinn '67 <i>John &amp; Mary Louise Goldkamp Ryan '67</i>
Catherine E. Quinn '78 <i>Frances Vorsky '05, '07 SGS</i>
Kenneth Quintal <i>Samuel &amp; Jean Croft Kevin Kranis &amp; Robin Boyd-Kranis Kathryn Premo</i>

Melika Rose Roberts <i>Gail Ramsey, M.A. (F)</i>
Rosemary Peacock Rychlewski '57 <i>Margaret Feraco Frampton '79</i>
Ann Malaney Savage '57 <i>Catherine &amp; Robert Savage</i>
Margaret Mary Kropp Scully <i>Anonymous</i>
Lynda Shaheen '64 <i>Barbara Cnuse '64</i>
Richard Sharkey <i>Patricia McGee Sharkey '63</i>
Mary Ann Simpson, MSN, RN '77 <i>Gerald &amp; Carol Fetterman Blauth '78 SCPS</i>
Irene Smith-Schneider <i>Linda Carr Gregory &amp; Lynn Christ Carole Christ '06 SCPS and Joseph Christ</i>
Mary Maines Sullivan '58 <i>Mr. John P. Sullivan, Esq.</i>
Florence Edward Sullivan, SSJ '66 <i>Jeffrey &amp; Maria Rivera Waldman '84</i>
Marie Roche Sweeney '58 <i>Barbara Merck Kearns '58</i>
Ruth Tushup Tierney '58 <i>Christopher Cordaro '10</i>
Barbara Crane Tierney '57 <i>John &amp; C. Patricia O'Hara Rutter '57</i>
Elizabeth Moonan Tome '45 <i>Carolyn Sartory</i>
Ruth Walker '63 <i>Marion Williams Berry '63 Rita Schwartz '63</i>
William Weber, BS, MBA, LaSalle '73,'80 <i>Elizabeth Sauter Weber, Ed.D. '74</i>
Walter “Bud” Whitman <i>Anonymous Corinne Whitman</i>
Anne Butler Wigmore '58 <i>John &amp; Janice Kitley Yurasek '58</i>
Marion Williams <i>Francis &amp; Regina Williams Tate, Esq. '75</i>
Leonard Yankosky, Jr. <i>Mary Ann Costello Yankosky '64</i>
Nina Buckley Yeager '68 <i>John &amp; Teresa Clark Trudeau '68</i>
Anthony Youngblood <i>Sylvia Youngblood</i>
David Zukauskas <i>Kirsten Mease Frances Vorsky '05, '07 SGS Stephanie Williams '07 (S) Vincent &amp; Helen Zukauskas</i>

DONOR LIST KEY

(D)	Director	(S)	Staff
(F)	Faculty	(A)	Administrator

Fall 2024

# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

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

Athletics

A successful fall sports season concluded in November with two programs recording their best seasons ever, a third reaching the conference championship game and six programs participating in postseason competition.

The women's tennis team produced a 12-5 record this season and advanced to the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) championship match for the first time since the 2020-2021 COVID-19 shortened season. Leading the way was this year's CACC Player of the Year **Alison Isaac '24**. Isaac produced a 31-5 combined record (singles/doubles) and went undefeated against conference opponents during the regular season. Chestnut Hill College defeated Goldey-Beacom in the conference semi-finals before falling to defending champion Wilmington in the championship match, 4-1 with Isaac scoring the Griffins' lone point with a singles win.

**Lilian Bandel** (23-11) and **Romi Meirovich** (23-12) joined Isaac on the All-Conference team with both players recording career best seasons.

The sprint football team finished their season with a 5-2 record, equaling their best mark in program history earning wins against Ivy League schools Cornell and Penn and finishing second in the Collegiate Sprint Football League (CSFL) South Division behind Navy. The team's only losses were against Navy and Army, the two teams that played in the CSFL championship game. The Griffins placed 12 players on the CSFL All-Conference team this season with sophomore running back **Lawrence Howard V** leading the way. Howard broke the school's single season rushing mark with 734 yards on the season, finishing second in the league and the school's single season mark for rushing touchdowns with eight.

