



# CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE MAGAZINE

SPRING 2026

*Living*  
THE MISSION

New program, *Life Skills Through Career*, launches

An interview with alumna,  
Dr. Deja Gilbert

The founding of the Sisters of  
Saint Joseph 375 years ago



## SPRING 2026

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# Happy 2026!

Dear Griffins and Friends,

The first year of our second century started off incredibly well, and I have a lot of good news to share.

This fall, Chestnut Hill College had a 30% increase in undergraduate enrollment when compared to the prior fall, across many different disciplines. Not to be outdone, our graduate enrollment had an increase of 28% over the same period. I can't wait to see what these new Griffins do in and out of the classroom!

With the opening of the Nursing Clinical Arts Center at SugarLoaf in the fall, our 54 new nursing students garnered a lot of attention, but we also showed strong growth in both Business Analytics and Data Science, two new disciplines tied to the Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution.

The College's new *Life Skills Through Career Program* for adults in the neurodiverse community, welcomes our first cohort in the spring of 2026. Under the direction of Dr. Stephen Stunder, this life-changing program aligns perfectly with our mission and the mission of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, as we help train people to live independently, and with purpose.

For the fourth year in a row, Chestnut Hill College has been recognized as one of 43 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) institutions to receive the 2025 Division II Presidents' Award for Academic Excellence. Not only is it our fourth consecutive year receiving this prestigious award, it's the sixth time overall for our Griffins' athletic program. Congratulations to our students and their coaches.

As we embark on a new year in 2026, we proudly celebrate the Semiquicentennial of our country. Chestnut Hill College is honored to be an official America250 PA Nonprofit Affiliate. Visit [www.chc.edu/america250](http://www.chc.edu/america250) to learn more about events we have planned throughout the year.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways in which our alumni and friends continue to support the College as we build a path together toward a bright future steeped in Catholic values. Just to provide a hint of new academic programs to come, we ask that you put your tray tables up and your seats in their upright position as the Griffins are ready to take off!

Thank you for all you do to help maintain and grow our amazing College. It remains a great time to be a Griffin!

In gratitude,

Brian McCloskey, D.M., M.B.A.  
President  
Chestnut Hill College



**AMERICA 250 PA**  
**NONPROFIT AFFILIATE**



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# Spring Events

MARCH 12

## DAY OF GIVING

The Day of Giving is coming soon! This year, we will be honoring the indefatigable Sister Rita Michael Scully! Stay tuned for more details via email and social media, and mark your calendar for March 12, 2026!



MARCH 12



## ALUMNI NETWORKING NIGHT

Brought to you by the Office of Career Development and the Office of Alumni Relations, all alumni are invited to campus to share career advice with current students and to help them practice their networking skills. Doors open at 5:00pm and the program will begin at 6:00pm in McCaffery Lounge. Light refreshments & FREE LinkedIn photo booth will be provided.

MARCH 16-20



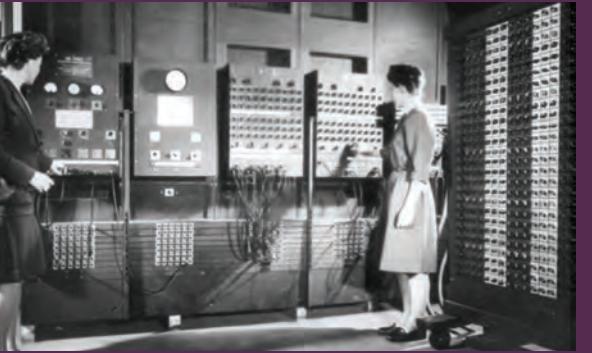
## MISSION WEEK

Mission Week invites us to deepen our sense of community and shared purpose at Chestnut Hill College, celebrating the values and spirit that ground and guide us. Join us throughout the week for meaningful opportunities to connect, serve, reflect, and grow—there's truly a place for everyone at the table.

MARCH 24

## CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF ENIAC!

Join us at 6:30pm for a conversation with Kathy Kleiman, author of "Proving Ground: The Untold Story of the Six Women Who Programmed the World's First Modern Computer" and learn more about the two extraordinary CHC alumnae who worked on it, Frances Bilas Spence 1942 and Kay McNulty Mauchly Antonelli 1942.

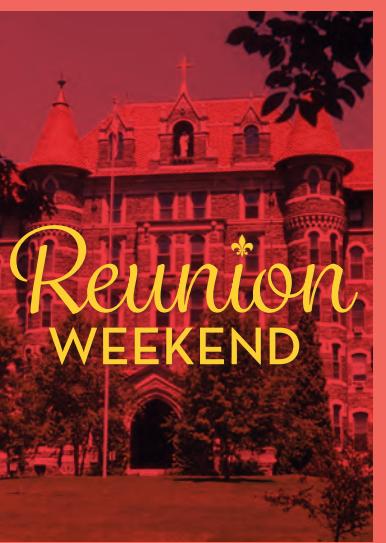


APRIL 24-26

## REUNION WEEKEND

This year, Reunion is being reimagined for our ever evolving and growing Chestnut Hill College community. We're celebrating Reunion during the academic year to share the vibrancy of campus life with you!

To find out more about Reunion Weekend, turn to page 30.



MARCH 29

## STEINWAY PIANO CONCERT

Join us in the East Parlor of Saint Joseph Hall at 3:00pm for this year's Steinway Concert featuring pianist Karen Walwyn. This event is free and open to the public.



MAY 14 & MAY 16

## COMMENCEMENT

Chestnut Hill College will celebrate its 99th Annual Commencement for all bachelor degree-seeking students in the School of Undergraduate Studies and School of Continuing and Professional Studies on Saturday, May 16th at 11:00am with the procession beginning at 10:30am.

The School of Graduate Studies Commencement Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 14th at 3:00pm with the procession beginning at 2:30 pm. At



this ceremony, the College will confer degrees to Psy.D. and Master's graduates.

# Campus News



## CONGRATULATIONS, LAUREN RIIFF LARKIN!

Lauren Riiff Larkin 2012 was inducted into the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Hall of Fame in November, the first representative of Chestnut Hill College to do so! She was twice selected as the CACC Women's Soccer Player of the Year (2009, 2011). She was a four-time All-CACC honoree including being named to the first team three times. We are proud of you! 🦸

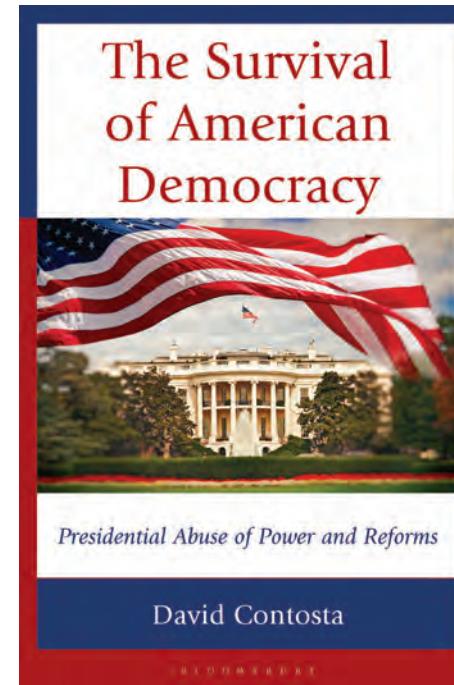


## A MEN'S BASKETBALL FIRST!

We are proud to share some exciting news about **senior forward Alejandro Redondo Cybak** of our Men's Basketball Team!

This summer, Alejandro represented his home country of **Spain** in the **2025 FIBA 3x3 U21 Youth Nations League**, showcasing his skills on an international stage.

In addition to his accomplishments on the court, Alejandro has also distinguished himself academically—he is the **first Chestnut Hill College Men's Basketball player** to earn **PhillySIDA Academic All-Area Team honors**. 🦸



## DR. DAVID CONTOSTA PUBLISHES 27<sup>TH</sup> BOOK

David Contosta, Ph.D., professor of history and department chair, published his 27th book, *The Survival of American Democracy: Presidential Abuse of Power and Reforms*. An insightful examination, the book explores the history of presidential power, our electoral processes, and current state of the nation. 🦸



## STUDENTS REIMAGINE GRIFFIN'S DEN AT SENIOR SEMINAR PRESENTATION

As part of their final business class presentation, six seniors, Cole Morris, Aiden Myers, Daniel Myers, Lauren Sullivan, Adam Daley, and Kentrell Butler presented a new vision for the Griffin's Den, once known as the Day Hop Lounge. Their presentation included a plan, a survey of current students, and even a contribution from their own pockets to get the project started. We look forward to working with students this spring to make this project a reality! 🦸



## ALUMNI ♥ STUDENTS PIZZA PARTY!

The students at CHC would like to thank all the alumni and donors who made gifts to the Alumni ♥ Students Pizza Challenge! Because we made the goal of \$40,000 for the Griffin Fund, students enjoyed pizza and other snacks in McCaffery Lounge on December 3. They were grateful to have a few hours to relax and eat delicious pizza as they socialized and snacked during a much-needed break. Thank you to all who gave to the challenge and thank you to Chartwells for preparing the feast! 🦸

## GP GRADUATE PHILADELPHIA!

The College was honored as an Educational Partner by the organization *Graduate Philadelphia* at their 20th Anniversary Gala in October. A non-profit organization, *Graduate Philadelphia* assists adult learners with postsecondary enrollment, credential completion, and 21st century skills development. CHC has been a partner with *Graduate Philadelphia* since its inception 20 years ago. We were proud to take center stage with GP! 🦸

# Celebrating 25+ Years of Martino Hall

## AND THE LEGACY OF ROCCO AND BARBARA D'IORIO MARTINO 1960

By Marilee Gallagher 2014

In October 2000, Rocco Martino made history. Reflecting upon his love of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and the significance of motherhood, Rocco officially dedicated Barbara D'Iorio Martino Hall, in honor of his wife. It was the first time in the College's history that a building was dedicated to a lay person (non-religious) and the first new building on campus in 40 years. It was a symbol of a college ready and willing to move into a brighter future.

