# CALDWELL UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

**NATIONALLY ACCREDITED** 

**GRADUATE PROGRAM** 

# ART THERAPY

**MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING** 

**NEW CENTER** 

### ALSO INSIDE

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE: A CONVERSATION WITH DR. BLATTNER RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ARTS DAY

SPRINT FOOTBALL READY FOR INAUGURAL SEASON

EXPLORING THE DOMINICAN TRADITION IN ROME

**HEALING PROFESSION** 

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### CALDWELL UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE WINTER/SPRING 2017

Caldwell University Magazine is produced for alumni and friends twice each year by the Media Relations Office at Caldwell University. Its goal is to provide news and information about Caldwell University's students, faculty, staff, alumni, and administration. We welcome your comments and suggestions! Please email us at cumagazine@caldwell.edu.

MANAGING EDITOR
Joseph Posillico, Ed.D.

EDITOR
Colette M. Liddy G'13

WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS
Sara Courtney '12
Beth Gorab
Christina Hall
Meghan Moran '07
John Tagliaferri
Marie Wilson, Ph.D.

COPY EDITOR
John Jurich

STUDENT ASSISTANT Janki Parekh

PHOTOGRAPHY
Pushparaj Aitwal '11
Crista Cattano
Katlyn Houtz
Linda Maher
Marina Maret '14

**DESIGN**Graphic Imagery, Inc.

Address comments and questions to: cumagazine@caldwell.edu Caldwell University Magazine 120 Bloomfield Avenue Caldwell, NJ 07006

General information www.caldwell.edu 973-618-3000



Agnes Berki: Expanding Research Efforts and Inspiring Students



Research and Creative Arts Day



Patrick Sime: Mathematics Professor and NCAA faculty athletics rep

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# Dear Friends of Caldwell University,

I hope all of you have enjoyed some time for rest and rejuvenation during the summer months that have just passed. Here on campus we are enthused about the start of classes as we welcome new freshmen, returning and transfer students, and graduate students for another exciting year at Caldwell University!

For this issue, I was interviewed by Development Office staff about the collective vision we have embraced here at CU. It is exciting to talk about our goal to reach a student body of 2,500, to plan for the introduction of new sports teams, and to brainstorm about the creation of additional academic programs that will position our graduates to enter into New Jersey's workforce and carry our Catholic and Dominican values into their communities.

This edition of our magazine features a tribute to Jack Rainey, who recently retired as the university's CFO after 38 years of service. You will read about Dr. Agnes Berki, who chaired the task force that created Caldwell's first Research and Creative Arts Day in late spring that attracted more than 130 student presenters and 60 judges, including board members and Caldwell alums. Also featured is Dr. Patrick Sime, a faculty member in our math department who also serves as the Faculty Athletic Representative and as an officer of the Faculty Council.

The spotlight also shines on our new art therapy center, completed shortly after commencement in May, thanks in part to grant funding provided by the state of New Jersey and generous matching funds from two foundations and some individual donors. As the only art therapy program accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs, the graduate program at Caldwell now has the facilities to attract additional students and faculty. I'd love to show you this newly renovated space the next time you are on campus!



Mark your calendars for September 16, the date of Caldwell's first home game of our new sprint football team. The afternoon game against the University of Pennsylvania will be played at James Caldwell High School. I also hope to see you the following weekend on campus for our annual Homecoming festivities.

Before I close, I want to comment on the study abroad trip that Sister Kathleen Tuite, OP, and I led to Italy as part of the course entitled The Foundations of the Dominican Tradition: Rome that we team-taught during the spring semester. Teaching these 18 Caldwell students and traveling with them to the birthplace of our Catholic faith and a spot visited by both St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Siena proved to be a wonderful reminder of our mission and of the history of our sponsoring congregation. We look forward to leading another such study abroad trip in 2018.

This summer, Judith Croce, professor of art, passed away unexpectedly. At a memorial celebration held in her honor in New York City on July 9, Judith's contributions to our art programs were highlighted. The students in attendance that evening were a true testimony to Judith's impact as a teacher and her influence on young artists at Caldwell. Her warm personality and creative presence will be missed on campus in the semesters to come.

As we begin another academic year at Caldwell University, please join me in praying for the success of our students; for the efforts of our faculty, staff and administration; and for the well-being of our sponsors, the Sisters of St. Dominic.

Best regards,

Many H. Blattner Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D., OPA

President



Please join us for an exciting weekend of events with family and fellow alumni!

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

#### Noon

Homecoming Kickoff Lunch (Student Center Dining Hall)

#### 8 p.m.

Student Foam Dance Party

#### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

#### 9:30 a.m.

Registration and Welcome Breakfast with the President (Alumni Theatre Lobby)

#### 10:30 a.m.

Homecoming Mass followed by the President's State of the University Address and Alumni Awards Ceremony (Alumni Theatre)

#### 11 a.m.

Women's Soccer Match vs. Holy Family University (Soccer Field)

Want additional information on the mini-university faculty lectures? Curious about the family-friendly activities available at the party? Need help with accommodations? Ready to register?

For any and all of the above, please visit www.caldwell.edu/homecoming

The Office of Alumni Affairs can be reached at 973.618.3352 or alumni@caldwell.edu

#### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 (continued)**

#### Noor

Class of 1967 Golden Anniversary Lunch (Library Conference Room)

#### Noon-3 p.m.

Homecoming Party on the Plaza and Barbecue (Newman Center Plaza)

#### Noon-2 p.m.

Alumni Art Exhibition Reception (Mueller Gallery)

#### Noon

Women's Tennis Match vs. Wilmington

#### 1 p.m.

Guided Campus Tour for the Class of 1967

#### 1 p.m

Caldwell Mini-University – Faculty/Staff Lectures

- "Greetings from... Mother Joseph Dunn's Trip to Europe in 1934," Rebecca Driscoll, MLIS, Reference Services and Archives Librarian (Jennings Library)
- Presence: a reading of contemporary poems from the inaugural issue of the international Catholic poetry journal, Dr. Mary Ann Miller, Ph.D. – Department of English (Westervelt Lecture Hall)

#### 1:30 p.m.

Men's Soccer Match vs. Holy Family (Soccer Field)

#### 1:45 p.m.

Dedication of the Sister Gerardine Mueller, O.P., Art Gallery. Reception to follow.

#### 2:30 p.m.

Golden Anniversary Tea (Student Center Cougar Den) Class of 1967 will be welcomed by the past 50th anniversary alumnae.

#### 4 p.m.

Celebrating the Sisters of St. Dominic: Caldwell's "SisterStory" Project, Dr. Marie Mullaney, Ph.D. – Department of History and Political Science (Student Center Cougar Den)

#### 4 p.m.

Alumni Soccer Matches (Soccer Field). Reception to follow (Newman Center Plaza). Pre-registration is required.

#### 4:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball Match vs. Wilmington (Newman Center)

#### 5 p.m.

Class of 1967 Celebratory Dinner (Quigley Board Room)
Class of 1967 alumni and guests only. Pre-registration is required.

#### 6:30 p.m.

Music Department Concert: Faculty Favorites (Alumni Theatre)

www.caldwell.edu/homecoming



ental health counseling and art therapy graduate student Jessica Hauck has seen the pain children experience when they lose a parent or close loved one. At her internship site, the Journeys program at Valley Hospital, she has worked in individual, group and family sessions. "Grief can be overwhelming and difficult to process, especially for children and adolescents. The most rewarding thing about my work is when I can help facilitate communication that might not otherwise have taken place," Hauck says. The hope is that the art therapy will help the healing process. "Regardless of the population, it is another

our program and in turn, Journeys has a lot to offer the interns."

Caldwell students can intern in different sites and settings with various populations. They complete a total of 800 hours in internship and take part in the art therapy day of service. They could be exposed to any number of experiences such as bereavement, oncology, psychiatry, dementia, nursing, substance abuse and addiction, trauma, special needs, and court-mandated psychiatric rehabilitation. "This allows students to learn to make adaptions to their approach and know that art therapy works with a range of people,"

pediatrics, oncology, delirium prevention and the healing arts program's Creative Open Studio, a walk-in program. "The wide range of experiences and working with multiple populations have helped prepare me to be a well-rounded counselor and art therapist," says Stark.

Atlantic Health System provides Caldwell interns with the opportunity to work in its other programs that have art therapy including in-patient and outpatient behavioral health, pediatrics, the delirium prevention program, and this fall semester, a new area for interns, palliative care, at Overlook Medical Center.

mode of communication. The art therapy process makes it easier to talk when one's hands are moving or to never talk, whichever the client chooses," she explains.

At Valley, Hauck worked under the supervision of art therapist Laura V. Loumeau-May, ATR-BC, LPC, who is an adjunct art therapy faculty

member at Caldwell. "I loved being a fly on the wall when Laura was working with clients," says Hauck.

Loumeau-May says Journeys has had some of the best in Caldwell interns. "The relationship is really mutual; they enrich says Annette Vaccaro, LCSW, ATR-BC, art therapy faculty and clinical coordinator for the mental health counseling with art therapy master's degree program.

Grief can be overwhelming and

children and adolescents. >>

difficult to process, especially for

The experience prepares students for the workforce. "Art therapists are creative and learn to respond and solve problems

when faced with a complexity of abilities, resources and materials," says Vaccaro.

Graduate student Jolene Stark interned with Atlantic Health System and was introduced to a number of areas at Morristown Medical Center including Caldwell students come to the program "extraordinarily prepared," says Deborah Douek, coordinator of the program at Atlantic Health System. She supervises Caldwell's interns administratively and clinically. "We value the relationship they bring to Atlantic Health System...it is a symbiotic relationship; they learn a lot here and have the opportunity to explore a variety of patient care areas."

Douek was thrilled to hire two Caldwell graduates after they completed their studies. Alexis Mardosa works in the Newton Medical Center Emergency Department and Caitlyn Stichter works in the Goryeb Children's Hospital Inpatient Unit and Creative Open Studio.



Besides their internships, some graduate students work with faculty on research, allowing them to present at conferences, to network with professionals and to have their work published. Hauck worked on research projects with the guidance of Dr. Thomson Ling, associate professor and associate dean of the Division of Psychology and Counseling. One outstanding work that she and Ling produced was an ethical decisionmaking model for art therapists. Their manuscript, "The DO ART Model: An ethical decision-making model applicable to art therapy," was published in Art



Art therapy alumna Jolene Stark with her internship supervisor Deborah Douek at the Atlantic Health System.

## **Hands-On Experience in Healing Profession**

Therapy: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association. They presented their work along with art therapy student Melanie Peters at the American Art Therapy Association's annual conference in Baltimore in 2016. For Hauck and Stark the art therapy program met every expectation. "All I do is talk about this program. My family teases me. My professors are amazing," says Hauck.

Stark appreciates the diversity of experiences she had at Caldwell. "The program allowed me to explore so much of what brought me to want to be a therapist, as well as the clinical training to be an effective counselor." She is

interested in working with veterans in the future, especially since her father has a military background. "Veterans make a great sacrifice. I feel very connected to this population." Art therapy gives veterans a chance to communicate about the traumas they may not have been able to verbalize, she says.

Caldwell art therapy graduate students have a dual benefit of receiving training in counseling and in art therapy. They receive an M.A. in Mental Health Counseling with an Art Therapy Specialization, which is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and

fulfills coursework requirements for licensure in New Jersey as a professional counselor and CACREP standards for clinical mental health counselors. The program is also approved by the American Art Therapy Association and fulfills coursework requirements for registration as an art therapist with AATA and licensure as a professional art therapist in New Jersey.

Having the counseling and the art therapy pieces gives graduates an advantage and more opportunity in the field, says Stark. "I saw the benefit of having the dual study in my various internship experiences."

—CL



# Fulbright Scholarship Takes Art Therapy Coordinator to Taiwan

Receiving a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in another country fulfilled a lifelong professional goal. In spring 2017, I spent five weeks in Taiwan, Republic of China, where I provided lectures and workshops at three universities in Taipei City as well as public outreach to professionals in several communities that included travel to areas outside Taipei such as Tainan and Kaohsiung. The Chinese Culture University provided a faculty office where I had the opportunity to interact regularly with the faculty and students in the undergraduate and graduate counseling psychology programs. In addition, I taught in the departments of educational psychology and counseling at Tsin-Hua University and the National Taiwan Normal University. I provided lectures to school counselors and teachers at National Nanke International Experimental High School and worked with the staff of a domestic violence shelter.

