Sulawesi Tsunami Strikes Indonesia

On September 28, 2018, an earthquake that was measured to have a 7.5 magnitude hit the small island of Sulawesi during the early hours of the day. See page 4

Communications and Media Studies Introduces New Concentrations

by Nicole Nagorny

On October 18th, I had the opportunity to interview Professor Robert Mann, Academic Chair of the Communications and Media Studies Department at Caldwell University. Hearing that the program would be changed for the upcoming fall and spring semesters, I was intrigued to know how this would affect both current students and incoming freshman. As requested by faculty, staff, and students, Professor Mann decided to break the major up into four concentrations. Professor Mann explains, “New courses may be added as time goes on...The major is too general. Prospective students were asking about what concentrations we have at open houses.” The four concentrations are Broadcast Performance and Production, Film Theory and Production, Communication Theory, and Communication in Business.

When Professor Rachel Carey joined in 2015, the department realized they could be serious in proposing core concentrations. Faculty members who worked full-time instead of part-time are now able to have a hands-on experience with their students. (continued on page 2)

Remembering Sister Vivien Jennings

by Colleen Brennan

On May 5th, 2018, members of the Caldwell University community mourned the loss of Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., who served as President of Caldwell College from 1984 to 1994. She was born in Jersey City to parents Eugene and Mary Alice, and had five sisters: Alice White, Eugenia Smith, Marion Sheridan, Marjorie Menz, and Harriet Jennings, all of whom she was predeceased by. On September 8th, 1952, she entered the Sisters of St. Dominic, received the Dominican habit on June 27th, 1953, made her first profession on June 28th, 1954, and made her final profession on June 28th, 1960.

Majoring in English, Sister Vivien earned her bachelor’s degree from Caldwell College, and went on to earn her master’s in English from Catholic University, her master’s degree in communications from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. in English from Fordham. After receiving her Ph.D., Sister Vivien also attended Oxford University, the Harvard School of Education, as well as Colombia Teacher’s College and earned various degrees in education, English, and finance from these institutions. (continued on page 2)
Remembering Sister Vivien Jennings  
(cont’d from page 1)

She faithfully served as a Dominican sister of Caldwell for sixty-six years.

Sister Vivien held various positions throughout her life, which include elementary school teacher at six schools across New Jersey, secondary school teacher at Lacordaire Academy in Upper Montclair, NJ, English professor at Caldwell College, and Sister Superior of the Caldwell Dominican Order from 1969 to 1979. She was the founder of the Link Educational Center in Newark, NJ and president of the Dominican Leadership Conference in 1978 and 1979. In addition to these titles, Sister Vivien served as the education director at Caldwell College from 1980 to 1982, telecommunications director at Barry University from 1982 to 1983, and public affairs director at Catholic Telecommunications Network in New York City from 1983 to 1984. She was an incredibly industrious woman, inspiring countless students and members of various communities to live with compassion, ever in the pursuit of education.

During her time as president of Caldwell College, several changes were made to the university that continue to positively impact our community. She was president when, in 1985, Caldwell College transformed from a strictly female institution to a co-educational college. She also aided in expanding intercollegiate athletics and introduced the Fanjeaux study-abroad program to the campus, which is still offered today and enables students to explore the Catholic-Dominican tradition on which the school is grounded.

In the last two years of her life, she worked with Caldwell University’s undergraduate English students, Abigail Wortman and Colleen Brennan on a book-length study of the sociological problems currently impacting the globe. The completion and publishing of this final work with the title From Worry, to Mercy, to Hope has been undertaken by one of Sister Vivien’s nieces, who was also a Caldwell University graduate. Sister Vivien will always be remembered fondly by the Caldwell University community as her works and accomplishments, and memories of her compassionate, driven spirit enable her memory to live on.

Communications and Media Studies...  
(cont’d from page 1)

Due to my position as a Communications and Media Studies major, I was curious to know what advice Professor Mann might offer to incoming freshman.

In response to this question, he replied, “Everybody under this new system has to take 5 mandatory courses, Contemporary Mass Media, Broadcast Journalism, Video Editing, Media and Society, and Senior Media Seminar.” The total number of credits required to earn a bachelor’s degree with a Communications Major is 33. After the student has taken C0 201, it would be prudent to take a course from every concentration to fulfill their credit.

In regards to the benefits of this new concentration, Professor Mann had this to say: “We want people to focus on an area of communications that they like. To be perfectly frank, I want them to be able to say, ‘I have this concentration’... employers ask for that.”

I also presented him with this question: Given that there is an increase in the student body this upcoming year, would there be a noticeable change regarding class participation? Professor Mann answered, “One of the things we want to do in our television production classes is to keep them small. However, our theory classes could go up to 25 students. Meanwhile practical classes – production and performances classes are usually made up of 12 or 15 students.”

It’s important to note that Communications and Media Studies relies on a hands-on and engaging tactile learning approach. Students learn by observation, and later, once they’ve had a grasp of the material, apply what they know in real-time scenarios.
Caldwell University welcomes Dr. Tara Harney-Mahajan to the English Department, and as it is her first year here at Caldwell, she is eager to work with all the faculty and students. Dr. Tara earned her undergraduate degree in English at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY and then went on to the University of Connecticut where she received her Masters and Ph.D. Dr. Tara is enjoying her experience here at Caldwell University thus far and admits, “I am particularly enjoying my two College Writing classes and my freshman seminar section, because they are all freshmen and we are all starting our first semester here at Caldwell University, so to speak. The energy and enthusiasm that the freshmen bring to class is really refreshing.”

Dr. Tara admits that teaching at Caldwell is a little different than where she has previously taught because “Caldwell has a strong Dominican tradition unlike UConn and NYU’s campuses. In this way, though, it is like my undergraduate institution, Le Moyne College, a Jesuit institution, so it feels like coming back home in a way.” She has had a wide range of teaching experiences across many different universities and feels that there are also many similarities with Caldwell University.

Dr. Tara has an immense passion for English and teaching literature, which was inspired by her mother. She says, “Thanks to her early instruction, I have always loved to read and write.” Resulting from her passion for literature, she has had scholarly articles published on subjects such as postcolonial feminism, Irish literature from Marina Carr and Edna O’Brien, and the current Laureate of Irish Fiction, Sebastian Barry. Recently, she has co-edited a double special issue on contemporary Irish women’s writing with Claire Bracken from Union College, and also has a book-length project in the works.

Dr. Harney-Mahajan regularly commutes from NYC to Caldwell University, and although the trip can be tedious at times, she “encourages all Caldwell University students to hop on a bus or train to explore all that NYC has to offer. There are so many programs, plays, events, and shows to experience and I think students often forget how close they are to these opportunities.” While she has several goals in mind for the Caldwell University English Department, one major priority of hers is to “offer a few classes that explore culture and literature outside of and beyond a more traditional Western framework.” Some classes she wishes to propose include South-Asian Film and Literature, Postcolonial Studies, and Global Women Writers. She also would like to develop a long-term internship for a literary journal called LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory that she currently co-edits. She encourages anyone who wants to learn more about majoring or minoring in English to speak with any (or all) of the faculty in the English department. The English Department faculty offices are located in Visceglia Hall on the first and second floors. I myself can say that everyone in the English Department is very friendly and always willing to help you in anyway that they can!
FRENCH CLUB FALL FACT

Unlike America and Canada, France does not celebrate Thanksgiving. In addition to All Saints’ Day on the 1st, the only other holiday in November for the French is Jour d’Armistice (Armistice Day), on November 11th. In America, this holiday is called Veteran’s Day. Jour d’Armistice commemorates the day when the Armistice was signed in the year 1918 to end World War I. The festivities of the day look similar to how Americans celebrate Veteran’s Day, complete with ceremonies and military parades. Armistice Day 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of this event in history, prompting 70 world leaders to gather at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France on November 11th.

The Storm That Swept a Nation: Sulawesi Tsunami
by Cian Richardson

On September 28, 2018, an earthquake that was measured to have a 7.5 magnitude hit the small island of Sulawesi, Indonesia during the early hours of the day. According to Michigan Tech University, an earthquake that has a magnitude from 7.0 to 7.9 is extremely dangerous and therefore classified as “a major earthquake.”

Most of the damages occurred in the city of Palau as numerous buildings and houses were destroyed due to the initial event. The preceding aftershocks then led to the creation of a tsunami on the same day, ravaging Palau as well as the smaller island of Sulawesi. The storm, now called the Sulawesi Tsunami, ended the following evening, leaving the tiny nation physically and emotionally devastated.

According to numerous websites, the death toll is estimated to be from “844 to even 2,000”. These complicated estimates are due to other environmental factors as the looseness of the soil caused it to rise with the waves as well. In turn, this caused the soil to literally bury homes and even communities such as in the city of Donggala, perhaps still trapping citizens inside (theguardian.com). However, the city of Palau seems to make up the most of these casualties with numbers being estimated to be about 821 (cnn.com).

The creation of a mass grave outside of the city with up to “200 bodies and counting” only causes more stress as families try to find their loved ones.

According to Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, “lack of electricity as well as gas” in nearly all regional areas has only made it harder for families to get into contact with one another (theguardian.com). It is estimated that up to “61,000 people” are still missing within the nation alone despite “rescue attempts made by nearly “3,500 volunteers” (cnn.com). Supplies are lacking as deliveries of food and water has stalled due to lack of resources. Case in point, this lack of aid has lead to a rise in crime as citizens try to take simply anything to survive.

In order to support Indonesia in their time of need, organizations such as the Red Cross and Direct Relief have donated water, food, and medicine to the nation in order to help unburden the already overstressed system. If you would like to help support Indonesia in their time of need you can donate to numerous organizations such as World Vision, Global Giving and Americares.