The women's volleyball team, under

the guidance of first year head coach **Brandon Johnson**, also produced their best record in program history, finishing the season with a 17-10 mark and reaching the CACC playoffs for the third straight season. The team lost a tough quarterfinal match to Dominican University 3-2 to end their season. Graduate student **Mia Caporellie** and senior **Erika Dubosky** earned all-conference honors with both players achieving several individual milestones. Caporellie, the Griffins' setter, became the school's all-time leader in assists (3,846) and service aces (210) while also recording over 1,000 career digs. Dubosky recorded her 1000th career dig and 1,000th career kill this season, finishing her career with 1,158 kills (3rd all time) and 1,257 digs (5th all-time). She also finished her career with 185 service aces – 2nd all time behind teammate Caporellie. Senior **Angela April** also broke the school record for career blocks with 264.

Alison Isaac



Romi Meirovich



Lilian Bandel



Lawrence Howard V

Head Coach for Women's Volleyball,  
Brandon Johnson





Lauren Sullivan    Dane Bodziak    Jimmy Paz    Jose Cuadra    Braden Berkey    Ryan O' Hara

Men's golf took home a sixth place finish at the CACC Championship in October with freshman **Rogelio Gerena** placing fifth overall among the individuals competing, earning a spot on the all-Tournament team.

Women's Cross country runner **Sydney Watts** became a three-time all-conference honoree with a second place finish at this year's conference championships finishing less than one second behind the winner. The second place finish was the best ever by a Griffin runner at the conference championship and Watt's time of 20:16.04 was a personal best. The Griffins finished sixth as a team in the competition. Watts went on to place 45th at the NCAA East Regional Championships recording

the best time ever by a Griffin runner competing at an NCAA regional and the second fastest 6,000-meter time in program history (23.51.6). She also holds the all-time mark for a 6K race at 23:44 set at Lock Haven last season.

The Griffins' women's soccer team qualified for the conference playoffs for the third straight season falling in the quarterfinals on penalty kicks to Caldwell University after playing a scoreless full game and two scoreless overtimes. Chestnut Hill finished the season with a 5-8-2 record. Junior **Lauren Sullivan** earned second team all-conference honors, finishing second on the team with five goals and 15 points while leading the team with five assists.

First-year head coach **Jesse Zafiratos'** men's soccer team struggled with injuries all season long earning three wins on the season, including a conference win against Dominican University. **Dane Bodziak, Jimmy Paz** and **Jose Cuadra** led the team with three goals apiece.

**Braden Berkey** was a bright spot among the Chestnut Hill men's cross country team this season winning the Penn State Brandywine Invitational and recording the Griffins' best finish at the CACC Championships with an 8,000-meter time of 30:00.8. **Ryan O' Hara** set a personal best 8K time at the conference championship with a 30:55 mark after getting pushed into a post in the first mile and running the race with a large cut on the side of his face. 🦋



Mia Caporellie    Erika Dubosky    Angela April    Rogelio Gerena    Sydney Watts

# What is SPRINT FOOTBALL?

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



Despite having a long history, people ask all the time, *what is sprint football?*

Sprint football uses the same rules as NCAA football, except that the players must weigh 178 pounds or less. Players focus on speed, agility and execution rather than size and strength, providing fans with an exciting new brand of textbook football.

The Chestnut Hill College Griffins participate in the Collegiate Sprint Football League (CSFL), which traces its roots back to 1934 when it was called the "Eastern 150-pound Football League." In 1967, the name was changed to the "Eastern Lightweight Football League" and then to the "Collegiate Sprint Football League" in 1998. The University of Pennsylvania is the only charter member from 1934 still competing. Cornell University joined the

league in 1937, Navy in 1946, and Army in 1957.