My lectures and workshops were on topics related to art therapy and counseling and included areas like assessment and treatment of drug and alcohol addiction, sexual addiction, sexual abuse and sexual disorders. Based on audience response and feedback, I believe that Taiwan is a number of years behind the U.S. in recognition of and treatment of addictive illness. Sexual addiction was a topic completely new to a majority of the students and professionals I met.

While there is considerable interest in art therapy in Taiwan, there are no graduate training programs in the country. There is a Taiwan Art Therapy Association formed by art therapists who graduated from programs in the U.S. or England. I provided several lectures and a supervision session to TATA and found how much we all have in common in our appreciation for art therapy. I was happy to raise awareness about the benefits of art therapy as a treatment modality for addiction and sexual abuse.

On a personal note, I interacted with a range of students, faculty and professionals from varying

backgrounds and found all to be kind, generous and hardworking people with a reverence for education and knowledge. I was impressed when over 60 graduate counseling students voluntarily attended my six-hour lecture on a Sunday! At the end, they stood in line to get their pictures taken with me; this became a common occurrence, as did the many gifts and food items they brought me or left in my office.

Taiwan is a beautiful country. I made many new friends for which I am most



Counseling Students at Chinese Culture University share their artwork with



Dr. Wilson, second from right, with administrators and faculty of National Taipei University School of Education and Counseling.

appreciative. I visited many interesting temples and other cultural sites and ate the most wonderful food. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity for such an enriching and special personal and professional experience.

-Marie Wilson, Ph.D., ATR-BC, ATCS, ACS, LPC

Professor, Division of Psychology and Counseling

Coordinator of Art Therapy Programs

### **Healthcare Foundation Grant Supports Art Therapy Center and Internships**

Caldwell University received a grant from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey to expand its graduate programming in art therapy. The \$95,600 grant will support the expansion and modernization of art therapy program space on campus and establish new supervisory fellowships at mental health agency internship sites in the Newark, New Jersey area.

Graduate student interns will work with vulnerable children at sites like the Youth Consultation Service and the Essex County Mental Health Center and with seniors at the Jewish Community Housing Corporation of Metropolitan New Jersey and Daughters of Israel.



Annette Vaccaro, Caldwell University associate professor of counseling and clinical coordinator, says the grant will allow interns to reach more sites and the most vulnerable populations "who may not have the language to express themselves in words but can accept an offer to make art for self-expression and healing."

The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey is an independent, endowed grant-making organization dedicated to reducing disparities in the delivery of healthcare and improving access to quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in the greater Newark, NJ area and the Jewish community of MetroWest.



# ART THERAPY CENTER

aldwell University has unveiled its new Art Therapy Center, offering a bright environment conducive to learning, with two new classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art technology and office space.

The expansion was made possible by grants from the New Jersey Department of Education, the George I. Alden Trust Fund, the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, an alumna match and private donors.

> Annette Vaccaro (standing), art therapy faculty member and clinical coordinator for the mental health counseling with art therapy master's degree program, with students in the new Art Therapy Center.





#### A VISION FOR THE FUTURE:

# A Conversation with Dr. Blattner

In 2009, Caldwell University (then Caldwell College) was facing some very difficult challenges, as was all of higher education. That's when Dr. Nancy Blattner arrived on campus as Caldwell's eighth president. Her positive impact was immediate, and her vision for the future was formalized in a five-year strategic plan that improved every aspect of the campus.

Eight years later, that vision continues to guide the university. Her thorough understanding of Caldwell's rich history, combined with her intimate knowledge of the current challenges facing higher education as a whole, puts her in the driver's seat once again. There are competitive pressures facing all institutions these days, some of which can seem quite daunting. But Dr. Blattner's strong focus has helped facilitate yet another robust strategic plan that allows us to move confidently into the next five years.

Dr. Blattner took a break from her extraordinarily busy schedule to sit down with Director of Development Beth Gorab to share some insight into Caldwell University's future.

**BG:** "What was the driving force behind this new strategic plan?"

**NB:** "The vision for the next successful chapter in Caldwell University's history is really propelled by the attainment of university status, record-high enrollments and many other important accomplishments that have contributed to our extraordinary momentum. We have a tremendous opportunity here to chart the future direction of the institution."

BG: "Give us your 'elevator speech' for this plan—an overview of the much larger, well-thought-out vision."

NB: "In order to reaffirm our value to the local community and beyond, we need to make some dramatic investments in our people, our programs, and our facilities. Specifically, we're looking at areas like the overall student experience, our endowment, and capital improvements on this aging campus."

BG: "One of the biggest challenges facing institutions all across the country is the prospect of declining enrollment. How do you see Caldwell responding to that challenge?"

**NB:** "The strategic goal of enlarging the student body represents an increasing need not only for more residential spaces, but also for those that are modern, well-designed and well-equipped. We

will be creating common space that is critically important to group projects and team building, including a state-of-the-art student lounge in Mother Joseph Residence Hall. This lounge will free up space in existing, smaller floor lounges which can be used as additional residential rooms, expanding our capacity to meet the increasing demand for on-campus housing in a cost-effective way. In addition, we are increasing the number of academic offerings to appeal to a broader cross section of students, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Another priority for us is to achieve

...sprint football allows us
an opportunity to create some
innovative partnerships with
the local community.

a more favorable male-to-female student ratio. This is so critical. Our current undergraduate population is 70 percent female and with the addition of sprint football, we've already started to see that number shifting."

BG: "You mentioned football. Tell us how the decision to join the Collegiate Sprint Football League came about and how it's already impacting campus life." NB: "Well, in addition to the more favorable male-to-female student ratio, sprint football allows us an opportunity to create some innovative partnerships with the local community. Our shared facilities for both practices and competitive play make sprint football a platform for community outreach and name branding. Our program, though young, already has support from local businesses and elected officials who can see the impact this will have on the surrounding communities. Our enrollment benefits from this as well—we have more than 40 new male students already (that we likely wouldn't

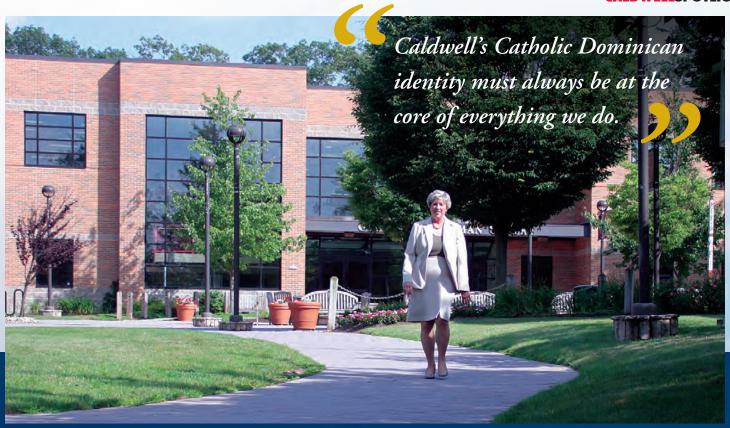
have had otherwise) as a result of adding this athletic program. School spirit is on the rise, too. Football just has a way of doing that to a campus."

BG: "Your administration has been particularly good at finding underused campus spaces and repurposing them for the greater good. You've mentioned the new student lounge already. What other

student lounge already. What other projects are planned in relation to this aspect of the strategic plan?"

**NB:** "One thing I'm particularly excited about is the relocation and re-engineering of the art therapy program to encompass more than 1,500 square feet of currently unused space in the Visceglia building. Like our Center for Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis, our art therapy program





prepares our students to go back into their communities and provide integral services to those in need. It's a very unique program—one that has garnered national attention—and we need to maintain our competitive edge in this field by making an investment in our infrastructure. Another project that is near and dear to my heart, and the hearts of many of our alumni, is the relocation of the Mother Joseph Chapel to the center of campus. We have a wonderful, bright, inviting, highly visible space right in the Newman Center for the chapel, providing a centralized place for prayer, worship, contemplation and meditation. It will be a convenient space for our students to contemplate, pray and reflect any time of the day."

BG: "Although the campus has seen many changes through the years, Caldwell has stayed true to its Catholic, Dominican tradition. That's impressive and it's clearly a priority for you and your administration. The chapel relocation project certainly falls into this category, but I know it's a much larger concept than that for you. Tell us about it."

NB: Caldwell's Catholic, Dominican identity must always be at the core of everything we do. When we opened our doors in 1939, our mission was to educate underserved students. At the time, that population was Catholic women. Today, the population demographic has shifted, but our mission remains the same. More

Together, we can ensure that Caldwell University continues its tradition of academic excellence.

than 40 percent of students in the Class of 2017 were the first in their family to attend college. First-generation students, like the young women and men at Caldwell, are highly academically motivated, yet they are far more likely than their peers to face financial barriers to higher education. As such, our students' need for financial aid increases every year. Much of what makes Caldwell a place that welcomes diversity can be attributed to our unwavering commitment to sustaining a strong financial aid program. Scholarships are a priority for this institution. This has always been true, and it always will be. Almost 98 percent of our students depend on financial support, and more and more alumni are stepping

forward to provide that assistance for today's students. It's wonderful to witness."

#### **BG:** "How can alumni and friends partner with you on this journey?"

NB: "I'm so glad you asked that! Our alumni and our close friends know that at Caldwell we are a family. We commit ourselves to the core values of this institution, and we recognize the importance of collaboration in attaining our goals. Together, we can ensure that Caldwell University continues its tradition of academic excellence. We do have an ambitious

array of campus improvements planned. Philanthropic support from our alumni and friends is critical to our growth and continued success. I am personally grateful for every single gift that comes in to this campus, and I have been inspired by the fact that the number of alumni who make a gift annually to the university has doubled since my arrival eight years ago. That's a tremendous confidence builder and a signal that we're moving in the right direction. I look forward to sharing our progress as we reach each new milestone along the way."

#### **FACULTY FEATURE**

# AGNES BERKI:

### **EXPANDING RESEARCH EFFORTS AND INSPIRING STUDENTS**



Enjoying a roller coaster ride at Six Flags with your professor might not be what students are expecting when they decide to study science with Dr. Agnes Berki, yet that is exactly the kind of unexpected adventure that awaits them. "We tried many rides and screamed together on many of them. We all had a great time!" recalled Berki, as if a day of laughter at a theme park is routine for biology students. Yet for Berki, who regularly treats her students to excursions like field trips or dinner, all the screams and laughter are for a serious purpose. "These outside activities are important. Those experiences transform the class into a team, and later, into a true research team."

For Berki, an associate professor of biology in the Natural and Physical Sciences Department, inspiring her students to take

on new challenges together is critical to success. At first glance, these extracurricular activities may not seem necessary, but Berki emphasizes the important role they play in forging a bond among her students and transforming them from simply classmates into a team. "This transition happens every year, sometimes quicker, and sometimes it takes a longer time, but it happens eventually, and that is the point when students become one team. They feel freer to help each other, to ask advice, to give or accept constructive criticism." It is important, she says, for students to realize that research is a team effort -"that in a team we all work for the same goal, and we all matter; all of our opinions are valued. The fun activities make the class more enjoyable, and they also help to build friendships."

Facing challenges, embracing change and keeping an upbeat outlook have been themes throughout much of Berki's life. Born in Hungary, she grew up with Russian troops everywhere. The atmosphere was oppressive. "You couldn't say anything. There was no freedom of speech." This lack of freedom was driven home when her father, who had been a successful lawyer, refused to sign an execution order for political prisoners. "They said okay, you will not wind up in Siberia but you cannot practice. So he changed his career and went into business." Berki's curiosity drove her to question her father about the political situation, but he would respond, "I can't tell you because even the walls have ears."

Despite the presence of troops, Berki recalls her childhood fondly, noting that her father, "one of the greatest influences of my life," bought her a piano and taught her how to take care of herself by learning useful skills like fixing her bike. He encouraged her to have confidence in her intelligence and her ability to learn. The only time she brought home a bad grade, Berki came to her father crying. "He said to me, 'You can stop crying. I'm not going to punish you. You see all the marks you ever get in life, you get for yourself. You're not getting it for me. So if you get a good mark, it's to your credit. And if you get a bad mark, it's your fault. It doesn't matter for me whether you get good or bad marks. I will still love you. You study for yourself.' From that time on, I was never afraid."

