

BREAKING NEWS: CHC'S NEW PRESIDENT!

# CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE MAGAZINE

FALL 2025



Leo PP. XIV

*Griffins  
Applaud*

THE FIRST  
AMERICAN POPE





BREAKING NEWS: CHC NAMES 8TH PRESIDENT, DR. BRIAN MCCLOSKEY!

Dear Griffins, Staff and Faculty, Friends and Neighbors:

First off, I am honored, humbled and excited to have been chosen as the College’s 8th president! I look forward to helping to advance our wonderful mission and the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. My commitment to our community is to work tirelessly as we continue to build our brand, and please accept my heartfelt thank you to all alumni who supported the College in the search process. Now, on to our next century!

What a year we have had, celebrating the historic centennial of Chestnut Hill College! In June, we wrapped up a full year of celebratory events with the graduation of our doctoral interns as they completed their journey to becoming full doctors-- the final celebration of our 100th year!

There was so much to celebrate, we will try to name a few and remain grateful to everyone who supported us and showed their Griffin pride throughout the year, and certainly beyond.

Thank you to all the donors who helped the College complete a successful fundraising campaign to renovate the SugarLoaf campus into the site for our new Nursing program. Over \$5 million was raised to transform the former conference center into simulation labs and classrooms. Our new class includes traditional BSN students and nearly two dozen students seeking their Accelerated bachelor’s in nursing, or an ABSN degree.

Along with this campaign, many Griffins helped us with matching gifts, and our Griffin Fund, renamed the 100th Anniversary Fund for the past year only, along with all the other Centennial celebrations raised nearly \$1 million in unrestricted funds.

The College continues to grow, and our incoming class for the Fall of 2025 is the largest in years, mirroring those from our pre-pandemic days. The College is experiencing a 30% increase in deposits as I write this welcome letter, very exciting times. To accommodate this growth, the College is welcoming eight new faculty members for the 25/26 academic year. I know of no other college or university in our area--or any area--that can boast those figures.

We are looking to have Chestnut Hill College become a leader in the sciences again. Renovations of our labs in Saint Joseph Hall began in the summer of 2025 and will continue in the summer of 2026. We are expecting the renovation of all of our labs to be in the \$1 million range. In addition to the sciences, the College is slowly bringing music back; we have a new concentration in the Business of Music that launches this fall. We hope this is a start to have music once again echo in the halls of Saint Joe’s.

In October of this year, the College’s Life Skills through Career program launches. The school is a licensed provider of these services in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This program will bring a revenue stream to the College that is unrelated to enrollment or demographic changes in higher education, which is very exciting indeed. In fact, Chestnut Hill College is presenting at a session on Neurodiverse topics at Invest Philly, a regional conference aimed at leaders in many industries. We will moderate a panel during the February 2026 workshop.

Our fall sports are underway, and we are rooting for our Sprint Football team to unseat perennial powerhouses Army and Navy as we build off of last season’s success. This coming spring, our lady Griffins flag football team will have their inaugural season; stay tuned for more on this.

Our MBA program begins its second year and with it, three new concentrations: accountancy, health care, and pastoral studies. In addition, we are very excited as Chestnut Hill College builds off the success of our PsyD program by bringing several new doctoral programs, the first of which will launch in the Fall of 2026. Be on the lookout for this exciting news!

We are grateful for the year that has concluded and eagerly anticipate the year and years ahead. We remain grounded in our mission and the mission of our sponsors, the Sisters of Saint Joseph as we begin this second century. Let us continue to serve the Dear Neighbor without distinction, the hallmark of our mission.



It is a great time to be a Griffin!

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

FALL 2025

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*We invite your comments,  
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Contact us at: [magazine@chc.edu](mailto:magazine@chc.edu)*



Dear faculty, staff, alumni  
and friends of Chestnut Hill College,

Thank you for supporting and joining us for the outstanding events throughout our 100th Anniversary celebration!! The mission of Chestnut Hill College infused the special lectures, GriffinFest, a special fundraiser honoring Sister Mary Helen Kashuba, the induction of Libris Society members and the fabulous Soiree, commencement, reunion weekend, a special liturgy celebrated by Archbishop Nelson Perez, and everything in between. It was a great year to be a Griffin!

Our good fortune and momentum have carried over to our new academic year. On August 4, we happily announced that Dr. Brian McCloskey has been appointed as the eighth President of Chestnut Hill College. Dr. McCloskey's appointment follows his successful three-year tenure as Chief Financial Officer and one year as Interim President. Dr. McCloskey has been an exceptional leader throughout his time at Chestnut Hill College. He has embraced the College's mission of providing transformative, holistic education, pursuit of just relationships, innovative thinking, and responsible action toward a more unified global society and sustainable earth. Dr. McCloskey's financial expertise and discipline has put the College on a path toward sustainability and even greater success.

Prior to Dr. McCloskey's appointment, the Board engaged in listening sessions with faculty, staff, and administration and gathered feedback from alumni. It became clear that Dr. McCloskey is the ideal choice to guide Chestnut Hill College into our second century of excellence.

Under Dr. McCloskey's leadership, we launched new programs this fall: a traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing; an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing; and an MBA in three new optional concentrations (Accountancy, Healthcare, and Ministry Leadership). This spring we will officially launch our Life Skills through Career Program, which will serve adults with developmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder over the age of 21.

Please visit our website at [www.chc.edu](http://www.chc.edu) to read more about our vibrant and growing community. I look forward to seeing you on campus or at an event near you!!!

Wishing you the very best,

*Carol Steinour Young*

Carol Steinour Young  
Chair, Board of Directors



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# Fall Events on Campus

## CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE *2025 Facts*

**\$36.5M**

SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED ANNUALLY

FULL-TIME  
STUDENTS RECEIVE  
A MERIT-BASED  
SCHOLARSHIP

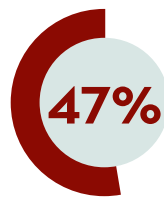
**100%**

**94%**

RETENTION RATE,  
FALL 2024 -  
SPRING 2025

**17**  
NCAA  
DIVISION II  
SPORTS + SPRINT  
FOOTBALL

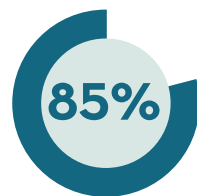
**2**  
NEW SPORTS,  
WOMEN'S GOLF  
AND WOMEN'S  
FLAG FOOTBALL



STUDENTS  
IDENTIFYING AS  
RACIALLY DIVERSE



FIRST-GENERATION  
COLLEGE STUDENTS



FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS  
LIVING ON CAMPUS



STUDENTS  
PLAYING SPORTS

**65+** | STUDENT  
CLUBS AND  
ACTIVITIES

**60+** | ACADEMIC MAJORS  
AND MINORS  
TO STUDY

### INVOLVEMENT & STUDENT EMPLOYMENT FAIR: SEPTEMBER 3



The Fair is an opportunity to showcase student-led clubs, student support services, and local businesses/organizations that may be of interest to students. This event is meant to be a space for groups to have facetime with students to promote their jobs and services so that students can become more involved on campus and with the local community.

### ISLAMIC AWARENESS WEEK: OCTOBER 6 - 10



Islamic Awareness Week, organized by the Muslim Student Association (MSA), is a newfound tradition at Chestnut Hill College. This week-long event invites students, faculty, and staff to explore the rich history, contributions, and aspirations of those at CHC who practice Islam.

### GRIFFIN FEST: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25



Griffin Fest is our third annual homecoming event and celebration. Join students, staff, faculty, alumni and families for a day of fun on campus. Cheer on our Griffins in various athletic events, enjoy our beer garden if you're 21+, and bring your children for bounce houses and more!

### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7



Bring children of all ages for this special visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Rotunda. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and the opportunity to take your photos with Santa. All are welcome!

### CAROL NIGHT: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5



The tradition continues! Join us in the Rotunda for the sounds of the season performed by our Chestnut Hill Singers. Following the concert, join fellow alumni and friends in the Redmond Room for merriment, food and drink. Don't miss this!

### GRIFFIN NETWORKING NIGHT: THURSDAY, MARCH 12



Hosted by Alumni Relations and the Career Center, this event supports our current students by helping them sharpen their networking skills by interacting with alumni. Alumni of any major or career are welcome to attend and participate! This evening always leads to meaningful conversations and networks formed.

For more information on CHC events, please visit: [www.chc.edu/calendar](http://www.chc.edu/calendar)



# Campus News

## DR. DAVID CONTOSTA

### *Publishes New Novel*

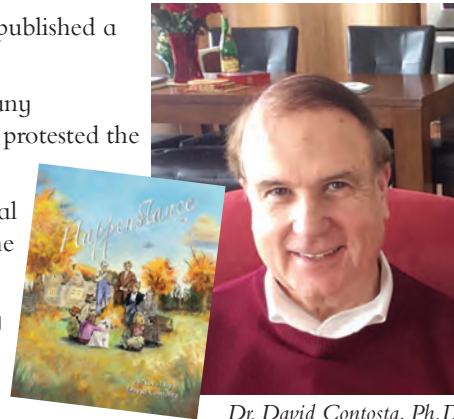
Dr. David Contosta, Ph.D., professor of history and author of numerous books has just published a new novel, *Happenstance* (Pegasus, UK).

