CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2019

UNVEILING OF MULTICULTURAL CENTER

ASTROPHYSICIST AT RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ARTS DAY

COACH JOHNSON HITS 800 WINS

NEW
• BACHELOR’S IN ESPORTS MANAGEMENT
• ONLINE MASTER’S IN NURSING IN POPULATION HEALTH
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31st ANNUAL
Caldwell University
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SAVE THE DATE
MONDAY, SEP. 30, 2019
Essex Fells Country Club, Essex Fells, NJ
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ANNUAL FUND
Your gift to the Caldwell University Annual Fund provides the tools for success that help the students of today become the leaders of tomorrow.
Multicultural Center Named for First African American Student

A trailblazer from the moment she stepped on the Caldwell College for Women campus, Eileen Jones was the first African American student to attend and graduate from Caldwell. Eileen earned her B.A. in Social Studies and then went on to earn a J.D. from St. John’s University School of Law.

A trailblazer in her career as well, Eileen became the first woman to be appointed as chief of the administrative review staff for compensation and pensions in the Veterans Administration Central Office in Washington, D.C. and later became the second African American to hold an assistant directorship. These achievements were recognized when Eileen became one of three inaugural recipients of the Caldwell College Veritas Award in 1986 for Excellence in Government Law — another trailblazing milestone.

A lifelong supporter of Caldwell University through an endowed scholarship, Eileen was a trailblazer once again when she donated her property to Caldwell for the purposes of establishing The Eileen Jones Multicultural Center with its proceeds.

Eileen Jones, Esq. ’57

In 2018, Eileen Jones thanked Caldwell University for instilling in her a warmth towards others. It is our hope that The Eileen Jones Multicultural Center will honor Eileen’s memory by fostering the same warmth that fueled this trailblazer’s life.

Multicultural Center Named for First African American Student

New Academic Programs — Bachelor’s in Esports Management and Online Master’s in Nursing in Population Health

Commencement: Class of 2019

Research Astrophysicist Presents on Science and Faith in Harmony

Mom Says Center for Autism and ABA Has Provided Hope for Her Family

A Year with The Saint John’s Bible

800 Wins for Coach Johnson

A Gift of Kindness Brings a Gift to Caldwell — Mary Anne Gamba ’78
Dear Friends of Caldwell University,

As we prepare for the fall 2019 semester, the campus is bustling with activity as we welcome our second largest freshman class in Caldwell’s history. Our students will have an opportunity to study in two new programs that were approved by the state in late spring: a bachelor of science in esports management and the fully online master of science in nursing. Along with these new degrees, Caldwell is welcoming the members of our first men’s lacrosse team.

In this issue of the Caldwell University magazine, we celebrate the Class of 2019, extend our best wishes to Sister Deborah Lynch, OP, on her well-deserved retirement from Caldwell after 15 years of service, and we welcome Shin Moon as the Vice President for Finance and Auxiliary Services. We also acknowledge softball coach Dean Johnson for surpassing the milestone of 800 wins, ending the spring season with 828 victories. Congratulations, Coach Johnson!

I’d like to highlight two of the faculty members you’ll find featured within these pages: Rosa Sanchez, who for the past three summers has taken a group of Caldwell students to Segovia, Spain, for an immersion experience as they hone their Spanish language skills, sample the cuisine and culture of another country and live briefly with host families, and Kevin Barnes, associate dean of the School of Education, who brings his experience as a teacher, coach and principal to administration and to the classroom where he instructs students in our educational administration leadership program.

I hope all of you will mark your calendars and come to campus at noon on Friday, September 20, when we dedicate The Sister Mary Dominic Tweedus Chapel in the Newman Center as part of our Homecoming activities during the weekend of September 20-21. What a joy it will be to participate in the first Mass celebrated in this chapel which is centrally located on campus and inviting to all students, faculty, staff, alumni, vendors and neighbors. While you are on campus, please take a few moments to see our volume of The Saint John’s Bible which is on site until the end of the year. This beautifully handwritten and illuminated volume is housed in the library and available for private viewing or can be booked for church or external groups within the area.

Before closing this letter, it is important that Caldwell pay tribute to those whom we have lost in the recent past: Anne Buckley ’52, an alum who went on to have a stellar career as a journalist; Eileen Jones, Esq. ’57, the institution’s first Black alumna for whom the Multicultural Center was named on May 9; and Sister Vivien Jennings, OP, former president of Caldwell College, whose life was celebrated on April 7 with the unveiling of a beautiful portrait and history panel in the lobby of the Jennings Library.

As we begin a new academic year, let’s pray together for all of our students who come to Caldwell not only to receive an excellent education but to embrace our Dominican pillars as they live in a world that is desperate for people of faith whose lives demonstrate our core values of respect, integrity, community and excellence. May God continue to richly bless each of you!

Best regards,

Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D., OPA
President
HOMECOMING
AND FAMILY WEEKEND
SEPT. 20 & 21, 2019

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

NOON:
Opening Liturgy and Dedication of the Sister Mary Dominic Tweedus Chapel (George R. Newman Center)

1 P.M.: Kickoff Lunch in the Dining Hall (Student Center)

1-5 P.M.: Campus Tours (George R. Newman Center)
Student ambassadors will lead campus tours. Golf carts available for those who need assistance.

6:30 P.M.: Class of ‘69 Dinner

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9 A.M.: Sunrise Yoga

10 A.M.–5 P.M.: All-day Check-in and Late Registration
Student ambassadors will help direct guests upon check-in.

10 A.M.–4 P.M.: scin·til·late by Mauricio Cortes and Blurred Boundary by Dionisio Cortes Ortega
Visit the Mueller Gallery and see the first show of the fall semester.

10 A.M.: Welcome Breakfast with the President (Alumni Theater lobby)
All alumni, faculty, staff, students, families and friends are invited to join Dr. Blattner.

11 A.M.: President’s State of the University Address and Alumni Awards Ceremony (Alumni Theater)
Dr. Nancy Blattner will give an update on the university. The Peggy Harris Alumna/us of the Year Award and the Family Legacy Award will be presented.

11 A.M.: Women’s soccer match vs. Goldey Beacom (Soccer Field)

11:30 A.M.–2:30 P.M.: Homecoming Party on the Plaza and Barbecue (Newman Center Plaza)
Family fun activities, food, beverages. (Beer and wine for guests 21-plus with valid ID.) If you are able, please bring toiletries that will be distributed during the Midnight Runs to NYC.

11:45 A.M.: What Are Esports?
Learn about esports and take a tour of our facility with faculty and students.

NOON: Class of 1969–50th Reunion Lunch in the Dining Hall (Student Center)
Lunch for Class of 1969 and guests only.

1–5 P.M.: Campus Tours (George R. Newman Center)
Student ambassadors will lead campus tours. Golf carts available for those who need assistance.

1:30 P.M.: An Introduction to The Saint John’s Bible by Dr. Marie Mullaney (Westervelt Lecture Hall)

1:30 P.M.: Men’s Soccer Match vs. Goldey Beacom (Soccer Field)

2 P.M.: Women’s Alumnae Basketball Game Reception to follow
All alumni are invited to attend!

2:30 P.M.: 50th Reunion Champagne Reception
Formerly Known as the Golden Anniversary Tea (Cougar Den, Student Center)
Class of 1969 will be welcomed by the past 50th anniversary alumnae.

3 P.M.: Mingle with a Sister
Join us for wine and cheese and get to know the Sisters of Saint Dominic.

3:30 P.M.: Class of 1969 “Just US” (Reference Room, Jennings Library)
Mix and mingle with classmates while looking through yearbooks, photos, materials from the Jennings Library archives and items you bring to share.

4 P.M.: Alumni Soccer Matches (Soccer Field)

4:30 P.M.: Homecoming Liturgy (Sister Mary Dominic Tweedus Chapel)

5:30 P.M.: Class of 1969 Celebratory Buffet
(Cougar Den, Student Center)
Class of 1969 and guests only; pre-registration required. Reconnect with classmates over good food, wine and ’60s music.

6 P.M.: Music Department Concert: Faculty and Alumni Concert (Alumni Theater)
Pre-reception at 5:30 p.m. (Alumni Theater lobby)

SUNDAY, SEPT. 22

9 A.M.: Class of ’69 Farewell Breakfast

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT www.caldwell.edu/homecoming
THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS CAN BE REACHED AT 973.618.3352 or alumni@caldwell.edu
Caldwell University Unveils Multicultural Center Named for First African American Student

The Eileen Jones Multicultural Center was unveiled on May 9. It is named after Eileen Jones, Esq. ’57, the first African American student to attend and graduate from Caldwell College.

President Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D., O.P.A., welcomed friends of Jones, alumni, students, staff, faculty and other guests to the dedication and official opening.

“In recognition of all the wonderful cultures that make up the Caldwell University family, this center will serve as a resource for the promotion of multicultural awareness, understanding and appreciation,” said Blattner. “In the spirit of our core values of respect, integrity, community and excellence, this will be a place where a variety of programs and events are hosted with the goal of creating a learning community.”

Jones earned her B.A. in history from Caldwell and went on to earn a J.D. from St. John’s University School of Law. In 1977, Jones became the first woman appointed chief of the administrative review staff for compensation and pension at the Veterans Administration Central Office in Washington, D.C. In 1981, she returned to Newark and became the assistant director for the Veterans Administration. Among the many honors she received, Jones was one of three inaugural recipients of the Caldwell Veritas Award in 1986, an annual award given to celebrate professional excellence of Caldwell alumni.

“A trailblazer from the moment she stepped on the Caldwell College for Women campus, Eileen Jones was the first African American student to attend and graduate from Caldwell,” said Blattner.

Eileen Jones, Esq. ’57

In 2018, Jones thanked Caldwell University for instilling in her a warmth towards others. “It is our hope that The Eileen Jones Multicultural Center will honor Eileen’s memory by fostering the same warmth that fueled her trailblazer life.”

Eileen was a smart and motivated woman and a trailblazer in many ways,” said Blattner. “Eileen was kind, funny and warm and had an infectious smile and really good sense of humor.”

Jones was involved in the community, holding executive positions with the Arts Council of Orange and the Orange Community Advisory Board. She was also involved with the Newark Museum, the Civic Action League and Caldwell’s Educational Opportunity Fund program.

A lifetime supporter of Caldwell University, in 2015, Jones established a scholarship to help high-achieving students with financial needs. Before her passing in January 2019, she donated property to the university with the intention that proceeds from the sale be used to establish a multicultural center on campus.

Angela Zaccardi ’58, an alumna, said she and Jones met when they were at what was then Caldwell College for Women. They “remained friends forever … she was a great lady and very thorough,” said Zaccardi.

Maud Carroll and Denise Carroll were among the guests thrilled to be celebrating the dedication. Maud remembered teaching music to Jones beginning when she was eight years old and to Jones’s sister, who became an accomplished musician. Anna Layton, of East Orange, New Jersey, who met Jones in the 1940s, was also happy to be at the celebration, saying, “Eileen was always there for me.” Also attending was Ernestine Polhill, of Orange, New Jersey, who said that before Jones passed away they had talked about attending the center dedication together. “I wouldn’t have missed this for anything.”