Berki's father found great success in business, the career forced upon him. The family moved frequently, and Berki attended two kindergartens before changing schools several times more. Just before the eighth grade, the family moved again, this time a half-hour from her previous school, but when it came time to start a new one, Berki put her foot down. "I told my dad, 'Okay, I am not going to a new school for the eighth grade,' so I

traveled on the bus every day so I didn't have to go to a new school."

Moving frequently as a child helped Berki when it came time for her to move to the United States. "We moved so many times that it prepped me for a big move over the ocean." She was just 26 years old and six months away from finishing a Ph.D. program in neuroscience when she relocated to the U.S. The move was difficult since she did not speak English. She had to restart all her studies. Without the support of her family and friends, it would have been a struggle to adjust to her new country.

"Coming here was a big shock for many different reasons. The windows open differently; the faucets work differently—I burned myself many times. For the first three months, I wrote a letter to my mom every day." It took Berki a year to learn English, helped along by watching the movie "Mrs. Doubtfire" daily. America was completely different from her homeland.

"We grew up in an environment where you always have to watch

out. And then you come here, and compared to there, it is a vacuum. You can say anything. You can think anything. It's a big shock culturally and politically."

She began working as a special volunteer in the neuroscience lab at the National Institutes of Health. "I worked there for three months, and I was lucky because in the lab where I worked there was a Hungarian lady, so she taught me." Berki learned polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, a method used for the Human Genome Project. "I had a great relationship with them. I got recommendation letters from them." After leaving the NIH, she got a job at the University of Maryland at Baltimore School of Pharmacy as a lab technician, preparing the lab for experiments. She continued studying English and took the GRE.

"After two years, I started to realize the beauty of the United States and the beauty of freedom and free speech." While only six months away from finishing her Ph.D. back in Hungary, Berki began the incredible challenge of starting over again



at the Maryland school of pharmacy. Majoring in molecular biology with a minor in pharmaceutical sciences, Berki

C The fun activities make

and they also help to

build friendships. ")

the class more enjoyable,

finished her Ph.D.
The initial setback of starting over "made me a stronger person. I don't shy away from challenges."
When anyone doubts her ability to achieve a goal, she becomes even

more determined. She recalled how someone once told her she would never receive a hefty—and very competitive—nationwide scholarship, so she set out to prove the person wrong and wound up being awarded a significant portion of the scholarship. "I only applied because someone said I could never get it."

In 2006, Berki became a senior scientist at Schering-Plough Research Institute where she oversaw research, development and improvements of assay methodologies. In 2010, she became senior scientist and virologist at Gibraltar Laboratories, Inc., handling composition and submission of laboratory reports to clients. Also in 2010, Berki came to Caldwell and immediately began to make her mark. "I am fortunate to teach at Caldwell University. The same ideology of developing well-rounded individuals in a nurturing and supporting

environment, which was the inspiration of the founding Sisters of St. Dominic almost a century ago, is still the heart and soul of our institution today." After crossing an ocean to start anew, Berki says, "I think I am where I am supposed to be."

In only a short time, Berki has become a guiding force in the university's goal to expand its research efforts, starting with inspiring her students to embrace Caldwell's challenges and benefits.

Berki does independent research with students, helping them to select the best focus from a list of 10 potential topics and

### THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT AGNES BERKI

Her favorite book is "The Ingenious Nobleman Mister Quixote of La Mancha" by Miguel de Cervantes. Berki is inspired by Don Quixote and his ability to see the good in each person he meets. "He is also able to make people realize their own value and help them embrace it, touching their life for the better."

She sings with the Caldwell Music

Department's choir. "I love to sing and I sang all my life. I was always a part of church choirs in every church I've attended.

Sometimes I was a part of two choirs."

While in Baltimore, she attended the historic St. Alphonsus Church and was a member of the regular English choir and the Latin choir.

continued on page 12



continued from page 11

## **AGNES BERKI**

then guiding them through the process of writing a proposal for money. "Our greatest supporter is the Independent College Fund of New Jersey. It's a wonderful thing because it's a students' idea and it's funded by an outside source to be completed. It looks awesome on their résumés." Known for staying late on campus—sometimes until midnight—to work with her students on their research, Berki has inspired many to strive for the highest standards. As recent biology graduate Eva Suchar says, "When I presented my research, it really felt like working with Dr. Berki was prize enough."

Berki guides the students through conducting research and then creating the posters for their presentations, which requires working all the way through Saturday and Sunday. They then spend the week before their conference practicing presentations. "That's another long day because they take turns so one will give a presentation, and then we give pointers and feedback and they practice again. We do it as many times until we say, 'Okay, that is good.'" Berki motivates her students to embrace the hard work and challenges, to seek knowledge to better themselves, much in the same way her father taught her so many years ago, when she tearfully brought home a bad grade, to be unafraid to fail.

She has been chair of the university's Research Task Force, which held the first Caldwell Research and Creative Arts Day this past April. Berki hopes the annual research day will increase visibility inside and outside the university and highlight all the outstanding research being conducted at Caldwell. She is always emphasizing to her students how important it is to become engaged in research, as they will learn teamwork, interpersonal skills, troubleshooting and analysis, which graduate schools and prospective employers highly value.

Berki has very high hopes for her students. "We have more and more students who are interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in different fields of science. My very first honors student is focused on going into a Ph.D. program. And now I have a freshman who wants to get a Ph.D. in neuroscience."

But Berki wants her students not only to stand out in their fields, but more important, to be upstanding human beings. "I truly hope they will always remember that paying attention to details, hard work and integrity will always pay off no matter what careers they choose and what they will do in their lives." Her father chose to start over again rather than be a part of something unjust, and in the process he became a successful businessman and an inspiration to his daughter. Berki too has had to unexpectedly start over again, only to achieve success and joy that she cherishes. It's no wonder there is so much wisdom in her advice to students. "I hope they will keep in mind that life is not a straight march."

One day over the summer, Berki came in to her office to work, only to find an envelope from a recent graduate taped to her door. Written on it were the words "Legjobb Tanar"—Hungarian for "the best teacher." Indeed.

—By Sara Courtney

#### **FACULTY FEATURE**

# PATRICK SIME:

# MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR AND NCAA FACULTY REP



Mathematics Professor Patrick Sime, Ph.D., has watched the Athletics Department grow in his two decades-plus at Caldwell University. As the faculty athletics representative for the NCAA, he knows the advantages of college sports. "I think having a student-athlete presence on campus is a great benefit to the university as a whole. I think it is a great opportunity for students who enjoy playing sports to continue while getting a college education."

The NCAA requires each college and university to have a faculty member who is not working in the Athletics Department take the position of faculty representative to the NCAA. In that role, Sime's duties include meeting with student-athletes before each semester starts, proctoring examinations for coaches seeking to become recruiters and facilitating applications for NCAA scholarships for graduate school or fifth-year undergraduate student-athletes. Mark Corino, Caldwell's assistant vice president and director of athletics, says Sime has been a wonderful asset to the Athletics





Department, "a voice that connects our student athletes and athletics staff to our faculty and administration."

...having a student-athlete

presence is a great benefit to

the university as a whole. ??

For the fall 2017 season, Sime looks forward to being a presence for students who will be on the university's firstever sprint football

team. Sime points to statistics showing that student-athletes have higher-than-average graduation rates and GPAs.

Statistics and numbers certainly count for Sime. His life has centered around math since before pre-kindergarten. "I was always fascinated with numbers as a small child and was dealing with numbers. I don't know why." He attended Passaic Valley High School in Little Falls and received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Rutgers University-Newark and his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Maryland in College Park, where he had a teaching assistantship. At Caldwell, Sime has taught math courses for majors and non-majors. Math, he says, is important for all students. "It helps critical thinkingthe type of quantitative reasoning that is helpful for any career or many situations in life." It has been most rewarding to see

students succeed, particularly when at first it does not seem they are going to "cut it and then, whether through hard

work or a change in philosophy, they improve."

The mathematics major has been a strong foundation for alumni, some

of whom have gone into teaching and some of whom have pursued fields like business, financial analysis, actuary science and even graduate school for a master's or a Ph.D. "Sometimes employers look for the type of preparation math majors have, and that makes them more marketable," Sime says.

In math the basics do not change. "The math taught in undergraduate courses involves math developed up to the end of the 19th century," he says. Technology has factored into teaching, and Sime warns against an overreliance on it. "Use all the technology you want, but I am still a fervent believer that you should know some basics, like your times tables," he says, one reason being to identify mistakes made on a calculator.

Sime has served on a number of university committees, including student life and

academic foundations, and is an officer on the faculty council.

His early academic background was at large universities, which is why he appreciates Caldwell's small size. At bigger schools, Sime says, "you can have over 100 faculty in your department but rarely get to know the teachers in the other divisions. I like to interact with faculty from other disciplines. It's something I enjoy."

—CL

### THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT PATRICK SIME

Sime is of Irish, Scottish and Syrian ancestry. "Two of my great-grandparents were from the city of Aleppo that has been practically leveled."

He likes to travel and once while he was in Iceland he walked on the outskirts of the glacier Mýrdalsjökull, "which was interesting since I have a fear of heights," he says. "On a couple of occasions you have to walk between cauldrons, basically deep holes," several hundred feet up. "We were on one of its 'tongues,' called Sólheimajökull." He has also visited the Agincourt coral reefs in Australia.

A Yankees fan, Sime attended the last game at the old Yankee Stadium in 2008.



### **BRINGING CHARACTER EDUCATION**

# (and penguins)

### **ALIVE IN THE CLASSROOM**



Education Division adjunct Catherine Lundquist, Ph.D., brings character education alive in the classroom.

If you walk into Dr. Cathy Lundquist's undergraduate courses Early Childhood Education Curriculum or Methodology you might bump into a penguin—a waddling one that will make you waddle and sing a penguin song.

Under that costume, is none other than Lundquist herself, a veteran elementary school teacher who is passionate about character education and teaching the next generation of students how to make the classroom come alive. "I try to bring my kindergarten classroom to the Caldwell classroom." The backdrop to the penguin story is a learning center—"pretty trendy now," says Lundquist. The undergrads get to observe a live lesson plan with social studies in one corner, science in another, language arts in another. "For each letter of penguin, they write an acrostic poem," she says. "In the math corner they count the number of rocks and the eggs the penguin lays. In the phonics corner—'alphabet central'—we go on and on about the letter 'p'; my penguin costume is a word wall," she explains. The goal is to connect all the core content areas back to the one piece of literature.

Kindergartners get excited that their teacher is dressed up as a penguin. They close their eyes and listen to the sound of the water and to the penguins gathering. At the end everyone in the classroom joins the penguin in diving into the "water"—the blue tablecloth, where the children are spying for seals.

This is just one of six thematic units that Lundquist programs to motivate her kindergarten students at the national Blue Ribbon school, Cedar Hill Elementary in Montville, New Jersey, where she has been teaching for over three decades. Engaging students, no matter their age, has been her passion. "Everyone needs to know that they are noticed and appreciated and respected. That's the common thread from kindergarten all the way through the university," she says.

"I need to be so prepared for kindergarten. There isn't a moment that I'm not doing for them." As for graduate students, "They have amazing questions. I can see that they are advocates for children." The undergrads "don't blink. They just listen." Since many undergrads have not been in the classroom yet, they want to hear everything, she says.

Lundquist has long had a passion for character education, and that is evident when she teaches courses at the university such as Reading Challenges, Methods, Reading Assessments or the writing course. "I don't think teachers can teach unless those (character ed) characteristics are in place." They are benign values that no parent or administration will disagree with—joyfulness, honesty, compassion, empathy and caring, she says.

At Cedar Hill Lundquist has incorporated character education into the classroom with four touchstones: respect for self, others, community and property. She's the liaison between fifth-graders and administration for character education. The students create their own service projects, including sponsorship of a brother in Ghana. They pay for his schooling, room and board. Because of its work in

character ed, Cedar Hill has been named a National School of Character.