During the summer of 1916, twenty-seven-year-old activist Ellen Montgomery had many adventures in New York City: she picketed sweatshops, marched for women's votes, and protested the Triangle Shirtwaist fire.

When she takes a job as the director of a progressive orphanage for girls in a small, rural community outside Philadelphia, Ellen worries that this remote site might not match the excitement of the Big Apple.... until she hires Jane Williams as the orphanage nurse.

Together, Ellen and Jane create a loving home for outcast children and build the family they've been longing for. But as their relationship grows and pushes the boundaries of societal norms, will they be accepted for who they are?

Buy the book on Amazon.com 🦄



Dr. David Contosta, Ph.D.

## DIRECTOR OF CHC'S MONTESSORI PROGRAM

### *Receives Award*



Marie Zdebski Conti '80, '85 SGS, AMS Senior Director of Community and Events, former CHC Montessori Teacher Education Program instructor and director, presented Carissa with the award.

Carissa Swiss, Assistant Professor/Discipline Chair and Director of the CHC Montessori Teacher Education Program received the AMS Impact Medal from the American Montessori Society at the 65th Anniversary Celebration. "This recognition for service and leadership is incredibly meaningful to me. To be acknowledged by such a respected organization, comprised of peers and leaders I greatly admire, is truly an honor."

From working with the dedicated CHC staff to hosting a regional symposium, advocating alongside the Montessori Public Policy Initiative and Pennsylvania Montessori Alliance for Early Childhood credential recognition in private schools, and participating in Cohort 1 of AMS Director Academy, this award validates the dedication and hard work Carissa has put into her role as director. Carissa credits the support of her Montessori faculty, her colleagues in the Center for Education, Advocacy and Social Justice, and the AMS staff and administration for their collaboration and guidance in achieving this milestone. 🦄

## INTRODUCING

### *a New Future Griffin*

CHC's Director of Campus Ministry, Anna Ryan-Bender and her family welcomed Grace Dorothy Ryan-Bender into this world on January 10 at 12:59pm. 8lbs 1oz, 21 inches. Congratulations, Anna! 🦄



## *SugarLoaf Campus*

## WELCOMES NEW NURSING STUDENTS

Over the summer, renovations wrapped up on the College's brand-new Nursing Clinical Arts Center, ready for students in Fall 2025. Much of these renovations took place on the College's bucolic SugarLoaf campus, which is home to the new program. The former conference center was transformed into a state-of-the-art instructional facility that includes a new basic skills lab, teaching and office spaces, and a health assessment lab, among other spaces.

In addition, the new Center for Nursing has upgraded the existing science labs at Saint Joseph Hall on its main campus to coincide with the launch of nursing and the creation of the Regina Cuta-Papa, M.D., endowed professors of biology and chemistry.

Thanks to all our alumni, friends and partners who donated to the Nursing Program to get it up and running for our new nursing students!



Nurse Robin Bankhead checks supplies



New beds and equipment move into the Commonwealth Chateau



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Be on the lookout for an alumni survey this fall. The Office of Institutional Advancement will be asking alumni of all class years, majors and affinities. Tell us what you love, what you would like to see more of, and where we can improve. Look for the survey in your inbox and on [www.chc.edu/alumni](http://www.chc.edu/alumni)!



## Chestnut Hill College

# TO LAUNCH LIFE SKILLS THROUGH CAREER PROGRAM FOR NEURODIVERSE INDIVIDUALS

Chestnut Hill College has announced the launch of its transformative *Life Skills Through Career Program*, a comprehensive initiative designed to support neurodiverse individuals through employment training, life skills education, and community engagement. With a projected launch date of October 2025, the program places CHC at the forefront of service delivery and innovation in the neurodiversity space.

Following its approval as an Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) provider by the State of Pennsylvania in March 2025, CHC will begin offering services aimed at enhancing independence and vocational readiness for neurodiverse participants. The cornerstone of this initiative is the integration of life skills development with real-world employment preparation and collaborative support networks.

“We are looking to not only change the lives of the participants, but to establish best practices in working with these individuals and their families,” said Stephen Stunder, Ed.D., Executive Director of the Life Skills Through Career Program. “Our hope is that Chestnut Hill College becomes a leader in both delivering high-quality services and driving systemic change in partnership with agencies, educational institutions, and policymakers.”

Recruitment for the inaugural cohort is already underway through partnerships with Intermediate Units, Human Services agencies, school districts, and Supports Coordinators.

## EXPANDING CHC'S REACH AND IMPACT

In a move that underscores CHC's growing leadership in the field, Dr. Stunder has been appointed to the Board of Directors of The College Autism Network, a national organization dedicated to improving access and outcomes for neurodiverse college students. His appointment is expected to elevate CHC's presence on the national stage and foster valuable collaborations across sectors.

“Our goal is not just to operate a program,” said Dr. Stunder. “We are laying the foundation for a regional and national model of neurodiverse support—one that combines evidence-based practices, personalized learning, and strong interagency partnerships.”

## A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The CHC Neurodiversity Initiative envisions a future where individuals with autism and related neurodivergent identities have equitable access to education, employment, and community living. Through this initiative, Chestnut Hill College aims to spark a broader movement toward inclusive practices and reshaped societal perceptions of neurodiversity.

As the college moves forward with this bold and compassionate initiative, it welcomes collaboration, research, and innovation in the pursuit of a more inclusive and supportive future for all. 🦋

## Tradition & Risk, Volume II IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!



Sister Mary Helen Kashuba (AKA Sister Irma Mercedes) has finished her second book about the history of Chestnut Hill College. *Tradition & Risk, Volume II*, picks up where *Tradition & Risk, Volume I* left off, completing the story of CHC's entire 100-year history.

Both books can be purchased through the Chestnut Hill College's bookstore:

TRADITION & RISK,  
VOLUME I:



TRADITION & RISK,  
VOLUME II:



## New Majors Announced in BUSINESS ANALYTICS AND DATA SCIENCE

Dr. Jeffrey Carroll, Chair of the Center for Data & Society, is thrilled to announce two majors that will be offered in the School of Undergraduate Studies in Fall 2025, the Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics and the Bachelor of Science in Data Science.

The new majors respond to the growing demand in the 21st century workforce as it relates to the acquisition, analysis, dissemination and communication of data. These new programs build on the success of the existing Minor in Data Studies for Social Good (DSSG), whose graduates have transitioned to advanced graduate studies in analytics and data science.

The Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics lies at the intersection of business, mathematics, and computing. It is designed to meet recent changes in the business climate and its pivot toward

data-driven decision-making. The program is a joint venture between the Center for Business and Center for Data & Society.

The Bachelor of Science in Data Science builds on the college's long-standing (and historic!) collaboration between mathematics and computer science. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, data-related occupations are projected to grow faster than other occupations in the upcoming decade, with data scientists accounting for half of new jobs in math occupations.

Both programs tap into cutting-edge techniques such as data mining (analyzing large datasets for correlations), data visualization (use of graphs, charts, maps and other illustrations) and the ethical implications of handling data and the machines that rely on them. 🦋



Dr. Jeffrey Carroll



## A STITCH IN TIME: THE LEGACY OF SISTER RITA MICHAEL

By June Rebecca Dodson 2025



*Sister Rita Michael Scully early in her career*

Whenever my mother, Jessica Dodson (Class of 1998), would visit me on campus, she always had two things on her to-do list: climb up the rotunda steps and visit her old dorm. The first task would be performed with a flourish as my mother relished the last days of being the only

Dodson with a degree allowing her ascendance upon those renowned rotunda steps. Until last May, I had been waiting to join her on those steps my entire life—the steps steeped in superstition from years of threats of not graduating on time if they dare trespass.

The other pit stop was a tiny room in the back of Fournier that used to be my mother's old dorm, a room most people didn't know existed. The space now serves as Sister Rita Michael's literary and sewing clubroom, where she pursues her latest of astoundingly numerous and triumphant teaching endeavors.

Sister Rita Michael taught my mother Shakespeare in the late 1990s; as fate would have it, the first semester I transferred to CHC would be the last semester of Sister Rita's teaching career. Luckily, I signed up for her course,

Shakespeare in Love & War. It was Love & War, indeed, as Sister Rita battled cell phones out of students' hands, and I fell in love with Portia's gutsy wit from the Merchant of Venice. Near the end of that class, Sister Rita, my beloved professor, came up to me with a sign-up sheet asking if I wanted to join her new Literary Club in 2023.

The first club meeting, I showed up to my mother's old dorm, Great Gatsby in hand, to find Sister Rita sitting by herself reviewing her notes. We agreed it was my job to recruit new members, but in the meantime, she would teach me about the ex-patriot era. It fascinated me how she could weave together a historical narrative from the top of her head, with memorized quotes by F. Scott Fitzgerald and Gertrude Stein. When others discovered the club, they were equally awe-struck.