Barbara D'Iorio discovered Chestnut Hill College almost by accident. After being awarded a full scholarship to a different out-of-state university, Barbara was told by someone at her high school that she wasn't going to that school. "She took me by the hand and sat me in front of Sister Loyola Marie and said, 'this young lady is coming here,'" Barbara shared.

And so it was that Barbara found herself at Chestnut Hill College as a chemistry major. There she met Sydney Mauchley, daughter of ENIAC inventor John Mauchly and stepdaughter to Kay McNulty Mauchly Antonelli 1942, one of the six women who helped program the first-ever computer (which celebrates 80 years this February). "Sydney invited me to dinner and said her father was going to have a business friend there, but he wouldn't bother us. Sure enough, the man opened the door and introduced himself as Rocco," Barbara recounted, noting that was how she met her future husband.

Barbara and Rocco spent years traveling the world and raising their family of four boys. In between, Barbara became involved with a local alumni chapter based out of Delaware and Montgomery County and worked with them to bring gatherings back to campus. This led to Barbara becoming president of the Alumni Association followed by campaign chair, board member, and finally chair of the board of directors. In this role, Barbara worked closely with then-college president, Sister Carol Jean Vale, Ph.D., to replace the old and outdated Science Building with a new, state-of-the-art building that would include modern classrooms, a telecommunications center, arena, and courtyard. The College received donations from the Connolly Foundation and others before Rocco told Sister Carol that he'd bridge the gap of remaining funds to allow the building to come to life.

"Few men have had the unique privilege and fortune to honor their wives and mothers of their children as I honor Barbara today," Rocco said in his dedication speech. "That is why I'm happy this new building, this symbol of renewal and new life for Chestnut Hill College, will be called Barbara D'Iorio Martino Hall."



Sister Carol (left) with Rocco and Barbara Martino holding a rendering of Martino Hall.

Now, 25 years later, Martino Hall is a place where thousands of CHC students have benefited from its existence. Those students have celebrated commencement ceremonies and convocations in its arena named for alumna and board member, Ann Rusnack Sorgenti 1958. In the building's lecture halls, students have learned in both new and old academic disciplines including communications, technology, cybersecurity, health and exercise sciences, liberal arts, and much more. In its lounges and courtyard, friendships have developed, much like the one that first led Barbara to meet Rocco all those years ago.

When asked what she feels walking into the building bearing her name, Barbara just had one word: nostalgia. "I loved every minute of my time at Chestnut Hill, so seeing students thrive in this new building and enjoying their own CHC experience has been a great joy and blessing. It was an incredible gift from my late husband. Not just to me, but to all the students who have benefited from using this building."

# Transforming Tomorrow:

## HOW A MAJOR FEDERAL GRANT IS STRENGTHENING CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE

by Charlene Zengeya, Ph.D., Director of Student Outreach & Success, Student Success Advisor-Integrated Humanities, Title III - Project Activity Director

### INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS

Beyond technology, the Title III funding directly supported CHC's most valuable resource: its students. The initiative led to the launch of the Student Success Initiative, a comprehensive program designed to boost engagement and academic achievement.

- **Expanded Advising:** The initiative allowed for the hiring of more success advisors, providing undergraduate students with dedicated support to navigate their academic journey, which has been instrumental in improving retention and graduation rates.
- **Targeted Programs:** Grant funding enabled the College to re-establish and strengthen the successful FYRE (First Year Real College Experience) summer bridge program, giving incoming students a crucial head start. A full-time reading specialist was also employed to provide specialized academic assistance.
- **Personnel Development:** Title III resources were wisely allocated to professional development opportunities, contributing to improved staff retention and enhanced employee morale across the institution.

The success of the "Dear Neighbor" grant has been a testament to the collaborative spirit of the Chestnut Hill College community. This monumental effort was driven by the supportive CHC Administration, dedicated faculty and staff, and the invaluable partnership of our alumni. A special note of thanks goes to those who served diligently on the Title III Steering Committee and to the advancement team whose efforts secured this transformative grant.

As the College looks to the future, the legacy of the Title III grant will continue to empower our students and strengthen the institution for generations to come.



## CHC Launches First Program

### IN PENNSYLVANIA FOR NEURODIVERSE ADULTS

Chestnut Hill College is proud to announce the official launch of its *Life Skills Through Career Program*, marking a historic milestone for both the College and the state of Pennsylvania. The program has been formally recognized by the Commonwealth as a Chapter 2380 licensed adult training facility—making Chestnut Hill College the only college in Pennsylvania to hold this designation.

This innovative initiative is designed to empower adults with developmental disabilities and autism by providing individualized training that builds independence, enhances daily living skills, and develops meaningful career pathways. The program focuses on the whole person—supporting not only participants but also their families and caregivers—so that each individual can live, work, and thrive in a way that reflects their strengths and aspirations.

Launching with a prospective cohort of 35 to 40 participants, the *Life Skills Through Career Program* represents the culmination of several years of collaboration, planning, and visioning. Chestnut Hill College has forged partnerships with local school districts and human service agencies to help identify candidates and build networks of ongoing support. The College is also welcoming partnerships with employers, community organizations, and individuals who wish to contribute through mentoring, job-shadowing, internships, or sponsorships—ensuring that the program remains community-driven and sustainable.

What makes this program distinctive is its integration of life skills and career readiness in a setting rooted in CHC's mission and values. Participants will engage in personalized experiences focused on areas such as personal finance, communication, daily living, self-advocacy, and employment preparation. Just as importantly, the program provides resources and training for families and caregivers—creating an ecosystem of support that extends well beyond the campus environment.

Stephen Stunder, Ed.D., executive director of the *Life Skills Through Career Program*, reflected on the importance of this milestone in advancing the College's mission:

"At Chestnut Hill, we believe in building a mission-centric culture—one where the values of serving the 'Dear Neighbor without distinction' are lived out every day. This program is a natural extension of that ethos. It brings together our community and individuals whose gifts too often go untapped, creating an environment that celebrates dignity, growth, and belonging."

By launching this program, Chestnut Hill College is taking a bold step toward inclusivity and social impact—transforming the campus into a space where adults with developmental differences can learn practical life and career skills while becoming active, valued members of the CHC community.

#### 3 WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE

Those interested in finding out more or applying to the *Life Skills Through Career Program* can:

1. Visit our website [www.chc.edu/neurodiversity](http://www.chc.edu/neurodiversity)
2. Scan the QR code below
3. Reach out directly to Dr. Stunder: [stunders@chc.edu](mailto:stunders@chc.edu)



Together, the College and its partners are building a mission-driven model of adult training that is inclusive, empowering, and uniquely transformative for individuals and families across Pennsylvania.

A big Griffin thank you to Emmy Award-winning journalist and CHC alumna Tracy Davidson 2014 SGS for her support in helping produce partnership videos to promote the program. 🎉



Dr. Stephen Stunder with Tracy Davidson

## CHC featured in RETURNING CITIZENS: LIFE BEYOND INCARCERATION

An episode of the public television series *Returning Citizens: Life Beyond Incarceration* will focus on restorative justice and will feature the following individuals from Chestnut Hill College: Sister Catherine Nerney SSJ, Ph.D., founder of the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation and professor emerita of Religious Studies; Marlene Lang, Ph.D. Director of the Institute for Forgiveness and Reconciliation and assistant professor of religious studies; Felix Rosado, adjunct professor of restorative justice at Chestnut Hill College; and recent graduate Victoria Hughlett 2025.

Filmed in the College's Garden of Forgiveness, guests participate in a healing circle, an indigenous practice that has the goal of transforming an adversarial process. Diversionary programs are discussed where, instead of arresting and prosecuting first time offenders, the District Attorney's office will refer their case to develop a consensus-based plan to repair harms, where no charges are filed and the case is closed.