Lundquist has a master's in special education; she did her thesis on character education, and she holds a Ph.D. from Fordham in language, learning and literacy.

She has been asked to share her experiences with other professionals. Last fall Lundquist was a panelist at the National Character Education Forum in Washington, D.C. She was the keynote speaker at the Caldwell University Education Division's early childhood conference in the spring. Her message centers on the importance of instilling self-efficacy in students. "Whether you have met with success or not, if you have the motivation to try something, the perseverance, the resiliency to keep coming back, those are character-ed traits," she explains.

Lundquist believes that if teachers can get students to embrace self-efficacy early on, the children will gain a stick-to-it-tiveness that serves them as they learn to read and as adults throughout life. This also helps create a classroom atmosphere. "It is very difficult to have your classroom gel" at the elementary school level, but there are opportunities throughout the day "to salt and pepper your classroom" with character education. This approach underpins performance "academically, socially and emotionally—teaching to the whole child," she says.

After seeing generations of children pass through her classroom, Lundquist knows a good teacher has to continually develop professionally, apply experience and look to the times. "Society changes; children don't. Parenting changes. Their love of their child doesn't. The way they go about displaying it and executing it, so to speak, is different, so we have to understand that." This is especially true in a society "that is sometimes very challenging and empathy and compassion are not at the top of the list," she says.

These are lessons she hopes the Caldwell undergraduate and graduate students she teaches will bring to their classrooms. "My hope is that they create a safe, loving, warm environment for every student and that their desire is to make a difference, even if it is just for one."

—*CL* 



## Dr. Jennifer Noonan Selected for Postdoctoral Fellowship at Smithsonian Institution



Art History Associate Professor Jennifer Noonan, Ph.D., is spending the 2017-18 academic year completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution's Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Noonan, director of the honors program at Caldwell, will be the Terra Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in American Art from Sept. 1, 2017, to Aug. 31, 2018. She will work at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Archives of American Art to develop her research project, "The 1970 Venice Biennale: The Politics of Display, Politics on Display Abroad and at Home." Her principal advisor on site will be Melissa Ho, and Crawford Alexander Mann III, the new graphic arts curator, will advise the project as well.

Noonan is thrilled that the Smithsonian and Terra Foundation selected her project. "This great honor will allow me the time to develop my research because the appointment will provide me with access to the Smithsonian collections and their archives as well as the holdings in the Archives of American Art. I'm excited to get going and dig into the project."

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum and research complex, with 19 museums and galleries and the National Zoological Park.

### "CALDWELL UNIVERSITY CONVERSATIONS" PODCAST



Caldwell University Conversations podcast features engaging guests from the Caldwell community.

"Caldwell University Conversations" is a podcast produced by the Media Relations Office featuring guests who share news and information about students, faculty, staff, alumni and campus life.

Guests have included Joseph Posillico, senior vice president, and Stephen Quinn, assistant vice president for admissions, on "College Planning Advice for Families," and Professor of Applied Behavior Analysis Jason Vladescu, Ph.D., and ABA doctoral student Antonia Giannakakos on using applied behavior analysis in the mainstream for techniques such as training for installing child car seats and teaching kids safety skills. If you have an idea for an engaging guest, let us know. Listen to the podcasts at https://www.caldwell.edu/ media-relations/caldwell-universityconversations.

# Faculty & Staff Notes

Kyle Bennett, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy, had his book, "Practices of Love: Spiritual Disciplines for the Life of the World" (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press), published in August. Last fall he spoke at the Redeemer Men's Retreat in the Poconos on themes from his book. He gave a talk at the Jubilee Conference in Pittsburgh in February on "Practices of Love," one of the themes. Last winter Bennett and Assistant Professor of Theology Dr. Christopher Cimorelli attended the High School Youth Theology Institute's annual gathering in Indianapolis for all directors of institutes funded by the Lilly Endowment.

Heather Cook, head librarian, public services, gave two lightning talks on using online tutorials to promote information literacy: "Interactive Tutorials Using LibWizard" at the VALE/ACRL-NJ/ NJLA-CUS conference, held at Rutgers University, and "Adding Interactivity to Information Literacy Instruction" at the Association for College and Research Libraries conference in Baltimore.

#### James Flynn, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy and chair of the Theology/Philosophy Department,

attended the annual meeting of the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association in Baltimore from Jan. 4 to 7. He chaired a symposium on "Knowing Precisely: Aristotle's Epistemic Psychology" on Jan. 6 at that meeting. He attended the conference "What Are Natural Rights (Are There Any?)" at the New York University Catholic Center April 1.

Bonnie French, assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice, published an article in the Race and Pedagogy Journal on "Diversity: Words, Meaning and Race at Predominantly White, Independent Schools."

Angela Guerriero, adjunct in the Music Department, presented two sessions at the 2017 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association conference in April. "Access to Music Learning: Keys to Meaningful Inclusion" included music curricula, instruction and materials that could be made accessible for students with individualized education programs (IEPs) and implemented in the inclusive music

classroom for the benefit of all students. "Teaching Students with IEPs in the Music Classroom: Tools for New Educators" included information for the preservice teacher or new music educator.

Susan Hayes, director of institutional research and assessment, served on the 16-17 steering committee for the New Jersey Association for Institutional Research, which promotes professional development and networking among higher education researchers in New Jersey.



Katie Kornacki, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, was selected as a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar

from a national applicant pool to attend an institute supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. She led a book-and-brunch discussion, as part of the Essex County Big Read, on the "Silver Sparrow" at the Caldwell Public Library on May 6.

Colette Liddy, director of media relations, had an article published in Aleteia titled "Need some help communicating? Take cues from these heroes of the Church" on how saints and other faithful heroes innovatively used the communication tools of their day. She was a guest on Relevant Radio on the same topic. She received a 2017 Catholic Press Association award for the article on alumna Mary Ann Albornoz "Graduate says 'unmistakable magic' of Caldwell University helped her receive a degree," which was published in the Caldwell University Magazine.

Thomson Ling, Ph.D., associate dean of the Division of Psychology and Counseling, published a book chapter titled "Summarizing Data Using Measures of Central Tendency: A Group Activity" designed to help teachers more effectively teach research and statistics. He published a chapter titled "From the micro to the macro: Training psychologists to be multiculturally competent through the application of faculty research expertise."

He presented with undergraduate and graduate students at the American Psychological Association conference in August. He presented with undergraduate Maxine Alonso on "Reaching into the good book: A method of reducing stigma of psychological disorders with religion," which was Alonso's honors project. He presented with students Kristy Percario, Jessica Hauck, Emily Holland, Dan Isenberg, Tiffany Henawi, Melanie Peters and Jenna Karahalios on "The use of hotlines as a training modality for future psychologists." He also presented with students Alonso and Liz Kocis on "An experiential activity for teaching about intersectionality and privilege."

Bob Mann, chair of the Communication and Media Studies Department, received first place in the Garden State Journalists Association awards category Broadcast Talk Radio for his WFDU-FM talk show "Of Mutual Concern." Mann and Caldwell studio manager Nick Amabile received an award for the Caldwell-produced radio show "Let's Consider the Source" on "Lessons in Leadership" with guest Steve Adubato. Mann and Communication and Media Studies faculty members Steve Cameron and Rachel Carey presented a panel on "Fake News" at the New Jersey Communication Association's annual conference on March 25. At the conference, Mann ended his term as president of the NJCA.

Rob Middleton, Music Department faculty member, conducted the Lehigh Valley Jazz Repertory Orchestra in a performance of music from the landmark Miles Davis/Gil Evans recordings "Sketches of Spain" and "Miles Ahead," featuring trumpeter Bill Warfield at the Zoellner Arts Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in April.

Mary Ann B. Miller, Ph.D., chair of the English Department, participated in "Curating the Catholic Imagination: Editors Roundtable Discussion" at the Future of the Catholic Literary Imagination conference at Fordham University in April and "Imagining the Editor as Artist" at the Trying to Say God: Re-enchanting Catholic Literature conference at the University of Notre Dame in June.



Sister Barbara Moore, D. Min., O.P., theology faculty member, led a workshop on "Ancient Stories Ever New: Understanding the Old Testament" for the Archdiocese of Newark catechist certification process at St. James Church in Springfield, New Jersey, on March 4. She presented to Dominican Associates on Feb. 21 on the meaning of the Dominican charism of preaching from an academic, pastoral, practical and contemporary perspective. Sister Barbara, who also serves as patient advocate for St. Catherine's Licensed Health Care facility, attended a conference on elder care at Misercordia University in June.

Marie Mullaney, Ph.D., professor of history, presented at the Lenten series Faith Quest at St. Aloysius Church in Caldwell on "The Contributions of Catholic Sisters to the Shaping of America." She served as a reader and reviewer for a manuscript titled "Alexandra Kollontai and the October Revolution" submitted to International Critical Thought. Mullaney has published widely on Bolshevik Kollontai.

Brenda Petersen, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Public Health and director of the Nursing Department, received a doctorate in health sciences leadership from Seton Hall University. Her dissertation was titled "An Exploration of Nurse Educators' Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice of Horizontal Violence Measured through Dimensions of Oppression."

David R. Petriello, lecturer in the History Department, has authored the book "Bacteria and Bayonets: The Impact of Disease in American Military History," published by Casemate.

Kenneth F. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D, the Alvin R. Calman professor of applied behavior analysis, was selected to serve on the editorial board of the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis. He was a coauthor on two recently published research papers, one in the journal Behavior Analysis in Practice that addressed teaching leisure skills to children with autism and another in the journal Behavioral Interventions that addressed best practices for modeling vocal initiations for children with autism. Reeve was a co-author on five research paper presentations at the 43rd annual convention of the Association for

Behavior Analysis International in Denver and two research papers at the California Association for Behavior Analysis's 35th annual conference in Anaheim, California.

Sharon A. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, professor of applied behavior analysis, was a co-author on two recently published research papers, one in the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis in Practice that addressed precursors to problem behavior and another in the journal Behavioral Interventions that addressed best practices for modeling vocal initiations for children with autism. She was a co-author on six research paper presentations at the 43rd annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International in Denver where she also chaired a symposium on using video-based instruction to train staff and to teach exercise and personal care skills to students with autism. Reeve was a co-author on a research paper presentation at the California Association for Behavior Analysis's 35th annual conference in Anaheim, California.



Sara Rizzo, electronic resources/serials management librarian, was chosen as president-elect of the Games and Gaming

Round Table of the American Library Association and was featured in the book "This Is What a Librarian Looks Like: A Celebration of Libraries, Communities, and Access to Information."

Jason C. Vladescu, Ph.D., BCBA-D, NCSP, LBA (NY), associate professor of applied behavior analysis, co-authored four papers published in peer-reviewed journals and 13 research papers presented at the Western Regional Conference on Behavior Analysis in Anaheim, California, and the convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International in Denver. He was invited to join the associate editor mentoring program for the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis. Vladescu accepted invitations to join the board of editors for the peer-reviewed journals Behavior Analysis in Practice and Behavioral Development.

At the honors convention, five professors received the title of professor emeritus, which is conferred upon faculty members or former faculty members who have distinguished themselves as outstanding teachers, researchers, administrators or professional leaders. They are Sister Barbara Krug, O.P., professor of theology; Dr. John McIntyre, professor of education; Sister Barbara Moore, O.P., professor of theology; Dr. Lauren Pristas, professor of theology, and Sister Catherine Waters, O.P., professor of psychology and counseling.



Dr. Blattner, Dr. Marie Mullaney and Sister Kathleen Tuite, O.P., were interviewed for "Dominican Mission in Higher Education: Deepening Integration," conducted by Maureen Carey, professor of social work at Molloy College. The project focuses on teaching at a Dominican institution and the relevance of the mission to a student's education.

#### **CABINET NOTES**

President Nancy Blattner, Ph.D., OPA, presented "Leadership Opportunities and Challenges in Faith-Based Institutions" at the American Council on Education's Council of Fellows weekend in Washington, D.C., on June 11. The Rotary Club of the Caldwells presented Dr. Blattner with the Service Above Self award on June 27. She has been appointed chair of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey board.

Joseph Posillico, Ed.D. was named senior vice president and added the responsibilities of finance and vendor relationships to his portfolio of enrollment management, marketing and communications. Posillico received a doctorate in higher education administration from Northeastern University in May. His dissertation was on "Impacting Student Access Through Federal Policy Changes: How College Presidents Interpret the College Scorecard."