The clubroom is comprised of blacked out windows, well-worn chairs, vintage lamps, and copious notes in Sister Rita's cursive handwriting. When the sewing club came along in 2024, a couple more chairs, a huge table, and several dropped needles disguised into the carpet were added. This was my and five other members' hidden oasis stitched between Fournier and Martino, where we could prick our fingers while picking Sister's brain about how Chanel was also taught how to sew by nuns.

Yet, in all those intimate meetings, I never built up the courage to ask her why she wanted to be a Sister of St. Joseph (SSJ), or what she felt was her purpose hidden in this little clubroom. Finally finding the courage, I interviewed Sister Rita in her office last June.

Before I finished my question, she was already talking about the privilege to grow up as a student under the SSJ: "I liked what I saw. I liked their dedication, I liked their lightheartedness, the way they were one with another and how they cared so much about our education." Because she "loved how [she] was treated," Sister Rita wanted to share that experience with others. She certainly did. Graduating with 183 credits from Chestnut Hill College with a double major in English and Education (and here I thought it was impressive to graduate with my 156), she has taught all over the world, in multiple disciplines, and several age groups for over half a century—and all with humility. My favorite story of hers is when she taught a First Communion class for deaf children—not knowing much ASL herself—and she accidentally signed "bunny" instead of the sign for "devil," not realizing her mixed signals until the students fell over in their chairs laughing.

Perhaps her favorite subject, however, is dancing. While she specialized in ballet and tap dance, she trained CHC students how to do the Charleston for the 75th anniversary. Her advice for folks with two left feet: "You don't have to be good at it. You just need to be there and everyone needs a partner. Think of it as you are doing someone a favor."

Clearly, Sister Rita's continuing purpose is founded in supporting her community, which she describes as "a sort of spirit that resides with you all along. It exists from every single person here at the college—the people doing our cleaning and



*Sister Rita with the author, June Rebecca Dodson 2025 and her mother, Jessica Dodson 1998 in front of the rotunda stairs*

people preparing our meals to the president to the last person who was hired here. We never lost that spirit and makes it fun for everyone to work here." For me, that spirit is what made me fall in love with Chestnut Hill, and what made my mother do likewise thirty years ago. Although she no longer builds community within a traditional classroom setting, Sister Rita is still weaving together the spirit of community in her clubroom, one stitch and chapter at a time.

Out of her hundreds of pupils, I am honored to be the one she calls "her last student." My sewing kit is encased within her retirement box, made of mahogany and depicting a watercolor painting of the summer lawn. When I lift the lid to adjust a hem or sew on a button, I am reminded of her own lightheartedness and dedication to her students and her community. When I begin teaching high school English this Fall, I will honor her legacy by bringing the Chestnut Hill spirit with me. And maybe dance a little more too. 🐰





## The Centennial Soirée

The party of the century was April 26, 2025 in Sorgenti Arena! Over 300 guests attended to wish CHC a very Happy 100th birthday and congratulate 20 new Libris Society members. Great food, amazing alumni, and the Flying Ivorys entertainment made it an extremely enjoyable evening. Big Griff even came out to get the dance party started!

A big thank you to photographer **Linda Johnson** for capturing the joy of the night! To view all photos, please visit her webpage by scanning the QR code on the right.



President, Brian McCloskey welcomes guests to the Centennial Soirée



Branden Youngman 2006 with Lilia Miao 2011 SGS, 2018 PsyD.



Sister Draru Mary Cecilia, ASEC Executive Director with Sister Kathryn Miller, ASEC Board Member Emerita, and Sister Nancy Kamau, ASEC Director of Development



Sparks fly for hosts Ryan Burton-Romero, Vice President of Enrollment & Communications and Michael Thompkins, Director of Housing and Residence Life



Desiree Johnson, Director of Dining Services, with student Jasmine Gadson 2026



Cathy Lockyer Moulton 1992, 2022 SGS with Margaret Carney McCaffery 1977 and Carol Steinour Young, Esq, 1982



Bill and Sue Shevland with Sister Sheila Kennedy who accepted the Libris Society medal on behalf of Sister Mary Theresa Shevland





Eugene & Lynn Mulvaney Sharp 1987 and their three daughters, Grace, Catie and Kylie



Former President of the SSJ Congregation, Sister Anne Myers with the current President of the SSJ Congregation, Sister Eileen Marnien.



Karen Murphy Harris 1988, Cheryl Ann Kennedy 1987, and Kathy Shea Pié, 1987, 1992 SGS



Maria Pié Hughes 1987, Fran Vorsky 2005 and Karen Wilderotter Judge 1987



Regina Maxwell Schwiller 1965 with her son, Vincent Freeman, Guy Calcerano, Helen and Herman Fala, and Gini Mauchly Calcerano, Senior Director, Research and Data Management



Board member Devin DeVoue 2011 (l) with Phyllis Jablonowski, Director of Event Planning, Greg Gorski 2007, 2017 SGS, and Mateusz Czebatul 2020



Dr. Susan Apold, Director of Nursing Curriculum Development, Ann Baiada, Elaine Bennett Davey 1965, Loretta M. McLaughlin 1974 SCPS, Susan Rux, and Sharon Mingo



New Libris Society member, Deborah Dougherty Flint 1959 dances with son-in-law, Robert Finkenaur



Sister Nancy Fitzgerald with Maureen Fisher McLaughlin, Director of Alumni Relations, and Sister Sheila Kennedy



Barbara D'Iorio Martino 1960 with Sister Carol Jean Vale, President Emerita



Stephanie Reif 2013 with John Nguyen, M.S. 2012



New Libris Society member Rashida Weathers-Hurst 1995 with Shaquita Grier 2017



JoAnne DiGiacomo Lechowicz 1966 and new Libris Society member Lorraine Revello 1966 dance with Big Griff



Hafsah Abdul-Malik 2022 with Sister Matthew Anita MacDonald, former CHC President.



Lisa Fiorillo Perfidio 1984, Marianne Shannon Smith 1984, and Gillian Horna Dezzutto 1984



# The Libris Society, Class of 2025

Just before Chestnut Hill College's Centennial Soirée kicked off in the spring, we welcomed a new class of Libris Society members into the community. Formed in 2005, The Libris Society recognizes graduates of Chestnut Hill College who have distinguished themselves in their personal and professional lives while exemplifying the College motto of Fides-Caritas-Scientia, or Faith, Charity, Knowledge.

Speakers included Vice President for Institutional Advancement Andy Behrend, alumna and former Board Chair Cathy Lockyer Mouton 1992, 2022 SGS, and President Brian McCloskey. New members were surrounded by classmates, Sisters, staff and faculty, family and friends as they received several gifts including The Libris Society gold pin as recognition of their accomplishments.

Congratulations to all the new Libris Society members!



At the Centennial Soirée on April 26, 2025, **Rep. Tarik Sharif Khan**, member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives representing the 194th District, presented the College with this citation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in recognition of CHC's extraordinary achievements and contributions to the region over the past 100 years.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



The House of Representatives  
Citation

**Whereas**, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania takes great pride in recognizing institutions that contribute meaningfully to the betterment of our communities; and

**Whereas**, Chestnut Hill College, founded in 1924 as Mount Saint Joseph College by the Sisters of Saint Joseph and renamed in 1938, has been a beacon of academic excellence, providing transformative liberal arts education to generations of students; and

**Whereas**, over its 100-year history, the College has continuously evolved to meet the times, expanding its academic programs to include graduate and doctoral studies, and becoming a leader in preparing students for careers in a variety of fields; and

**Whereas**, through dynamic collaborations with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE), the Association of Colleges of Sisters of Saint Joseph (ACSSJ), and global study-abroad opportunities, the College has broadened its students' horizons, while the acquisition of the SugarLoaf estate in 2006 significantly expanded its campus to foster growth and innovation; and

**Whereas**, Chestnut Hill College has consistently demonstrated its commitment to community, working alongside local organizations and residents to support educational, cultural, and civic initiatives, fostering a spirit of collaboration and service within the region; and

**Whereas**, the College's athletics program has flourished as a member of NCAA Division II, and its historic campus—listed on the National Register of Historic Places—has been thoughtfully adapted to support the academic and technological needs of modern students; and

**Whereas**, more than 11,000 proud alumni have made lasting impacts in medicine, law, business, education, and social services, all while embodying the College's enduring values of Fides, Caritas, and Scientia.

**Now therefore**, Chestnut Hill College's 100th anniversary, recognizing its legacy of excellence, innovation, community involvement, and commitment to shaping the future of its students and society.

**And directs**, that a copy of this citation, sponsored by the Honorable Representative Tarik Khan, be presented to the leadership, staff, community, students and Board of Chestnut Hill College in recognition of their extraordinary achievements and contributions to the region over the past 100 years.



**Tarik Khan**  
State Representative  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
194th Legislative District



Sallyann M. Bowman, M.D.  
Class of 1972



Mary E. Brandt  
Class of 1976



Carole Christ  
Class of 2006 SCPS



Deborah Dougherty Flint  
Class of 1959



Patricia Tichenor Greer, Ph.D.  
Class of 1962\*



David Gunn  
Class of 1996 SGS



Joan Edmund Husted  
Class of 1968



Margarita Mongil-Kwoka  
Class of 1980



Barbara Forrester Landis  
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to all our attendees and sponsors for making the Centennial Soirée such a success! It was an unforgettable night of fun, family and friends as we celebrated new Libris Society members and 100 years of CHC excellence!