The opening prayer was given by student Dennis Martin of the class of 2021. —CL
Caldwell University is offering a new Bachelor of Science degree in esports management and a new online master’s in nursing in population health as well as relaunching its Bachelor of Science degree in computer science.

**NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

**BACHELOR’S IN ESPORTS MANAGEMENT**

Neil Malvone, assistant professor of sport management and esports management, is looking forward to teaching in the new esports management bachelor’s program.

The bachelor’s degree in esports management will prepare students for careers in the popular electronic sports gaming industry with opportunities for employment in finance, marketing, event planning, operations and entertainment. The program is one of the first of its kind in the nation and is being offered within Caldwell’s School of Business and Computer Science.

Courses will concentrate on digital marketing, esports management, entrepreneurial studies, event planning, operations, ethics and the sociological impact of esports. “This growing industry is in need of professionals with business acumen, and we are happy that we will be able to provide students with an academic background focused on the esports marketplace,” said Virginia Rich, associate dean of the school.

The degree program is based in the Business School, which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, ensuring a rigorous academic curriculum and strong skills-based outcomes.

**BACHELOR’S IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

The School of Business and Computer Science is relaunching its Bachelor of Science degree in computer science. The program will prepare students for careers in the rapidly expanding technology industry with opportunities in diverse fields including software development engineer, software developer, application developer, system engineer, network engineer, security engineer and programmer/cyber security analyst.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs in the computer science industry are projected to increase 24 percent by 2026, with strong compensation packages.

**ONLINE MASTER’S IN NURSING IN POPULATION HEALTH**

Professor Donna Naturale is associate dean of the School of Nursing and Public Health.

Caldwell University’s School of Nursing and Public Health is offering a new fully online Master of Science in nursing program in population health for fall 2019, the first of its kind in New Jersey.

“We are delighted to be able to offer this 36-credit innovative population health program,” said Dr. Donna Naturale, RN, APN-BC, CDE, associate dean of the School of Nursing and Public Health. “It will prepare nurses to meet the demands of health care today and tomorrow by promoting healthier communities and addressing needs associated with the social determinants of health, commonly attributed to the zip codes in which we live and work.” These social determinants include factors such as access to health care, finances and income, transportation, housing, social support and level of education.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to serve as leaders in nursing and health care. They will be qualified to work within a variety of health care systems in positions that include care coordinator and project, case or nurse manager in outpatient facilities, hospitals and public health departments, and within the insurance and quality improvement fields. Upon graduation, they will also be qualified to teach in undergraduate nursing programs.

The program ties in with the mission of Caldwell University, a Catholic Dominican institution. Naturale points out that the Catholic Health Association states that there is a moral imperative for making a commitment to the people of the community, and therefore the university’s focus on social determinants of health is necessary and at the same time just.

For information on these programs, contact the Caldwell University Admissions Office at 973-618-3500 or admissions@caldwell.edu. Prospective students can apply to the programs at www.caldwell.edu/applynow.
“Imagine the world the way you would like it to be,” Rochelle Hendricks, former secretary of higher education for the state of New Jersey, told graduates at Caldwell University’s undergraduate ceremony May 19. Hendricks was awarded an honorary degree, and she encouraged the students to let the light of God shine through them as they strived to “make the world a better and brighter place.”

Four hundred sixty-seven students received their degrees at the university’s 77th annual commencement ceremonies.

Marisa Castronova, of Nutley, New Jersey, delivered the student address at the graduate commencement ceremony. She advised her fellow graduates to consider the person who earned the degree and to remember they were the driving forces behind the degree. “A degree is not a living entity ... It can’t walk; it can’t talk.”

Consider you, the person who earned it. Consider you, the person who decided to embark on an educational trek requiring hard work, dedication and sacrifice,” said Castronova, who received her Ph.D. in educational leadership last December. She encouraged graduates to take time to reflect on what they had learned about themselves. “For knowing who you are and what you are capable of will enable you to transform knowledge into something great,” said Castronova, a science educator at Robert L. Lazar Middle School in Montville, New Jersey.

Kathryn Marano, also of Nutley, delivered the undergraduate commencement ceremony address. She suggested to graduates that they were all “rocket scientists” who had been building rocket ships that would lift off when they left the auditorium. Marano said the classes they took were the ship’s framework, while the attributes they learned at Caldwell, including kindness, resilience, integrity and respect, would help them navigate the rocket ship “through tough and uncharted territory.” The most important components of the rocket ship were the professors, classmates and staff whose guidance students would take with them after graduation, she said. “With the rocket ship complete, we are ready to take on the world, and I am confident that we will be the pioneers of the future and successful in whatever paths we choose.” In August Marano received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with minors in small-business entrepreneurship and marketing.

Members of Caldwell’s class of 1969, marking their 50th anniversary, were recognized.

President Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D., presented doctoral students with their Ph.D.s and Ed.D.s, graduate students with their Master of Arts, Master of Business Administration or Master of Science degrees and undergraduates with their Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Science in nursing degrees. A Master of Science in accounting degree was awarded posthumously to Kelly Marilly Gonzalez. Her brother accepted the degree from Blattner.

Blattner told the graduates it was a day of great joy and pride for them, their family members and loved ones who supported them. She said the university was “sending
you forward, not just as graduates, but as people who we expect to make a difference.” She advised them to stay connected to their alma mater, which has “not only been your learning community but also your family for four years.” Each student, she said, “has made an indelible impression on me.”

Laurita Warner, chair of the board of trustees and an alumna, said some aspects of Caldwell never change, such as a welcoming environment, dedicated and caring faculty, “an administration who work tirelessly to provide a campus where students can thrive and learn, and the mission inspired by St. Dominic and our Catholic tradition to prepare students to think critically, pursue truth and contribute to a just society. And friendships that last a lifetime.” She extended two wishes to each graduate—“the gift of memories of Caldwell University as fond as mine are and the very best future life has to offer.”

Several graduates reflected on what the jewel of Caldwell University meant to them.

Shanice Edwards earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in biology and a minor in chemistry in just three years, becoming the first in her family to obtain a college degree. Despite the rigors of her studies and a per-semester load of 18 credits, Edwards worked hard, even while holding two part-time jobs. “With self-discipline and time management, if you put your mind to it, you can do anything,” she said. The Educational Opportunity Fund program was her anchor at Caldwell—a “family away from family.”

Liam Kearney, who completed his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with a minor in communication and media studies in three years, appreciated the dialogue in his classes and how faculty members, who had a wealth of experience in business or law, applied the theoretical to the practical. “I could trust what they would say.”

Devin Lattuga received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and will begin studying at Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America on a full tuition scholarship this fall. He had known for a while that he wanted to pursue law, but his work in Campus Ministry at Caldwell inspired him to look at how attorneys can reach out to those on the margins. One of his favorite activities was Midnight Runs, which allowed students to serve the homeless in New York City. Campus Ministry was a great way to “meet like-minded people,” said Lattuga.

Favour Garuba appreciated how Caldwell showed her what community service means and helped her grow as a leader who understands the importance of philanthropy. An international student from Nigeria, she received a bachelor’s degree in health sciences and will attend Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis on a full scholarship this fall. “I would like to dedicate my services as a physician and researcher to improve health in a way that reaches every community, including those in disadvantaged areas.”

Jennifer Mary Gates received her master’s in business decades after earning her undergraduate degree. She said her MBA had prepared her for a “fulfilling encore career … I refreshed myself. It opened up everything for me.” She wants other adult learners to know they can do it too. “Have the confidence to know your opportunities are unlimited.” —CL
On a recent visit to observe a graduate student in his classroom internship, Dr. Kevin Barnes turned on his way out and said, “Persevere. Get this done.” Barnes had listened to the student explain the challenges he was having balancing work, academics and family, and he understood. As associate dean of the School of Education and the graduate coordinator of the Educational Administration Leadership program, he wants students to know their professors are there to support them as they manage the responsibilities of going to school as adults. Barnes was once in that place himself, working and pursuing advanced degrees with a young family. He remembers the mentors who encouraged him to “persevere because with these degrees, life becomes better and more opportunities are available to you,” and he wants to make sure the next generation has that encouragement too.

Barnes, who teaches aspiring principals and administrators, brings his master’s and doctoral students nearly four decades of educational insights from New Jersey K-12 schools. He wants to pass on to his graduate students something of what he was given by his mentors when he was a physical education teacher and a football and track coach in districts including Hillside, Sayreville and Millburn and then in leadership positions in Ringwood, Park Ridge and Caldwell/West Caldwell. He normally stayed about five years in each district. “Always long enough to get tenure,” he explained. It was a strategy that David Paulis, his principal in Ringwood, had encouraged to help novice leaders grow.

Barnes’s passion for education began when he was growing up in Woodbridge, New Jersey, where he had the “very good fortune” to have phenomenal role models as teachers and as coaches. He remembers in high school having the thought that if he could influence people the way his teachers had, it “would be a wonderful life.” When he was playing football at Woodbridge High, college recruiters were coming to his school to pursue a standout player. His coach, Sam Lupo, also encouraged them to look at Barnes, a tight end who had played some outstanding games on a team that had enjoyed a successful season. Barnes ended up with good offers including a full scholarship to play football at the College of William & Mary, which he took. He earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education, health and driver’s education with a minor in classical studies, which included classes in Greek and Roman tragedy and comedy and archaeology.

The Monday after graduating from college, Barnes reported to training camp in Carlyle, Pennsylvania, to start work as a professional and collegiate scout for the Washington Redskins, a job he had gotten through a networking contact from a friend. Scouting had not been a career thought for Barnes, but he took on the adventure and visited five colleges in the Southeast each week, looking at potential pro football players and attending important games on the weekends. It was fun, but after one season he realized he wanted to be back home near his fiancée, his high school sweetheart, Karen.

His first teaching job was in elementary physical education in Hillside, New Jersey,
where he also coached football, wrestling and track; then it was on to Sayreville High School, followed by Millburn High. While at Millburn, a new career path opened up for Barnes when the superintendent, Dr. Paul Rossey, asked to meet with him. Seeing that Barnes had leadership skills, Rossey “did not ask me, [but] told me, that I would be enrolling in a graduate program in educational administration.” Barnes hedged a bit, mentioning all his teaching and coaching responsibilities, his two young kids at home and his summer work. Rossey responded, “Yes, we all do, and in September you will be enrolled in an educational administration program.”

Barnes chose Rutgers, completed his master’s and continued straight on into the doctoral program for which his advisor was internationally known education administration professor Wayne Hoy. He took a position as vice principal at Ryerson Middle School in Ringwood, working under the supervision of Paulis, who hired employees with “zero experience” in education administration so they would have no preconceived notions about what administration meant. At the end of five years, he encouraged his employees to take the ball and run elsewhere with it. Barnes did just that, becoming an elementary school principal at Park Ridge in Bergen County.

Again after five years, it was time to move. This time it was to the Caldwell/West Caldwell public school district, where he had principalships at Wilson Elementary School, Grover Cleveland Middle School and James Caldwell High School. “The neat part,” he says, is that there was one cohort of students in the Caldwell-West Caldwell District that had him as their principal from kindergarten through senior year. “Every once in a while God calls your bluff,” Barnes says with a laugh.