On our campus, sprint football arrived in 2014, when Chestnut Hill College announced the addition of the new sport for the following year. Under head coach Mike Pearson, the Chestnut Hill Griffins produced winning records in three of their first four seasons. Assistant coach Shawn Brady took over in 2019 and guided the team to a record-breaking 5-2 season. The league canceled the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the program returned in 2021, new head coach Gio Thomas struggled for his first two seasons as he rebuilt the team. This season his hard work paid off as the Griffins finished with a 5-2 record, equaling their best mark in program history while also posting a second-place

finish in the CSFL South Division and third best record overall behind Army (7-0) and Navy (6-1).

Over the 90-year history there have been several notable sprint football players. Late Former President of the United States Jimmy Carter played for Navy in the mid 1940's while New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft was a member of Columbia's squad in the early 1960's. Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was a captain on Princeton's team, and Vincent Viola, the owner of the National Hockey League's Florida Panthers, played for Army. Former college and NBA coaching greats Jack McCloskey and Dick Harter also coached the Sprint Football teams at Penn during the 1950's and 60's while NFL Hall of Fame coach George Allen was an assistant at Michigan for one season in the late 1940's when several Big Ten programs also fielded a lightweight football team.

The sport has garnered a new and growing fanbase over its long history, and the creation of the Midwest Sprint Football League (MSFL) just three years ago has nearly doubled the number of schools offering varsity programs. There is a bright future for Sprint Football at CHC as the College enters its tenth decade, and the Griffin team is more excited than ever! 🦋



Chestnut Hill College's first Sprint Football team, 2015

# Alumni RELATIONS



## Reflections

By Barbara Lonnquist, Ph.D., professor of English  
Given at the Opening Prayer Service, September 25, 2024

I'm honored (and a bit daunted) to share a reflection at this hugely significant moment for "Chestnut Hill College of the Sisters of St Joseph" as it commemorates a century of making higher education accessible to those for whom certain limits made a college degree seem a thing only for the privileged. Beginning with the first women who enrolled in Mount Saint Joseph College in 1924, when Catholic colleges were reserved for men, and moving through the past century in ever widening circles of inclusion is the story we celebrate today. Although none of us has lived that history, we are fortunate to be part of it at this moment, drawn together by a mission envisioned by brave SSJ Founders a century ago and re-envisioned by successive generations of those we call "College and Teachers and We" as we work to meet the needs of the time.

Anniversaries call us to reflect on things we take for granted in the passage of day to day and year to year. The question I've been asking myself is "How have I been shaped by Chestnut Hill College?" And I invite all of us to ask that question and--more elusively perhaps but none the less importantly -- "How are we shaping CHC for a future beyond our sight?" I'm guessing it wasn't

on the basis of my youth that I was asked to share some thoughts today and I'm a little taken aback to realize how much of

my life I've spent in the orbit of this Rotunda. Not being an historian, I'll try to offer a few snapshots of my experiences of CHC and hope they speak to you in some way.



**THE NAME:** I first heard the words Chestnut Hill as a mysterious place, a kind of Xanadu, invoked by the SSJs of my parish grade school. Philly to me then was Wanamakers at Christmas and trips to the Zoo. Another area women's college where I lived used to send its commuter bus into our neighborhood and my mother once mused, "Maybe you'll be on that bus someday." I knew then that I was not going to college on a school bus. Later an eighth-grade trip to see CHC's campus and stand in this Rotunda gave material reality to the SSJ Xanadu and -- unbeknown to me then -- a glimpse of my future.

**FASHION:** If you've looked at the display in the hallway beyond the Rotunda, you've noticed the shift from young women in blazers and suits in the 40s to co-eds in sweatpants and cropped tops today. But the fashion shift I'm most interested in is the evolution of the Sisters' dress. The College, when I arrived, was populated by nuns in beautiful French habits (if you want a lovely habit, consult the French!), which gave way to modified habits and gradually to contemporary women's garb. This change is significant not in itself so much but because it signals to me how with the sheer visibility of the sisters, we sometimes found it too easy to think that the work of the mission belonged only to them. In the last few decades sisters and lay people have recognized together that the mission and legacy belong to us all. A word here to our students: you may think you're here for four, or five years tops, in a close and admittedly imperfect, community, but what I hope you sense today and throughout this year is your lifelong connection with the mission and spirit of your college. You are the mission; you are our future.