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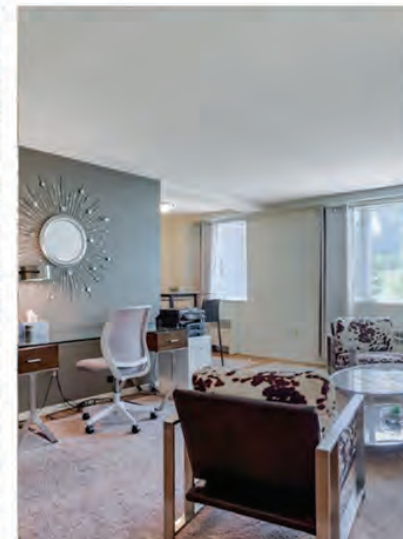
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# CHC Recognizes Sister Alumnae WITH SPIRITED CELEBRATION

By Matthew Anita MacDonald, SSJ Ph.D. 1960 and Kathryn Miller, SSJ Ph.D. 1970



The Sisters of Saint Joseph have a strong legacy with Chestnut Hill College, which graduated thousands of Sisters over its hundred-year history. As part of its 100th Anniversary, the College celebrated the Sister alumnae with a program and dinner at the College on March 15, 2025, and with a program and reception at Saint Joseph Villa on March 16, 2025. Sister Mary McFadden 1976, Board Member, hosted both programs.

Dr. Brian McCloskey, President, welcomed the Sisters, and expressed gratitude for their professional accomplishments and strong witness to the mission of the College. Dr. Barbara Lonquist, Professor of English gave a lively talk that guided a trip down memory lane, including Saturday and Summer School experiences, which stoked some uproarious laughs as well as some serious reflective moments.

Christina Diaz Acuff 2015, President of the Alumni Association and Maureen Fisher McLaughlin, Director of Alumni Relations welcomed the Sisters and acknowledged their importance to the College. They officially inducted the Sisters into the Alumni Association, giving each a celebratory card and a 100th Anniversary pin.

Stories and laughter continued during dinner as the Sisters celebrated their deep connection to the College. 🍷



Sister Matthew Anita MacDonald,  
Sister Marcie Springer



Sister Nancy Roche, Sister Veronica Roche and  
Sister Carol Marozzi



Sister Rita Michael Scully, a long-time faculty member,  
delights with anniversary pin



In his welcome Brian McCloskey, President,  
expresses gratitude to the Sisters of Saint Joseph for  
their mission and commitment to CHC



Dr. Barbara Lonquist, Professor of English,  
guides an enjoyable trip down memory lane



Sister Carol Jean greets alumna Sister Eileen Wust



Sister Carol Beevers, Sister Cecilia Cyford, Sister Trudy Aherne raise a glass



Sister Sheila Holly  
enjoys the moment



Sister Marie O'Brien and Sister Margi Savage

**“Sisters who taught us were incredible women ... smart, multi-talented, gifted and genuinely committed to their students, creating a loving / caring homelike environment”**



Sister Anne Myers



Sister Patricia Madden, Sister Patricia McGinley,  
Sister Sharon White and Sister Carol Marozzi enjoy time together

**“Enjoyed studying during so many summers ... great community experience, spiritual enrichment, fun with peers and amazing faculty”**



Sister Lisa Olivieri, and Sister Michelle Leshner applaud new alumnae



Sister Cathy Nerney



Sister Roseann Tribuiani with Sister Kathryn Miller



Sister alumnae at Saint Joseph Villa gather the following day to celebrate and receive their pins



Maureen McLaughlin pins Sister Frances Beck at the Villa celebration



# Alumni Reflect on 100 Years

In the spring of 2025, the College partnered with Publishing Concepts, Inc (PCI) to record and preserve oral histories from our alumni as part of our 100th Anniversary celebration. Nearly 3,000 alumni responded with stories and memories of their time at CHC. Below is a group of curated quotes taken from the alumni responses, representing decades of memories.

## SALLY MARUGG MCMILLAN 1951



I fondly remember my time at Chestnut Hill College where I majored in Chemistry. One of my favorite experiences was being the president

of the International Relations club for a time. This allowed me to indulge my lifelong passion for current affairs and world events. I even had the opportunity to attend a meeting in Cincinnati and participated in a Civil Rights group. I remained heavily involved in peace and justice activities, continuing to explore my fascination with the world around me.

## ELIZABETH WIBLE MOLLOY 1965

Stepping on the CHC campus for the first time was exhilarating. I majored in chemistry and minored in biology and felt well prepared when I went on to earn my Ph.D. in microbiology at Emory University. One memorable experience was helping to move the books when the new library opened. The students walked back and forth in a line carrying the books by hand from the old to the new library. Reflecting on my time at CHC, I'm most grateful for the well-rounded Catholic education I received academically and spiritually.



## LETITIA EGGA-HINTON 1978

I was part of the second class that came in through the Act 101 program at Chestnut Hill College, a program that targeted Hispanic or Latino girls from various communities across Pennsylvania. Graduating from Chestnut Hill was a huge milestone, as I was the first person in my family to earn a college degree. My Chestnut Hill experience laid the groundwork for me to think about life differently and move forward professionally. Chestnut Hill truly changed the trajectory of my life and those around me.



## ANNE MARIE RAYMUS FACENDO 1985

The Sisters of St. Joseph who lived with us back then were such inspirations. Many of us became leaders in our respective fields because we had such tremendous examples in them. The professors and advisors taught us well in their subject matter but also showed young women how to become confident leaders, unafraid to stand up and go after our dreams. Leaving Chestnut Hill I was ready to take on the world, grounded in Christian values, steeped in faith, and with a focus on strong purpose and service to others.



## SISTER MARYANNE ZAKRESKI, SSJ 1985

My time at Chestnut Hill was transformative. I majored in art studio, which was a bit unconventional for a sister at the time. The Art Department provided a wonderful creative outlet. The campus really felt like a community, with a great spirit that was very life giving for me. I still walk the campus regularly and think fondly of my time there, of the library, the teachers, and the wonderful sisters from whom I had the privilege of learning. It's a place that is in the blood of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and I'm grateful to have been a part of that legacy.



## MARAL DARESHURI DAOU 1995



I still remember the day I decided to transfer to Chestnut Hill College. As a new immigrant from Iran, it was an incredibly stressful time for my family and me. The moment

I stepped onto the beautiful campus, I knew I had found my place. The students were kind, and I quickly made lifelong friends. The Sisters of St. Joseph showed me unconditional love and support. I lost my father while he was still teaching at CHC, but I was touched by the compassion shown by the college community, who came to our

home to offer their condolences.

It's that level of care and dedication that sets CHC apart.

## ANDREW HILDEBRAND 2017

One of the highlights was playing lacrosse with my brother during my freshman year when he was a senior. Being able to share that experience with family on top of having a team to support me was incredibly meaningful. Perhaps my most impactful roles were as an orientation coordinator and leader. In these positions, I had the privilege of welcoming incoming students and their families to the Chestnut Hill community. The sense of community and camaraderie I felt was unparalleled. The bonds I formed during my time there continue to enrich my life.



## YEVETTE ROSSELL 2018 SCPS

Choosing Chestnut Hill College was one of the best decisions I ever made. As an adult student with a busy life, I was drawn to the accelerated program, which allowed me to take classes at night a few days a week. My academic advisor was an absolute godsend, helping me map out a plan to complete a major in accounting. Earning my bachelor's degree was transformative; it proved I could overcome any obstacle and achieve my goals, no matter how daunting they seemed. The flexible program, caring faculty, and supportive environment allowed me to succeed against the odds.

## PHILIP HORST 2005 SGS

My journey to Chestnut Hill College began when I learned about their Holistic Spirituality and Spiritual Direction training program. I was drawn to the rigorous academic curriculum combined with the holistic spirituality component. The welcoming and inclusive campus environment made me feel right at

home, even as a non-Catholic. Beyond the academics, a formative experience was the emphasis on listening to the voices of marginalized people, something repeatedly reinforced through the classes and discussions. Chestnut Hill provided a transformative experience that I cherish to this day.

## DEANGIE A. DAVIS 2021 SGS

When I was searching for a doctoral program, I was particularly drawn to Chestnut Hill College. The focus on psychodynamic and family systems therapy aligned perfectly with my interests. During the interview process, I had the opportunity to connect with the professors, and their research resonated with me. The diverse backgrounds of the professors were incredibly valuable, as I gained a deeper understanding of various approaches to therapy and working with clients from diverse backgrounds.





# A New ERA

## CHC Heads to PUERTO RICO

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



It is late January as I exit the Luis Muñoz Marín Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico. As I look around, I can easily see why one of Puerto Rico's nicknames is Isla del Encanto, Island of Enchantment. The scenery is beautiful, and the weather is perfect – especially coming from Philly in the winter!