His entry into college teaching began when he was still at James Caldwell and became an adjunct in a post-baccalaureate program in the Education Division. Barnes enjoyed the work, and after 38 years in public schools, he realized he was ready to retire from K-12 and to focus more on higher education. “If you went full circle, we went into education to teach. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to get back into teaching,” Barnes says.

Today, Barnes enjoys working with the master’s, doctoral and post-baccalaureate students “who show up on time 100 percent of the time because they are paying.”

He also teaches the undergraduate freshman seminar class, a population he is familiar with—“high school seniors three months removed.” Each fall, incoming freshmen in the seminar learn about the nuts and bolts of earning a bachelor’s degree, the different ways professors teach and how to deal with “freshman angst,” he says. They have told him it is comforting for them to hear from him, “You are not going through this alone.”

Barnes has been a first reader for two completed doctoral defenses and is “in the thick of it” with three others at different stages of doctoral preparation. He would meet with the two students who defended for as long as five hours to attempt to get them through the process, he says. It is refreshing to him to see students committed to an area of interest and eager to collect data, analyze it and put it in a “fluid formatted document.” He is grateful to be a part of the Caldwell team, at the “please-and-thank-you university,” as he describes it, where people hold doors for one another and genuinely care.

It is also heartening to teach students who come right out of the classroom and want to make a difference as great school administrators. “They say, ‘I’ve come to realize I can positively influence the lives of 20 to 25 children [in the classroom], but through administration I might be able to positively influence the lives of 200 or 400 or 6,000.’ Those are the people that are doing it for the right reasons,” explains Barnes.

He and Karen are blessed to have three grandchildren and he looks forward to going to his “Tiny Beans” app for a daily feed of photos of the little ones’ adventures and triumphs. Barnes thinks back to that teenager at Woodbridge High School who had an inkling that working in education would be a “wonderful life.” The kid was right. “I would not have had it any other way,” Barnes says. He would do it all over again. “Just like Jimmy Stewart in the iconic Christmas movie said, ‘It’s (been) a wonderful life.’

—CL
Professor Rosa Sanchez is standing in front of a cross with a group of students. That isn’t unusual, considering she teaches at a Catholic university. But this cross is not located on the university campus, and she and the students are nowhere near Caldwell. On this June day, they find themselves in the shadow of a 500-foot granite cross, embedded in the rocky mountains of Spain. They are there for a study-abroad program, and they are far from your average tourists.

When Sanchez arrived at Caldwell University, she was confident of several things. First, she believed studying abroad was a powerful experience for students. Second, she knew literature had the power to transform lives for the better. And she was confident that her role as assistant professor of Spanish language, literature and culture would allow her to show that diversity is a wonderful thing.

Sanchez was 10 years old when her family moved to New York City from the Dominican Republic. After high school, she attended Barnard College and majored in Latin American studies with the intention of becoming a successful businesswoman. But after pursuing the nine-to-five life through jobs in marketing and public relations, she realized she was on the wrong track. And this became clear at a book club, of all places. Sanchez had started a reading group with friends from college who were also living in New York City after graduation. The more time she spent with the book club, the more she realized she wanted to spend her life working in literature and culture. So she applied to graduate school and attended the University of Virginia to earn a master’s and a Ph.D. in literature.

Sanchez was working as an adjunct professor at St. Francis College in Brooklyn when she first heard about the study-abroad program she would eventually bring to Caldwell. An alumnus of the college was advertising a course of study that allowed students to travel to Segovia, Spain. The program turned out to be an amazing opportunity, and when Sanchez arrived at Caldwell University, she knew she wanted to introduce the program to her students. She traveled with her first group of students to Segovia in the summer of 2017.

Students stay with a host family for a month while they take two classes that revolve around the sites they will visit in Spain. They also have ample time to interact with locals, visiting cafés and parks during their leisure time.

“It’s been great,” said Sanchez. “I love seeing the students, the impact going to a foreign country has on them. A month is a nice chunk of time. You are more able to have the culture sink in.”

New experiences give students a fresh perspective. Instances of culture shock may be as simple as the way people in Spain are careful to conserve water and electricity or as profound as realizing the stereotypes that exist about Americans in other countries. After enjoying the warmth of their host families, the slower pace of the culture and the rich traditions of the country, students often return with a passion for travel and for Spain specifically.

“They are more comfortable stepping out of their shells and just getting to know places,” Sanchez said.

During classes, students get a preview of the sites they will visit during their month abroad. Among these places is the Valley of the Fallen, where they encounter the 500-foot cross. The monument is stunning, but it is also tragic, having been built by a controversial leader using forced labor. Visits to such places allow students to consider buildings and monuments in light of history. Conversations about a monument in Spain have sparked thoughts about historical sites in our country and how students interact with them. This and the experience of living abroad prove to be very powerful for students.
Sanchez has played a large role in other immersive experiences at Caldwell.

In a previous teaching position, she attended a weeklong workshop at Saint John’s University. While there, she had the opportunity to see The Saint John’s Bible. This handwritten, hand-illuminated Bible was carefully produced, beginning in the late 1990s, to reflect a diversity of cultures and the faith of modern believers.

“I was just blown away,” Sanchez said. “It was so stunning to see it in person and to hear about the work it took and all the thought and research that went into it.”

When she heard Caldwell University would have the opportunity to host a portion of that Bible, Sanchez was overjoyed. She remembered her encounter with The Saint John’s Bible years earlier and quickly volunteered to train the docents who would share the Bible with visitors. Three students agreed to take part in the program for the semester, and Sanchez contributed her enthusiasm to the project.

During weekly or biweekly meetings, she encouraged the students not only to share facts about the Bible but to invite those who saw it to reflect on the impact the work had on them. Sanchez will continue to train docents this fall while the Bible is on display at Caldwell.

“That has been beautiful, just to be part of that,” she said. “The Saint John’s Bible is so stunning.”

The personal application of The Saint John’s Bible is easy to see. The artists worked hard to incorporate cultural diversity, science and women in the illuminations paired with the text. And that same desire for diversity drives Sanchez every day as she teaches at Caldwell University. “That is at the core of my discipline,” Sanchez said.

Through her classes in the Spanish language, literature and culture program, Sanchez encourages students to listen to music and podcasts from different countries as they read Spanish texts. Students also have the opportunity to attend a play in Spanish in New York City. All of these mediums expose them to a variety of cultures, views and accents.

Sanchez shares her passion for Spanish culture and literature in a number of other ways. She serves as an advisor to the Spanish Club and to the honor society. She was also chosen to participate in the Ancient Greece in the Modern Classroom seminar on “The Ancient Greek Hero” at Harvard University’s Center for Hellenic Studies campus in Washington, D.C. this past July.

She organizes a Spanish conversation hour for students every other week at Rock ‘n’ Joe in Caldwell, where students are treated to coffee as long as they commit to speaking Spanish for the entire hour. Thanks to Sanchez’s hard work and passion, whether students choose to study abroad or stay close to home, they have opportunities to think deeply about diversity and culture and about their place in it.

“I see myself at the center of the effort to teach about other cultures, to see students appreciate other cultures,” she said. “And my hope is that they develop a curiosity for other cultures. I tell them that whatever they learn about in my class is only a snippet of what is really out there.”

—Nicole M. Burrell ’09

TWO OF PROFESSOR ROSA SANCHEZ’S FAVORITE BOOKS

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE
By Gabriel García Márquez

“I read it as an undergraduate on my own. After reading that book, it was the first time I ever felt that I really was going to miss the characters, so that book has a special part in my heart. It was such a long book, and it was really, then, the first time I felt alone afterwards because I had been in the company of those characters for so long.”

DON QUIXOTE
By Miguel de Cervantes

“Don Quixote” was impossible to read the first time I picked it up. But then it became one of my favorite books once I got acquainted with the style of the Golden Age, because it was published in the 1600s. That book also has a special place in my heart because I had a long-distance relationship while I was in Virginia for my Ph.D. To have something to talk about with my then-boyfriend, I would tell him what happened in whatever I was reading at the time. And I started doing that with ‘Don Quixote.’ I would bring it up with him to the point where in one of the weekends where I was in the city, he took me to see a play based on ‘Don Quixote,’ and that’s where he proposed. And here we are several years later, married, and with a precious three-year-old daughter who is already acquainted with a kiddie version of the Spanish classic!”
More than 200 students presented their projects to judges and visitors at Caldwell University’s third annual Research and Creative Arts Day. This year’s event, with the theme, “Ut in Omnibus Glorificetur Dei—That in All Things God May Be Glorified,” featured keynote speaker Dr. Anton M. Koekemoer, a research astrophysicist at the Space Telescope Science Institute. He spoke on “Science and Faith in Harmony: The Heavens Declare the Glory of God.”

Koekemoer has carried out scientific research with the Hubble Space Telescope for over 20 years with a focus on distant galaxies and black holes. He presented a journey of exploration through the cosmos, highlighting exciting astronomical discoveries and images from the telescope that inspired beautiful artwork in The Saint John’s Bible.

President Nancy Blattner read 19th-century poet Gerard Manley Hopkins’s sonnet “God’s Grandeur,” which celebrates the “ever-present magnificence of God’s creation” and, she said, beautifully mirrored the theme of the research day. The challenge, said Blattner, is for “each of us in the audience to become more alive to God’s presence—whether that revelation be made to you through the beauty found in nature and art or through the discoveries revealed in the realm of science.”

Dr. Barbara Chesler, vice president for academic affairs, said the annual event provides an opportunity for students to display the work they have done throughout the year. The students are mentored by faculty and “go in as a novice and come out as an expert,” she said.

Humberto Humby Baquerizo gave the keynote for the graduate section of the day on “Translating Leadership, Resilience and Community Service in Scholarship.” Baquerizo received a doctorate in education leadership from Caldwell and works at Rutgers Medical School in the Office for Diversity and Community Engagement.
The Caldwell University Musical Theatre Workshop presented the classic show “Godspell” on April 12. With music faculty member Dr. Laura Greenwald serving as producer, the Caldwell cast and crew brought to life the production, which is based on the Gospel of Matthew and gained worldwide popularity in the 1970s.

Warren Helms was musical director and played piano; Dan Yates was stage director; Tim Metz played bass and John Piepoli was a percussionist. The cast featured Caldwell students Lisette Guiracocha, Andrea Gutierrez, David Iarkowski, Keith Kyewalabye, Jessica Lopez, Lauren Mann, Jennifer Montejo, Maria Tavarez and Osayewere “Rae” Uyinmwen. Billy Yates played Jesus.

Uyinmwen said it was a tremendous joy to be part of the cast. “There is something so rewarding about being able to help share this show’s beautiful message.”

Audience members in the Alumni Theatre clapped and sang joyfully, some dancing in their seats as they enjoyed the music and lyrics created by Stephen Schwartz in 1971.