#### **CALDWELLFACULTY&STAFF**

#### 2017 EMPLOYEE HONORS



Alison Self, administrative assistant, English Department, received the "Mission in Action" Staff Excellence Award which recognizes the extraordinary contributions and quality service of our university staff and acknowledges their integral role in advancing the mission of Caldwell University.



**Dr. Mary Lindroth, professor of English,** received the 2017 "Excellence in Teaching Award" presented to the faculty member who best exhibits excellence in teaching, passion and enthusiasm for learning, and genuine concern for students' academic and personal growth.



Sheila O'Rourke, vice president for institutional effectiveness, received the Caldwell Cup which is awarded to an employee who has made a unique contribution to the campus, has exhibited a superior professional approach which goes beyond mere job description and

which uniquely benefits Caldwell University, and whose positive personal influence demonstrably affects the university community.

#### REMEMBERING JUDITH CROCE

Judith Croce, professor of art, passed away on July 1. Thirty years ago, Judith arrived at Caldwell and then led the Department of Art for more than 20 years. Caldwell was the first college in New Jersey to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, and the department began expanding its offerings to include specializations in studio art, graphic design and an art and education double major. In addition, Judith was instrumental in developing an undergraduate



certificate program in art therapy that attracted new students and supported the development of the art therapy graduate program. This certificate program later developed into an undergraduate double major in art and psychology that prepares students for entry into the Caldwell master's degree program in mental health counseling with art therapy and attracts the majority of students to the Art Department at the university.

Judith was beloved by her students and colleagues, who remember her warm, generous and lively spirit. She was an exceptional teacher who shared her passion for art and art-making with all her students. She was equally gifted as a professional artist, with an exquisite eye for color that she transmitted into lucid works in oils, encaustic and, most recently, cut-paper wall installations. Many in the art world share our loss of this unique talent, and she will be greatly missed.

-Art Department faculty

# JACK RAINEY



Jack Rainey served Caldwell University for 38 years before retiring this past spring.

One of the first times Jack Rainey stepped on campus was in the early 1970s when he made his way up from Fort Dix in his Army Reserve uniform. He walked up to the second floor of the Student Center and surprised his girlfriend, Eileen. Perhaps he had an inkling (or a hope) that she would become his wife, but he certainly did not know Caldwell would become his professional home for 38 years.

After serving as an adjunct professor in accounting from 1979 to 1981, he was asked by Sister Edith Magdalen, O.P., then the president, to become the college's treasurer, the start of his full-time career at Caldwell. In 1996 he was named vice president for finance and administration, overseeing several departments over the years. He worked with four presidents: Sister Edith, Sister Vivien Jennings, Sister Patrice Werner and Dr. Nancy Blattner.

Sister Patrice speaks of Jack as "the quiet man," normally reserved, unobtrusive, self-effacing and discreet but with a marvelous sense of humor. When financial decisions had to be made and budgets revised, his counsel was firm, and she deeply appreciated his leadership and support throughout her years as president.

Dr. Blattner remembers how when she started, Jack said he told his wife that with the new president's arrival, work days were now only half days—12 hours—and then he laughed. President Blattner came to appreciate Jack's dry wit, extensive vocabulary and stoic resolve when encountering challenges. She characterizes Jack as a man of integrity, a quiet presence and a trustworthy colleague.

This writer remembers Jack walking on campus on a sunny summer day, remarking about how lucky we were "to work in a park!" And to many at Caldwell that is one of the characteristics that epitomize Jack—amid the challenges he was able to see the daily gifts we are all given by God. Caldwell University is grateful for Jack's many contributions and wishes him, Eileen and his family blessings in the next chapter of this great adventure called life.

—CL







Graduate literacy instruction student Asia Gaskin, a teacher at East Side High School in Newark, presenting her project.

Caldwell University hosted Research and Creative Arts Day, featuring over 100 innovative projects by students, faculty and staff.

The day was aimed at highlighting Caldwell undergraduate and graduate student research and promoting STEAM, which stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and math, explained Dr. Agnes Berki, associate professor of biology and chair of the planning committee for the event. "We had a great turnout and great intensity. It was a chance for our students to get feedback, hone their communications skills and learn how to field questions from different audiences."

Dr. Jill Bargonetti, a leading molecular biologist, breast cancer researcher and professor of biological sciences at Hunter College, gave the keynote presentation. In a lively, interactive format, she spoke on "Choreographing Genomics and Cancer Biology into Understanding." Bargonetti is widely published; she and her team have made significant advances in research that looks at protein diversity in cells with the kind of genetic mutations linked to "triple negative" breast cancer.

Among the numerous projects was biology student Veronica Guirguis's "The Future of Cancer Care: Virtual Reality," which demonstrated how virtual reality could help to educate patients about treatments, could

be used as a therapy to lessen pain and suffering and could give them a chance to visit the "most amazing parts of the world."

Stephanie Silva, a nursing student, presented on "Who you gonna call? Rapid response teams," which compared staff-initiated versus family-initiated response during a decline in health. She was

delighted that nurses from her clinical site, Morristown Medical Center, came to view the research. She appreciated the feedback from those who saw her poster. "They had really good questions and made me think differently about my research. It was a great experience."

Asia Gaskin, an English teacher at Newark East Side High School and a literacy instruction graduate student, presented on her project, "The Effects of Scaffolded Silent Reading on Reading Comprehension in a General Education High School

Freshmen Classroom."

"Literature and learning have always been passions of mine, and I was excited

to combine the two and see the results."

The day was a culmination of months of preparation by a committee led by Academic Affairs Vice President Dr. Barbara Chesler.



They had really good questions

about my research. ""

and made me think differently

Melaine Betancur, Naissa Piverger, and Nicholette Worgs, public health education students, presented their research, "Utilizing Telemedicine to impact the older adult population".



#### **CALDWELL UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES**

# 75th Annual Commencement with Largest Number of Graduates Ever

Outstanding Belizean educator is honored

Caldwell University held its 75th annual commencement ceremony on May 21 with 482 graduates, the largest in the institution's history.

The undergraduate commencement speaker was **Shyam Sharma**, president of the Student Government Association, who reminded the students of Caldwell's core values of respect, integrity, community, excellence and the responsibility they have in upholding those values. "Going forward: embrace the diversity of everyone you meet, and take care to notice what makes them special." Sharma received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration with minors in marketing, pre-law and political science.

Matthew J. Block, director of human resources for the Summit public schools, was the commencement speaker for the graduate ceremony. He received his Doctor of Education degree in educational leadership. He stressed that in a time of blurred lines, fake news, and alternative facts, it is important to analyze data, conduct deep research, and use the lessons learned in graduate school to change the world for the better. "Through our experiences here at Caldwell University each of us has been given a metaphorical mirror with which to reflect light into dark places. We have been given the tools to be a positive force where there is negativity, and to provide clarity where there is ambiguity."

President **Nancy Blattner** said the day was one of great joy and pride for all of the family members and friends who have supported the students over the years. "And it is a day of celebration for the faculty, staff and administration of Caldwell as we send forth our 75th class of graduates to make a positive impact upon our world."

The university presented an honorary degree to **Olive Woodye**, an outstanding



Dr. Blattner presented Olive Woodye with an honorary degree.

educator from Belize, a country where students, faculty and staff have served on volunteer mission trips. Woodye was honored for her service to children, education and her community. She was the first principal of St. Benedict Primary School, a model Roman Catholic school in Punta Gorda in the Toledo district of Belize. "This degree is very significant and special to me. I accept it in the name of all the children I taught during the 44 years of my teaching career, and of course, the class of 2017 without whom this would not have been possible," said Woodye.

Undergraduate and graduate students wore academic attire made from 100 percent-recycled plastic bottles, which was highlighted in news outlets including NJTV News and News 12 New Jersey. According to the company GreenWeaver, an average of 23 plastic bottles were used to produce each cap and gown.

The first two graduates from the educational leadership doctoral program received their degrees. They were **Block** 

and **Lauren Banker**, an elementary school principal with the Summit public schools.

The 50th reunion class participated in the undergraduate ceremony.

**Stephen Maret, Ph.D.,** professor of psychology and counseling, was the grand marshal for the undergraduate ceremony.

**John R. McIntyre, Ed.D.,** professor emeritus, Education Division, was the grand marshal for the graduate ceremony. ■



Shyam Sharma was the undergraduate ceremony commencement speaker.



## **KOUMUDI THIRUNAGARU –** THE DREAM OF ATTENDING MEDICAL SCHOOL BECOMES A REALITY



Koumudi Thirunagaru started thinking about becoming a doctor at a young age. She volunteered at Stanford Children's Hospital near her home in San Roman, California, and she took AP biology at Homestead High School and found the subject constantly stimulating.

She began college at Caldwell as a biology involved in everything that had to do with the medical field my first year including being

an officer for the Health Professions Club." Then the idea of pursuing a career in medicine turned from "a fantasized dream to a realistic goal." During the summer between her freshman and sophomore years, she went on a medical mission to Nicaragua, an eye-opening experience that spurred her to pursue a minor in Spanish.

Thirunagaru is taking a step closer to her goal of becoming a doctor as she begins her studies at George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, D.C., this fall. The faculty at Caldwell have helped her in the process. "I received a lot of guidance from Dr. William Velhagen. The professors are easily approachable. They are not just teachers but also mentors—inside and outside the classroom."

She received her bachelor's in biology with minors in chemistry and Spanish at graduation on May 21. She excelled during her undergraduate years, receiving departmental honors in the Department of Natural and Physical Sciences and being involved in a number of activities including holding leadership positions in the Health Professions Club, playing tennis all four years, tutoring in the Academic Success Center and working as a scribe at a hospital in Newark. She appreciated being given opportunities for community service ranging from planning the annual Halloween-for-hunger drive to attending Midnight Runs for the homeless in New York City and volunteering at the annual Caldwell Day. Her artwork appeared in the Calyx, a Caldwell student journal of literature and art.

Caldwell has been her home away from home, especially since her family lives on the West Coast. The university's cohesiveness makes it special for her. "It's a circle, a family." Thirunagaru advises incoming students to get involved quickly. "Students make the school. Take advantage of what you have, and never lose sight of your dreams, regardless of the daily battles."







Yara Abdelnabi was accepted to Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston. She received a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in chemistry from Caldwell and was awarded the dean's honor scholarship at Tufts. She credits Dr. Agnes Berki, associate professor of biology, and Dr. William Velhagen, chairman of the Natural and Physical Sciences Department, for guiding her through her journey at Caldwell and the application process. "My participation as the vice president of the Health Professions Club also allowed me to be a part of many volunteering experiences and charity events, which allowed me to appreciate the value of helping those in need, which confirmed my interest in becoming a doctor."

Pre-med post-baccalaureate student and alumna Jessica Binkiewicz was among the 2017 class of the Governor's STEM Scholars honored by the state Legislature in Trenton on March 23, 2017. Binkiewicz and the other STEM scholars spoke before the Legislature, gubernatorial staff and policymakers. "It was a tremendous honor to have presented my research, be honored, and receive a joint legislative

resolution on the floor of the Assembly at the State House," she said. The prestigious program brings together high school and post-secondary student leaders who would like to pursue a STEM-related major and career in New Jersey's STEM economy. Binkiewicz led a research team of three high school students who focused on determining the inhibitory effects of thieves' and pulling oils on E. coli to evaluate their antibacterial properties in the hope of combating drug-resistant E. coli strains. They met on Saturday mornings in the university science labs.

Science students took first and second prizes at the Independent College Fund of New Jersey's Undergraduate Research Symposium. Students **Deborah Balthazar** and **Amanda Surujnauth** received the first-place Outstanding Poster Presentation award for their project "What Is on Your Toothbrush? Are You Brushing with Fecal Matter?" Student **Gianna C. Klucker** received the second-place Outstanding Poster Presentation award for her project "Creation of a Novel Deodorant Using Essential Oils."

Biology students **Shanice Edwards** and **Roksana Korbi** took part in the PULSE Premedical Urban Leaders Summer Enrichment Program at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. PULSE provides exposure to the medical professions and focuses on urban health.