I have traveled to Puerto Rico to participate in a week-long recruiting trip with The National Catholic College Admission Association. Along with colleagues from roughly 35 other Catholic colleges and universities, we will visit high schools in San Juan, Ponce, Guaynabo, Dorado, Humacao, and Caguas.

CHC has had a strong connection with the Island for decades. Records indicate alumnae from Puerto Rico going back as far as 1942, with especially large numbers in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. My mission is to help increase the number of students from Puerto Rico to enrich our campus community and nurture this important, long-standing relationship.

It's easy to see why Chestnut Hill College is a great fit for so many students here. Puerto Rico has a Catholic population of approximately 56%, which makes Catholic colleges and universities like Chestnut Hill a comforting place for many students and their families. Our majors in the sciences, business, computer sciences, law and legal studies, and now nursing, match the academic interests of many of the students with whom I had the pleasure of meeting on the island.

While it is roughly 1500 miles from Philadelphia to San Juan, not surprisingly, there are so many CHC connections. At Las Palmas Academy I met the mother of Paola Mongil, Class of 2019, who returned to Puerto Rico to attend medical school and recently became a doctor. At Colegio San Jose



I met Brother Francisco González, S.M., M.D., who shares fond memories of working with Sister Roberta Archibald, SSJ, during her time as the Director of Admissions at CHC. When I arrived at Academia Maria Reina, an all-girls high school founded by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, I felt completely at home. The imagery and language on campus reflect the same core values that enliven our halls back in Philadelphia.

These full circle moments are welcome reminders that God is moving through all of us in our commitment to educate more students in the charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The charge given by Father Jean Pierre Medaille to the original six Sisters to **circle the city with love** and respond to the needs of the day still calls us today.

It is often said that the dear neighbor is the person next door and the person you have yet to meet, and I am grateful to have met so many new dear neighbors during my time in Puerto Rico! 🍷



*Alumnae enjoy visiting with Sister Roberta Archibald during 2017 Reunion Weekend*

**“I was always warmly welcomed to Puerto Rico. I met wonderful families and the loveliest young women some of whom remain my friends to this day.”**

*- Sister Roberta Archibald SSJ*



# ASEC 2025

## SERVICE LEARNING TRIP TO KENYA: LEARNING TO IMAGINE POSSIBILITIES

By Sheila Kennedy, SSJ, Ph.D. 1976, and Jacqueline C. Reich, Ph.D.



*Sister Sheila Kennedy and the girls ready to party and celebrate the Service Learning experience*

Since 2006, Chestnut Hill College has participated in the student Service Learning trip sponsored by the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC). The mission of ASEC is to educate Catholic women religious in Africa to strengthen their leadership capacity to provide services that address local and global challenges. Service Learning is one of four major programs administered by ASEC including Sisters Leadership Development Initiative, Higher Education for Sisters in Africa, and Scholarship Program.

This spring, six CHC students and their mentors Dr. Jacki Reich, Dr. Lauren Barrow and Dr. Sheila Kennedy, SSJ, along with five students from Marywood University and their mentor, Dr. Renee Zehel, traveled to Kenya, Africa for a three-week Service Learning experience.

On May 21, the group flew out of JFK International Airport for the 14-hour non-stop flight to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi. Sister Joyce Kwamboka Nyakwama, SSND, the ASEC Country Director-Kenya, greeted them and facilitated their 90-minute journey to the Dorothea Rescue Centre compound where they lived and served until June 11. As they

drove, they witnessed how Kenya is transitioning from a poor developing country to a modern one. There are still poorly constructed sheds and piles of trash in open-air street markets, as well as a few donkeys and carts transporting yellow plastic barrels of water to structures with no indoor plumbing. But more and more, it is possible to see Western-style convenience stores and plentiful gasoline stations that fuel cars, scooters, trucks laden with construction materials, and the matatus carrying well-dressed workers. New buildings characterize central Nairobi.



*Dr. Jackie Reich reading a favorite book to the girls*



*Cedrick Brown enjoys teaching at Our Lady of Assumption Mission School*

For Dr. Reich, who first traveled to Kenya on the 2017 service trip, the economic growth over the past 8 years is quite remarkable. She notes, “Nairobi demonstrates a vibrancy and energy that is exciting to see. These economic changes in such a short amount of time bode well for Kenya’s future.” One of the student participants, Gladyliz Hernandez, said that the trip enabled her to see first-hand that Kenya’s new economic reality was not the stereotype of unrelenting poverty that most Americans have of African countries. Yet another student, Cedrick Brown, came to the realization that the context of a country’s poverty was important to understand. He related a conversation that he had with a young Kenyan man who stated that when a middle-class American migrated to Kenya, that person felt as though he were part of the wealthy class in Kenya. But when a middle-class Kenyan migrated to the United States, he became a member of the working poor. Cedrick said, “that really opened my eyes” in terms of understanding that poverty and development were much more nuanced problems than we may ordinarily think.

The main focus of the service was at the Dorothea Rescue Centre which is situated in a compound located in Komarock, Machakos county, Kenya and is a ministry of the Assumption Sisters of Eldoret (ASE). The first service took place at the Rescue Centre itself, which provides rehabilitation services for young girls ages 3 to 14 who have been living on the street.

The goal of the Rescue Centre is to mainstream the girls into school and family settings, though girls with no families stay connected with the Centre after they become alums, returning “home” there during school holidays. Helping to reorient these girls to a normal life of play and school was profoundly impactful to all students of the service team. For example, student participant Omi Tate helped to lead a confidence-building fashion show “that made the girls feel seen and special. This service had a huge emotional impact on the girls, and they responded with joy, laughter, and genuine gratitude. For me, it was one of the most fulfilling parts of the trip because I was able to use my energy and personality to uplift them in a real way.”



*Omi Tate and Maggie Magee giving service at St. Martins feeding 1400 hungry children*

Student participant Maggie Moge also felt that she had a real impact on helping the former street girls prepare to enter school by helping them learn to write their names and simple sentences and by reading story books with them. But she went on to say “I feel the impact that the girls had on me was much greater. These girls have been through hell. Types of things I can’t imagine going through as an adult let alone a child, and yet, they are the happiest, most grateful kids you’ll ever meet. They gave me a whole new perspective on what the



*Bella Schmeltzer sharing love and care with one of the beautiful girls*

difference between “wants” and “needs” is. . . . The service with the girls was more than I could have asked for.”

The Dorothea Centre also oversees a private Catholic school, the Our Lady of Assumption Mission School, and this was the second primary service site during the trip. The school is comprised of pre-school to the 9th grade. The school lacks many basic items, such as enough textbooks for all students in every subject and visual aids like charts and maps on the classroom walls. There is no library of story and reference books, and while the school has acquired desktop computers in a “lab” that is shared with the teachers in their prep room, there is no internet service.



*Dr. Lauren Barrow has a one-on one with an attentive girl at the Rescue Center*

Still, despite these drawbacks, the curiosity and energy of the Assumption Mission School students was inspiring to the Service Learning team. Cedrick, whose major is cybersecurity, relates, “I taught a social media class to high school girls. We talked about how to use platforms like Instagram and Facebook in a way that honors Christian values. I was surprised that they don’t always have access to phones or the internet, but they were still so eager to learn. They



*Gladyliz Hernandez, who goes by G, receives heartfelt thanks and a certificate of appreciation at the Farewell Ceremony*

asked good questions, and I realized they were thinking deeply about what’s right and wrong online. Teaching them something I take for granted made me think about how technology can be used to uplift others.”

The third service that they experienced in the compound was to assist the staff at the newly-opened A.S.E. Dorothea Mission Health Center. Here students found that the priority was to treat the whole person, and not just the malady. As Gladyliz observed, “What was the most eye-opening was the happiness that was surrounding the place even though people were coming in with some serious issues. Everyone was there to lend a helping hand no matter what and they always had smiles on their faces. Some people from the community would just come in with their children and hang out! Like it was a country club and not a medical facility! The staff loved it and loved being able to help entertain the kids and just provide in any way they could.” 🌸



*Bailey Schleeper loved Health Center service with Sister Terry*



# The First AMERICAN POPE

By Marlene B. Lang, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation  
and Assistant Professor of Religious Studies



On May 8, 2025, white smoke billowed from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A new pope had been chosen. After only a two-day conclave, the College of Cardinals decided on the election of Robert Francis Prevost, OSA – an American from Chicago. As celebrations all over the globe began, the 267th Pope of the Catholic Church announced his new name: Pope Leo XIV.

## A NAME OF GREAT HOPE

We look to our new Pope's name choice with great hope. Pope Leo XIV's most recent predecessor in name, Pope Leo XIII, instructed the Church on economic justice as the Industrial Revolution stoked poverty and misery for millions and while a small few enjoyed an age of extravagance. Pope Leo XIII, Pope from 1878 to 1903, is considered the founder of what is today Catholic Social Doctrine, a guiding body of theology providing social guidance forged across almost a century and a half, addressing the post-Industrial world.