The cast also performed “All Good Gifts” at the opening of Research and Creative Arts Day, which had the theme “Ut in Omnibus Glorificetur Dei— That in All Things God May Be Glorified.”
Ben Tepper enjoys taking rides on the elevators at Caldwell University. He also likes visiting a professor who has sound effects on his computer. And he is happy when he goes to the mailroom accompanied by graduate students to pick up the mail, which he sorts by himself and delivers on the mail cart to faculty members in the Center for Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis at Caldwell. “His strength in reading and phonics helps him with that job,” says Ben’s mom, Pam Tepper.

The center has been an essential part of Ben’s life on weekdays for the past five years. The 19-year-old, who is on the autism spectrum, has been learning from graduate students who are aiming to be the future educators of people with autism spectrum disorder. In a state with the nation’s highest prevalence of ASD, the master’s students learn hands-on with the guidance of faculty nationally known in the field of applied behavior analysis. ABA is a science-based approach to learning proven to be highly effective in treating people with ASD.

Several years ago, Caldwell faculty saw that there were not enough trained educators in ABA to teach those with ASD in New Jersey and began offering the first master’s and the only doctoral program in ABA in the state. The Center for Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis was founded in 2011 to provide exceptional assessment and intervention services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities. “Our goal is to teach socially significant skills through the use of evidence-based practices based on the principles of applied behavior analysis,” says Dr. Sharon Reeve, professor of ABA and a founder of the center. It is open to learners of any age.

Using evidence-based practices, faculty members and graduate students have helped Ben through many teenage transitions, including learning how to go to work, as they assisted him in his first days at his places of employment. Today Ben works at Calabria’s Restaurant and Pizzeria in Livingston, where he sets up tables, takes down chairs and puts out spices, and at a print center, where he shreds and sorts mail. He is also learning skills at Antonio’s Salon and Spa in Livingston. There he organizes towels when they come out of the dryer and sweeps the hair, “which has proved to be more difficult,” says his mom, because when “you are in people’s space … you have to learn the social etiquette” and when you are doing the work, you have to learn that “we stick with staying on topic.”

Concentrating on employment is important to the faculty at the ABA center. “As individuals move into their teenage years, a major focus of our efforts is on teaching job skills and job sampling. Our goal is to help put individuals in the best position to obtain real jobs for real pay,” says Dr. Jason Vladescu, associate professor of ABA.

For Pam and her husband, Rich, the journey to get to where they are today was a tough one. Pam remembers when she first brought Ben to the center. They had been struggling for some time to find a program with professionals who could meet his specific needs. “We were stuck.” Meeting with Reeve was a turning point for the Teppers. “That cautious optimism turned into hope,” Pam says.

The ABA faculty created a behavior intervention plan for Ben based on the results of a functional analysis. With the “data-driven protocol in ABA, they were able to show my district, even after three months, a lesser amount of aggression,” Pam says. “Outsiders might not have noticed, but they knew from the data that the curve was going down. We took their lead on every little thing,” says Pam of the advice she received from the professors.
Pam began going to the center for the weekly training provided for the parents of learners. There she saw Ben's behavior was “as good as it could be.” The Teppers did not make changes at home until the graduate students and faculty made home visits to help them implement the plan to manage Ben's disruptive behavior.

Along the way there were a number of goals, says Pam, such as learning about showering and brushing teeth and not throwing food or stepping on the dog on purpose. “All of these little things, that weren’t so little, have improved,” she says.

As Ben made progress, he and the graduate students visited neighborhood restaurants and stores where he learned how to interact in the community. Then he was ready to move on to employment.

Chris Colasurdo is a doctoral student in ABA who received his master’s in ABA at Caldwell. Working with Ben and seeing his “amazing progress” have reinforced why he wants to go into the field. “His attitude is infectious. It is impossible to have a bad day,” Colasurdo says. “He brightens everyone up.”

Employees on campus say they have grown from their interactions with Ben. Don O’Hagan, chief information officer for Caldwell, says Ben visited his office almost every afternoon for four years. “With no fear, he was loaded with a series of questions as he scanned my messy desk.” It was the little details that were important to Ben, O’Hagan says. “He helped me give thanks for my blessings and made me realize I have to be myself at all times.”

The Caldwell program has enriched the Teppers’ family life. Ben says Caldwell is “great.” His family agrees. “I can’t even tell you how supported we feel,” Pam says. It is “the outside-of-the-box thinking and the very individualized approach that have made this so successful. I can’t imagine that wouldn’t happen for any student that is in crisis.”

Pam is gratified to know that the master’s students experience firsthand how they can make a difference in the lives of students—“because Ben is not the only one who suffers from aggression,” she says. “Faculty members Sharon Reeve and Jason Vladescu and the graduate students at Caldwell’s Center for Autism and ABA have undoubtedly changed the trajectory of Ben’s future.”

Pam is passionate about sharing her journey with others. A former kindergarten teacher (she decided to stay home after having Ben), she is president of a Livingston-based nonprofit, Parents and Professionals for Exceptional Children, which educates and empowers parents so they can advocate for their children. She shares her family’s story in creative videos she produces for her vlog, called “Autism and the Education of BT.”

“My hope is that somebody else can benefit,” Pam says.

She has concerns about what will happen when Ben turns 21 since there is a lack of services for adults with ASD, but she says, “You have to be thankful in life and thankful for what is today. There was a time that we didn’t have that. And now we do. And I want to share that with people.” And her family’s journey continues. “I don’t know where it is going to end, but I know that the program at Caldwell has paved a different path for him, a positive, hopeful path.”

—CL

Accolades

Trang Quynh “Miley” Duong, undergraduate psychology student, co-authored a peer-reviewed paper in the journal Ethics, Medicine and Public Health on “Understanding Terrorism: A Behavioral Developmental Approach.”

Premedical student Lamar-Shea Chang was honored March 18 at the Independent College Fund of New Jersey Undergraduate Research Symposium for his research titled “Convert every human into a natural mosquito deterrent.” Chang, who is also majoring in computer information systems with a concentration in business systems and minoring in chemistry, received honorable mention for his research.

Favour Garuba ’19 is the recipient of a Phi Kappa Phi fellowship awarded to members who are starting their first year of graduate or professional study. Garuba received her bachelor’s in health sciences May 19; she begins studying this fall at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis on a full scholarship.

School of Business and Computer Science graduates Aida Osment and Zulenny Reyes-Calderon were recognized at the New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association honor society ceremony on May 3. The top 1 percent of undergraduate students pursuing degrees in business are invited to join the society. Osment received a Bachelor of Science degree with a double major in financial economics and math and Reyes-Calderon received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration on May 19.

Business student Crystal Zamora has become the first federally registered human resources apprentice in the U.S. thanks to a partnership with the Employers Association of New Jersey. Zamora, who is majoring in business administration and minoring in human resources, has worked in HR for the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, New Jersey, and she is currently working in HR at Mott MacDonald, a national engineering firm in Iselin, New Jersey. “The companies I have had the honor of working with have given me such invaluable experiences,” said Zamora.
Faculty & Staff Notes

Suzanne Kammin Baron, assistant professor of visual art, will display her large-scale abstract paintings in the exhibition “Studio Visit: New Works by Six Painters” at the University of Maine Museum of Art in Bangor this fall. The show is a survey of abstract paintings from the last 10 years of exhibitions at the museum.

Kyle Bennett, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy, was invited to give the paper “Hear No Evil? Populism, Platforms, and the Place of Extremist Views in ‘Public’ Discourse” at the Henry Institute Symposium on Religion and Public Life at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in April. For the peer-reviewed journal studies in Christian Ethics, Bennett reviewed Sarah Stewart-Kroeker’s “Pilgrimage as Moral and Aesthetic Formation in Augustine’s Thought” (Oxford, 2017). He served as a second reader for a theology dissertation at Biola University in La Mirada, California.

Traci Bitondo, an adjunct instructor in the mental health counseling with art therapy specialization program, received the 2019 Edward Stroh LPC award from the New Jersey Counseling Association in April. The NJCA is the New Jersey branch of the American Counseling Association.

Lena Campagna, Ph.D., assistant professor of criminal justice, co-authored two book chapters that were published in “New Suits: Appetite for Disruption in the Legal World” and in “Tipping Point: Transformation and Innovation in the Legal Department.” She co-authored a research article, “Health consequences and help-seeking among victims of crime: An examination of sex differences,” that was accepted for the International Review of Victimology.


Ruth M. DeBar, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, professor of applied behavior analysis, co-authored six research papers that were presented at the 45th annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International in Chicago. She also co-authored three research papers that were presented at the ninth annual Association for Professional Behavior Analysts convention in Atlanta and three research papers that were presented at the 14th annual conference of the New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis in Somerset, New Jersey. DeBar also co-authored a research paper recently accepted in Behavioral Interventions.


Jeffrey Egnatovich, adjunct faculty member in the School of Business and Computer Science, was appointed for a second term as immediate past president of the American College of Healthcare Executives of New Jersey.

James Flynn, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy, gave several lectures on American philosophers in the summer for Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell. He spoke about the ethical philosophy of American philosophers from the Revolutionary period, New England transcendentalism and the Pragmatic movement.

Tara Harney-Mahajan, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, spoke on “Jim Sheridan’s ‘The Secret Scripture’ and the Ethics of Proclaiming Happiness” at Columbia University’s Irish Studies University Seminar on May 3. In July, she presented at an international Irish studies conference in Dublin, Ireland.

Patricia M. Hubert, DNP, MSN, APN, RN, CSN, adjunct instructor in the School of Nursing, was hooded at Seton Hall University in May for the doctorate in nursing that she earned in 2018.

Katie Kornacki, Ph.D., chair of the English Department, led a panel titled “Winged Sphinxes: Margaret Fuller’s Poetry and Poetics” sponsored by the Margaret Fuller Society at the annual American Literature Association conference in Boston in May. She is a member of the society’s advisory board. Kornacki is founding editor of the digital publication Conversations: The Newsletter of the Margaret Fuller Society, which published its spring 2019 issue in May. She was selected to participate in a seminar on “The Civil War in American Memory” in June at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, offered by the Council of Independent Colleges and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History at Yale University.

Mary Lindroth, Ph.D., professor of English, presented on “Kristina Wong’s Radical Cram School and Diana Ohi’s {my lingerie project}: Sowing the Seeds of Change Through Performance” at the conference “Pippi to Ripley 5: Feminist and Fantastic Pop Culture” at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York, in April.
Colette Liddy, director of news and media relations, had her article “Lift Up. Look Up” published on the Catholic women’s “Blessed is She” site.

Kimberly Lynch, reference services and archives librarian, presented the poster “Using JSTOR Forum for Digital Collections at Caldwell University” at the 2019 VALE/ACRL-NJ/NJLA-CUS Users’ conference in Piscataway, New Jersey, on Jan. 4, at the MARAC spring 2019 conference in Morgantown, West Virginia, in April, and at the 2019 NJLA annual conference in Atlantic City in May.

Betsy Maliszewski, adjunct instructor in the Music Department and a string specialist for the West Orange public schools, received the Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Music Educators Association.