**MEN:** At the beginning of the 21st century, when Sister Carol Vale made the courageous decision to "go co-ed," it was a **very big deal**. The nuns were marvelously open to the change, some alums were not so sure, and the



Sister Margaret Fleming (left) walking with Sister Dorothy Hennessey (right).



remaining women's classes were “**feeling it.**” The spring after men arrived, we had senior dinner for one of those graduating classes here in the Rotunda. Back then the sophomores would plan and host the dinner. The décor and cuisine that year were Chinese and the surprise of the evening occurred when a dozen or so first-year male students, smartly dressed in black waiters' shirts and trousers, entered carrying trays of food. The MC for the evening dressed in Chinese attire looked around at the senior tables and said something that today might be considered “un-woke” and in a faux Chinese accent that I won't try to replicate – “see boys, very nice!” The senior women went wild – and men became not only part of our community but part of our traditions!

**THE FUTURE:** The question of how CHC has shaped us is also a predictor of its future. I was shaped



by an education that was humanistic and holistic. When a beloved professor retired in the 90s, I told our students, how I had had excellent teachers at two good grad schools (Notre Dame and Penn) – but they never exceeded the best of those I had at CHC. That gave me great confidence in my “small women's college.” And yes, Sister Mary Helen, your 20th century French novel course is in that pantheon. I worked

with Joe Bucci before he died and saw how business majors infused concern for the earth and all people into marketing plans. That is the SSJ mission. So too, our Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation and Restorative Justice classes remind us what it means to “live justly and walk humbly with our God.” We are shaped by students whose questions challenge us to new thinking and, in one case, whose commitment to the earth inspired the courses I design. And we're shaped by our colleagues whose talents and commitment to this college is nothing short of amazing.

The future of Chestnut Hill College is being shaped right now. Today, inspired by our history, we face a promise we can't yet see – but which, like this Rotunda that rose out of its own ashes a century ago – we trust is full of grace. 🍀

## Class Notes



**Lynn Mulvaney Sharp '87** hosted a brunch in northern New Jersey for alumni in the area on Sunday, November 17. Speakers included former CHC presidents Sister Matthew Anita MacDonald and Sister Carol Jean Vale, and CHC's current interim president, Brian McCloskey.



**Jean Koch Williams '84** is president of AGR Foundation in Tucson AZ, which has three programs: Arizona Heartfelt Hounds which is a sighthound (retired racing Greyhounds, Borzois, Afghans, Whippets, etc) rehoming group that has been in business for over 30 years; Sol Dog Lodge and Training Center which is a place for all dogs and the people who love them; and Hearts at Ease, which will take care of dogs if their humans have a crisis. Our mission is to keep dogs out of shelters! Photo of Jean with Blaze, a service dog she trained.



**Kevin Bethel, '08 SCPS** was sworn in as Philadelphia Police Commissioner on January 2, 2024, after 30 years of service with the Philadelphia Police Department. He is congratulated here by Elaine Green, Ed.D., PHMC Grant Coordinator/SCPS Administration; Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., President Emerita, and Sara Ellen Kitchen, J.D., Professor Emerita of criminal justice, after being inducted into the Libris Society in 2015.

## Class Notes



The Honorable **Sean Dougherty '16** (r) with Interim CHC President, Brian McCloskey (l). Sean was recently elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and was sworn in on January 7, 2025. Congratulations!



Kathleen Mahoney Sykes '61

When a number of my friends and I graduated in 1961, one suggested forming a round robin. It would travel around with letters, photos, recipes and the like. When it came back to you, you removed your old letter, inserted a new one and off it went to the next person on the list. We were all excitedly heading off in different directions, and the round robin seemed a wonderful way to keep in touch.

At a time when letter writing is a dying art, I am happy to report that our round robin is still happily flying around with updates on everyone's lives. We have reported on marriages, babies, grandkids, and so much more. Sadly, we have lost two members and have brought two more on board.

The original members of the group were Helen Baum Miller, Kay Alcamo

Cardali, Sheila Boyle Otto, Elaine Bevevino Trevey, Barbara Folsom Murch and me, **Kathleen Mahoney Sykes '61**. After Barbara and Betty died, we were joined by Pat Gallagher Smith and Rose Fabio McKenna.

It is my sincere hope that this old bird will continue making its rounds for many years to come.



**Olivia Gorczynski Schlentz '15** and **David Schlentz '15** welcomed their first child, Owen, in October 2023. Olivia majored in business administration with a minor in sports management. Her four-year basketball record pushed her over 1,000 points, recognized in a Sorgenti Arena banner, and two years as team captain. Following Owen's birth, Olivia returned to her position as a privacy operations specialist with CrowdStrike.



**Robert DeFinis, Ed.D. '05 SGS** recently published *Gen-eXceptional: How the Unique Traits of Generation X Can Transform Leadership* after years of research on the subject. The seasoned educator, business leader, and thought influencer hopes to empower executives and aspiring leaders with the release of his latest book, which is available in hardcover, e-book, and audiobook formats at major retailers.



**Courtney (Weidner) Wheaton '16** recently embarked on two exciting new chapters in her life.

She exchanged vows with her new husband and fellow Griffin, **Kevin Wheaton '15**. Fun fact: they had a total of seven former Griffins in their wedding party as well as 25+ alumni in attendance on their special day.

The couple is happily settled in San Francisco, where Courtney is thriving in her new role as Strategy and Operations Associate in the Global Affairs organization at Google.



**Lorraine Revello '66** (center, standing) along with her sister, Marianne, joined **Sister Mary Theresa Shevlard '73**, Rita K. Borzillo, J.D., assistant professor & chair of the Business Administration and Management Department, and **Erica Kwasek '25** for Mass and lunch. Erica is the recipient of the Lorraine Adele Maria Revello Endowed Scholarship and is a member of the softball team.

Class Notes



**Jill Walsh Cwirko '15** and **Matthew Cwirko '14** welcomed twin boys, Noah Mark and Isaac Richard on August 2, 2024. Emmett, is very happy to have the title of big brother!



Congratulations to **Christopher Bunn '20** and **Samantha Covais '20** who were married in December 2024. Fellow Griffins attended, including **Samaria Turner '19**.



**Kate Sprandio Ells '10** and Zachary Ells welcomed Peter on June 28, 2022! Big siblings Lucy and Zachary adore him!  
  
Kate has also been busy self publishing a collection of short stories entitled Please Read Me: A collection of short stories and some poems too in August 2023 and Laugh Like A Mother, a collection of humorous motherhood poetry in May of 2024. Both are available on Amazon.



**Kathy Tigh Detrano '67** led an Alumni Roundtable for CHC Computer Science & Information Technology students. In fall 2023, she shared stories about her time at Bell Laboratories in the 1960s where she worked on several projects, including the Safeguard Ballistic Missile Defense System. The program was arranged by Professor **Andrea Wentzell '15**.



Congratulations to **Paola Mongil '19** who passed her exams and became an M.D.!



**Stephanie Reif '13** married Jackie Burns on October 26th in Hillsborough, NJ. **Caitlin Kain '13** shined as maid of honor going above and beyond in every way!



**Seth Jacobson '07** was recently named one of “40 Under 40” by Philadelphia Business Journal. Seth is associate vice president, special initiatives and community engagement, with the Community College of Philadelphia. The annual award “recognizes the region’s up and coming leaders.”



**Maryanne Kane, Ph.D. '78** published her historical fiction novel *Yellow Butterflies* on St. Patrick’s Day of this year. The book begins in 1920 Ireland and follows the adventures and misadventures of its brave, young protagonist, Theresa Anna Maria O’Mara.



CHC alumni celebrate at the wedding of **James Rider '23**. From left to right, Jesse Balcer, Lucas Dunn '25, Nigel Haughton '23, Neal Hill '23, Noah Charles '24, James Rider '23, Junior Ebone '11 SGS, and JJ Butler '18.



**Did you get this yellow notice in the mail?** Chestnut Hill College has partnered with Publishing Concepts Inc. (PCI) to collect alumni memories in honor of our 100th anniversary. It’s free and over 1,000 alumni have shared their stories so far. Call to record your memories over the phone. Merchandise is available to purchase but you are under no obligation. They will be collecting stories until April 4, 2025. Call 1-877-303-1267.

Reunion Weekend 2025

CELEBRATING 0s AND 5s, BUT ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY EVENTS IN CELEBRATION OF CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE’S 100TH YEAR.

FRIDAY, MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>

- 3 PM** Welcome & Check-In for Overnight Guests
- 4 PM** Cocktails and Conversation with SSJs, faculty, and staff
- 5:30 PM - 7 PM** Welcome Dinner in the Dining Hall
- 6 PM** Athletics Hall of Fame Ceremony and Celebration  
*Reunion attendees are welcome to attend, whether you were involved in Athletics or not!*
- 9 PM** CHC Trivia Night

SATURDAY, MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>

- 7 AM - 10 AM** Fitness Center Open
- 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM** Breakfast in the Dining Hall
- 9 AM - 11:30 AM** Alumni Mini-Retreat  
*Join Michelle Leshner SSJ '00, classmates and friends in a peaceful setting, reflecting on your shared CHC experience.*
- 11:30 AM** Reunion Luncheon Cocktail Hour and Class Photos
- 12:30 PM** Reunion Luncheon  
*Seated lunch, wine service, Class Roll Call, Alumni Awards, and Golden Griffins Induction Ceremony. The signature event of Reunion Weekend!*
- 4 PM - 6 PM** Optional tours of the Sugarloaf Campus (home of CHC’s new Nursing program!), the History of CHC 100th Year Art Gallery, and the 100 Years of CHC Legacy Exhibit.
- 6 PM - ?** Party on the Piazza  
*Casual Philly-food themed dinner, music, and fellowship on the Piazza.*



# SUNDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>

7 AM - 9 AM



**Continental Breakfast served in the Dining Hall**

10 AM



**CHC's 100th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving**  
*Join the entire CHC community for this special Mass in the stunning Motherhouse Chapel. The Most Reverend Nelson J. Perez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, will say Mass and bless Chestnut Hill College for its next 100 years.*

11 AM - 1 PM



**100th Anniversary Brunch in the campus Dining Hall.**  
*Immediately following Mass, all are welcome for the end of Reunion Weekend 2025 and the final event of CHC's Centennial Year.*

## REGISTER FOR REUNION WEEKEND BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



**Please note:** All registration will be completed online. Online descriptions will include exact pricing, locations, and any special notes. All Reunion questions can be directed to Maureen Fisher McLaughlin at 215-248-7137 or mclaughlinm1@chc.edu.



## In Memoriam

Alumni deceased since last publication | (Notification to CHC: June 30, 2024 – January 5, 2025)

Regina McGlynn-Lenahan '44	Joanne Grimm Seaver '60	Barbara Glennon, SSJ, D.M.A. '69
Jeanne Carpenter Hanes Romano '47	Clare Cannon Breene '62	Roseann Quinn, SSJ, D.Min. '69
Jeanne Marx Young '49	Patricia Tichenor Greer, Ph.D. '62	Kathleen Staudt Nickels '71
Patricia Casey D'Entremont '50	Sondra Bergey '63	Suzanne Dwyer Florio '72
Catharine Gallagher Brockway '51	Janet Salerno Mignogna '63	Mary Ann Conway Kennedy '72
Mary Patricia Boston Kelly '51	Marie Mathias Bamberg '64	Anita Melograna '73
Edythe Peterson Buchter '52	Jerilyn Louis Tierney '64	Regina McIntyre, RSM '77 SCPS
Barbara Carli '52	Carol Lowe Ambacher '65	Joan Mickey, SSJ, '78
Patricia Nichols Brady '53	Barbara Natello Stracco '66	Virginia Weitzman '81
Margaret Keegan Lawn '54	Tina DeLucia '67	Ellen Seiberlich Hardy '82
Anita Esposito Varga '54	Kathleen Weibel '67	Marilyn Curry '84 SGS
Hilda Casanave Bertotti '55	Jane Bowe Arnold '68	Constance Brown '93 SGS
Margaret Fleming, SSJ '56	Judith Vanstone Golderer '68	Karen Leary '09
Patricia Turvey Dellomo '59	Cheryl Elias '69	William DiMaio, Jr. '21, '22 SGS