It is uncanny how similar our emerging future looks to the times of Pope Leo XIII, times of radical social upheaval, happening out of the sudden industrialization of the economy. A defender of oppressed workers' rights, Pope Leo XIII recognized inherent problems with state ownership of the means of production and called for workers to have the hope and means of individual reward for their own labor. He insisted on their right to organize to seek just pay and working conditions.

In May 2025, *The Vatican News* interviewed historian David Prudlo who said, "Pope Leo XIV tells us that because of the challenges to humanity today and the challenges to human dignity, in particular the problems of artificial intelligence, he took the name in order to mark a new period where the Church is going to be engaging with these very serious problems."

## A POPE OF THE PEOPLE

Even in these earliest days, Pope Leo XIV is showing himself as a Pope of the people. The first American Pope, raised in Chicago's southside, he urged the crowd at White Sox Park to "Discover how important it is for each one of us to pay attention to the presence of God in our own hearts, to that longing for love in our lives, for ... searching, a true searching, for finding the ways that we may be able to do something with our own lives to serve others."

He pointed out that this heart-driven service in community can bring the very hope and healing that is needed to build unity in our emerging future. Pope Leo said, "And in that service to others we may find that coming together in friendship, building up community, we too can find true meaning in our lives. Moments of anxiety, of loneliness. So many people who suffer from different experiences of depression or sadness – they can discover that the love of God is truly healing, that it brings hope, and that actually, coming together as friends, as brothers and sisters, in community, in a parish, in an experience of living our faith together, we can find that the Lord's grace, that the love of God can truly heal us, can give us the strength that we need, can be the source of that hope that we all need in our lives."

## POPE LEO XIV ON HIS CALLING

In the first days of his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV told the Cardinals, "Saint Paul VI expressed at the inauguration of his Petrine Ministry in 1963: 'May it pass over the whole world like a great flame of faith and love kindled in all men and women of good will. May it shed light on paths of mutual cooperation and bless humanity abundantly, now and always, with the very strength of God, without whose help nothing is valid, nothing is

**"We need to welcome God's gift to us in Leo who understands the worth and dignity of every person. His simple expressions of love, remind us to always be forces of unrelenting good for others."**

- Joseph Kulkosky, Ph.D., Professor and Discipline Chair of Biology, Regina Cuta-Papa, MD '56, Distinguished Professor of Biology



holy' (Message Qui Fausto Die addressed to the entire human family, 22 June 1963)." Pope Leo XIV notes in the May 10 speech that this path will appear in the form of "loving care for the least and the rejected."

In an address to the Diplomatic Corps, Pope Leo XIV named peace, justice, and truth as guiding principles for the Corps, urging the Church's diplomats to move beyond a mere absence of war to a unity that recognizes a shared human family that calls for justice based in truth. The Pope said, "The first word is peace. All too often we consider it a 'negative' word, indicative only of the absence of war and conflict, since opposition is a perennial part of human nature, frequently leading us to live in a constant 'state of conflict' at home, at work and in society. Peace then appears simply as a respite, a pause between one dispute and another, given that, no matter how hard we try, tensions will always be present, a little like embers burning beneath the ashes, ready to ignite at any moment."

He continued, "From a Christian perspective – but also in other religious traditions – peace is first and foremost a gift. It is the first gift of Christ: 'My peace I give to you' (Jn 14:27). Yet it is an active and demanding gift. It engages and challenges each of us, regardless of our cultural background or religious affiliation, demanding first of all that we work on ourselves. Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words. For words too, not only weapons, can wound and even kill."

**"When I heard of the election of Pope Leo, I was filled with joy and gratitude. His thoughtful leadership and clear dedication to faith and service offer hope and inspiration."**

- Nancy Dachille, M.Ed., Director of Career Development

**"My immediate connection to the election of Pope Leo, our first American pope, lies in my conviction that he will be a clear voice of compassion, courage and strength to our world, as he writes and speaks to challenge the false gods that have become the dominant voices in our country."**

- Kathleen McCloskey, M.Med., Assistant Professor of Music, Music Program

## CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE CALLED TO CONTINUE SERVICE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Pope Leo XIV has articulated a direction of action on many issues that provide inspiration for our CHC community as it carries forward the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia.

With Pope Leo XIV, we hear a reading of the signs of the times that aligns with the CHC mission. Chestnut Hill College, rooted in and animated by the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, is one of many sponsored ministries of the SSJ Congregation that address needs in education, housing, outreach, spirituality, and healthcare. These ministries align with the direction set by the new Pope. As alumni, we can work with the hope that all people can be united with God and with one another. We can ask how we individually, and in our communities, "strive to address the urgent challenges of the present and of the emerging future."

We might embrace Pope Leo XIV's papacy considering the words he used to remind himself of the example set by Pope Francis for us all. In his address to the College of Cardinals, he says, "It has been clearly seen in the example of so many of my Predecessors, and most recently by Pope Francis himself, with his example of complete dedication to service and to sober simplicity of life, his abandonment to God throughout his ministry and his serene trust at the moment of his return to the Father's house. Let us take up this precious legacy and continue on the journey, inspired by the same hope that is born of faith."

The Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation (IFR) at Chestnut Hill College looks to Pope Leo XIV's inspiration from his immediate namesake's founding document of Catholic Social Teaching. Together with the whole Church and our communities everywhere we desire to follow the teaching of Jesus to love our Dear Neighbor at every encounter, without distinction. This means cultivating a spirituality that grows into loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Welcome Pope Leo XIV. We look to this new era of your papacy with faith and love in our hearts. 🌹



# Athletics



Photo by Jim Roes

## Chestnut Hill College

### EXPANDS ATHLETICS PROGRAMS

By Marilee Gallagher '14

Chestnut Hill College will be adding women's golf and women's flag football to its roster, which already includes 18 sports, 17 of which are in the NCAA's Division II.

"In addition to the expansion of our academic programs, Chestnut Hill College is excited to continue expanding our athletic programs as we welcome two new teams to GriffinNation in the Fall," says Brian McCloskey, D.M., MBA, president of the College. "The recognition of women's sports on the national stage is at an unprecedented level, with women's flag football scheduled to debut in the 2028 Summer Olympics and women's golf continuing to expand prize purses and grow the game. Continuing to support our student-athletes is a large part of the College's culture, and expanding into more women's programs is another way to share the College's mission, and the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. I can't think of a better way to begin our second century, much like our first, by introducing new teams and new female athletes to our college. It's a great time to be a Griffin!"

#### WOMEN'S GOLF RETURNS TO CHC IN MIDST OF WORLDWIDE GOLF BOOM

The history of women's golf at CHC dates back to the mid-1930s when student-athletes competed at the varsity level for a few years before the sport was disbanded. Golf wouldn't be seen again at CHC until 2004 when a men's golf team was added. Now 20 years later, the women will return to the links at a time when it is female golfers who are driving the

industry's growth. According to publications such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and *National Golf Foundation*, women's golf has grown immensely over the last two decades, especially post-pandemic. 2023 saw more women on the golf course than any year since 2006. While data is not yet available, it was anticipated that 2024's numbers would be even higher, producing a record number of female golfers worldwide.

"Women's golf holds a special place for me so I am thrilled to lead the initiative of the return of women's golf to CHC," notes Michael McCarraher, head golf coach. "Our recruitment efforts are already underway, and we are eager to welcome talented golfers who will represent our school with pride. We are committed to providing them with the resources, coaching, and support necessary to compete at the highest level, achieve excellence and foster success."

As one of just over 20 DII schools sponsoring women's golf in Pennsylvania and the surrounding regions, CHC's team will compete independently, facing a mix of DII and DIII schools in its return to sport.

#### WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL'S INAUGURAL SEASON TO PRECEDE SPORT'S OLYMPIC DEBUT

Following the return of women's golf, just a few short months later, CHC will kick off the inaugural season of women's flag football, one of the fastest-growing sports in the country. As was announced the College will be joining the Atlantic East Conference, the first NCAA conference to sponsor collegiate women's flag football nationwide.

"We are excited to have Chestnut Hill joining the Atlantic East as an associate member in women's flag football," says Rebecca Mullen, interim commissioner of the Atlantic East. "We take great pride in being the first NCAA conference to sponsor a championship in flag football and Chestnut Hill is a great fit to help us grow a competitive atmosphere for our student-athletes."



#GRIFFINNATION





It's a sport that continues to grow at both the high school and collegiate level in advance of its Olympic debut in the Los Angeles' Summer Games in 2028, and the National Federation of State High School Associations reports that approximately half a million girls aged 6-17 participated in flag football in 2023, an increase of more than 60 percent from 2019. Among high school-aged students, that number was more than 40,000, an increase of more than 105% from the previous year.

Locally, 16 high schools participated in the Philadelphia Eagles' Girls Flag Football League in its inaugural season in 2022. In 2024, that number rose to just shy of 100 teams across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In addition, over 30 teams took part in the Pittsburgh Steelers' league.

In March of that year, the Philadelphia Public League officially sanctioned women's flag football. The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), the governing body for all high school sports across the state, was soon to follow in September. Both efforts were supported by the Philadelphia Eagles and Pittsburgh Steelers, who have endeavored to encourage more female athletic participation in football.