Robert Mann, chair of the Communication and Media Studies Department, interviewed historian Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps on efforts to promote honest and civil dialogue about race. The interview took place on Mann’s radio program, “Humanities Connection,” which is broadcast on WFDU 89.1 FM and is archived at njhumanities.org.

Marie Mullaney, Ph.D., professor of history, lectured on “When Paterson Was Red: The Lost Stories of New Jersey History” for the St. Aloysius Church seniors group in Caldwell on Jan. 15. At the Lenten spirituality series Faith Quest at Notre Dame Parish in North Caldwell on March 27 and at the faith formation program at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Short Hills on April 9, she presented on “The Saint John’s Bible: From the Middle Ages to the 21st Century.” Mullaney presented the two-part lecture “Papists, Pilgrims, Patriots, and Presidents: 400 Years of Catholic History in America” for St. Philomena’s Parish in Livingston on March 28 and April 11. Mullaney, Sister Kathleen Tuite, O.P., vice president for student life, and Devin Latruga, student docent, were featured in a piece on WMBC-TV on The Saint John’s Bible that aired in April.

Jennifer Noonan, Ph.D., the Alvin R. Calman professor of art history, presented “The International Art Program’s Communication Through Printmaking in East Africa” at the Midwest Art History Society in Cleveland in March and presented “A Call to Presses: The Collective Graphics Workshop of the Creative Women’s Collective” at the Popular Culture/American Culture Association’s annual conference in Washington, D.C., in April. In May, she presented her research at the Venice, Italy, campus of Wake Forest University in a talk, “A History and Analysis of the 1970 Venice Biennale and Its Connection to Casa Artom.”

Edward Owen, adjunct instructor in history, presented a paper on “The Association for Core Texts and Courses” in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in April.

David Petriello, adjunct instructor in the History and Political Science Department, presented a paper on the impact of disease on the life and politics of Henry Clay at a conference of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science at the University of Virginia in March. Earlier this year his book “A Military History of China” was published by Westholme Publishing.

Kenneth F. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D, professor of applied behavior analysis, recently published a paper on methods of teaching religious literacy and tolerance in the journal Behavior Analysis in Practice with his MA student Daniel Ferman and colleagues. He also published a paper on variables affecting concept formation in the Psychological Record with his Ph.D. student Leif Albright and colleagues. Reeve was a co-author with his colleagues on three additional studies published in the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis International in Chicago, where she also served as the chair of a symposium on methods of increasing the effectiveness of staff training procedures. Reeve was a co-author on three papers presented at Drexel University’s annual ABA research conference in Philadelphia.

Rosa Sanchez, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish language, literature and culture, was chosen by the Council of Independent Colleges and Harvard University’s Center for Hellenic Studies to participate in “The Ancient Greek Hero,” an Ancient Greece in the Modern Classroom seminar at Harvard University’s Center for Hellenic Studies campus in Washington, D.C., in July. The program was funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Tina Sidener, chair of the Department of Applied Behavior Analysis, moderated a symposium on teaching vocational and problem-solving skills to adults with developmental disabilities at the conference of the Association for Behavior Analysis International in Chicago in May. Sidener authored 11 other presentations for that conference. Her doctoral students received awards at the event. Priya Patil won the verbal behavior special-interest group student paper competition for her thesis “Teaching children with autism spectrum disorder to mand ‘why?’” and Leslie Quiroz received the Sidney S. & Janet R. Bijou grant from the Society for continued on page 18
the Advancement of Behavior Analysis for her dissertation “Reinforcer Assessment of Contingent Imitation with Preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Typical Development.”

Jon G. Sigurjonnsson, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology and counseling, and colleagues presented their research on “Compounded Stereotype Threat and Working Memory Function: Does Making the Same Stereotype Salient More than Once Compound the Effects?” at the annual convention of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in Portland, Oregon, and “Sub-Concussive Blows Lead to Changes in Event-Related Potentials Associated with Visual Gating” at the International Convention of Psychological Science in Paris. He received a syllabus development grant from the Interfaith Youth Core to develop interfaith themes in his History and Systems of Psychology course.

Stephanie Sitnick, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology and counseling, presented to the Kiwanis Club of Caldwell-West Essex on May 23 on “Earlier Childhood Predictors of Later Adult Risk Behavior.” Sitnick and colleagues published the article “My Child at Mealtime Parent Feeding Self-assessment Tool: Validation with Mealtime Behaviors and General Parenting” in Appetite. Along with colleagues, she also wrote articles on “Guided goal setting: A feasible obesity prevention behavior change strategy for low-income parents with young children” for the Journal of Human Sciences and Extension and “Early childhood predictors of boys’ antisocial and violent behavior in early adulthood” for the Infant Mental Health Journal. At a meeting of the Society for Research and Child Development in Baltimore, she presented papers on “Exploring Developmental Pathways from Early Toddlerhood to Adolescent Violent Crime and Psychopathology” and “Parent Responses to Difficult Child Behavior during Mealtime.”

Jason C. Vladescu, Ph.D., BCBA-D, NCSP, LBA (NY), associate professor of applied behavior analysis, co-authored two papers published in peer-reviewed journals, the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis and Behavioral Analysis in Practice, and presented 18 research papers at regional and national conferences. He spoke about his research on episode 80 of the applied behavior analysis podcast “ABA Inside Track.” Vladescu accepted a two-year appointment as a subject matter expert for the Behavior Analysis Certification Board.

EMPLOYEE AWARDS

David Bohny, director of administrative technology, received the Mission in Action Award for Staff Excellence, which recognizes the extraordinary contributions and quality service of university staff and acknowledges their integral role in advancing the mission of Caldwell University.

Linda Farina, instructor in psychology, received the 2019 Excellence in Teaching Award, presented to the faculty member who best exhibits excellence in teaching, passion and enthusiasm for learning, and concern for students’ academic and personal growth.

Emma Kendrick, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and counseling, received a graduate faculty mentorship award. The honor is given to a faculty member who exhibits excellence in mentoring graduate students. Recipients of this award further the development of their graduate students as ethical, moral, culturally competent and scholarly professionals.

Alvin M. Neiman, professor of accounting in the School of Business and Computer Science, received the Caldwell Cup, which is awarded to an employee who has made a unique contribution to the campus, who has exhibited a superior professional approach that goes beyond a mere job description and that uniquely benefits Caldwell University and whose positive influence demonstrably affects the university community.

Marie Wilson, Ph.D., professor of psychology and counseling and graduate coordinator for the art therapy program in the School of Psychology and Counseling, was named professor emerita, a title that recognizes former faculty members who have distinguished themselves as outstanding teachers, researchers, administrators or professional leaders.

CABINET NOTES

President Nancy Blattner was appointed as secretary of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities board for January 2019-January 2020. She served as the team chair for the Middle States accreditation visit to Concordia College in Bronxville, New York, and co-chaired a breakfast roundtable conversation with registry principal Bryan Carlson on the benefits of interim executive placements. She attended the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Portland, Oregon, at the end of May. She was appointed to a two-year term on the national Phi Kappa Phi Budget and Program Review Committee.

Sheila N. O’Rourke, vice president for institutional effectiveness, was named to the board of directors for the Employers Association of New Jersey. The association includes over 3,200 employers throughout New Jersey, from small, family-owned businesses to multinational corporations.
Sister Deborah Lynch: “I tried to walk with them”

For the past 15 years, Sister Deborah Lynch, O.P., has served Caldwell University as a counselor. She will be greatly missed by students and colleagues as she moves on to her next adventure this fall. Sister has blessed the lives of many in the campus community. She has seen her ministry and profession as a way to walk with student clients to help them grow emotionally and learn how to navigate the difficulties of life.

“Sister Deborah has devoted herself to assisting students who have been struggling with substance use concerns and other personal issues,” explained Robin Davenport, director of counseling services. “She is credited for bringing to our freshmen a very helpful online alcohol prevention and intervention course as well as training peer educators on how to educate other students about healthy lifestyle behaviors.”

Sister Deborah was also responsible for the mandated sanction counseling sessions for students who had drug or alcohol violations. She hoped the students would view the sessions as an opportunity to reflect on their lives. For her, it is most rewarding when student clients gain insight into their behavior and how it affects their goals. She also has had students self-disclose their need for assistance with alcohol, drug or related issues.

This past spring, Counseling Services put up yard signs to educate the campus community about marijuana and its effects. “Regardless of whether the state legalizes marijuana,” said Sister Deborah, “students need to know what they are putting into their bodies.

“The signs led to conversations among the students from their varied perspectives.”

Sister Deborah was also pivotal in executing documents legally required of the department. “When not counseling students, Sister Deborah has tirelessly composed Caldwell University’s drug-free campus guidelines, which are distributed each year to the campus population, as well as the university’s biennial review, a comprehensive document that provides a detailed review and evaluation of the alcohol and other drug programs that exist on campus,” said Davenport.

Sister Deborah’s background in marriage and family counseling helped her when she met with parents, many of whom have sent her emails and reached out with gratitude. “It was not uncommon for Sister Deborah to receive unexpected notes of thanks from former student clients who were grateful for the counsel she provided them,” said Davenport.

Counseling has been Sister Deborah’s ministry and work for many years. Prior to serving in higher education, she was pastoral associate for marriage and family at Corpus Christi Parish in Chatham, New Jersey.

The counseling profession is gratifying for her as she witnesses the personal growth of the clients with whom she worked. “Sometimes the students feel they are alone, and as a counselor you want them to know that they are not alone, that we can work this out together,” she said.

As for the upcoming fall semester, Sister Deborah made sure the students were introduced to the other counselors so that, come September, the transition will be seamless.

For her next step in life, after a sabbatical, she wants to share her education and experience, perhaps offering support to those who do not have the resources to pay for counseling. Regardless of where God calls her, Sister Deborah knows that being a counselor is a way to help people discover their abilities and inner strength. “You walk with them until their wings get stronger and they fly on their own.”

Caldwell University is grateful to Sister Deborah Lynch for sharing her gifts and for being a gift to our campus community for the past 15 years!

—CL

Vienna
EXPERIENCING AUSTRIAN HISTORY AND ART

Dr. Jennifer Noonan, professor of art history, and Benjamin Lammers, professor of history, led the interdisciplinary course, which included sites such as the Albertina Museum, Schonbrunn Palace, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, and the Hofburg Chapel. The group also took a side trip to Salzburg. The class explored Austrian art and history from the 15th to the 20th centuries, with a major focus on the rise of the Habsburg Empire and the Austrian baroque period.

The Caldwell group enjoys the Belvedere Palace Gardens in Vienna during the spring break “Vienna: Experiencing Austrian History and Art” course.
Shin Moon joined the Caldwell University team as chief financial officer and vice president for finance and auxiliary services on March 4. He oversees the five areas of the finance groups: general accounting, budget, the Bursar’s Office, accounts payable, and facilities, which includes outsourced services such as construction and the campus store. He sat down with Colette Liddy to share his background and plans as part of Caldwell University’s team.

What is your vision for the finance area at Caldwell? We are an innovative institution. Working within the Caldwell tradition, I want to bring fresh air into the Finance Division and incorporate the most efficient, innovative, top-tier levels of finance functions. We will not be the last university to do something; we will be the first doing it.