Alumnus **William DiMaio, Jr. '21, '22 SGS** died in the terror attack in New Orleans on January 1, 2025. An accomplished young man with a bright future, Billy graduated in May of 2021 with a degree in business administration and management. He then returned to CHC for his graduate work, finishing in December of 2022 with a master's degree in organizational leadership.

Billy was also a standout athlete at CHC, serving as captain on the 2022 championship men's lacrosse team. The entire CHC community mourns this tremendous loss, and we pray for peace worldwide.

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4*

# GET TO KNOW THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT (OIA)!

The Office of Institutional Advancement is here to help alumni, friends, partners, and organizations connect with the mission and strategic goals of Chestnut Hill College. We accomplish this through fundraising, alumni events and engagement, and our relationships with corporate, government, and foundation partners.

## ANDY BEHREND

*Vice President for Institutional Advancement.* Contact Andy if you want to hear more about our fundraising priorities or want to discuss a naming opportunity at the College. BehrendA@chc.edu or (215) 680-1054



## THERESA BIELSKI

*Manager of Constituent Records.* Terri keeps the office running by processing gifts, managing the database, and being our office's tech hero. BielskiT@chc.edu or (215) 248-7144



## GINI MAUCHLY CALCERANO

*Senior Director, Research and Data Management.* Gini can help you with questions about IRA giving, wire transfers, gifts of stock, Donor Advised Funds and planned giving. CalceranoG@chc.edu or (215) 242-7762



## MICHELLE PRESNALL

*Director of Annual Giving.* Contact Michelle with questions about how to make a gift, your giving history, or anything else. Michelle also runs the College's magazine, so you can ask her about that, too. PresnallM@chc.edu or (215) 248-7123



## LINDA LOWE

*Mission Advancement Officer.* Contact Linda if you have questions about what's happening at the college, you'd like to discuss a gift, or anything else! LoweL@chc.edu or (215) 753-3664



Ready for any good work, our volunteers, Sister Matthew Anita MacDonald, Sister Kathryn Miller and Sister Carol Jean Vale are an enormous help. Sister Mary Theresa Shevland is always with us in spirit.

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# 62 HOURS OF GIVING!

MARCH 19 - 21

Join the entire Griffin community as we come together to honor our longest serving faculty member, Sister Mary Helen Kashuba, who has been teaching at CHC for the past 62 years!

*More details coming soon!*





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



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1924 — 2024

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**The 100th Anniversary Fund supports Financial Aid and Scholarships,  
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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.

### CORRECTIONS TO THE FALL 2024 ISSUE

- On page 16, in the article, "From Mounties to Griffins," alumna Barbara D'Iorio Martino was erroneously listed as being a member of the class of 1961. She graduated in 1960. Our apologies to Barbara for the mistake.
- On page 19, the photo montage "100 years of Transformational Growth... in Numbers" incorrectly stated the Accelerated Program as 52 years old. The Accelerated Program was started in 1996, making it 29 years old in 2025. Thanks to Elaine Green for the correction.
- On page 23, Sister Sheila Kennedy, SSJ, Ph.D. was incorrectly identified in the article, "A Shot in the Arm." Sheila Kennedy, SSJ, Ph.D. is the Director of the Counseling Center and a licensed psychologist in Pennsylvania. Our apologies to Sister Sheila for the mistake.