*Returning Citizens: Life Beyond Incarceration* is entering its second season, and nationwide broadcast is anticipated for March 2026. The series is hosted by Paul Butler, professor at



The Garden of Forgiveness at Chestnut Hill College

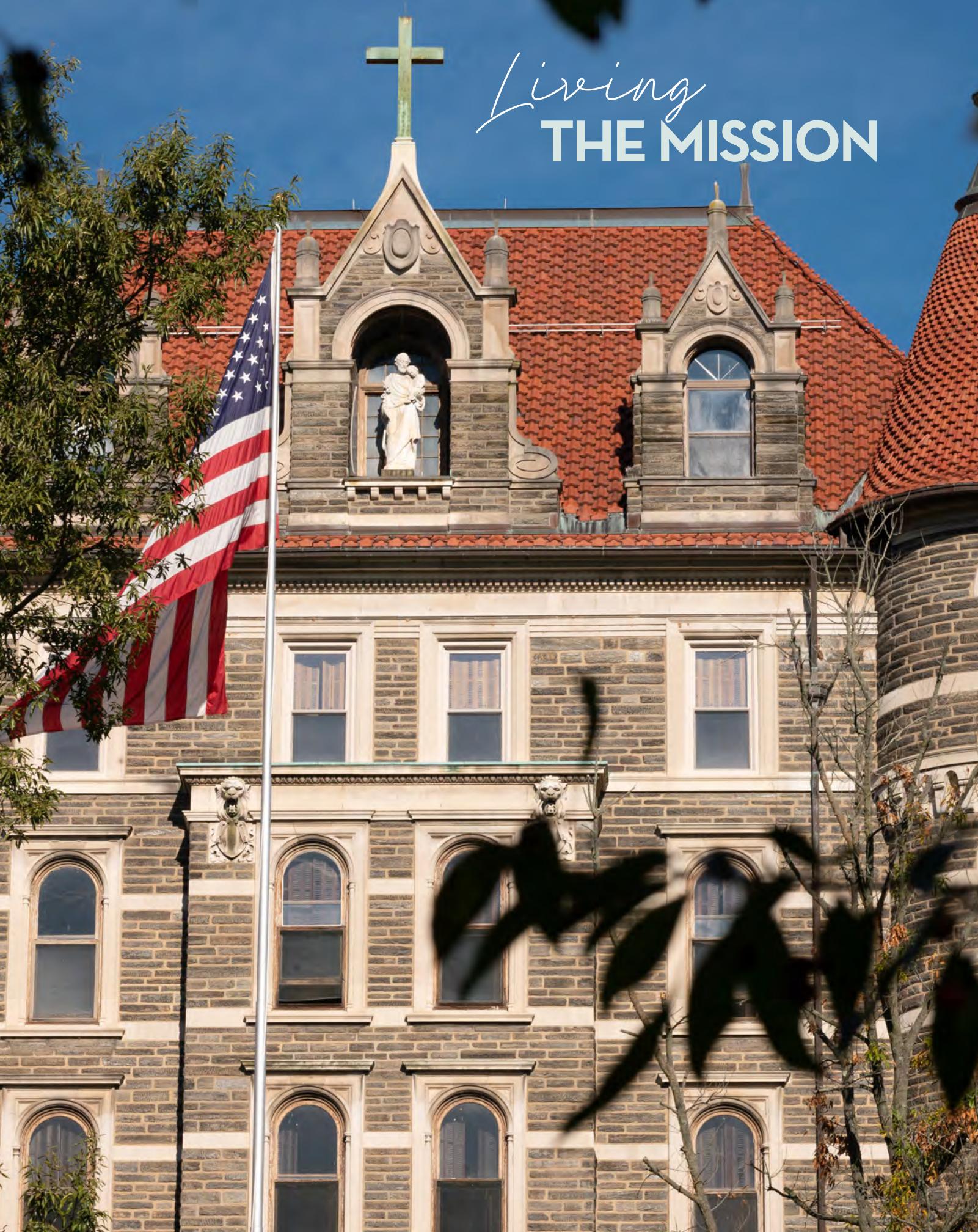


Host Paul Butler, Professor at Georgetown Law, talks with crew members

Georgetown Law. The first season was shown over a six-week period in all the major metropolitan (and surrounding) areas across the country inclusive of Hawaii, as well as parts of Canada, and was available to a population of 64.7 million people. It is also permanently available on the PBS Passport database and can be viewed at any time on the Al Roker Entertainment website. 🎉

**FIND MORE INFORMATION  
ON THE SHOW HERE**





# Living THE MISSION

## Chestnut Hill College CHEMISTRY FACULTY ADVANCE WOMEN IN STEM THROUGH CLARE BOOTHE LUCE PROGRAM

By Rebecca Eikey, Ph.D., Associate Professor &  
Discipline Chair, Chemistry, Regina Cuta-Papa, M.D.'56 Distinguished Professor of Chemistry



The impact extends far beyond laboratory skills. CBL participants have presented their research at national American Chemical Society conferences, been accepted into competitive paid internships, and successfully transitioned to graduate programs and professional positions as chemists. The program has achieved a 100% retention rate for participants at the college.

"The CBL grant has enabled me to lead undergraduate research and maintain an active research program while mentoring students and helping them stay on track towards careers in STEM fields," says Dr. Eikey, who notes that the program focuses on topics that genuinely engage undergraduate students while teaching them authentic research methodology.

The College has leveraged the CBL program to implement institutional changes supporting women in STEM, including updated laboratory facilities, paid peer tutoring provided by former CBL scholars, and enhanced mentoring relationships that extend beyond the funded research period. As Dr. Eikey observes, "Students who have participated comment on how the experience has increased their confidence and confirmed their desire to be scientists."

The Clare Boothe Luce Program represents one of the single largest private sources of support for women in science, mathematics, and engineering, and Chestnut Hill College's chemistry faculty are proud to be part of this important initiative advancing the next generation of women scientists. 



Dr. Alyson Paneque, assistant professor of chemistry, (left), works with students Katrina Puls (center) and Devin Warner (right).

Chestnut Hill College's chemistry faculty are making significant strides in supporting women in science through the prestigious Clare Boothe Luce (CBL) Program. Starting under the leadership of former Natural and Behavioral Sciences chair and alumna Dr. Karen Wendling 2003, and continuing with Dr. Rebecca Eikey, associate professor of chemistry, faculty have been leading undergraduate research projects that are transforming how students experience scientific inquiry and seeing themselves as future scientists.

Through the CBL Program, funded by The Henry Luce Foundation and administered through the Southeastern

Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education (SEPCHE), Chestnut Hill College students are conducting cutting-edge environmental research right in their own backyard. The program, which has been extended through 2026, supports research projects that engage students in meaningful scientific work. Recent projects have focused on detecting microplastics in the Wissahickon Creek, which runs along the campus. Students have collected and analyzed sediment samples using novel analytical chemistry techniques, examining the spatial distribution and concentration of microplastic contamination across multiple sites.

# The Value of Lifelong Learning: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. DEJA GILBERT

by Robert Bogdon, Executive Director of Strategic Marketing and Communication  
Edited for length

For CHC alumna Dr. Deja Gilbert, lifelong learning has never been optional—it's essential. The decision to pursue an MBA might have seemed unusual to some. After all, she already held a Ph.D. in counseling psychology and had spent 25 years building a distinguished career in behavioral healthcare. But for Gilbert, who now serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Gaudenzia, a behavioral healthcare organization, the choice reflected a core philosophy that guides both her professional and personal life. "It's the one thing that I never got," Gilbert explains. "And I am adamant that we have to continue educating ourselves—in any position, no matter how much you've achieved."

Gilbert recalls with a smile. "I tell all of my team—and anyone I mentor—that leadership requires continual learning," Gilbert says. "You have to keep learning and evolving and use that knowledge to be better and to help other people to be better. "Today, as CEO of Gaudenzia—a 57-year-old behavioral healthcare organization—Gilbert leads a team of 1,400 employees across 120 programs and 50+ facilities operating in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. The organization's mission resonates deeply with her values: providing high-quality care to those who need it most.

"We treat the neediest population—the individuals who can't typically seek services on their own, who don't have the financial ability to get the best

modern care—particularly in complex, community-based behavioral health settings.

The nursing partnership with CHC holds special significance. "One of our biggest challenges in behavioral healthcare is that we will have someone who has the credentials for the position, but when they come into the position, they're not prepared," Gilbert notes. "When I first learned that Chestnut Hill College was going to take this nursing program and actually use real, applicable experiences, I said, 'How can I help?'"

The collaboration addresses both the national nursing shortage and the need for better-prepared healthcare professionals. Gaudenzia's nurses work

WE HAVE TO CONTINUE EDUCATING  
OURSELVES—IN ANY POSITION, NO MATTER  
HOW MUCH YOU'VE ACHIEVED.

It was that commitment to lifelong learning brought Gilbert back to Chestnut Hill College, where she received her masters decades earlier. She earned her bachelor's degree in counseling psychology, followed by a master's degree in the same field at Chestnut Hill College, and eventually a doctorate. When she discovered that Chestnut Hill was launching a new MBA program, she didn't hesitate.

"A couple of my peers said, 'Why are you going back to school? Why are you getting a master's degree when you already have a doctorate degree?'"

counselors, to get the best doctors," Gilbert explains.

"For me, that's exactly where I needed to be," she says. "If you can find one thing to do with your life, and that one thing is helping other people, I think we're doing okay."

Under Gilbert's leadership, Gaudenzia has strengthened its partnerships with academic institutions, including a renewed relationship with Chestnut Hill College and its new nursing program. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to preparing healthcare professionals for the realities of

across multiple care levels, from 24/7 medical monitoring in detoxification units to community-based care coordination, serving clients who often struggle with co-morbid conditions like diabetes and heart disease alongside addiction.

Receiving the Distinguished Achievement Alumni Award from Chestnut Hill College marked a turning point in Gilbert's relationship with her alma mater. "I looked at everyone I could find that had already achieved an award, and I thought to myself, these women or these men have done



Dr Deja Gilbert receiving her Sigma Beta Delta honors with Dr. Andra Basu, Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Dean of Faculty (left) and President Dr. Brian McCloskey (right).

amazing things," she recalls. "Even 25 years into my career, it's still a very big accomplishment." The recognition rekindled her connection with the College. "That's really the moment that I started reconnecting with Chestnut Hill," she says. Soon after, she joined the board of nursing and deepened her involvement with the institution.

For students considering careers in behavioral healthcare or social services, Gilbert offers straightforward guidance: combine academic learning with real-world experience.

"Make sure that you're learning as much as you can while you're going through your academic training, and then if you have any opportunity to engage in the environments that you hope to work in, take it," she advises. "Whether it's volunteering, whether it's a weekend opportunity, whatever that looks like.

We have to pair what we learn in school with the real world."