What is your professional experience? After graduating from the University at Buffalo, I started my career at PricewaterhouseCoopers as an auditor in the nonprofit industries in Rochester and New York City. After five years, my wife and I were having a second baby, and I decided I did not want to travel all over the world, so I joined Cantor Fitzgerald. It was after the 9/11 attacks when Cantor Fitzgerald had been destroyed. The company was looking for someone to rebuild the accounting system. The federal government was giving those companies that suffered in the World Trade Center attacks a grant to rebuild and stay below 59th Street in Lower Manhattan. They had to hire the same number of employees or more (than before 9/11) within seven years. It was an incentive to retain businesses in Lower Manhattan since companies were eager to get out. We were not able to hire individual brokers and dealers because it takes too much time, so what they decided to do was merge with small broker dealer firms. My job was to merge globally the accounting systems into one, and I was very good at it. After 2010, I left the Wall Street market, wanting to concentrate on raising the kids, spending more time with the family and not worrying about the big fat bonus check anymore. I wanted to share my expertise in giving back to the community.

Your higher education background? After leaving Wall Street, I joined Stevens Institute of Technology as assistant controller and director of budget and planning for more than five years. Then I had the chance to be the controller at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale in the Bronx. After three years, I had the opportunity to come here to Caldwell University, back to New Jersey. I believe our mission is to serve the next generation of college graduates, to give them a better chance and to serve first-generation students by supporting their financial needs. I want to share my knowledge with the community.

Your background growing up? I was born in Seoul, South Korea. I went to high school in Kenya, Africa, when my father, a pastor, decided to build a school for the deaf there. It inspired me to be aware of serving in a community, and it makes me appreciate the multiculturalism of Caldwell University.

Anything else? Caldwell University is a small undergraduate tuition-driven institution. This is a critical time in higher education in this metropolitan region. There are many small higher education institutions in our area, and we need to be unique; we need to be special. As an example, that is why we are bringing in the esports management bachelor’s degree and the esports team. This is a dynamically changing industry for private higher education in metropolitan regions due to competition, the reducing population of this age group, and people moving out of this region. We will be challenged, but by harmonizing the fresh air and traditions and incorporating efficiency, we can make Caldwell not a survivor but a success in this industry. Changes will come in a positive way. Any innovative ideas are welcome.
Dominican Connection

A YEAR WITH THE SAINT JOHN’S BIBLE

The launch of Caldwell University’s “Year with The Saint John’s Bible” took place on Jan. 29 when some 200 alumni, supporters and campus community members gathered for a beautiful evening of prayer, music and a presentation by Tim Ternes, director of The Saint John’s Bible at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library at Saint John’s University in Collegeville, Minnesota. University Music Department faculty members performed a new piece, “Calming of the Storm,” composed by faculty member Rob Middleton, inspired by an image in the Bible of the same title by artist Suzanne Moore. Middleton played the clarinet, and he was joined by Music Department chair and pianist Nan Childress-Orchard and flutist Rebecca Vega.

The next day, Ternes presented to the West Essex Ministerial Association, made up of leaders of different faith backgrounds, and to students in classes.

The Saint John’s Bible, a gift of sacred art, is the first illuminated, handwritten Bible of monumental size to be created in more than 500 years. It was commissioned by Benedictine Saint John’s Abbey and University, and the creative director was Donald Jackson, senior scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth’s Crown Office, who worked with a team of scribes, artists, theologians and scholars.

On Founder’s Day, March 20, Marie Mullaney, Ph.D., professor of history, spoke on “A Women’s Bible for the 21st Century.”

On Research and Creative Arts Day, April 24, Dr. Anton M. Koekeemoer, research astrophysicist at the Space Telescope Science Institute, spoke on “Science and Faith in Harmony: The Heavens Declare the Glory of God.”

The Bible has been shared off campus too. Colleen O’Brien, director of campus ministry, took the Bible out and presented at a number of churches, including St. Peter’s Episcopal in Essex Fells, to seniors at St. Aloysius in Caldwell and to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Roseland. O’Brien shared the Bible with college students at the Dominican Preaching Conference in May and led a Visio Divina reflection with the Bible in June.

During Lent, Mullaney spoke on “The Medieval Context of The Saint John’s Bible” at the adult enrichment series Faith Quest at Notre Dame in North Caldwell and at St. Rose of Lima in Short Hills.

Heather Cook, head librarian of public services, presented on the Bible to the Kiwanis Club of Caldwell-West Essex on campus.

The Bible has garnered media interest, with outlets including NJ.com/Star-Ledger, NJTV News and WMBC-TV providing coverage.

To book time to view the Bible, schedule group visits or have a speaker come to your church or organization, contact Julie Kajouras at 973-618-3922 or jkajouras@caldwell.edu.

UPCOMING LECTURES WILL INCLUDE:

“An Introduction to The Saint John’s Bible” by Dr. Marie Mullaney, 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 21, in Westervelt Lecture Hall.

“The Art of The Saint John’s Bible” by Dr. Jennifer Noonan, the Sister Maura Campbell lecture, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 26.

Mullaney on “The Saint John’s Bible: From the Middle Ages to the 21st Century” 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14, in the Alumni Theatre.

“Healing the Helper: Art Therapy, Self-Care and The Saint John’s Bible,” workshops 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 28, and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, in the university’s Art Therapy Center, behind the Student Center Gym.
The women’s bowling team captured the East Coast Conference championship this past spring, the first conference title in the program’s fifth season as a varsity sport at Caldwell. The Cougars secured the conference automatic bid to the National Collegiate Women’s Bowling Championship but fell in the opening round to Sacred Heart University. Freshman Jenna Rapach (Hazleton, Pennsylvania) earned ECC Most Outstanding Bowler honors after posting a 20.11 Baker average for the tournament. Rapach capped her tremendous first collegiate season as she was named the ECC Rookie of the Year.

The softball team finished its season with a 32-23 overall record and took third place in the CACC with a 20-6 conference record. Freshman Nora Conway (Chicago) was selected as the CACC Rookie of the Year after an outstanding season. Junior Christina Misiur (Sayreville, New Jersey) and sophomore Kaileen Cain (Hauppauge, New York) earned CACC First Team All-Conference honors, while sophomore Paige Sandoval (Aliso Viejo, California) and freshman Mariah Culver (Owego, New York) were named to the CACC Second Team. Cain and Conway were named to the Division II Conference Commissioners Association First Team All-Region. Cain earned National Fastpitch Coaches Association First Team All-Region honors, while Conway was named to the NFCA Second Team All-Region. Cain earned Google Cloud Academic First Team All-District honors and was a Google Cloud Academic All-American Third Team selection.

The track and field athletes turned in outstanding performances this spring season as the men’s team finished in fourth place and the women’s team took ninth place at the CACC championships. The men posted 10 top-10 finishes at the conference meet, while the women had six top 10s. Sophomore Quazier Dailey (Prospect Park, New Jersey) earned a pair of CACC Second Team All-Conference honors as he took second place in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes.

The women’s basketball team ended its season with an 11-16 overall record. The Cougars finished in second place in the CACC North Division with an 11-8 conference record. Senior Andie Lennon (Secaucus, New Jersey) earned CACC Second Team All-Conference honors. Lennon was also selected to the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association First Team.

The men’s basketball team finished the season with a 17-12 record and took third place in the CACC North Division with a 13-6 conference record. Senior Ahmad Harrison (Newark, New Jersey) earned CACC Third Team All-Conference honors.

—JT
Caldwell University softball head coach Dean Johnson joined an elite club this past spring as he earned his 800th career coaching victory on March 24. The Cougars defeated St. Thomas Aquinas College 4-1 in the second game of a doubleheader to pick up the milestone victory.

Johnson completed his 25th season as Caldwell’s head coach and ranks among the all-time leaders in coaching wins in NCAA Division II. He ended the season among the top 20 winningest active coaches in Division II and in the top 40 all time.

Johnson has developed the Cougar softball team into one of the premier programs in the region and in the nation. He has guided the Cougars to 10 Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference regular-season titles and eight CACC tournament championships. Caldwell has qualified for the NCAA Division II tournament 14 times during Johnson’s tenure and won the NCAA Division II Northeast Region in 2004.

Johnson has been selected as the CACC Coach of the Year nine times. Since transitioning to the NCAA in the 2003 season, Johnson has guided Caldwell to 17 seasons with 30-plus wins, including six 40-plus-win seasons. In addition to coaching softball, Johnson serves as the department’s associate athletic director and as assistant men’s basketball coach.

As the assistant women’s soccer coach, Fraser has helped the Cougars advance to the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference tournament all 10 years. Over the past six seasons, Caldwell has reached four CACC championship games and has captured three conference titles. The Cougars received the conference’s automatic bid to the NCAA Division II tournament in 2013, 2016 and 2018.

A standout central defender for the Cougars from 2004 to 2007, Fraser was a four-time all-CACC honoree. He was selected to the all-New England Region team three times in his stellar career. As a dominating defender and team leader, Fraser led the Cougars to 47 victories in his four seasons, the most wins in any four-year period in the program’s history.

Fraser graduated from Caldwell in 2008 with a degree in accounting. An outstanding student, he earned a spot on the CACC All-Academic Team as a sophomore, junior and senior for posting a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. He also was chosen to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District first team as a senior. In the fall of 2008, Fraser was selected the Outstanding Student-Athlete for the 2007-08 academic year by the Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey.

—JT
The Caldwell University Athletics Department and Cougar Pride hosted “A Night of Cougar Pride” on April 26 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, New Jersey. Caldwell Athletics welcomed four new hall of fame inductees, bringing the number of honorees to 44. A team was also honored.

The former players inducted were softball’s Danielle Guerra DiGiovanni ’04, baseball’s Ryan McGee ’05 and men’s basketball’s Shawn McCray ’90. Softball head coach Dean Johnson was also part of the induction class with the 2004 softball team that reached the Division II Women’s College World Series for the first time in program history.

—JT

The Caldwell Athletics Department opened the Cougar Enrichment Center this past spring in an effort to enhance academic programming for student-athletes. The center is located on the first floor of the George R. Newman Center, and its primary purpose is to promote academic success by providing the student-athletes a site for study hall.

Study hall is required for all incoming freshmen and new transfer student-athletes. Study hours are supervised by an experienced compliance office staff and require a minimum of three hours per week. Student-athletes may use their study hall hours in the Academic Success Center, which is available to all students on campus. The Cougar Enrichment Center hosts professional development programming, academic workshops and other events that are available to all student-athletes.

Caldwell Athletics maintains a special tradition that emphasizes the personal approach to education and the proper balance between academics and athletics. The department is committed to providing a quality academic and athletic experience to meet the diverse needs of its student-athletes.
Charlotte Kunst ’47 is grateful for all Caldwell University helped her achieve in life. After graduating from Caldwell College for Women in 1947 with a bachelor’s degree in biology, Charlotte went to work at Hoffmann-La Roche, beginning a career that spanned over four decades. She became active in the Alumni Association immediately upon graduation and has been one of Caldwell University’s most prominent and consistent supporters. She believes in giving back to the university. In addition to her annual support, she has established a charitable gift annuity.