"This is not just an important day for the Eagles and Steelers, but for the sport of football and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie told ESPN following the PIAA announcement. "When we launched our girls' flag football league in 2022, we set an ambitious five-year goal to get the sport sanctioned in our state. Now, here we are three seasons later and two years ahead of schedule. The sport's organic growth is a credit to the participants, administrators, coaches, officials, and parents who helped raise the profile of girls' flag football."

With additional support from the Eagles, the AEC partnered with the NFL and RCX Sports to create its flag football division and in 2024, played its inaugural season.

"The NFL, the Eagles, RCX Sports, and the Atlantic East Conference working together is an example of how flag football can be expanded at the collegiate level," Troy Vincent Sr., executive vice president of NFL Football Operations, said in the league's announcement. "The Atlantic East Conference is showing tremendous leadership as the first in the NCAA to elevate flag, which will provide access for female athletes to play at the next level and further pursue their dreams."

Chestnut Hill College will be the eighth team in the AEC, joining Centenary University, Immaculata University, Marymount University, Neumann University, Eastern University, Holy Family University, and Marywood University. Women's flag football will be the 20th varsity sport at CHC.

"We are thrilled to introduce both women's golf and women's flag football to Chestnut Hill College's athletic offerings," says Jesse Balcer, athletic director. "The addition of these two sports not only aligns with our commitment to expanding opportunities for student-athletes but also highlights the growing momentum of women's flag football. We are really excited to watch our student-athletes thrive on these new stages, showcasing their talent, teamwork, and passion." 🦋



Coach of Women's Flag Football,  
Melissa Brizzell



Colby Seelig



Michael Pascoe



Justin Geiger



Jake Schweiker

## Spring 2025 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

By Bob Heller, Director of Athletic Communications  
Photos by Jim Riese and John Manion, Jr.

The 2025 Chestnut Hill College spring sports season was one with many exciting moments throughout the final four months of the academic school year.

### BASEBALL

Returning to post season play for the first time since 2021 was the Griffins' baseball team. The squad opened the season winning three of four games in South Carolina against regionally ranked teams. The team went on to compile a 25-22 overall record and a 20-14 mark in conference games earning a berth in the Central Atlantic collegiate conference Tournament, where they fell in the first round to Jefferson University.

Highlighting conference games were sweeps against Caldwell University, Georgian Court University, Bloomfield College, Lincoln University and taking three of four games from Holy Family University.

Senior reliever **Colby Seelig** had one of the best seasons by a Chestnut Hill College closer in program history, recording eight saves (one off the school record), 53 strikeouts and a team-best 3.12 earned run average. His efforts earned him a spot on the CACC All-

conference team as a First team honoree. Seelig went on to earn all-region status on all three major all-region teams (National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA); D2 Conference commissioners Association (D2CCA); and American Baseball coaches Association (ABCA).

Sophomore **Michael Pascoe** joined Seelig on the All-conference team as a second team honoree. The pitcher/infielder batted .303 with seven home runs and 39 RBI.

Senior catcher **Justin Geiger** reached three milestones in 2025 – all in the same game! Geiger recorded his 150th career hit, his 100th career RBI and scored his 100th career run in the Griffins first game against Georgian Court. He becomes just the third player in program history to reach all three career milestones.

Pitcher **Jake Schweiker** also reached a career milestone in the Georgian court game. The senior starter became just the fourth player in program history to record 150 career strikeouts. Post-season, Schweiker became the first player in program history to earn ABCA East Region All-defensive team honors.



Anastasia Watson

### SOFTBALL

On the women's side, the softball team put together a 16-win season, their highest win total since they won 18 in 2019. Included among the Griffins wins was a school record six game winning streak in March.

The team was in the playoff chase right up through the final week of the season. The team struggled however in their final games and finished in tenth place with a 7-15 conference record (16-28-1 overall).

**Anastasia Watson** set a school record with a 16-game hitting streak in March. The senior first baseman finished the season leading the team with a .381 batting average, three home runs and a team-high 26 RBI.

Sophomore pitcher **Rebecca Cessna** tossed a five-inning no-hitter against the University of Valley Forge on March 4, striking out ten batters. Teammate and fellow pitcher **Belle Tetreault** led the team with seven wins and a 2.88 earned run average.



Rebecca Cessna

#GRIFFINNATION







Mick Kilgallon



Evan Farlow



Sam Slater



Abby Galaska



## MEN'S LACROSSE

April saw the end of the men's lacrosse team's four-year run as CACC Champions as the Griffins fought hard but lost a heartbreaker in overtime in the conference semi-finals to eventual champion Georgian Court University, 13-12. Chestnut Hill scored twice in the final 40 seconds of regulation to force a tie and send the game into overtime. The Lions controlled the faceoff to start the overtime, and the Griffins never regained possession as GCU scored just 82 seconds into the extra period to clinch the win. The Griffins finished the season with a 7-6 record.

Three men's lacrosse players earned all-conference honors with **Mick Kilgallon** and **Evan Farlow** garnering first team accolades and **Sam Slater** earning a second team nod. Kilgallon led the team with 28 goals and 44 points. Farlow had a team high 32 ground balls and was third on the squad with ten caused turnovers. Slater was the team's second leading scorer with 24 goals and 42 points. Kilgallon went on to earn honorable mention All-America honors from the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association.



## WOMEN'S LACROSSE

On the women's side, the team saw an improvement on their 2024 conference record of 1-8, recording three conference wins on the season to finish one game out of a playoff spot in seventh place in the league standings. Under first year coach **Liz Martin**, the Griffins recording wins over Caldwell, Felician and Post.

Senior **Abby Galaska** was Chestnut Hill's lone representative on the all-conference team, garnering second team accolades. Galaska led the CACC in caused turnovers per game (2.55) and was second in the league averaging 3.36 ground balls per game. Teammate **Molly Killion** led the league, with a 3.50 ground ball/game average. Freshman **Kendall Gayton** led the team with 32 points and finished tied with Killion for the most goals scored with 19.



Molly Killion



Kendall Gayton



Rebecca Dalton



Anastasia Watson



Sydney Watts



Braden Berkey



Gabby Hassler



## TRACK AND FIELD

In track and field, nine members of the women's and men's Track and Field teams qualified to compete at the CACC conference championship with the six women scoring 19 points to finish in ninth place and three men scoring six total points and finishing in tenth place.

**Rebecca Dalton** earned all-conference honors with a second place finish in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 12:46.49. Earlier in the season she broke the school record for the event with a time of 12:36.76.

**Anastasia Watson** competed in three events, the shot put, discus and javelin, placing fifth in the shot put, eighth in the discus and 11th in the javelin. She finished her career holding three school records, the indoor and outdoor shot put and the discus throw. In the discus, Watson is the Griffins most prolific thrower in the event holding the top 20 marks all-time.

Seniors **Erin McCarthy** (javelin), **Sydney Watts** (5k) and **Braden Berkey** (10K) along with juniors **Gabby Hassler** (steeplechase) and **Michael Lopez Zabala** (javelin) also competed at the conference championship as did freshmen **Grace Mott** (Javelin) and **Elijah Bey** (high jump).

During the regular season Watts broke the school records for the 3,000 and 5,000 meter races as well as the school indoor mark for 5,000 meters. She finished her career holding four individual school records, equaling the most by any track & field athlete in program history and one record as part of a relay team.



Michael Lopez Zabala



Grace Mott

#GRIFFINNATION



## MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team played as an independent this season with the demise of men's tennis as a CACC conference sport and thus did not participate in post season play for just the second time in program history (not including the shortened 2020 season due to COVID).

The men's tennis team struggled in the spring and finished with just four wins on the season with their lone division II triumph coming against West Chester University in the fall.

The team has a lot to look forward to for next season as Chestnut Hill has joined the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference as an associate member for men's tennis, making a return to post-season play a possibility.

Finally, in illustrating athletics' academic success, a record number of student athletes (43) were named to the college Sports communicators Academic All-district Teams for 2024-25. The Griffins also had a total of 78 conference honorees on either the CACC or CSFL all-Academic teams; five Philly-SIDA Academic All-Area nominees and a dozen athletes named as scholar athletes by the respective coaches associations of their sport at the time of the writing of this article. The athletics department had an average g.p.a. of 3.222 for the spring semester and 3.253 for the 2024-25 academic year with 37 athletes earning a 4.0 grade point average in one or both semesters during the academic year. 🏆

THE SPRING SEASON CULMINATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY ON MAY 30, 2025.

THE DETAILS ABOUT THE INDUCTEES AND THE CEREMONY CAN BE FOUND HERE:





# *Alumni* **RELATIONS**

THE HALLMARK SOCIETY

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

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



# Reunion

## WEEKEND 2025!



*The Class of 1975 at Reunion Weekend 2025*

At the end of May, alumni returned to campus to celebrate and reunite with old friends at Reunion Weekend! It was the 50th Reunion for the Class of 1975, who were welcomed as Golden Griffins, and Alumni Awards were given out to several deserving individuals at the annual luncheon. The Mass of Gratitude wrapped up the weekend with a special appearance from Archbishop Nelson J. Perez.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE THE PHOTOS FROM REUNION WEEKEND 2025.