She's equally emphatic about the importance of continued education at every career stage. "I tell my staff all the time, regardless of where they're at in their career, 'What are you reading today? What are you learning about today?'" Gilbert says. "It is so important to continue to grow your mind and grow your skills and grow your ability."

Ultimately, Gilbert's success stems from a simple but profound commitment to community. "With any organization that is involved with people—which is pretty much all of them—we have to work together. We have to actually be in a community," she reflects.

It's a philosophy rooted in the psychological foundation she gained at Chestnut Hill College—one that continues to guide her work today.

"Quite honestly, every interaction in the business world is one of psychology," Gilbert notes. "I use my background in psychology that I received at Chestnut Hill College through my master's degree program in everything I do."

As she leads Gaudenzia into its next chapter, Dr. Deja Gilbert embodies the College's mission of developing leaders who transform their communities. Her journey—from student to distinguished alumna to CEO—demonstrates that the pursuit of knowledge and the commitment to service are not separate paths, but complementary forces in a life well lived.

Read the entire interview with Dr. Gilbert [here](#).



# The Founding of the SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

By Ryan P. Murphy, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology

On October 15, 1650, at a solemn ceremony directed by Bishop Henri de Maupas in Le Puy-en-Velay, France, six “pious widows and single women” were officially recognized as the first Sisters of Saint Joseph. These women from humble social and economic backgrounds ranged in age from 15 to about 50—only one could read and write—set out with the single mission to unite neighbor with neighbor, and neighbor with God.

Françoise Eyraud, Marguerite Burdier, Claudia Chastel, Anna Brun, Anna Vey, and Anna Chaleyer began writing a story 375 years ago that has connected us across centuries and to our present realities at Chestnut Hill College.

While 1650 marks their official canonical founding in the Catholic Church, the Sisters’ work began several years earlier, in the mid-1640s, likely in smaller homes and communities

under the spiritual guidance and direction of Jesuit priest, Father Jean Pierre Médaille. These first six founding Sisters served God and neighbor by caring for orphans, bringing broth to those who were hungry, visiting the imprisoned, and eventually, as teachers. They were lacemakers, selling their craft to support themselves and their work, while also teaching orphans and young girls to make ribbons and lace—



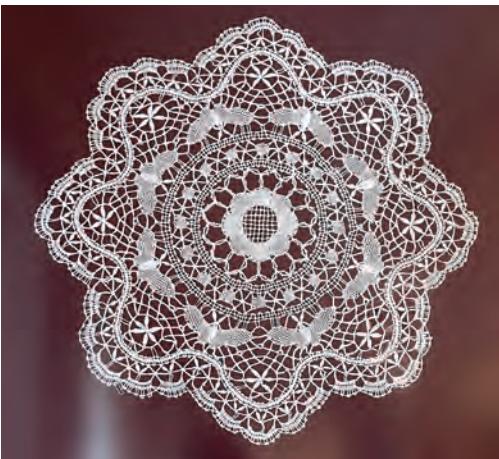
The Chapel of Saint-Michel d'Aiguilhe, a 10th-century chapel overlooking Le Puy-en-Velay is reached by 268 steps.  
Photo courtesy of Burkard Meyendriesch, Unsplash.com

providing them with a dignified source of income and way of life. Our first Sisters met each morning and evening in a small kitchen in Le Puy around a fireplace—a space that is preserved today and a sacred destination for many around the world who are connected through the Family of Joseph. When these Sisters made lace in the evening, they also reflected on God’s presence in their lives and the people they served, a practice still integral to Sisters of Saint Joseph spirituality today, known as Sharing the State of the Heart. As the congregation grew, the Sisters of Saint Joseph always responded to the needs of the day, adapting to new challenges and demands in each new area where they settled.

Our founders were radical, courageous risktakers carving a new way of life for women in service to God and God’s people. In fact, the Sisters of Saint Joseph were one of the first women’s religious communities who lived apostolic lives, that is, in active ministry serving people through charitable works. To be a nun at the time meant entering a convent to live one’s vocation in contemplative religious communities through a life of prayer and simple labor, separated from society behind the protective walls of the cloister. For women who followed a traditional route of marriage and family, their lives were similarly restrictive. Ordinarily, women in 17th century France were expected to be accompanied by men when they were out in public, except for widows who were permitted to travel alone given their circumstances. So our first sisters, in their desire to carry on their ministry unencumbered by secular and clerical male authorities, began wearing the long black mourning gown worn by widows of the day—which eventually becomes the widely-recognized nun’s habit.

Then, as now, the Sisters of Saint Joseph never carried out their mission of unity alone. From the very beginning, they were accompanied by partners in mission in their work. In addition to Father Médaille, two women—Lucrèze de la Planche and Marguerite “Margot” de Saint-Laurens—were early supporters of the congregation, providing financial resources and endorsement for this new way of life. Lucrèze de la Planche came from considerable financial means, since her husband was a wealthy landowner in Tence, some 40 kilometers East of Le Puy-en-Velay. Early on, she recognized God’s holy work being done through these women and invited them to stay with her in her home for several months before their official recognition as a religious community.

Lucrèze continued to sponsor the Sisters financially until her death in 1653. Margot de Saint-Laurens learned about the Sisters of Saint Joseph from her spiritual director, Father Médaille, and was also inspired to partner with them in service to every kind of dear neighbor without distinction. Margot, too, was from bourgeois society and her class position meant that she had the ability to read and write. When one of the first ministries, an orphanage called Montferrand Hospital needed a teacher, Margot responded to the call, using her gifts to educate dozens of young girls. Little else is known of these early founders—and likely countless others whose names are lost to history—yet, their presence was instrumental in furthering the Sisters of Saint Joseph mission throughout France, Europe, and eventually North America. These unknown founders did not live their vocations as vowed religious but rather embraced the mission in the ordinariness of their lives.



A piece of modern bobbin lace from Le Puy, France. Photo by the author, courtesy of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

# New Students are Introduced to the GOOD WORK OF THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH

By Keely McCarthy, Ph.D., Coordinator, Writing Program & First-year Academic Experience, Professor of English



Sister Matthew Anita listens attentively as a student speaks during WCHC class November 2025.

"You can feel the love that the Sisters pour into the College and each of us."

Reading this in a first-year student's reflection essay at the end of the fall semester last year, I was struck by the feeling of connection to the Sisters of Saint Joseph. It reminded me that every semester students ask questions about the Sisters and want to know who they are, what they do now and in the past, how they are connected to the College. But then I wondered: where did the author get this impression about the Sisters' love for them as students? Maybe it was implied in my history of the College lesson, or maybe my WCHC ("Welcome to CHC 101") student had attended an event for the College's 100th anniversary. Or maybe they were being taught by SSJ faculty or had a casual but impactful conversation in the halls with any of the Sisters on campus. I don't

know, but this statement led me to seek out Sister Matthew Anita MacDonald SSJ, Ph, former president of Chestnut Hill College, to see if we could create more connections between the first-year students and the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

As a start, Sister Matthew put together a presentation and asked some of the Sisters who are already on campus frequently if they would visit WCHC classes this fall. This is a 3-credit orientation course that covers fundamental skills for success and embeds students in the CHC community.

Sister Matthew's plan created an additional connection for our students—even if their liberal arts seminar is taught by Sister Cathy Looker or they visit Sister Mary Lynch in Campus Ministry or joined Sister Rita Michael Scully's literature or sewing clubs. And it created an opportunity for all of our first-year students to learn about the current work of the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph—to understand that the life of the community goes beyond the College—and to hear from a Sister directly about how important the College is to the Congregation. It also created an opportunity for students to ask questions, and they have many! One WCHC instructor reported that Sister Jean Faustman visited his class, and "it was great and students were very engaged." We hope to build on the program next fall.

The Sisters themselves are wonderful people, but beyond that, what draws our students to want to learn from them and get to know them? The SSJs offer things that students are seeking and that can be hard to find: authenticity and connection, selflessness and joy in their work. And they teach these attributes and dispositions in their interactions with others. Even more, like the student-author who remarked on the Sisters' love for each of them, when students learn about the College's history and meet the Sisters today, they feel loved and worthy because the Sisters built a college for them. 

**“ YOU CAN FEEL THE LOVE THAT THE SISTERS POUR INTO THE COLLEGE AND EACH OF US. ”**



Photo by

# Griffin Athletes are Successful ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM!

# 326

STUDENT-ATHLETES THIS FALL,  
WITH A COLLECTIVE GPA  
(Grade Point Average) OF 3.327.

16 OF 19 TEAMS  
recorded a team GPA of  
3.0 OR HIGHER.  
7 OF THOSE 16 were  
3.50 OR HIGHER.

## HIGH MALE TEAMS:

MEN'S TENNIS	3.464
MEN'S LACROSSE	3.436
BASEBALL	3.422

## HIGH FEMALE TEAMS:

WOMEN'S TENNIS	3.941
WOMEN'S LACROSSE	3.715
SOFTBALL	3.665
WOMEN'S SOCCER	3.655

## 146 ATHLETES

NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST  
(3.60 TERM GPA OR GREATER)

## 172 ATHLETES

NAMED TO ATHLETIC  
ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL  
(3.50 TERM GPA OR GREATER)

# 206

ATHLETES NAMED TO THE CACC ACADEMIC  
HONOR ROLL (3.0 TERM GPA OR BETTER)\*

\*14 of these athletes are named on two or more teams

## 22 ATHLETES

WILL BE NAMED TO THE

## CACC FALL/WINTER ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

(3.5 GPA OR BETTER + 67% PARTICIPATION)

(1 athlete will be named on two teams).

#GRIFFINNATION



## Student-Athletes Plan on Inclusivity AS KEY TO CAMPUS COMMUNITY

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



From left to right, Athletic Director, Jesse Balcer, with student-athletes Kyra Favors, Sebastian Lugo Ocasio, Grace Mott, Vice President Krista Bailey Murphy, and student-athlete Oscar Navarro.

In early November, four student-athletes and two administrators touched down in snowy Indianapolis for the NCAA Impact Forum. Thanks to generous financial support from NCAA Division II, the Griffin team engaged in powerful conversations related to community, humanity, belonging, and leadership.

By taking part in the Division II Enhanced Attendance Program, the groups focused on answering the question, "How might we create a

culture of belonging that is actively inclusive?" While there are infinite answers to this important question, after doing a campus needs assessment, SWOT analysis, and setting SMART goals, the team focused on physical space as an avenue to inclusion.

The team created an actionable plan, working with other campus partners, to reimagine the Griffin's Den, a space that has been loved by many Griffins over the years. The students' ideas include

everything from a gratitude wall, a world map to honor the home countries or birthplaces of students, a phone free zone for intentional conversations, to diverse and healthy food options. While there is much work to be done, there is excellent energy surrounding visions for this shared campus space.

The conference challenged the students to reflect on their own identities and consider how they personally contribute to a more inclusive campus community. In reflecting on the experience, Grace Mott 2028 said, "This conference was an eye opener for me. Although we all have different problems, it's nice to hear other students and schools going through the same things. Talking about these things helped us grow closer as a community and be able to take different things back to CHC."

By investing in opportunities like this, CHC reaffirms its dedication to student success and well-being. When students see that their voices matter and their identities are respected, they thrive academically and personally. The work of belonging and inclusion is central to our mission and our core value of just relationships. It is work we must engage in each day so that all who walk our halls feel welcomed as their most authentic selves. 

# Fall 2025 SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

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

The Fall 2025 semester saw eight Chestnut Hill College teams in action over the course of the first three months of the semester. Five of the eight teams saw post-season action with two team sports (women's soccer and women's tennis) reaching the conference semi-finals and the cross country and golf programs competing in the conference championship meet (in the case of cross country) or tournament (golf) as they do each year.

The fall season also showed the Griffin's prowess in the classroom as our student athletes recorded a department 3.327 grade point average, their highest in the post-pandemic era. Sixteen of our 19 teams posted team GPAs above 3.0. Thirty-nine athletes recorded a 4.0 for the semester (12% of the student athlete population) and 172 had a 3.50 or better. (52.8%). The women's tennis team had the highest team GPA at 3.941.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

Back to competition on the field, the women's soccer team started off slowly, with a grueling non-conference schedule before earning their first win, a Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference game, in their fifth contest of the season. Once conference play started the team's defense solidified, allowing only six goals in the 11 conference games while recording seven shutouts. The goalkeeping duo of junior **Ellie Stratz** and sophomore **Haley Esposito** produced a goals against average of 0.55 and a save percentage of .872 in conference games, second only to rival Jefferson University.

The senior-laden squad, led by all-conference performers **Rebecca Dalton** (eight goals, 18 points); **Virginia Perry** (three



Rebecca Dalton



Virginia Perry



Lauren Sullivan



Hayden Johnston

goals, nine points); and **Lauren Sullivan** (two goals, six points), took the team to a third place finish in the conference and earned a home playoff spot for the first time since the 2011 season. 2025 also marked the fourth straight year the Griffins made the conference playoffs.

In the quarterfinal, it was a pair of freshmen who made their mark as the Griffins defeated Goldey-Beacom 3-0 to advance to the semi-finals for the second time in four years. Freshman **Hayden Johnston** scored twice, and classmate **Abby Collins** scored once. Their efforts earned both players spots on the CACC All-Tournament team.

The women's soccer season ended in the semi-finals at Caldwell University on November 11, leaving the team with a final mark of 9-8-1.

November also saw a women's soccer alumna become the first student-athlete at Chestnut Hill to be inducted into the CACC Hall of Fame. **Lauren Riiff Larkin 2012**, a 2022 Chestnut Hill Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, was selected on her first year on the CACC Hall of Fame ballot. The athletics department, in conjunction with the conference, held a ceremony on campus on the Friday before Thanksgiving. While at Chestnut Hill, she was selected twice as the CACC Player of the Year (2009, 2011) and was a four-time all CACC honoree, including being named to the first team three times. Following Riiff Larkin's senior season (2011), during which she led the CACC in goals (18), points (41) and shots (93), she earned NSCAA All-Region and Daktronics Third Team All-America honors.

Riiff Larkin, by a wide margin, ranks first on the Griffins' all-time lists for points (130), goals (56), game-winning goals (14), and shots (310). She led the Griffins to three CACC playoff appearances.



Abby Collins

Lilian Bandel

Elena Arenas Guisasola



## WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis team earned a spot in the CACC championship tournament for the seventh consecutive year. Despite playing short-handed all season and struggling in the win/loss column, the Griffins earned the #4 seed in the conference tournament with two regular season wins against both Post University and Dominican University. The team led by senior **Claudia Rasilla** and juniors **Lilian Bandel** and **Elena Arenas Guisasola** faced top seed Jefferson University in the semi-finals falling to the Rams.

Bandel compiled a 13-4 singles record and reached the round of 16 in both singles and doubles at the ITA East region Championship in September. Arenas Guisasola reached the round of 16 in doubles at the ITA tournament and combined for 16 singles and doubles win throughout the season. Rasilla had 15 singles and doubles wins during the season. Bandel and Arenas Guisasola were voted to the CACC All-conference team for their efforts during the regular season. For Bandel it was her second consecutive all-conference nod.




*Anthony Cancellare*

*Kyree Griffin*

*Xavier Limehouse*

*Amir Jenkins*

*Mohammed Bility*

*Rodrigo Artiga*


## SPRINT FOOTBALL

The sprint football team had a season of records as the squad recorded a 5-3 mark in 2025, their second straight winning record and equaling the mark for most wins in a season. Highlighting the season was a 3-0 win over the University of Pennsylvania, marking the first time in program history that the Griffins shut out an opponent. A field goal by kicker **Brady Reynolds** as time was expiring in the fourth quarter provided all the points needed. Senior quarterback **Anthony Cancellare** tied the school record with 25 completions in the contest. Senior **Kyree Griffin** tied a school record with 10 catches in the contest.

Cancellare had the best season of his career, leading the Collegiate Sprint Football League with 1,832 passing yards and a completion percentage of 68.5% (both Griffin single season records). He was second in the league with 14 touchdown passes thrown. Cancellare concluded his Griffins career setting a total of 12 single game, season or career marks for passing and total offense during the 2025 season.

Chestnut Hill recorded their second shutout of the season in their final game, defeating Saint Thomas Aquinas College 41-0. Griffin and junior tight end **Aiden Neff**, both eclipsed the mark for most pass receptions in a season with Griffin catching six passes to finish the season with 37 and Neff catching five to finish the season with 33, surpassing the old mark of 32 set back in 2019 by **Domoree Hill**.

Griffin and Neff's efforts on the season earned both players First team all-conference accolades. Griffin also set a record for most receiving yards in a game in the Griffins' season opener, a 27-21 close loss to Army. He recorded 189 yards on six catches. Also earning first team all-conference honors on offense was running back **Xavier Limehouse**. Limehouse was one of the top rushers in the league, rushing for a school record 770 yards and scoring a school record ten touchdowns.

On defense, seniors **Cam Goldsmith** and **Lex Williams** were named first team all-conference. Goldsmith led the league with a school record 8.5 sacks while Williams set a single season record with 65 tackles to rank fifth in the league. Williams also became the programs all-time tackles leader with 218 for his career.

In addition to the five first team all-conference honorees, the Griffins placed six additional players on second team or honorable mention, including Cancellare who was an honorable mention selection despite his league leading stats. Second team honorees included offensive lineman **Shaleer Singleton** and defensive back **Amir Jenkins**. Joining **Anthony Cancellare** as honorable mention selections were his brother defensive back **Andre Cancellare**, offensive lineman **Lexx Santiago** and tight end **Miles Coates**.

Records wise, head **Coach Gio Thomas** finishes the season tied for the program's all-time lead in victories with 13 in his five seasons. Individuals on the team set or tied a total of 51 single game, season or career records for the program in 2025.



## MEN'S SOCCER

The men's soccer team, while not earning a post-season bid in 2025, vastly improved from 2024, doubling their number of wins and finishing with a 6-10-1 record. The record included conference wins over Goldey-Beacom College and Holy Family University as well as non-conference wins over Pace University and Shepherd University.

Early in the season, the Griffins produced a three-game winning streak culminating in a 5-2 win over Goldey-Beacom College. **Mohammed Bility**, a transfer from Holy Family, scored two goals on Goldey-Beacom and also Pace at the start of the win streak. Bility finished the season as the team's leader in goals scored with seven. He along with **Abdoulaye Kamagate** (five goals, six assists) tied for the team lead with 16 points apiece.

Senior **Rodrigo Artiga** and freshman **Max Bond** shared the goalkeeping duties with each netminder winning three games. Artiga led the team with a 2.20 goals against average and 68 saves.

When post-season honors rolled around, Kamagate, the CACC's 2023 Rookie of the Year, was named as a second team all-conference selection as was Artiga. They were the first Griffins to earn all-conference accolades since the 2023 season.



## GOLF

Moving from the soccer pitch to the golf course, the Griffins competed in five regular season tournaments along with the CACC Championship Tournament in the fall. The Griffins opened their season with a sixth place finish at the WCU Battlefield Classic on the links at Gettysburg and a seventh place effort at the CACC preview event. At the CACC Championship Tournament, the team placed seventh while **Rogelio Gerena** led Chestnut Hill with a three-round score of 244, placing 24th overall.

Gerena went on to tie a school record for the best round score in program history, shooting a two-under par 69 the following week at the Pull the Pin Invitational hosted by Lancaster Bible College. Gerena's score earned him his first tournament win.


*Rogelio Gerena*

*Gabby Hassler*

*Braden Berkey*


## CROSS-COUNTRY

The cross-country programs struggled with numbers this season under first year head coach Ryan O'Hara. Both men's and women's teams did, however, field full squads for the conference championships in late October.

The women's team finished seventh overall with a pair of seniors **Rebecca Dalton** and **Gabby Hassler** leading the way. Dalton, who is also a standout women's soccer player, finished 18th overall with a time of 22:30.09 for the 5,000-meter race at Belmont Plateau in Philadelphia. Hassler, the Griffins' top runner in the regular season, placed 29th overall with a time of 23:29.43.

The men's side saw senior **Braden Berkey** close out his cross country/track and field career with a 30th place overall finish and a time of 30:45.72 as the Griffins finished 10th. **Ryan O'Hara** (son of the coach) placed 44th with a time of 32:14.77. Berkey and O'Hara were the Griffins' top two runners all season. 

# JOHN MANZO'S SUCCESS WITH FLYERS COLLEGE SALES PROGRAM

## Leads Him to MBA Path at CHC

By Robert Bogdon, Executive Director of Strategic Marketing and Communication • Edited for length



John Manzo posed on center ice with his Chestnut Hill College sign prior to the conclusion of the Flyers College Sales Program. Photo courtesy of John Manzo.

Sometimes the best journeys begin without a clear destination in mind.

Growing up, Manzo had a genuine curiosity and passion for the world of business. He'd watch shows like *Shark Tank* and find himself analyzing business ideas, thinking about what made some concepts work while others failed.

"There's so many areas you can go with business," Manzo explains. "I thought it was very open, and I wanted to see what I could do."

So when it came time to search for a four-year institution, Manzo had specific criteria: he wanted somewhere close to home, a strong sense of community, small class sizes, and a robust business program. Chestnut Hill College checked all the boxes and as Manzo says "was the perfect fit" for what he was looking for.

### ACHIEVING HIS GOALS WITH THE FLYERS COLLEGE SALES PROGRAM AND HR INTERNSHIP

Last fall, while taking a human resources class, Manzo learned about an opportunity that would challenge his preconceptions about his own abilities. The Philadelphia Flyers were partnering with Chestnut Hill College for a ticket sales competition, pitting students against peers from larger universities like the University of Delaware and West Chester.

"The first thing I thought was 'sales'—that was something I never thought I wanted to pursue," Manzo admits. "But I never know what I'm capable of, and I wanted to see if I really liked it before going through it in the future."

As a first-generation college student without family connections or close experience in business, Manzo felt he was starting at a disadvantage. But rather than let that discourage him, he used it as motivation.

Armed with creativity, determination, and design skills from a high school course, he created his own marketing materials. He distributed flyers around campus, reached out to classmates, and even connected with people he'd never met before who were interested in purchasing tickets.

The results spoke for themselves: Manzo finished in the top 10 individually for sales. His success earned him recognition from the Flyers organization and a varsity jacket—tangible proof that he could compete with students from much larger institutions.

"It was a rewarding journey that aligns with my goals of sharpening practical skills and preparing for a competitive

career landscape. I felt honored to represent and lead Chestnut Hill College in this program."

While the Flyers program helped Manzo discover he could excel at sales, it wasn't his ultimate destination. Through an internship at Chestnut Hill College, he found his true passion: human resources.

"HR is very different depending on where you go," he learned. "In a small place like Chestnut Hill, you practically do all of the steps. I think seeing that firsthand—sitting in on interviews, doing clearances, making sure everything's organized—I felt like I developed a passion for it."

Throughout his journey, Manzo consistently credits the personal attention he receives at Chestnut Hill College as a key factor in his success. Unlike larger institutions where students can feel like "just a number," he found professors and staff who knew him personally and invested in his growth.

"Having that personal connection with your professors, with them being there for you and trying to help you dive into your passion and see where you want to go—I don't know how I could have that same experience at another school."

When asked what advice he'd give to incoming students, Manzo reflected on his own experience. "Connections are key. Getting that real experience—the idea of interning somewhere or getting first-hand experience—I think is very vital. There are so many opportunities to get involved on campus and beyond. You should be open to trying new things even if they seem out of your comfort zone."

Read the full article online



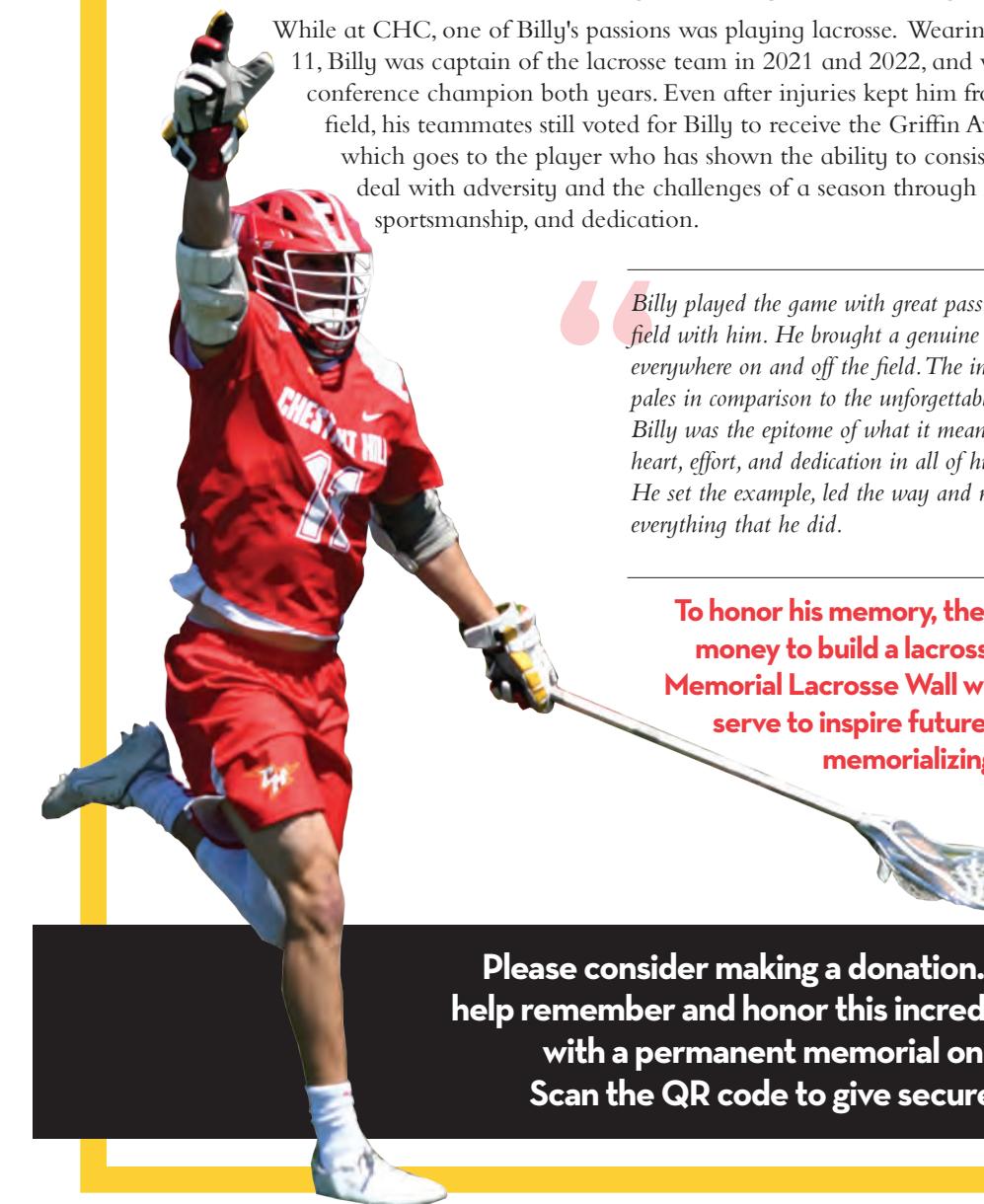
# HONORING THE MEMORY OF BILLY DIMAIO, JR.

WILLIAM "BILLY" DIMAIO, JR. 2021, 2022 SGS WAS A BRIGHT ALUM WITH A PROMISING FUTURE.

On January 1, 2025, Billy was in New Orleans when an abominable act of terror unfolded on a crowd of innocent people celebrating the new year. Fourteen people were killed in the attack, including Billy. He was 25 years old.

To those who knew him, Billy was an excellent student, a dedicated worker, a steadfast friend, and a beloved son. Always goal-oriented, Billy excelled in his schoolwork, which translated to his job at Audacy, where he had recently received a promotion. Humble and good-natured, Billy's smile lit up every room and he was an inspiration to everyone who knew him. Billy was always putting others before himself; the mark of a person whose values were dear to him. His kind heart and generous ways will not be forgotten.

While at CHC, one of Billy's passions was playing lacrosse. Wearing number 11, Billy was captain of the lacrosse team in 2021 and 2022, and was conference champion both years. Even after injuries kept him from the field, his teammates still voted for Billy to receive the Griffin Award, which goes to the player who has shown the ability to consistently deal with adversity and the challenges of a season through leadership, sportsmanship, and dedication.

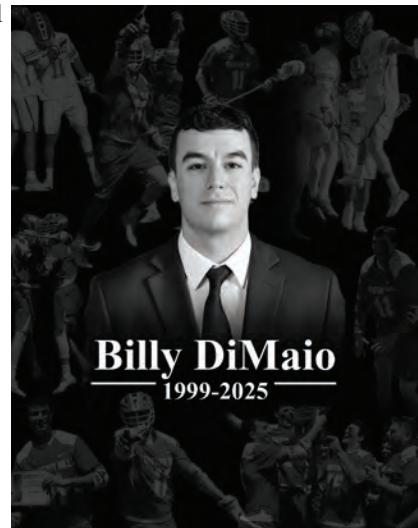


*Billy played the game with great passion, which was felt by everyone that shared the field with him. He brought a genuine love for lacrosse and an infectious energy with him everywhere on and off the field. The impact he had on our program was profound, but pales in comparison to the unforgettable impression he made on everyone who knew him. Billy was the epitome of what it meant to be a Griffin lacrosse player. He gave his whole heart, effort, and dedication in all of his endeavors at Chestnut Hill College and beyond. He set the example, led the way and made sure no one was left behind or felt isolated in everything that he did.*

- Head Coach, Jim DeCarlo 2017

**To honor his memory, the community at CHC has decided to raise money to build a lacrosse practice wall. The William DiMaio, Jr. Memorial Lacrosse Wall will be dedicated to Billy's memory, and will serve to inspire future generations of lacrosse players while memorializing Billy's kind, generous spirit.**

Please consider making a donation. Your gift will help remember and honor this incredible young man with a permanent memorial on campus.  
Scan the QR code to give securely online.





CHESTNUT  
HILL  
COLLEGE

# THE DAY OF GIVING IS MARCH 12, 2026!

This year, we are honoring the indefatigable

*Sister Rita Michael Scully*

with a \$25,000 Matching Gift Challenge in her honor!



The Bennis Family has generously offered a matching gift challenge in honor of Sister Rita. If we can raise \$25,000 on the Day of Giving, March 12, they will match every penny! That's like doubling your donation!

## Who is Sister Rita Michael?

Sister Rita Michael Scully has dedicated her life to teaching and through her long career, she touched hundreds of students' lives. After 51 years at Chestnut Hill College, she retired from teaching in 2023, though she still comes to campus nearly every day to run clubs for our students including the sewing, calligraphy, and literary clubs.

*I feel constantly blessed, blessed since I was born, in my friends, my students, and my colleagues. I am humbled and honored.*

Make your gift today by scanning the QR code or visit [www.chc.edu/give](http://www.chc.edu/give).



Alumni  
RELATIONS



# Reunion

## WEEKEND 2026!

LOCATIONS WILL BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE AND WILL BE  
COMMUNICATED TO ALL REGISTERED GUESTS.



### FRIDAY, APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>

7 PM

❖ **Young Alumni VIP Party**

Alumni from the last 10 years (2015-2025) are invited to a VIP party prior to the special event. Drinks and heavy appetizers.

10 AM - 11:15 AM

❖ **Faculty Lecture - Dr. David Contosta**

American Independence: 250 Years. A historical perspective on American Independence in 50 year intervals: 1776, 1826, 1876, 1926, 1976, and 2026, with a special emphasis on what was happening in Philadelphia.

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

❖ **Options:**

Various campus events, including campus tours led by current students, tours of the nursing school, athletic events, and more. Details will be on the website as they become available!

10 AM

❖ **Reunion 2026 Mass - Motherhouse Chapel**

Join the entire CHC community for this special Mass in the stunning Motherhouse Chapel.

11 AM - 1 PM

❖ **Brunch with the SSJs**

Immediately following Mass, all are welcome for Sunday Brunch with the Sisters of St. Joseph!

### REGISTER FOR REUNION WEEKEND BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



**Please note:** All registrations 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](mailto:mclaughlinm1@chc.edu).

Visit our website for more information: [chc.edu/alumni-relations/](http://chc.edu/alumni-relations/)

### HOTEL BLOCKS

#### Courtyard By Marriott Plymouth Meeting - 5 miles from CHC

- CHC Block Rates: \$165/King \$185/2 Queens

Must book by 3/27 to receive special rates. Mention Chestnut Hill College Alumni for rate.

#### Hilton Garden Inn Philadelphia/Ft. Washington - 5.7 miles from CHC

- CHC Block Rate: \$169/night for King or Double Rooms

Must book by 3/27 to receive special rates. Mention Chestnut Hill College Alumni for rate.

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## The Lunch Table Sorority

By Ann Marie Smith Sielski 1971



The Lunch Table sorority members, taken in 1996.

Standing (left to right): Chris O'Donnell Carroll, Susan Walters, Regina Ventresca Creedon, Betty Anne Marron Cooper, Roseanne O'Hanlon Duzinski, Kathleen Hunt Mang, Janice McDugall Pfeiffer.

Sitting (left to right): Elaine Cody Hankins, Blanche Goffredo Haughton, Linda Pellicore MacLachlin, Ann Marie Smith Sielski, Clare Hamilton Bohnett, Ann O'Connor Levering.

The Sorority began when we met at Chestnut Hill College in 1967. Its seeds were planted in those early classes where we were thrown together, scared and excited at the same time. We sat at The Lunch Table (the capital letters "T.L.T." becoming part of our identity) dieting on salads or bingeing on those chocolate chip cookies while we listened to the same songs being played over and over on the jukebox. We were all "Day Hops" or carpoolers - and proud of it. We sloughed through the rain and snow from the bus, while the lucky car owners made their way up from the parking lot. We toted books and notes, purses and umbrellas, triumphant when we made it to our lockers fairly dry.

Those newly-formed friendships were nurtured and cultivated in the Soph Lounge over Cokes and cigarettes and in the library while we crammed for mid-terms and comps. The Lunch Table was a place to gather to exchange woes over wayward boyfriends or anxieties about academics or just to vent.

As senior year drew to a close, we were reluctant to part. Linda Pellicore, at her mother's suggestion, feted us at a luncheon over Easter vacation and proposed that we continue The Lunch Table Sorority once a month at each other's houses. The idea was greeted with enthusiasm, and so we decided to continue our lunches after graduation.

No one would have expected this group to keep going for 55 years, but now this Sorority is a constant in all our lives. At our monthly "meetings" we laugh and talk and cry and talk and eat and talk and talk and talk. We have grown into a sisterhood of strong, generous, accomplished women who truly appreciate the value of friendship. We have been each other's bridesmaids and godparents, counselors and advisors, sisters in every sense of the word. We have witnessed marriage and separation, rejoiced in new birth and individual accomplishment, and wept over the loss of parents, children and four of our own (Chris O'Donnell Carroll, Regina Ventresca Creedon, Linda Pellicore MacLachlin and Janice McDugall Pfeiffer). The bond we have forged is stronger now than it was when we were all finding out way, and our lives have been changed for the better and for good and for always because of the friendships made and still treasured.

On the eve of our 55th class reunion, we hope, deeply and fervently, that the new students at "our loved Chestnut Hill" find the same thing: comfort, support and strength from one another and countless life events to be shared together in the years ahead. Each of us has left "a handprint on [our] hearts" (a line from the musical Wicked). We would not be a Sorority at all if not for Chestnut Hill College and, despite the divergence of paths that brought us here, we are and will always be Chestnut Hill College's T.L.T. Sorority. 

# Give to the CHC Pantry



Chestnut Hill College's Pantry is a resource for addressing food and other necessities among students. By offering free access to food, it helps alleviate hunger and ensures that students can focus on their academic and personal development.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE SURE THE PANTRY STAYS STOCKED WITH FOOD AND NECESSITIES.

### THREE WAYS TO DONATE

#### AMAZON WISHLIST

The easiest way to give! Scan the QR Code to purchase items from our Amazon Wishlist and they'll be sent directly to us:



#### CAMPUS DROP-OFF

If you are interested in donation in-kind items to the pantry, here are a few requests:

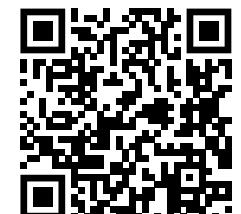
- Shelf-stable groceries
- Healthy snacks
- Quick meals
- Toiletries
- Feminine products
- School supplies
- Laundry supplies
- Yogurt, fresh fruit, cheese sticks

Donations can be dropped off with Campus Ministry, Saint Joseph Hall 337. **Please note that we generally do not accept canned goods, especially canned vegetables and items that would require use of a can opener.** Please also be very mindful of checking expiration dates on prospective donations.

For more information, contact Sister Lisa Olivieri, [olivier@chc.edu](mailto:olivier@chc.edu)

#### MONETARY DONATIONS

We stretch every dollar to the maximum when we receive monetary donations. To make a monetary donation, please scan the QR code to give securely online.



Did you know that approximately 23% of undergraduate college students in the US experience food insecurity?

# Class Notes



On August 16, 2025, alumna **Rachel Steinberg** 2009 married Arnav Kolay at Llanerch Country Club in Delaware County. In attendance were several CHC alumni. From left to right: Valerie Simone-Spera 2008, Annette Greason 2008, Kevin Kuczynski 2008, Colleen Kuczynski 2008, and Jane Ziff 2008. It was a beautiful day surrounded by loved ones, and Rachel was so happy to have her close CHC friends there.

**Emily DeMalto** 2015 opened a private therapy practice, The Third Space Collective, providing outpatient mental health services with a focus on anxiety, depression, and eating disorder recovery. The practice is dedicated to compassionate, client-centered care and supporting individuals through meaningful, sustainable change.

## Judy Sima 2015

started her new role as Assistant Principal of Saint Martin de Porres Catholic School.



Huge congratulations to two amazing couples (both Men's Basketball / Women's Basketball alums) — **Colin Flach & Lauren Crim** and **Conor Regan & Abbey Spratt** — on their engagements! ❤ From playing in Sorgenti Arena and cheering each other on, to saying yes to forever — what a full circle moment.

We're so proud to have been a small part of your journey, and we can't wait to see what's ahead! ❤

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

Alumna **Angèle Vial McGrady**, Ph.D. 1963 published *Pathways through Long-Term Health Conditions: Lifestyle Medicine to Maximise Your Wellbeing*. The book is a guide for persons living with a chronic illness; it provides structured, person-centered pathways to further wellbeing and improved quality of life, when a cure is not possible. Chapters revolve around a case and describe a typical person's journey through self-care, use of community resources and professional intervention as needed.



**Mary Frances Cavallaro** 2013 and **Josh Corbyon** 2016 welcomed Mary Frances on March 15, 2025.



**Morgan Maguire** married **Dylan McCauley** on May 17, 2025 at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia. Cristina Diaz Achuff 2015 officiated and Morgan's CHC crew were her "something blue!"



**Jessica Veazey** 2013 and **Chris Shriver** 2015 welcomed Hugh Alexander in late August and James William will be three this July. Jessica also started a photography business offering family photos, newborn, lifestyles, special life events and senior portraits.



**Caitlin Kain** 2013 received NJIT's Nexus of Excellence award for Undergraduate Advising and Mentoring.



**Laura Oliver Devlin** 2021 married Tyler Devlin on October 11, 2025. The bridal party included Stephanie Brogna 2020 and Erin McGuffin 2021.

# In Memoriam

Alumni deceased since last publication | (Notification to CHC: July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025)

Peggy Grant Malone 1946	Helen Gleeson Wachendorfer 1958	Ellen Walsh 1973
Marjorie Piga Crain 1948	Barbara Stoll Russell 1959	Barbara Kocan Cosantino 1974
Janet Smith Murphy 1948	Mary Pat Wallace 1959	Lorena Landucci 1975
Mary Grace Uttinger Palis 1948	Rita DiJenno 1960	Grace Longworth 1975
Edna Hanlon Cooney 1949	Margaret Deweir Forrester 1960	Nancie Ann Kenny Moebius 1975
Dolores Neels Maras 1949	Margaret Michel Johnson 1960	Maureen Kelly- Mumper 1976
Elizabeth Webb Dixon 1949	Mary McElvenny Owen 1960	Eileen Dormuth 1977
Jean Walker Greer 1950	Maripat Martin Brophy 1961	Lisette Maldonado-Soto 1977
Margaret Vernon McLaughlin 1950	Rosemary Catroppa Palena 1961	Regina McIntyre, RSM 1977 SCPS
Joan Byrne Murphy 1950	Catherine Devlin 1963	Anna Giacalone-Gottschaldt, D.M.D. 1978
Frances Pickess Woods 1950	Patricia Mullins Evans 1963	Marie Hayes Sheerin 1978, 1985 SGS
Joan Amberg Kineke 1951	Mary Joan McGonigal Hofmann 1963	James Agnes Campbell, SSJ 1981
Genevieve Koehler Sweet 1951	Mary Eileen Daly McDonough, Ed.D. 1963	Aileen Koopman 1991 SGS
Lorraine Mariani Albanese 1952	Carol Scudo Delgado 1963	Eileen Siegler 1992 SGS
Barbara Carli 1952	Mary Ann Bones, SSJ 1964	Ellen Walsh 1992 SGS
Joan Mathers Eaves 1952	Evelyn Galla Bratton 1964	Lillian Carpenter Scoggins 1995 SCPS
M. Joan Kaul Donohoe 1953	Margaret Cooper	Antoinette Du Biel 1996 SCPS
Mary Lou Stafford McGill 1954	Phyllis M. Roche 1965	Kathleen M. Spigelmyer 1998
Adele Solari, SSJ 1955	Regina Maxwell Schwille 1965	Maria Nucero Tull 2003 SGS
Anna Mae Mezzetti Arcaroli 1956	Carolyn Keber Baird 1966	Charlene Voyer, Psy.D. 2007 SGS
Patricia Andris Walsh 1956	Alma Hurley, SSJ 1986 SGS	Sarah J. Cutler 2010
Constance Murray Becker 1957	Ameline Morin Pappas 1967	Deborah Anthony 2011 SCPS
Marie Pelliccio Berenato 1957	Margaret Matthews 1969	Anthony Teti, Jr. 2016
Regina Beck Moynihan 1957	Patricia Johnson Skopal 1970	
C. Patricia O'Hara Rutter 1957	Regina Ventresca Creedon 1971	
Miriam Fenerty Sullivan 1957	The Honorable Frederica Massiah-Jackson '71	
Maura Woulfe Schubert 1958		

## ERRORS AND OMISSIONS IN THE FALL 2025 ISSUE

In the "Alumni Reflect on 100 Years" article, Elizabeth Wible Molloy, Ph.D. was incorrectly identified as chemistry major and biology minor. She was actually a biology major and a chemistry minor. Our sincere apology to our readers and to Dr. Molloy for the mistake.

The digital version of this magazine is available on the College website at [CHC.edu/NEWS](http://CHC.edu/NEWS)

Printed copies of the magazine are mailed 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 last three years.

# *A Radical Hospitality of the Heart:* WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CATHOLIC COLLEGE

By Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D. 1978, President Emerita

As a Catholic College, Chestnut Hill College witnesses to Gospel values, the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and the charism and mission of its founders, the Sisters of Saint Joseph. That means, we closely follow the teachings and actions of Jesus by striving to treat others with dignity, respect and care. In the Gospel narratives and stories that the writers chose to describe Jesus of Nazareth, the imperative to love others could not be clearer, thus an inclusive love of every dear neighbor is central to the mission of the College.

As Catholics, we believe the universe is the first Revelation of God's existence. Each and every precious element of creation is a manifestation of the indwelling presence of the Holy Mystery in time. All that exists, reflects the Word, through whom the cosmos was created. "There is only Christ. Christ is in everything and in everything he is all." (Colossians 3:11)

The Trinity, whose creativity is transparently evident in the diversity of creation, loves all without imposing conditions. Consider for a moment the myriad of differences within each species on Earth. The variety of expressions within any one species overwhelms the imagination. It is not surprising that the Universe affirms that the Trinity delights in diversity. They, Themselves, are diverse: Three different Divine

Persons Who are the One God, a diversity marked by unconditional love of one another that is the essence and the basis of Divine unity.

We are exhorted by the Gospel to strive to love as They love, to welcome

differences, to imitate Them so we might be "one as They are One."

This love is evident in a radical hospitality of the heart as manifested by Jesus in his ministry. Jesus welcomed the outcasts, the sinners, those rejected by society. He challenged religious authorities who were perfect in outward appearance, but interiorly polluted by their own sense of superiority. He cured the blind, the deaf, the dumb, the lame, raised the dead, accepted women as disciples, asked Mary Magdalene to be the First Apostle to the Apostles after his resurrection. He healed the Centurion's servant, acquiesced to the pleas of the Syrophoenician woman, reparted with the woman at the well, invited himself to Zacchaeus' home, regularly ate with sinners. He broke the rules. He shattered the norms. He called out hypocrisy. Those society chose to dismiss – Jesus welcomed. He refused to acquiesce to outdated traditions and customs that were maintained to the detriment of the poor and vulnerable.

Given these truths, we welcome all people, all faith traditions at Chestnut Hill College. While our Catholic practices and beliefs are central to our identity and always paramount in mission, practice, teaching, and learning, we are open to the insights and perspectives of the other faith traditions, especially those Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, but also Hinduism and Buddhism, etc. God loves us all, every one – no exceptions, no exclusions. In fact, Vatican II in *Nostra Aetate*, The Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religion, invites interreligious dialogue, stipulates there is truth to be found in other religions, decries discrimination because of race, religion or color, and encourages all to find ways to collaborate in seeking social justice. "We cannot truly call on God, the Father

of all, if we refuse to treat anyone as a brother or sister, created as he or she is in the image of God." (*NA*, 5)

If we don't work together, eat together, play together, socialize together, reflect together, and, yes, pray together, how will we ever create a global community where we respect, reverence and care for one another, a world community where diversity does not hinder unity, but promotes it? In listening and appropriating what is best in each viewpoint, we learn and grow and expand our thinking, widen our embrace, open our hearts to newly unfolding perspectives that lead us more deeply into the Divine Mystery who is Trinity, unity in diversity. This is the image in which we are made. Everything comes forth from Trinity through the Word and everything returns to Trinity through Christ.

A radical hospitality of the heart and hearth invites every neighbor to table fellowship. There is only one family of God and we are all brothers and sisters, no matter our race, color, creed, gender identity, socio-economic status, immigration status. God, gracious, all knowing, all loving, called each and every one forth into existence and into relationship with Divinity and one another. God's unending creativity conceived of the human form in equally beautiful and amazing expressions, each and all made in the image of God.

At Chestnut Hill College, we strive to accept and respect our many differences with unconditional love. Trinitarian love is the heartbeat within the cosmos. It is not ours to judge, it is ours to love. Dare we strive to imitate the imperative held out to us by the Gospels? What would the global community look like if we succeeded in loving one another? 





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