Veronica Guirguis was accepted into the 2017 Diversity Summer Internship Program at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. She researched "Detection of IL-6 in Hepatitis E Virus Infection."

**Stephen Han,** a biology major and chemistry minor, was awarded the Kiwanis Club of Caldwell-West Essex scholarship, given to a rising senior who has exhibited excellence in community service, campus involvement, and academic achievement.

English major **Eya Haddouche's** paper on the play "A View from the Bridge" was





accepted for publication in the Arthur Miller Journal's fall 2017 issue. While a student in 2016, she attended the English Department's first undergraduate literature conference, "Literary Losers and Anti-Heroes," at which she heard Dr. Stephen Marino, keynote speaker and editor of the journal, speak about how Miller's work has affected the literary, dramatic, political and cultural landscape for decades. The previous year Haddouche had written an essay for English Professor Mary Lindroth's modern drama class after students in Lindroth's class had attended the Broadway production of "A View from the Bridge" as part of a yearly drama trip to New York City sponsored by the English Department. They were given an assignment to compare and contrast the written play with the performance. Hearing that the journal accepts student submissions, Haddouche submitted her paper for consideration.



Recent Caldwell graduate **Kerry McGrath '17** and senior **Daniele Rocca**attended the NEW Leadership<sup>TM</sup>
program at the Eagleton Institute of
Politics June 8-13.

Spanish and secondary education student **Hannah Morris** was awarded the Dr. Cleon Capsus scholarship from the international foreign language honor society Phi Sigma Iota. Morris used the scholarship on a summer study-abroad trip to Segovia, Spain, led by Modern Languages Professor Rosa Sanchez.

Education Division graduate Samantha Parigi '17 received a statewide award for her student teaching. Parigi was selected for a 2017 New Jersey Distinguished Clinical Intern Award from the state Department of Education and was honored at a ceremony in June. Kristen Kowalski '17 and Victoria Sabatino '17, also education majors, won New Jersey clinical intern awards.



## STUDENTS TESTIFY IN TRENTON ABOUT COLLEGE HUNGER

Students Yaskayra Gonzalez and Gavin
CoBourne testified before a New Jersey Senate
committee in January on college hunger and
nutrition issues. Both have used the Caldwell
University Cougar Pantry. Gonzalez said she
was happy to have the opportunity to raise
awareness since many people do not know
that college students in New Jersey face
hunger issues.

The Caldwell food pantry aims to show compassion for members of the university community who face issues of food insecurity or hunger.

It was started by retention specialist Maureen McNish and English Department faculty secretary Alison Self.

For a list of items to donate, go to www.caldwell.edu/cougar-food-pantry or email cougarfoodpantry@caldwell.edu.

### ALUMNA RECEIVES FULL SOCIOLOGY DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP



Alumna Ketty Fernandez '14 has received a full scholarship for her doctoral studies in sociology at the University of Central Florida. She received her master of arts in applied sociology with honors from UCF in May.

During her master's studies she engaged in a number of research projects and presented at conferences. In the summer of 2016 Fernandez had a graduate teacher assistantship that made her consider the possibility of academia. She was selected for a 2017 summer mentoring fellowship at UCF

in which she analyzed whether serial murder victims differ based on region and presented that research at the Homicide Research Working Group conference in Memphis.

Last April, Fernandez found time to visit Caldwell's campus for the annual Educational Opportunity Fund banquet. The first in her family to go to college, she recalled how during her undergraduate studies she benefited from the Educational Opportunity Fund and Tuition Aid Grant Assistance program, known as TAG. EOF, she said, was a great support system, and "if it had not been for TAG, I would not have continued. TAG determined whether I stayed or left." She graduated from Caldwell with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

"Caldwell was my foundation. My professors were so approachable and supportive, and (they) helped you believe in yourself." Fernandez carries much of what she learned at Caldwell with her. "It's home away from home. I do feel tied (here)—in a good way."

# Dominican Connection

# STUDY-ABROAD HIGHLIGHTS HISTORY OF CATHOLICISM IN SPAIN

The history of Catholicism in Spain was the focus of a study-abroad program in Segovia, Spain, from May 31 to June 28. Led by Dr. Rosa Sanchez of the Modern Languages Department, six students lived with host families, immersed themselves in studies of culture and language, and studied the interaction of Catholics with Muslims and Jews.

They earned six credits taking two classes—one focusing on the Catholic tradition in Spain and another on either language or culture. "My favorite part of the study-abroad experience is how the class material becomes a lifestyle for the month for the students," said Sanchez, an assistant professor of Spanish language, literature and culture.

After reading "Dark Night of the Soul," a poem by the Spanish mystic St. John of the Cross, the students visited his tomb in Segovia. They studied the Muslim occupation of Spain, which lasted from 711 to 1492, and then saw mosques in Córdoba and visited the Alhambra. After reading an excerpt of Miguel de Unamuno's "The Christ of Velazquez," they toured the Prado Museum where they saw Diego Velazquez's painting "Christ Crucified," a work that inspired Unamuno's poetry collection.

They learned about the Spanish Inquisition, and Catholicism in literature, including the auto sacramentales (one-act religious plays traditionally presented during the feast of Corpus Christi).

In Segovia, they had the opportunity to attend Mass at the church at the Monastery of Santa María del Parral, home to some of the last remaining Hieronymite monks in Spain. Sanchez said the experience was beneficial in many ways. "Students were speaking Spanish everywhere they turned. Visiting cathedrals, historical buildings and museums was part of the itinerary."

Junior Hannah Morris said the best part was experiencing a different culture with the great new friends she made. "Even outside of class we learned so much and made so many unforgettable memories."

Sanchez says they are looking forward to offering the study-abroad trip again in early summer of 2018 .



Dominican Connection - Dr. Rosa Sanchez (far right) and her students by the Roman aqueduct in Segovia, Spain.



FOUNDATIONS OF
THE DOMINICAN
TRADITION IN ROME

Students explored the foundations of Caldwell University's Catholic Dominican tradition during a studyabroad course in Rome in the late spring.

Arranged and taught by President Nancy

H. Blattner and Vice President Sister Kathleen Tuite, O.P., the three-credit course focused on the historical, cultural, literary and religious foundations of the Christian church in Rome and on how the Dominican tradition emerged from that base.

The group was in the ancient city from May 23 to 31 and visited Roman sites including the basilicas of the apostles Peter and Paul and the Sistine Chapel. Students toured Dominican-themed spots like the Basilica of Santa Sabina and learned about Dominican saints. Rich Orsini, a junior, was "completely in awe" of the Renaissance sculpture Pieta in St. Peter's Basilica and thoroughly enjoyed the Colosseum and its "great Roman architecture."

Before the trip, students met at Caldwell for classes each week during the latter part of the spring semester. While in Rome they



#### took classes arranged through the Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas.

Angela Irvolino, also a junior, found something she cherished in every church"whether it was the ceiling or the priest talking about the love for his parish." Orsini enjoyed meeting the Dominican priests and learning about living the Dominican pillars of prayer, study, community and service in everyday life.

For Irvolino, the trip was a good chance for her to meet other students since she is a commuter who does not stay after class. "I made a lot of new friends." She was grateful to get to know Sister Kathleen, who was "amazing in explaining the Dominican tradition," and President Blattner, "a true role model. Her heart is so big." Orsini too was thankful to Dr. Blattner and Sister Kathleen "for trusting us young adults and giving us the opportunity. I hope they continue the program."

While for many of the participants, the trip to Rome began as an opportunity to visit well-known tourist attractions, such as the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps, the journey became more of a spiritual pilgrimage, according to Blattner, who said that "students indicated their desire to think more deeply about their faith and how their choices as college students

Students indicated their desire to think more deeply about their faith and how their choices as college students affect others.

can affect others." Both Blattner and Sister Kathleen were gratified that the 18 students in the course mastered not only the content offered but lived out the Dominican pillars of prayer, study and community while on the trip. Another study-abroad trip to Rome is being planned by Blattner and Tuite for spring break 2018. ■

## **Alumna Research Fund Gives Math Student Chance to Present** at National Conference

Mathematics student Emily Romero presented research from her internship at Columbia University at the Anxiety and Depression Association of America conference in San Francisco in April thanks to the help of alumna Ann Larue '69 and her husband, John. Romero, who graduated in May, will be pursuing a master of science degree in biostatistics at Columbia this fall.

Last year the Larues established the Ann and John Larue Research Fund, an endowed scholarship for mathematics and science students. The fund provides grant support for student research in areas of scientific inquiry and underwrites travel for attendance at regional and national conferences.

Attending a global conference allowed Romero to connect with professional clinicians and researchers. "Not only did I present the research I worked on this summer, I was able to go to workshops and sit in on a symposium."

Romero spent the summer of 2016 interning in the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, focusing on biostatistics.

She and the other student researchers worked on a study examining the relationship between stress experienced by insured people versus uninsured people who report to the emergency room with acute coronary issues. They presented that research at the ADAA conference. In 2017, she interned with the Columbia Department of Medicine's Behavioral Cardiology Office, managing its tracking devices to help the

Cowe everything to my center's private investigators evaluate medication adherence. She has since been hired part time by the center as a junior programmer.

Romero said that she was thrilled to work with the "brightest minds in the field" and that biostatistics is a field in which "you



Mathematics major Emily Romero presented research from her internship at Columbia University at the Anxiety and Depression Association of America conference.

are truly using your skills to try to save the world." While at Columbia, she completed courses in biostatistics and statistical analysis. "I owe everything to my teachers at Caldwell," she said.

Her advisor, Math Department Chair Dr. Patricia Garruto, visited the first site

teachers at Caldwell. ")

in 2016 and said the internships were great opportunities for students to work with talented personnel.

Caldwell is deeply grateful to Nancy and John Larue for their support for and commitment to the study of mathematics and science.





New York Life is now an official corporate partner of Caldwell University. L to R: Alan Babbitt, partner, New York Life, Dr. Nancy Blattner, president, Caldwell University; Coop the Cougar, Nick Iannitelli, managing partner, New York Life; Maria Bruscianelli, financial services professional, New York Life; and Kevin Boyle, vice president for development and alumni affairs, Caldwell University.

#### **NEW YORK LIFE - PROUD TO BECOME OFFICIAL FINANCIAL** SERVICES SPONSOR FOR CALDWELL UNIVERSITY

Caldwell University is proud to announce its partnership with NY Life Insurance Company and welcomes the organization as the newest sponsor of Caldwell University. New York Life, a Fortune 100 company, is the largest mutual life insurance company in the United States and one of the largest Financial Services companies in the world. "We are pleased to have a company of NY Life's standing as a corporate sponsor," said Dr. Nancy Blattner, Caldwell's president. NY Life will make its services available to campus employees, alumni and students.

NY Life Managing Partner Nick lannitelli said, "As a native of New Jersey, Caldwell University is well known to me. I am impressed with its growth in recent years, its commitment to students and its impact on the community. NY Life is pleased to partner with Caldwell University and we look forward working together for many years."



Shyam Sharma '17 presents President Nancy Blattner and Alumni Association Board President Mary Sellitto-Curcio '83 with a branch from the Class of 2017 dogwood tree that will be planted along Lady Lane.



#### PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Michael Kambourakis and Edward R. Collins were recipients of the 2017 President's Award at the 42nd annual Caldwell University Presidential Scholarship Gala in April. Kambourakis, a philanthropist and owner of Terzako
Furs in Caldwell, was honored for the integral work he
does with two nonprofits – the SEARCH Day Program in
Ocean, New Jersey, and the Domlinican Republic Relief
Organization. Collins, a Caldwell graduate and current member of the university's board of trustees, was honored for his consistent and generous support of the university and several other nonprofits. He is the founder of Artisan Wealth Management, a private wealth management firm in Lebanon, New Jersey. Proceeds raised at the gala support student scholarships



#### **GOLF OUTING**

The 29th annual Caldwell University Golf Outing was held on June 26 with proceeds benefiting student scholarships. Many thanks to our title sponsor, Artisan Wealth Management, and to all the golfers and sponsors who came out and supported us that day. Pictured here: Edward R. Collins, '98, (second from left) founding partner and wealth advisor with Artisan Wealth Management, along with members of his foursome.