YOU CAN WATCH THE ENTIRE MASS OF GRATITUDE WITH  
ARCHBISHOP NELSON J. PEREZ ONLINE



The Mass of Gratitude, held on Sunday, June 1, 2025 in the Motherhouse Chapel, was celebrated by The Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia. Following the Mass, alumni and friends enjoyed brunch in the dining hall, concluding the events of Reunion Weekend 2025.

# Alumni Awards



*Stephanie Reif 2013 with Maureen McLaughlin, Director of Alumni Relation. Stephanie received the **Young Alumni Impact Award** for her tireless dedication to CHC since her graduation.*



*Cissy Passanza 1977 received the Eleanore **Dolan Egan '28 Award for Outstanding Service** to the College. Cissy has served in various volunteer roles and is always ready for any good work!*



*Kathleen McGinley, D.O. 2000 with Maryanne Walsh 1998, 2002 SGS. Kathleen was awarded the **Distinguished Achievement Award** for her compassionate and personalized care of patients as a urologist. Dr. McGinley has expertise in treating surgical removal of the bladder, kidney removal surgery, and prostate cancer, among other conditions.*



*Patricia Egan Hardy 1968 received the **Distinguished Achievement Award** for her work with the Kensington Soccer Club. The Club runs youth soccer programs to provide the community with healthy activities, positive environments, enrichment programs and employment opportunities. Learn more about Pat's work at [kensingtonsoccer.org](http://kensingtonsoccer.org)*



*Michelle Lesher, SSJ 2000 was awarded the Eleanore **Dolan Egan '28 Award for Outstanding Service** to Chestnut Hill College for her contributions to both the alumni and students at CHC. Pictured with her dear friends, Cristina Diaz 2015 and Maryanne Walsh 1998, 2002 SGS.*

THINKING ABOUT NOMINATING AN  
OUTSTANDING ALUM FOR AN AWARD?  
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2026 ALUMNI AWARDS!





## The Order of the Griffin WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER

This year, Chestnut Hill College welcomed a new member to its most prestigious giving society, *The Order of the Griffin*.

Started in 2022 by then-president Sister Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D., The Order of the Griffin recognizes individuals, foundations, and corporations whose cumulative lifetime gifts total \$1 million or more.

Elaine Bennett Davey, Class of 1965, qualified for the Order in spring 2025. She was officially inducted during Reunion Weekend (her 60th reunion year) and received her Order of the Griffin drape ribbon with gold medal in recognition of her incredible generosity.

Congratulations, Elaine! Thank you for your loyalty to the College and your philanthropic leadership that helps us move forward toward a bright future!



Elaine Bennett Davey 1965



## Class Notes



In March, the indefatigable **Barbara D'Iorio Martino 1960**, Board Member Emerita, welcomed alumni and staff of the College into her beautiful home for a 100th Anniversary gathering and celebration. Thanks, Barbara, for being a stellar host!



Congratulations, **Lisa M. Domico, Ph.D. 1997**! Dr. Domico was recently named Assistant Dean for Preclinical Medical Education at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Medicine in Richmond, VA. In her new position she oversees the curriculum of first and second year medical students at VCU. She is responsible for ensuring that the university meets the standards of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and provides VCU faculty with guidance on academic preparation for medical students successful completion USMLE step 1.



Congratulations to **Anna E. Bortnick, M.D. 1997** who is a candidate for promotion to professor and currently at Albert Einstein & Montefiori Hospital in New York City. She is the second woman to chair a major section committee of the American College of Cardiology.

To submit a Class Note, please send an email to: [magazine@chc.edu](mailto:magazine@chc.edu)

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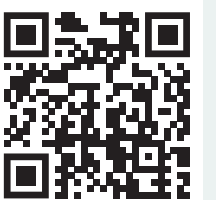
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In Memoriam

Alumni deceased since last publication | (Notification to CHC: January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025)

- Rita Cresci Quinn 1941

Pia Badt Troutman 1945

Mary Therese Joyce 1946

Marjorie Erickson McDevitt 1946

Margaret Bloomenthal Forst 1948

Mary Grace Uttinger Palis 1948

Edna Hanlon Cooney 1949

Elizabeth Webb Dixon 1949

Marylou Morgan Mullen 1949

Rosemary McGranery Dougherty 1950

Jean Walker Greer 1950

Margaret Vernon McLaughlin 1950

Blanche Haviland Moore 1950

Charlotte Collins Sears 1950

Frances Pickess Woods 1950

Genevieve Koehler Sweet 1951

Mary Jane Mogeey Shelly 1952

Josephine Sciarrotta Bagley 1953

M. Joan Kaul Donohoe 1953

Nancy Leonard

O'Connor Stephanak 1953

Mary Lou Stafford McGill 1954

M. Carol Snyder Collins 1955

Marilyn Schmitt Fungaroli 1955

Adele Solari, SSJ 1955

Anna Mae Mezzetti Arcaroli 1956

Mary Sue Williamson Carney 1956

Kathleen Raab Saurman 1956

Kathleen Daniel 1957

Margaret Walsh Davies 1957

Roseann Pullekines Haggerty 1957

Mary Alice Kenny Myles 1957

Susan Moran Ryan 1957

Phyllis Sullivan Stacy 1957

Barbara Stoll Russell 1959

Mary Pat Wallace 1959
- Mary Lee Rothwell Corr 1960

Margaret Deweir Forrester 1960

Margaret Michel Johnson 1960

Susannah Linton Kirchner 1960

Henriette Horchler Leanos, Ph.D. 1960

Mary Ellen Givnish-Brezina 1961

Lynne Smith Brown 1961

Roseann Notaris Civera 1961

Barbara Donovan 1961

Rosemary Catroppa Palena 1961

Mary Alice Butler Warwick 1961

Kathleen Heidere Ford 1963

Barbara Mae Lahr Martin 1963

Mary Eileen

Daly McDonough, Ed.D. 1963

Mary Ann Bones, SSJ '64

Jacqueline Sexton Prior 1964

Patricia Chiri Bell 1965

Jane Bentz Atesoglu 1966

Elizabeth Shea Coleman 1966

Alma Hurley, SSJ 1966, 1986 SGS

Ann McDonough Woodbury 1966

Mary McCarthy Kaswell 1969

Patricia Johnson Skopal 1970

Ruthann O'Mara, SSJ 1973, 1994 SGS

Barbara Kocan Cosantino 1974

Mary Dacey, SSJ 1974

Grace Longworth 1975

Maureen Kelly- Mumper 1976

Anna

Giacalone-Gottschaldt, D.M.D. 1978

Marie Hayes Sheerin 1978, 1985 SGS

James Agnes Campbell, SSJ 1981

Joan Maier 1983 SCPS

Aileen Koopman 1991 SGS

Mary Lou Fagan Graham 1992 SGS

- Jennifer Ruggiero Aierstok 1992

Britt Gardhner 1995 SCPS

Lillian Carpenter Scoggins 1995 SCPS

Maureen Rose 1998 SCPS

Elizabeth Williams 1998 SCPS

Marilyn Della Pia 1998 SGS

Maria Nucero Tull 2003 SGS

Geraldine Devore 2004 SCPS

Shirley Reses 2008 SGS

Sarah J. Cutler 2010 SCPS

Deborah Anthony 2011 SCPS

Anthony Teti, Jr. 2016

Elena C. Ortiz 2020

We also mourn the loss of several SSJ Alumni:

- Anne Elizabeth McCambley, SSJ

Margaret Garvin, SSJ

Cynthia Ludwick, SSJ

Rose Christine Wagner, SSJ

Mary Catherine Walton, SSJ

Catherine Julia Reinhart, SSJ

Lawrence Elizabeth Sandoli, SSJ

Anita Maria O'Dwyer, SSJ

Barbara Kotzman, SSJ

Teresa McKenna, SSJ

Roseann Treston, SSJ

Bernard Joseph Howe, SSJ

Patricia Cashman, SSJ

James Xavier Landi, SSJ

Mary Fineran, SSJ

Lillian Needham, SSJ

Normandie Gatley, SSJ

Anne William Fagan, SSJ

CORRECTIONS TO THE SPRING 2025 ISSUE

Apologies to all who expected to see their name in the Hallmark Society portion of the Donor Report in the spring 2025 issue. A technical glitch accidentally left out a number of names.Your name will be included in the next Donor Report. Our deepest apologies to all.

Update: Please note that as we enter a new century in the College’s history, alumni recognition will change from two-digit graduation year to four-digit, i.e., Mary Smith ’88 to Mary Smith 1988.

Thank you

FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE  
DURING OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

We hope you enjoy this throwback sticker for your car, laptop, water jug, or wherever!

This magazine is available on the College website at CHC.edu/NEWS

Printed copies of the magazine are sent to all current and former Board Members, Hallmark Society members, and any individual or organization who has made a donation to the College in the previous three years.





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**SATURDAY,  
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Join students, staff, faculty, alumni and families for a day of fun on campus. Cheer on our Griffins in various athletic events, enjoy our beer garden if you're 21+, and bring your children for bounce houses and more!



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