You, like Charlotte, Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Future Caldwell Students

Charlotte Kunst ’47

“One of the best things I have done to support the university and the students at Caldwell was to establish a charitable gift annuity…and it was one of the best things I have done for myself.”

– Charlotte Kunst ’47

The Saint Catherine of Siena Circle gratefully recognizes Caldwell University alumni and friends who have supported the university through their will or estate plans.

The 34th June Dwyer Castano Veritas Award honorees are, L to R: Tanya Freeman, Esq. ’08, Excellence in Law and Family Services; Sister Alice McCoy, O.P. ’68, Excellence in Humanitarian Efforts, and Marcy Holmes Matlosz ’76, Excellence in Business and Volunteerism.

Celebrating the 34th June Dwyer Castano Veritas Awards Dinner are, front row, L to R: Angela Aiella Zaccardi ’58, Joan Galla Reamer ’69, Sally Ward Kelly ’57; back row, L to R: Barbara Ziglear Buechner ’76, Elaine Bauer Zabriskie ’73, Helen Babits ’66, Peggy Jordan Romano ’71, Dr. Nancy Blattner, Nancy Hurtz Soyka ’71, Kathleen Buse ’72 and Meg Poltorak Keyes ’75.

June Dwyer Castano ’55 was the inspiration and the driving force behind the Veritas Award. At the dinner on March 22, Dr. Nancy Blattner announced that in memory of June’s lifelong devotion to Caldwell, the university had renamed the award the June Dwyer Castano Veritas Award. Pictured are June’s husband, Greg Castano, President Blattner and the Castano family.
Scholarship events

DONOR SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON


Spring 2019 recipients of the Mulgaonkar Nursing Scholarship Award are, L to R: Julianna Verso ’20, Alexandra Szczepanski ’20, Serg-Alain Benoit ’19, Brady Caputo ’19, Dr. Ujwala Mulgaonkar, Roxanne Moncrieffe ’20, Natalia Tomczyk ’20, and Maritza Pellegrini ’19.

MULGAONKAR NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Maritza Pellegrini ’19; Mi Ji Kim ’20; Louis T. Manzione, Ph.D., president and CEO, AICUNJ, and president, ICFNJ; Prithy Adhikary ’20 and Joan Shields, director of research and communications, AICUNJ.

SUPER SATURDAY

Claire Sacuk Matlon ’83 with her husband, James Matlon.

INVESTORS BANK FOUNDATION

Investors Bank Foundation made a $5,000 grant to support professional development in the School of Education at Caldwell University. L to R: Razie Dauti, vice president and district manager of Investors Bank; Lori Funicello, assistant vice president for development and alumni affairs; Dr. Nancy Blattner, president; Dr. Joan Moriarty, associate professor and associate dean of education, and Catherine A. Samarati, assistant vice president and branch manager for Investors Bank.

Robert Luciano and Dr. Linda Chiavalloti Luciano ’78 attend the reception and dinner at the Park Savoy.

L to R: Mariellen Barabas Baldwin ’92 and Kathleen Barabas ’85, a member of the Caldwell University Board of Trustees, attend the reception and dinner at the Park Savoy.


Rhonda L. Graber and Mary Sellitto-Curcio ’83, members of the Caldwell University Board of Trustees, attend the reception and dinner at the Park Savoy.

Each year Caldwell University inducts honorary members who exhibit excellence in business and maintain strong ties to the university’s business programs into the Delta Mu Delta honor society. The School of Business and Computer Science was proud to induct two distinguished alumni, Madeline Dielmann, MBA ’01, and Joseph A. Chorba, CPA, CFE ’00. They are pictured with School of Business and Computer Science Professor Bernie O’Rouke.

The Caldwell University Alumni Board hosted “Brunch, Bouquets and Ballads” to support student scholarships. Ten lucky winners received beautiful floral arrangements.

Tanya Freeman, Esq. ’08, delivered the keynote speech at the 2019 EOF awards banquet. L to R: Dr. Barbara Chesler, vice president of academic affairs, Freeman, and Andrei St. Felix.
Caldwell University alumni, colleagues, faculty, staff and family celebrated the life and legacy of Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., at a Mass and program April 7.

Celebrant Father Bob Stagg, chaplain of the college when Sister Vivien was president, remembered his colleague as a woman of great intellect and vision. He reflected on how, just as the readings for the fifth Sunday in Lent told of God “making a new way,” Sister Vivien always focused on making a new way that would benefit others and encouraged her colleagues to join her in those endeavors. As opposed to breaking things apart, he said, Sister Vivien built, healed, affirmed and reinvented herself and every institution where she worked.

A panel focused on “The Life and Words of Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P.” was hosted by Communications and Media Studies Chair Bob Mann and featured History Professor Dr. Marie Mullaney, university president Dr. Nancy Blattner and Sister Patrice Werner, O.P., prioress of the Sisters of Saint Dominic of Caldwell and former president of the university.

The panelists reflected on Sister Vivien’s lasting legacies to Caldwell including the “momentous decision,” said Mullaney, to go forward with making the college coeducational. Sister Patrice said Sister Vivien fostered Caldwell’s Dominican charism and mission—for example, starting the Fanjeaux experience in France, which allows students, staff and faculty to learn about St. Dominic and the Dominican Order; the Dominican Colleges Colloquium, and the Veritas Award, which recognizes the professional excellence of alumni. Blattner said that in addition to the special decisions Sister Vivien made for the campus, her lasting legacy is her publications. “Her written word is one of her great legacies,” said Blattner. Sister Vivien “led by example,” said Sister Patrice, believing one should be willing to do what one asks others to do. Blattner said it was incumbent upon all in the campus community today to keep Sister Vivien’s vision alive, to advance her mission and to pass on her words.

Friends, Sisters of Saint Dominic, students and grandnieces of Sister Vivien read selections from her three books, “The Valiant Woman: At the Heart of Reconciliation,” “November Noon: Reflections for Life’s Journey” and “The Essential Journey: From Worry to Mercy to Hope, the Unfinished Words,” which is not yet published and was not completed at the time of her death on May 5, 2018.

The guests moved into the Jennings Library for the unveiling of a framed image and history panel. Blattner unveiled a huge “breathtaking photo” of Sister Vivien that was taken by alumna Pushparaj “Raj” Aitwal, “a true friend of Sister Vivien,” and the history wall chronicling her life and accomplishments.

—CL
About the Artist

Pushparaj “Raj” Aitwal ’11 first photographed Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., while he was a student at Caldwell when he covered a Mass at St. Catherine’s Convent. He also took photos of Sister Gerardine Mueller’s art during an exhibition of her works on campus and assisted Sister Agnes Bernard on her cable TV productions. The Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell appreciated Aitwal’s work and talents, and after he graduated with a bachelor’s of arts degree in communications, they asked him to come work for them. He shared an office with Sister Vivien as he worked on media production and technology for the order.

Today, as a multimedia specialist, Aitwal manages the Sisters’ website, photographs events, and oversees many aspects of technology and communications. He has been digitizing VHS and cassette tapes, which have taught him more about the lives of the Sisters. Having visual images to preserve the stories of people’s lives is important. He knows what it is like not to have photographs to pass down. Aitwal comes from the village of Chhangru in a remote area of northwestern Nepal near India on the west and Tibet on the north. “Photography was still a very new concept when I was growing up,” he explained. Only a few people had “the point-and-shoot film cameras,” and most had limited knowledge of photography, he said. As a result, very few people had images of their elderly family members. It bothered Aitwal that he never had the chance to see photos of his paternal grandparents, and that loss inspired him to use his camera to document history.

Aitwal attended the Budhanilkaneha School, a prestigious high school in Kathmandu, Nepal, and accidentally won second prize in a photography competition. Winning the award made him want to learn more about photography. He started to take it more seriously with “self-studies and looking at images from National Geographic.”

Growing up in Nepal, Aitwal had met only a few Christians, so he did not know much about women religious. But that changed when he started working with Sister Vivien and the other Sisters. He appreciates how their lives are multidimensional. “They are teachers, singers, musicians, writers, social activists and have their [own] individual personalities,” he said. Aitwal has been driven to tell their stories through the lens. He started photographing the Sisters as he knew them. For Sister Vivien he had some ideas in mind. “I wanted to photograph her as a writer as she had written books and poems” and she would write for the website. That led to the photograph that now hangs in the Jennings Library with the profile of Sister as she sits at her desk with pad and pen.

Sister was appreciative of Aitwal’s work, and he would share images of his homeland with her when he returned to the United States from trips to Nepal. Using the power of the camera to preserve history and cherished family memories is important to him. In the future, he plans to photograph his entire family in Nepal.

Many are thankful for how Aitwal helped Sister Vivien in her later years, and he is grateful to have been able to learn from and to work with her. “I felt like a family member around her, and she was a good advisor.” —CL
On a bright fall day in 1977, a tearful woman sat across from Sister Patrice Werner, O.P., then the director of concurrent education at Caldwell College for Women. The woman, Mary Anne Gamba, R.N., an adult student and the mother of two young children, was at the top of her class with a 4.0 average. That semester, despite carrying a grueling course load that included a much-dreaded class in statistics and an independent study, Gamba juggled her responsibilities, always keeping her eye on the prize: a Caldwell College diploma.

Fate intervened. With only six credits left to accrue, Gamba received some good news—bad news from her husband, John: he had accepted an excellent job offer, but the position was in Pennsylvania, so the family would have to relocate—and fast. While thrilled for her husband, Gamba learned upon reading the college handbook that she would have to complete the balance of her credits on campus. All at once, it seemed her cherished dream of attaining a Caldwell diploma was no longer within her grasp.

To add to her stress, while her husband was working in Pennsylvania, Gamba had an arm’s-length list of tasks to complete on her own. She needed to sell the family home in New Jersey, find a new home in Pennsylvania, enroll her children in new schools, choose new pediatricians and coordinate a myriad of other time-sensitive tasks—all while planning the family’s traditional Christmas, studying and staying on top of her classwork.

Imagine her relief, then, as she sat anxiously in Sister Patrice’s office, hearing Sister say kindly, “Go finish your last two courses at Immaculata College [in Pennsylvania], send the transcript back to me and you will have a Caldwell degree.”

“Just like that. Really? Bless her!” says Gamba, who adds, “Even after forty years have passed, remembering Sister’s gentle kindness bring tears to my eyes. I have tried to emulate that kindness with those who have passed my way.”

After graduating from Caldwell, Gamba became a nurse-social worker in a Head Start program, an experience that changed her life. Seeing firsthand the devastating impact of racial and institutional discrimination on the lives of children lit a fire within her, motivating her to learn more about the complex issues of race and socioeconomics in American society. She enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania, earning a master’s degree in sociology, after which she taught sociology at a community college. She worked as an advocate by increasing voter registration in her community, managing school board campaigns for like-minded candidates and serving as a school volunteer.

Education and philanthropy are core values in the Gamba family. In 2006, the Gamba Family Foundation was founded, with the mission of closing the education gap among underserved students. Mary Anne and John, co-founders and directors, work with their children, John Jr., a director, and Beth, the foundation’s executive director. Their efforts and investment have had a measurable and long-lasting impact in making quality education accessible in the economically disadvantaged urban communities where they provide support.

In February of this year, Gamba completed a bucket-list item: she established the Mary Anne S. Gamba Endowed Scholarship in honor of Sister Patrice Werner, with a gift of $100,000. Candidates for the scholarship will be high-achieving, underprivileged students in the nursing program.

In early June, Mary Anne and John enjoyed a full-circle experience when they visited campus for a joyful reunion with Sister Patrice in President Nancy Blattner’s office. The Gambas were delighted to hear about all the positive changes that have occurred since the time Mary Anne was a student and to learn more about the vision for Caldwell’s future. With hugs all around, it was a meeting of the minds—and the renewal of a wonderful relationship.

—Christina Hall
Few individuals loved Caldwell University more than June Dwyer Castano ’55. In the 1980s, Castano’s love for Caldwell motivated her to help establish the Veritas Award to recognize outstanding alumni.

The Veritas Award, which has been presented annually for the past 33 years, was recently renamed in memory of Castano to honor and recognize her legacy at Caldwell University and to pay tribute to the efforts she led on behalf of the alumni body. University President Nancy Blattner announced the newly named June Dwyer Castano Veritas Award during this year’s award dinner on March 22.

The occasion would have made Castano incredibly proud, not only for the designation in her memory but largely due to the accomplishments of the evening’s honorees: Tanya Freeman, Esq. ’08, Sister Alice McCoy, O.P. ’68, and Marcy Holmes Matlosz ’76. Their achievements, along with those of all awardees since inception, demonstrate the excellence Castano wished to highlight when conceiving of the Veritas Award.

Castano’s husband, Greg Castano, says, “June firmly believed she had received an absolutely outstanding education. Through the Veritas Award, she aspired to bring honor not only to each recipient but also to all alumni, to the Dominican Sisters and to the administration, faculty and staff who had enriched the students’ lives.” The word Veritas, meaning truth, draws directly from the motto of the Sisters of St. Dominic. The statuette, with a gold flame mounted on marble to symbolize the light of truth, was designed by the Art Department.

Castano spent 17 of her school years on the Caldwell campus, attending and graduating from kindergarten, grammar school and high school at Mount Saint Dominic Academy and then from the university. As a student, she participated in a host of extracurricular activities, capped by her service as president of the student council. She excelled as a starter on the school’s successful basketball and softball teams. She went on to earn a master’s degree in English from Seton Hall University and a master’s degree in theater from Villanova University, where she was a Shubert playwriting fellow.

Castano maintained a lifetime devotion to all institutions on the Caldwell campus and to the Sisters of Saint Dominic. She served three terms on the Caldwell University Alumni Board. She earned the college Alumna of the Year Award and the President’s Award. She served on the college’s Planning Committee, the Middle States Preparation Committee and the search committee that named the first lay president.

Castano was also active in the Catholic Church; Greg recalls fondly that in 1995 when his wife was at the Vatican for an audience with Pope John Paul II, the Holy Father shook her hand and said, “Thank you for all you have done for the Church.” Castano was elected as a Dame of Malta, a lay religious order of the Catholic Church that dates back to 1099 and today operates as an international relief agency.

Castano’s two sisters, Carole Collins ’57 and Virginia Fox ’57, also graduated from Caldwell, as did her sisters-in-law Jeanne Cooney Dwyer ’54 and Mary Castano Sarsano ’69.

She was married to Gregory for more than 50 years before she passed away in February 2018. Castano was an active alumna from the time of her graduation in 1955, and she and Greg were loyal and generous supporters of the university. The Caldwell University community mourns the loss of June and will always remember her fondly.
Caldwell University remembers alumna Anne Buckley ’52, who passed away April 23. She received her bachelor’s degree in English and became an accomplished journalist. Buckley was one of the founders of Catholic New York and its editor-in-chief from 1991 to 2000; she was also a journalist for the Archdiocese of Newark’s Catholic Advocate newspaper for 29 years.

In 2001, Buckley was the recipient of the prestigious Catholic Press Association’s St. Francis de Sales Award, the highest honor the organization presents to an individual for outstanding contributions to Catholic journalism. As reported by CNY, Buckley called the award “a great honor and a beautiful crown to my career.”

At her funeral Mass at St. Aloysius Church in Caldwell, New Jersey, on April 27, Msgr. Michael Kelly, the celebrant, noted the Scripture reading “My friends I will be with you,” from the Last Supper. Those words could “easily be the words of Anne, which she said to you over the years by her lips, her writing and by her example,” said Kelly. At the Last Supper, Jesus instructed his friends to continue the mission and message he began, said Kelly. “Anne did this so well over the years with family and friends and her co-workers and admirers of her brilliant writing.”

Concelebrating was Msgr. Peter G. Finn, former director of communications for the Archdiocese of New York, who worked with Buckley. He said she was a woman of great strength, love and example. Finn remembered how Cardinal John O’Connor once wrote that Buckley was a “true professional, true Catholic and true newswoman.”

According to the May 9 edition of CNY, when Buckley retired in 2000, she said she “found it rewarding to be part of a newspaper well received from the start by the readers and its peers in the Catholic and general press, a fact that enhanced the influence of the Church and contributed to its mission of evangelization.”

John Burger, a writer for the Catholic news site Aleteia, remembered learning from Buckley when he was starting out. “Anne was a tough editor—just the thing this green cub reporter needed in 1993 when she graciously gave me a chance to work there...CNY was a great place to work, largely because of her. There was so much happening in New York, and Anne recognized the role the Church plays—and helped readers come to appreciate that.”

John Woods, editor-in-chief of Catholic New York, worked with her too. “Anne was a very talented editor and writer. She was driven and determined to help Catholic New York be the absolutely best diocesan newspaper in the country. She wanted others who worked closely with her to share her passion and urgency for telling the story of the Church in New York.”

Sister Elizabeth Michael Boyle, O.P., emerita professor of English, remembered bringing Buckley to the Caldwell campus in the early ’70s to speak at the annual conference for students from public and Catholic high schools who worked on their student newspapers.

In 1957, Buckley was honored at Caldwell’s commencement and addressed the graduates on the role of the Catholic woman in the modern world. She received the Alumna of the Year Award in 1967 in recognition of her work producing the alumnae newsletter. In 1987, Buckley was the recipient of Caldwell’s Veritas Award for excellence in journalism. In 1999, Caldwell awarded her an honorary degree in humane letters.

—CL
Dear Fellow Alumni,

It has been my honor to represent and serve each of you as the Caldwell University Alumni Association Board president over these past many years. Thank you for your support and encouragement during my time as president; it has been a blessing and truly one of the greatest opportunities of my life. I have enjoyed working toward and accomplishing many fruitful goals with my fellow board members, alums, the Sisters of Saint Dominic, Dr. Blattner and CU students, faculty and staff.

The time has come for me to step down to serve full-time in my new role as a Caldwell University board of trustee member. I will continue to work with the alumni board as the BOT liaison.

Elaine Bauer Zabriskie will move from vice president to president of the CUAA. Elaine assumes this role after working as a member of this board for 10 years. I welcome Elaine to her new position. I feel very good about the future, as the alumni board has wonderful, dedicated and talented individuals, and I know more great things are ahead under her leadership!

I leave you, dear alums, with the beautiful words of St. Catherine of Siena, “Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!”

Wishing you all the best things in life.

Sincerely,

Mary Sellitto-Curcio ’83
President, Caldwell University Alumni Association

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am looking forward to working with the university and our alumni as the new academic year begins. We will continue to build on the previous work led by Mary Sellitto-Curcio and our alumni board.

I will reach out to our alumni through social media, publications and the various scheduled events in the upcoming calendar and hope to increase participation of the alumni community.

We hope to see you at Homecoming and Family Weekend Sept. 20-21!

All the best,

Elaine Bauer Zabriskie
SAVE THE DATE

HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, SEPT. 20 AND 21

CONCERTS
SATURDAY, SEPT. 21 • 6 P.M.
FACULTY AND ALUMNI CONCERT • ALUMNI THEATRE

FRIDAY, NOV. 8 • 8 P.M.
JAZZ ENSEMBLE • ROCK ‘N’ JOE

SUNDAY, NOV. 10 • 3 P.M.
“ILLUMINATING THE MANUSCRIPT” –
A CONCERT OF MUSIC INSPIRED BY THE SAINT
JOHN’S BIBLE • ALUMNI THEATRE

THURSDAY, NOV. 14
JAZZ ENSEMBLE CONCERT • COUGAR DEN

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20 • 7 P.M.
SOLO AND CHAMBER CONCERT • ALUMNI THEATRE

FRIDAY, DEC. 6 • 7 P.M.
CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR • STUDENT CENTER GYM

TRICKY TRAY
FRIENDS OF CALDWELL UNIVERSITY
OCT. 20 • NOON
CONTACT: MARGUERITE KENNEY
MKENNEY@CALDWELL.EDU,
ELAINE MALISZEWSKI (973) 618-3490

ART EXHIBITIONS
SEPT. 4 TO OCT. 8 – SCIN·TIL·LATE BY
MAURICIO CORTES AND BLURRED BOUNDARY
BY DIONISIO CORTES ORTEGA

OCT. TO DEC. – THE THOUGHT OF THE SOUL AND THE
HEART OF THE WORLD BY LOWELL BOYERS, SUSAN
HOMER, ESTHER TRAUGOT AND CHARLES YUEN

THE SAINT JOHN’S BIBLE PRESENTATIONS
THURSDAY, SEPT. 26 • 4:30 P.M.
DR. JENNIFER NOONAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
ART HISTORY, “THE ART OF SAINT JOHN’S BIBLE,”
SISTER MAURA CAMPBELL LECTURE

THURSDAY, NOV. 14 • 4:30 P.M.
DR. MARIE MULLANEY, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, “THE SAINT
JOHN’S BIBLE: FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE 21ST CENTURY.”

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28 • 10 A.M. TO NOON
THURSDAY, NOV. 7, 2019 • 4:30 TO 6:30 P.M.
“HEALING THE HELPER: ART THERAPY, SELF-CARE AND
THE SAINT JOHN’S BIBLE,” WORKSHOPS
CONTACT NATASHIA COLLINS – NCOLLINS@CALDWELL.EDU

TOWER POETS
20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SEPT. 25 • 6 P.M.

MASSES
SATURDAY, AUG. 24 • 5:30 P.M.
WELCOME WEEKEND MASS • STUDENT CENTER GYM

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11 • NOON
MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT • STUDENT CENTER GYM

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20 • NOON
DEDICATION OF THE SISTER MARY DOMINIC TWEEDUS CHAPEL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21 • 4:30 P.M.
HOMECOMING MASS • SISTER MARY DOMINIC TWEEDUS CHAPEL

FRIDAY, NOV. 1 • NOON
ALL SAINTS DAY • SISTER MARY DOMINIC TWEEDUS CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4 • NOON
ADVENT CELEBRATION • STUDENT CENTER GYM