Celebrating Veritas Award honorees (front row, L to R) Meg Poltorak Keyes '75, Sister M. de Montfort Kinchellagh, O.P. '66, Dr. Nancy Blattner, Chair Joan Galla Reamer '69, Mary Sellitto-Curcio '83. (Back row, L to R) Peggy Jordan Romano '71, Rosemary Hilbert '96, Nancy Hurtz Soyka '71, Beatriz Gomez-Klein '73, Elaine Bauer Zabriskie '73, Carlos Pomares '93, Sally Ward Kelly '57, Barbara Ziglear Buechner '76, Angela Aiello Zaccardi '58, Helen Babits '66.



Dr. Blattner with the 2017 Veritas Award honorees Elaine Bauer Zabriskie '73 (Excellence in Quality Technology), Sister M. de Montfort Kinchellagh, O.P. '66 (Excellence in Social Justice) and Carlos Pomares '93 (Excellence in Cultural Activism).



#### **MAUREEN LYNCH '67:**

# Making a Difference for Generations of Kids

CI couldn't have asked for a

better ride in this life. ""

Once, when Cambridge, Massachusetts pediatrician Maureen Lynch was on rounds in medical school, her group came upon a patient who had been admitted because she fainted every time she went to the hairdresser. The rather overbearing instructor asked each person in the group, "What is it?" She returned at the end to Lynch, who had diagnosed a colloid cyst of the third ventricle. "How did you know that?" asked the instructor, to which Lynch replied, "I saw it on 'Marcus Welby."

Lynch's mantra: "It doesn't matter where you learn something as long as you remember it." This says a great deal about Lynch: her insatiable interest in diagnosis and absolute disregard of status and image.

When Lynch was 10 years old, her mother contracted Eastern equine encephalitis and lapsed into a

coma. Because she and her sister took alternate weeks off from school to care for their mother, Lynch had a great deal of contact with physicians. During that time her self-described "feeling of helplessness" became a desire to practice medicine.

At Caldwell, she was a leading biology student. Her fierce determination, coupled with her intelligence and drive, earned Lynch the distinction of class valedictorian.

The week before her sister's wedding, just as Lynch was about to enter medical school, her father died of a heart attack, leaving her with the sole responsibility of caring for her invalid mother. Lynch worked as a pharmacological researcher

for four years and earned a master's degree at New York University. She then entered the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, receiving her delayed M.D. in 1975, and completed her internship and residency at Boston Children's Hospital, earning a fellowship in adolescent medicine. Lynch then joined the Harvard University Group Health Plan, caring for children and serving as the pediatric department's head for more than 33 years.

Earlier this year, when the plan outsourced pediatrics, Lynch continued as its medical director, and she still works at Children's Hospital, serving as assistant in gynecology and assistant clinical professor since 1979. In this role she provides clinical care to infant

> and adolescent girls made vulnerable by developmental and/or physical disabilities.

Asked what has changed the most in her years of pediatric practice, Lynch replies, "The kids are the same; kids are great!" One of the challenges, she says, has been the impact of the internet and parents' access to a surfeit of information. Many who research online sources think they have diagnosed their child's problem and/or discovered a solution. Lynch asks them to describe their worst fear and then dispels it with dispatch. She says she views her job as ruling out potential problems so parents can sleep. "Let me worry until it's time to worry," is her regular, gently spoken admonition to parents.

Lynch says she has been "blessed with a good education and a wonderful



Dr. Maureen Lynch (right) in Haiti with her good friend Dr. Elaine Farrell. The two trained together at Boston Children's Hospital.

profession." In her desire to give back, for 14 consecutive years she has traveled to Haiti with a team of doctors working under the umbrella of the Haiti Mission of the United Methodist Church.

In her scarce leisure time she is a "sucker for rom-coms, particularly those from Nora Ephron," and enjoys spending time in London and on Cape Cod with her husband, Roger Stacey.

"Maureen has a reputation for being quite outspoken, especially about things she really cares about," he says. "The maddening thing is that she is almost always right." Her sage advice for Caldwell students: "Try to do the right things and fight for what you believe in." And in terms of choosing a career: "Know your passion and follow your heart."

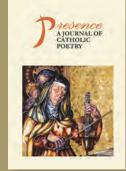
"I know I make a difference," she says, adding, "As I come to the end of a successful career, I am now in a position to motivate young people. I couldn't have asked for a better ride in this life."

—Christina Hall, with thanks to Roger Stacey

#### ANNOUNCING THE INAUGURAL ISSUE

### Presence: A Journal of **Catholic Poetry**

an international professional print journal of contemporary poetry, book reviews, and interviews edited and published by Mary Ann B. Miller, Ph.D., Caldwell University professor of English.



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# SPRINT FOOTBALL

# Coaching Staff Ready for Inaugural Season



2017 sprint football coaching staff (left to right): Mark Crisafi, Darnell Mangun, Daryle Weiss, Sal Montevago, Vincent Delle Fave, Ken Trimmer.

As Caldwell University Head Sprint Football Coach Daryle Weiss gears up for the program's first game this fall, he has assembled an impressive staff to assist him. Among his first hires was renowned James Caldwell High School coach Ken Trimmer as his top assistant. Also joining Coach Weiss this fall are Sal Montevago, Darnell Mangun, Mark Crisafi and Vincent Delle Fave.

Trimmer joins the Caldwell staff with over 50 years of coaching experience. He was the assistant coach for over 20 years at James Caldwell and the head coach for 23 seasons. Trimmer has been part of five New Jersey state championship teams, two (1997 and 2008) coming while he was the head coach of the Chiefs. He guided his teams to the postseason in 21 of his 23 seasons. Weiss and Trimmer worked together for two seasons when Weiss served as an assistant coach on Trimmer's staff.

Trimmer's experience in the New Jersey football world is extensive. He has been

involved with the Phil Simms New Jersey North-South All-Star Football Classic for over 25 years and with the Robeson East-West All-Star Classic for which he serves as treasurer. That game features the top high school seniors from Hudson and Essex counties against seniors from Passaic and Morris counties.

Montevago joins the Caldwell staff with over 40 years of coaching experience in New Jersey. He has been a varsity defensive coordinator at Pequannock, High Point, Sussex Tech and Kinnelon high schools. Montevago moved to the college level, joining the Cornell University staff as the freshman defensive line coach. He was promoted to the varsity defensive assistant coach the following season. He returned to New Jersey in 2006, joining the football staff at Ramsey High School as the assistant to the varsity defensive coordinator. He was promoted to varsity defensive coordinator for the 2016 season and coached the linebackers and the offensive line.

Mangun was the offensive coordinator and wide receiver coach for the past two seasons at Columbia High School. He previously served as an assistant coach at Weequahic High School and was part of the Barringer High School coaching staff. Mangun was also part of the defensive coaching staff four times for the North-South All-Star Classic and coached five times in the Robeson Classic.

Crisafi was the head football coach at Watchung Hills Regional High School from 2010 to 2014. He was part of the Union High School football coaching staff from 1996 to 2006. Crisafi was the assistant coach for six years and the head coach from 2001 to 2006.

Delle Fave comes to Caldwell from Dover High School where he was an assistant football coach for two years. He played sprint football at Post University for four seasons and was a First Team All-League defensive back as a senior.

-JT



# Sprint Football Team Takes Flight on September 16

The Caldwell University sprint football team takes the field for the first time this fall with seven games. The Cougars play their first game on Saturday, Sept. 16, as they welcome the University of Pennsylvania to Caldwell. The game is set for 1 p.m. The 2017 schedule features three home games, with the Cougars hosting Mansfield University 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, and Franklin Pierce University noon Saturday, Oct. 28. All home games will be played at James Caldwell High School in West Caldwell.



SAT. SEPT. 16	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA		1:00 P.M.
FRI. SEPT. 22	CORNELL UNIVERSITY	A	7:00 P.M.
SAT. SEPT. 30	POST UNIVERSITY	A	NOON
SAT. OCT. 14	MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY		1:00 P.M.
FRI. OCT. 20	CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE	A	7:00 P.M.
SAT. OCT. 28	FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY		NOON
FRI. NOV. 3	UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY	A	6:00 P.M.

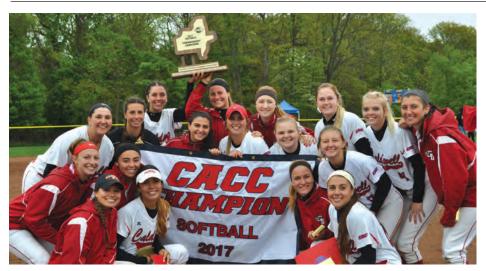


#### RE A DADT OF HISTORY

On Saturday, Sept. 16, the Caldwell University Cougars take on the Collegiate Sprint Football League defending champions University of Pennsylvania Quakers in the school's first ever sprint football game. Show your Cougar Pride by advertising in our Game Day Program or by sending a shout out to the players and coaches. Visit: www.caldwell.edu/sponsorship-program to show your support!

# WINTER AND SPRING RECAP

### SOFTBALL TEAM CAPTURES SEVENTH CACC TITLE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM EARNS FIRST NCAA TOURNAMENT BID



2017 CACC softball champions

The softball team won its seventh Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference championship this spring, defeating Philadelphia University in the championship game. Senior **Sydney Ponto** (West Deptford, New Jersey) was named the tournament MVP after going 4-0 in the circle to lead the Cougars to the title. Caldwell won the regular season title with a 25-1 conference record and finished 45-15, tying the single-season victory record.

Ponto was named the CACC Pitcher of the Year after setting the program's single-season victory record with 30 wins. Junior Marisa Monasseri (Monroe, New Jersey) earned her second straight CACC Player of the Year honors after leading the conference in on-base percentage, slugging, average, home runs, RBI and walks. She led Division II in walks and was ranked in the top 10 in the nation in batting average, RBI and walks. Monasseri was a First Team All-American honoree and the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Diamond Catcher of the Year. Ponto earned Third Team All-American honors. Monasseri was selected to the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-American Second Team, while Ponto earned Academic All-American Third Team honors. Ponto was selected as the Division II Conference Commissioners Association East Region Pitcher of the Year. Senior Lauren Frye (Jupiter, Florida),

junior **Kiahna Silva** (Etiwanda, California) and sophomore **Carly Testa** (Sicklerville, New Jersey) earned CACC First Team All-Conference honors, while freshman **Melissa Rini** (Fort Lauderdale, Florida) was named to the CACC Second Team. The Cougars made their tenth consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division II Championship Tournament.

#### **WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

The women's lacrosse team returned to the CACC tournament this spring for a second consecutive season. Senior Amanda Timmes (Pine Beach, New Jersey) earned CACC First Team All-Conference honors and is the first two-time all-conference honoree in the program's four-year history. Sophomore Rachel Lucia (Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey) was selected as the CACC Defensive Player of the Year and earned CACC First Team All-Conference honors. Sophomore Elizabeth Ruedemann (Monmouth Junction, New Jersey) and freshman Arden Kassaleh (Pompton Plains, New Jersey) were named to the CACC First Team. Kassaleh posted a single-season program record with 75 points and 65 goals.

#### **MEN'S TENNIS**

Senior **Maximilian Ziegler** (Erfurt, Germany) posted four wins at number-one singles and five wins at number-one doubles. Ziegler earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors for a second straight season.

#### TRACK AND FIELD

The track and field program had another outstanding season as the men's and women's teams finished in third place at the CACC championships. Freshman **Alexandra Greaves** (Huntington, New York) won the 100- and 200-meter dash events at the conference meet. She also set the school record in the long jump as she took second place. Greaves was selected as the CACC Track Rookie of the Year for her standout freshman season. The women's team earned the CACC Team Sportsmanship Award for demonstrating outstanding character and class throughout the season and at the CACC championship meet.

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's basketball team set a program record with 25 wins last season as it ended with a 25-6 mark. The Cougars won the CACC North Division with an 18-1 conference record and reached the CACC championship game. Caldwell earned its first bid to the NCAA Division II championship as the fourth seed. Junior Kristen Drogsler (Middle Village, New York) was honored as the CACC Player of the Year after leading the conference in scoring and setting the program record in three-pointers. She was named a D2CCA Third Team All-American and Women's Basketball Coaches Association Honorable Mention All-American. Drogsler was selected as the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association First Team honoree. She also excelled in the classroom as she received the CACC Top XV Award and was a CoSIDA Academic All-American First Team recipient.

#### **BOWLING**

The bowling team posted a 5-13 record in Northeast Conference play to qualify for the NEC championships as the sixth seed for a second straight season. The Cougars defeated fourth seed Saint Francis University and fifth seed LIU Brooklyn to advance to their first NEC Final Four. Caldwell repeated as the NEC Bowling Team Sportsmanship Award winner.

-JT



# CALDWELL ALUM TOREY NORTHUP-JONES '13 TO LEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM



Women's basketball alum Torey Northup-Jones '13 returns to Caldwell University this fall to lead the women's basketball program as its head coach. Northup-Jones will also serve as assistant athletic director and will oversee the Student Athlete Advisory Committee along with handling other administrative duties.

"I am very excited and honored to be returning to Caldwell as the head women's basketball coach and assistant athletic director," said Northup-Jones. "I want to thank President Nancy Blattner and Associate **Vice President and Director of Athletics** Mark Corino for giving me this amazing opportunity. I want to thank Coach Linda Cimino for recruiting me to Caldwell and coaching me and being a great inspiration along the way. It is such a privilege to be able to return to an outstanding university and coach a program I take so much pride in. I am thrilled to be back and look forward to mentoring and inspiring our players on and off the court."

Northup-Jones shined on the court for the Cougars from 2009 to 2013. She was named the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Rookie of the Year as a freshman and was a four-time CACC All-Conference selection, appearing on the first team three times. Northup-Jones was selected to the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association First Team in her final three seasons. She was a Daktronics First Team All-East Region



selection as a sophomore and was named to the Second Team as a junior. Northup-Jones was part of the Caldwell SAAC for four years and served as its president in her senior year. She finished her playing career with 1,850 points, 599 rebounds, 197 steals, 391 assists and 234 three-pointers. Northup-Jones ranks fourth in program history in scoring and is the all-time leader in three-pointers.

Northup-Jones returns to Caldwell after having served for three seasons as an assistant coach at Division I Binghamton University. She was the program's recruiting coordinator last season. While at Binghamton, Northup-Jones worked on player development with the team's guards and was responsible for three all-conference players, including the 2015 America East Rookie of the Year. She also assisted with scouting, recruiting, the team's academics and community service projects. Northup-Jones was responsible for creating a regional and national network with AAU and high school coaches.

"We are tremendously excited and pleased to welcome back Torey to our institution and

athletic department as our assistant director and women's basketball head coach," said Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics Mark Corino. "I believe Torey is extremely prepared to handle all facets of this position and will be motivated, dedicated and committed to our successful program. As a former outstanding student-athlete, Torey has a great knowledge and understanding of our mission and will lead in a positive manner. In working at Binghamton University for the past three years under Linda Cimino, our former head coach, Torey was involved in all aspects of coaching and was promoted to recruiting coordinator this past season, which has prepared her for this challenge. I am happy to provide her with this opportunity and am looking forward to working with her as she will now lead our program through this new and exciting era."

Northup-Jones received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Caldwell in 2013 and a master's degree in sport management with a specialization in coaching leadership from St. John's University in 2015.

--JT



# Alumna Tanya Freeman Honored as Family Lawyer of the Year

Caldwell University alumna Tanya Freeman, a partner at Weiner Law Group in Parsippany, New Jersey, was honored as Family Lawyer of the Year by the Hudson County Bar Association in April 18.

Freeman, who has represented professional athletes, television personalities and other high-profile celebrities, fondly remembers her days studying political science at Caldwell. She returned to school as a mother with six children and as a full-time employee at Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. "I really invented myself in my late 30s, and it started at Caldwell. It was so good for my kids to see that Mommy went back." She still proudly hangs in her office the plaque she received for earning the highest grade point average in the Political Science Department.

Before entering the legal world, Freeman led audit teams for over a decade. She was licensed to practice law in New York and New Jersey in 2012 after graduating cum laude from Touro Law Center. In 2014, Gov. Chris Christie appointed Freeman to the board of directors of University Hospital in Newark, where she chairs the Governance, Ethics and Legal Committee. The Thomson Reuters list of New Jersey Super Lawyers named her a "rising star" for two consecutive years. She was also elected to the board of trustees of the Hudson County Bar Association in 2016.

Freeman recalls how she was inspired to start studying at Caldwell. While working for Blue Cross Blue Shield, she was staffing a career fair booth in Caldwell's cafeteria and decided to look into enrolling. She



Caldwell University alumna Tanya Freeman, a partner at Weiner Law Group, was honored as Family Lawyer of the Year by the Hudson County Bar Association in April.

was 60 credits shy of her undergraduate degree. Soon she was attending classes and was on her way to gaining her bachelor's degree. "I'm still friends with my Caldwell classmates," she says.

As a divorce lawyer, she tells her clients her story so they know that no matter what their age or state in life there is great hope and that they too can take the steps to reinvent themselves.

—CL

## **Nursing Alumna Helps Save a Life on Flight**

Courtney Donlon '16 will be telling the story for the rest of her life. When the nursing alumna boarded a flight home to New Jersey from a vacation in Las Vegas little did she know that she would help save a woman's life.

It was May 22 and Donlon settled into her seat on the connecting flight from Fort Lauderdale. Shortly after falling asleep, she was awakened by a flight attendant on the loudspeaker asking if any medical personnel were on the airplane. Donlon stood up, but because she appeared young, the attendant looked away. A nurse at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Donlon quickly grabbed her registered nurse badge, and the airline attendants had her take over. With few supplies—a stethoscope and blood pressure cup—Donlon could see that the passenger was exhibiting symptoms of a heart attack, "those that are characteristic of a woman," she said.

She remembered to apply MONA, which stands for morphine, oxygen, nitroglycerin and aspirin, the protocol medical professionals use to treat acute coronary syndrome. "They had oxygen and I knew I could find aspirin," said Donlon. Then the flight captain asked to speak to her.



Alumna Courtney Donlon '16 when she was a nursing student at Caldwell.

On Donlon's advice, the pilot landed in South Carolina where the military and paramedics were waiting for the patient. By that time Donlon and the woman had a nice rapport going, and Donlon held her hand to make her feel comfortable until the paramedics took over.

After the adventure, Donlon immediately called her mother, also a nurse, who was proud of her daughter. "When I hung up my entire family called me."

Nursing Department Chair Brenda Petersen, Ph.D., said the department faculty are very proud of their alumna. "It was no surprise when we heard the news that Courtney had taken the initiative to help a fellow flight passenger in distress. During her time as a student at CU, Courtney not only excelled in our rigorous undergraduate nursing degree program, she was a strong advocate for patients as well as her classmates."

A nurse in the ICU step-down respiratory care unit at Robert Wood Johnson, Donlon appreciates the preparation she received as a nursing student at Caldwell. "The small class size made it desirable. The individualized attention made the education so focused, and the professors could go in depth." The hospital field experiences were very worthwhile, she said, especially working on the dedicated education unit at Morristown Medical Center. Having a full caseload at Morristown gave her the experience of "time management, efficiency and effectiveness," which she believes made her more marketable with potential employers.

Looking back on that memorable flight, Donlon will carry two lessons with her. "One, you're always a nurse, at the supermarket or on a flight." And two, "No matter how old you are, you have to be assertive when you step up. You have to keep cool for everybody else."

—CL



# Alumni President

#### LETTER FROM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD PRESIDENT **MARY SELLITTO-CURCIO '83**



#### Dear Fellow Alumni,

As president of the Alumni Association, I am truly honored to represent such a prestigious and flourishing organization. It is a time of great excitement as we look toward a future filled with growth and opportunity here on campus. This past May we were excited to welcome the largest graduating class—482 students—into the Alumni Association.

I am proud to share that once again this year, every Alumni Association board member made a personal financial commitment to Caldwell University. I would like to thank the board for its

generosity and extend my sincere appreciation to all fellow alumni who have joined us in supporting our alma mater. I encourage others to follow this lead in donating your time, talent and treasure.

Autumn brings us two exciting events. The inaugural sprint football game on September 16 promises to be a momentous occasion. We will gather to cheer on our new Caldwell University sprint football team! We will begin the day with an alumni tent kickoff tailgate party and will continue to celebrate throughout the game.

Homecoming weekend, beginning on September 22, will be filled with fun and plenty of time to reconnect with friends, faculty and staff. Come and see the new enhancements to our jewel on the hill, perhaps touring our wonderful new Art Therapy Center. We have much to celebrate!

I hope that you will join me at both of these events. This September would be a perfect time to come home and see the wonderful changes that are enriching Caldwell University's student experience.

2016-17 CALDWELL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

With best regards, Mary Sucito Curcio

Mary Sellitto-Curcio '83

President, Caldwell University Alumni Association

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Mary Sellitto-Curcio '83

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### in memory of...

Please remember these deceased alumni and family members in your prayers.

Eleanor Marra '44

Marjorie E. Kunst Sister-in-law of Charlotte Kunst '47 and

Margaret Reilly McGovern '48

June Lenore Davey '49

Eileen Brenna Burke '54

Aili Liu Wang '55

Richard V. Ott Husband of Joan Pollard Ott '58

Sister Elizabeth Marie Mason, O.P. '58

Sister Barbara Jukins, O.P. '61

Margot McGurn Dudak '62

Margaret Drew Heaney '62

John H. "Jack" Lucey Husband of Jean Hughes Lucey '65

Catherine Anne Ackerman Melvin '65

Patricia Blackwell Clomegah '67

Mary Ann Ferns Shanley '67

Sue Ellen Makosky Niebling '67

Janice Webb '67

Monica Chiarello Kilewski '71

Mary Kathryn Dalessio '71

Marilyn Viscardi Salzano '74

Hilda Costanzo '93

Barbara Deming Etzel '98

Linda Barrick Squires '99

John Cowan '02

Judith Croce, M.F.A. Professor of Fine Art





#### **SAVE THE DATE**

### HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

**SEPTEMBER 22 AND 23** 

### SPRINT FOOTBALL

HOME SPRINT FOOTBALL GAMES AT JAMES CALDWELL HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 16 • 1 P.M.
COUGARS VS. UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

OCTOBER 14 • 1 P.M.
COUGARS VS. MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 28 • NOON
COUGARS VS. FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY

### CONCERTS

MIRIAM EDELSTEIN SENIOR RECITAL
SEPTEMBER 16 \* 8 P.M. \* ALUMNI THEATRE

FACULTY FAVORITES
SEPTEMBER 23 • 6:30 P.M. • ALUMNI THEATRE

GARDEN STATE OPERA
OCTOBER 22 • 4 P.M. • SC AUDITORIUM

SOLO AND CHAMBER CONCERT NOVEMBER 8 • 8 P.M. • ALUMNI THEATRE

JAZZ ENSEMBLE CONCERT
NOVEMBER 16 \* 8 P.M. \* SC AUDITORIUM

SMALL ENSEMBLE CONCERT
NOVEMBER 28 8 P.M. ALUMNI THEATRE

CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR
DECEMBER 8 \* 8 P.M. \* SC AUDITORIUM

### ADMISSIONS EVENTS

ADULT UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE INFORMATION SESSIONS

**OCTOBER 14 • 10 A.M.** 

NOVEMBER 18 • 10 A.M.

**DECEMBER 7 • 6:30 P.M.** 

### FALL AND WINTER MASSES

AUGUST 26 • 3:30 P.M.
ORIENTATION MASS • STUDENT CENTER GYM

SEPTEMBER 13 • NOON
MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT • STUDENT CENTER GYM

SEPTEMBER 23 • 10:30 A.M.
HOMECOMING MASS • ALUMNI THEATRE

NOVEMBER 1 • NOON
ALL SAINTS DAY MASS • MOTHERHOUSE CHAPEL

DECEMBER 6 • NOON
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS LITURGY • STUDENT CENTER GYM

DECEMBER 8 NOON
FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
MOTHERHOUSE CHAPEL

JANUARY 29, 2018 • NOON FEAST OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS • MOTHERHOUSE CHAPEL

THERE WILL BE A WEEKLY 8 P.M. MASS HELD IN MOTHER JOSEPH RESIDENCE HALL CHAPEL ON SUNDAYS THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER