

# CALDWELL UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

# EOF

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND

**CELEBRATES 50 YEARS**



ALSO INSIDE:

BRINGING STUDENTS FROM  
THE PAGE TO THE STAGE

RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER  
OF GRADUATES

REMEMBERING SISTER  
VIVIEN JENNINGS

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**CALDWELL UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE  
FALL 2018**

Caldwell University Magazine is produced for alumni and friends twice each year by the News and 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](mailto:cumagazine@caldwell.edu).

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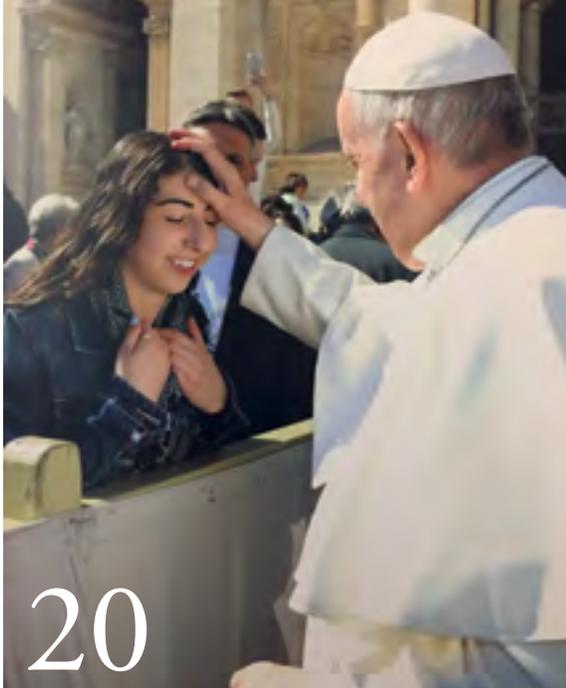
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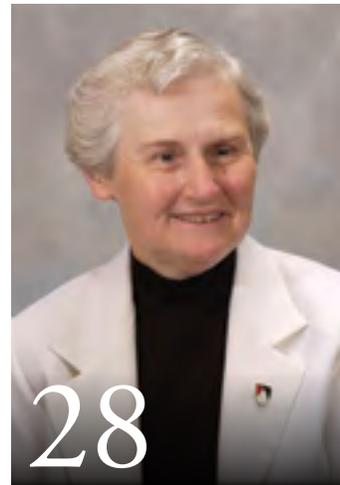
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*Blessed by the Holy Father*



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*Remembering Sister Vivien Jennings*

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*COVER: Andrei St. Felix, director of the Educational Opportunity Fund, with EOF students. St. Felix holds the 2018 Caldwell Cup award she received at honors convocation. She says this is also the students' award because "it is their hard work and resiliency that elevate the program and give meaning to what I do."*



# Dear Friends of Caldwell University,

A few short months ago, Caldwell graduated a record number of students when the university awarded over 500 degrees to undergraduate, master and doctoral candidates. Now, as the fall semester begins, we welcome the largest freshman class in the history of the institution. During a time when high school graduates are declining, this is fantastic news for the university.

In this issue, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF), a program that assists capable and motivated New Jersey students who come from economically challenged and academically disadvantaged backgrounds. Caldwell is proud to have 132 EOF students on campus this fall.

A highlight from last spring was the study abroad trip that Sister Kathleen Tuite and I led to Rome with students in our class, Catholic Dominican Foundations: Rome. During that trip, students visited the Mamertine Prison where St. Paul was held before being beheaded. We also went on the Scavi tour under St. Peter's Basilica and saw the bones of our first pope. At the weekly papal audience, Stefanie Konboz, one of our students, was personally blessed by Pope Francis—an experience that will long be remembered by all of her classmates, Sister Kathleen and me. What a moment of grace!

I know you'll enjoy the magazine's feature on Professor Mary Lindroth, who utilizes her love of theatre to enhance her students' classroom discussions. You'll also read about two shining examples of Caldwell alumnae: the amazing journey of Beatriz Gomez-Klein from Cuba to Caldwell and how she has used her life experiences to help others through her work in psychotherapy and Eileen Curtis, whose career path is marked by accolades in culture and the arts. All three of these women represent the spirit of Caldwell University.

The next time you are on campus, please stop by the newly renovated lobby in Werner Hall. This summer, Gourmet Dining, our food service provider for the past eight years, created an exciting new look, expanding the beverage and food offerings in Café '39 and refreshing the lobby and stairwell. The updated space now provides additional indoor and outdoor seating for students, faculty and staff. We're grateful to Gourmet Dining for this investment in the campus.

Earlier this year, Caldwell University lost one of its visionary leaders, Sister Vivien Jennings. Serving as president from 1984-1994, Sister Vivien made the historic—and difficult—decision to transition an all-women's college to a co-educational institution that welcomed men for the first time in 1986. You can read more about the rich intellectual and spiritual life of this Sister of St. Dominic who had such a tremendous impact on our institution later in this magazine.

As I close my letter, I'd like to invite each of you to come back to campus this fall. I hope you'll plan to attend Homecoming and Family weekend on September 22 or maybe our sprint football contest against the Naval Academy on October 13. You can find the details for these and other exciting campus events in this issue on our website!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy H. Blattner". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D., OPA  
*President*





CALDWELL  
UNIVERSITY

# HOMECOMING

AND FAMILY WEEKEND

9.21.18-9.22.18

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING WEEKEND OF EVENTS WITH FAMILY AND FELLOW ALUMNI!

## FRIDAY, SEPT. 21

### 12 noon:

Homecoming kickoff lunch  
(Student Center Dining Hall)

### 6:30 p.m.:

Women's volleyball match vs.  
Holy Family (Newman Center)

### 6:30 p.m.:

Class of 1968 dinner at Calandra's  
Italian Village in Caldwell, New Jersey

### 8 p.m.:

Student bonfire

## SATURDAY, SEPT. 22

### 9 a.m.-5 p.m.:

All-day check-in and late registration  
(Alumni Theatre Green)

### 9:30 a.m.:

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. Chestnut Hill  
(Soccer field)

### 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.:

Homecoming party on the plaza and  
barbecue (Newman Center Plaza)

### 12 noon:

Class of 1968 – 50<sup>th</sup> reunion lunch  
(The Gallery, Student Center)

### 1:30 p.m.:

Guided campus tour for the  
Class of 1968

### 1:30 p.m.:

Men's soccer match vs. Chestnut Hill  
(Soccer field)

### 2:30 p.m.:

50<sup>th</sup> reunion champagne reception,  
formerly known as the Golden  
Anniversary Tea (Newman Center Lobby)

### 3:30 p.m.:

Music Department concert: Faculty  
Favorites (Alumni Theatre). Reception  
to follow.

### 3:30 p.m.:

Women's alumni basketball game  
(Newman Center)

### 3:30 p.m.:

Class of 1968 "Just US"  
(Reference Room, Jennings Library)

### 4 p.m.:

Reunion class reception  
(Newman Center Plaza)

### 4 p.m.:

Alumni soccer matches (Soccer Field)

### 5 p.m.:

Athletics alumni reception  
(Newman Center Plaza)

### 5 p.m.:

Class of 1968 celebratory buffet  
(Cougar Den, Student Center)

### 7 p.m.:

Men's sprint football game vs. St. Thomas  
Aquinas (James Caldwell High School)

## SUNDAY, SEPT. 23

### 9:30 a.m.:

Class of '68 farewell brunch  
(Crowne Plaza Fairfield)

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?

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# FROM THE ASHES OF THE 1967 RIOTS: HOPE AND THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND

IN JULY 1967 THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, THE COUNTY OF ESSEX AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY WERE SHAKEN TO THE CORE BY THE FIVE-DAY RIOTS THAT RESULTED IN 26 DEATHS, HUNDREDS OF INJURIES AND DAMAGES IN THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

The Educational Opportunity Fund emerged from the ashes of the Newark riots. New Jersey’s chancellor of higher education, Ralph A. Dungan, proposed the program for special assistance to students from financially and educationally disadvantaged areas. It stemmed from the Select Commission on Civil Disorders, known as the Lilly Commission, which made its report to the governor and the state Legislature, recommending programs to address the conditions that underpinned the riots. The Educational Opportunity Fund was enacted in 1968; the legislation was sponsored by Thomas Kean, an assemblyman and future governor.

“From that struggle and perilous time was born the opportunity to assist students who were financially and/or academically below

the admissions criteria to attend colleges and universities in the state of New Jersey,” said Andrei St. Felix, director of Caldwell’s EOF program.

Former Caldwell College President Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., was the founder of Caldwell’s EOF program. “She cared deeply about the education and personal growth of New Jersey children. I share her vision and passion for education, and that is why 50 years later we have an EOF program that is strong and continues to deliver on its promise to educate New Jersey youth,” said St. Felix.

St. Felix remembers that when the EOF office was in transition, Sister Vivien would come by every Friday to ask if the staff needed anything. “She wanted to make sure we had everything we needed for it to run efficiently.”

I am the daughter of a Newark public high school English teacher, and that sad period of history is imprinted in

my childhood memories along with the difference committed educators can make in the lives of young people. Dr. Marie Mullaney, historian and professor of history at Caldwell, was also the daughter of a Newark educator and also lived through the



Former Governor Thomas Kean and Andrei St. Felix at the 2017 tri-state EOF conference.



1993 EOF staff members Andrei St. Felix, then secretary; Dorian Douglas, director; Michael Nash, coordinator/counselor, and Eleanor Davis, counselor.



# EOF EVENTS

Newark riots. “Today, those events I lived through have become the history I teach. The 1960s changed America in many ways.

“... The EOF program is a beautiful symbol of new life that has made a difference in the lives of so many of our students.”

Our EOF program is a tangible reminder of those days, a wonderful symbol of hope and progress—like a phoenix, the mythical bird that emerges to new life from the death of its predecessor. The EOF program is a beautiful symbol of new life that has made a difference in the lives of so many of our students,” said Mullaney.

The Sisters of St. Dominic were involved in the history of that era in other areas, such as the founding of the Link School in Newark. Sister Vivien believed that to alleviate injustices they could contribute what they did best—educate.

In this edition of CU magazine we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the EOF and we remember Sister Vivien Jennings, who started the program, a beacon of light that shines brightly for Caldwell students today. ■

—CL



Anwa Khalil and Rokhana Korbi stacked up the honors at the annual EOF awards ceremony in May.



Members of the 2018 EOF graduating class with Director Andrei St. Felix (front row center) celebrate at the awards ceremony.



EOF students and staff volunteer for MESH, Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless, to help those in need at St. Peter Claver Church in Montclair, New Jersey.



# EOF STUDENTS

## SHANICE EDWARDS



*“Everyone should get to know EOF.”*

**Major:** Biology

**Hometown:** Magnolia, New Jersey

**How has the Educational Opportunity Fund enriched your university experience?**

It is a great experience to have so much support from everyone in EOF. You can always count on the EOF family as your family away from home. I have enjoyed volunteering with EOF at sites like the soup kitchen and mentoring younger EOF students. Everyone should get to know EOF.

**Activities:** Campus Ministry Club, Health Professions Clubs, Circle K Club, Rotary Club. In planning for my career I have worked as a pharmacy tech, shadowed physicians, and volunteered at a hospital. In between my freshman and sophomore years I took part in the Premedical Urban Leaders Summer Enrichment Program at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University where I learned about urban health.

**Future aspirations:** I want to be a family physician. I want to advocate for health and be able to treat actual internal issues.

## DENNIS MARTIN



*“The EOF staff not only motivates students but also helps them understand their potential and capabilities.”*

**Major:** Social Studies and Education

*“Social studies gives you the chance to think logically, ethically, reflectively and morally.”*

**Hometown:** Newark, New Jersey

**How has the Educational Opportunity Fund enriched your university experience?**

I was excited to start my college experience early by attending the EOF freshman summer program. EOF really opened my eyes about the autonomy a student has and the importance of learning about balance and thinking about how you live independently. I always think that if you are doing something you are not supposed to be doing, you are wasting money. I love that the EOF staff not only motivates students but also helps them understand their potential and capabilities.

**Future aspirations:** I have always admired the job of teaching. My parents did not graduate from high school, but they raised me to always respect teachers. I notice differences in education like when schools in the inner city do not have recent books or still use chalk. I would like to teach in the urban environment, and I look forward to giving my students the best that I can.

## KARLA VENTURA '18



*“The EOF program helped me develop as a person.”*

**Major:** Nursing

**Hometown:** North Bergen, New Jersey

**How has the Educational Opportunity Fund enriched your university experience?**

The EOF program helped me develop as a person. Coming into college, I was shy, but I was able to hold leadership programs, go to leadership conferences including the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute Conference in Chicago and graduate as president of the Latin American Student Organization. The EOF summer college at Caldwell program before my freshman year attracted me to Caldwell. It gave me that little experience to get to know professors before the start of the semester. Once I started the EOF summer program I knew for sure that I wanted to come to Caldwell.

**Academics at Caldwell:** I enjoyed Research and Creative Arts Day. I also enjoyed the liberal arts aspect of Caldwell including my theology and communication classes.

**Activities:** I was corresponding secretary for the Caldwell University Student Nursing Association and class representative for EOF. I appreciate the mentor I had from EOF and I still keep in contact with her. Now that I have a mentee, I hope I can do the same. I also attended the spring break study abroad trip to Amsterdam during my junior year. I went through the RCIA program at Caldwell receiving my baptism, first Holy Communion, penance and confirmation.

**Future aspirations:** I plan to become a certified nurse midwife.



# EOF ATHLETES

## JUSTICE E. BASKIN '19



**Hometown:** Jersey City, New Jersey

**Major:** Secondary Education – Social Studies

**Activities:**

- Track and Field
- Dance team president
- Resident assistant
- Postal service (mailroom) employee

**How has the Educational Opportunity Fund enriched your university experience?**

The Educational Opportunity Fund enriched my experience at Caldwell in a variety of ways. Financially to socially, EOF has given me the tools to advance and do well while attending classes, seminars, conferences and internships. Out of all of the different ways my experience has been enriched by EOF, the most valuable is the support system I gained due to the relationships I built throughout my time as an EOF scholar at Caldwell. I now have the ability to access a catalog of people who are willing to give their unconditional support for the advancement of my education as well as my life. This catalog consists of alumni, other students, members of the Caldwell family who greatly interact with EOF, and most of all the EOF staff, past and present. There is nothing like walking into the EOF office and interacting with everyone; it is there where the university becomes a home away from home. If it was not for the Educational Opportunity Fund, I would not be the confident man I am today—confident not only in who I am but also in my educational goals.

## ELVIN DAVILA '20



**Hometown:** Cape May Court House, New Jersey

**Major:** Health Science

**Activities:**

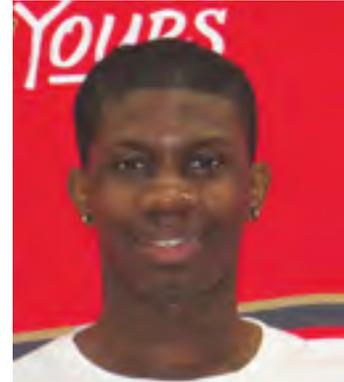
- Sprint football
- Student Athlete Advisory Committee

**How has the Educational Opportunity Fund program enriched your experience at Caldwell?**

EOF has enriched my experience at Caldwell by keeping me updated on campus activities I haven't heard about. I am involved with the football team, and I was a captain last year. I am one of the team representatives on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and participate in community service activities with SAAC. I have been inducted into the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success. Being able to come to college while being on time to every class and playing a sport helped shape who I am today.

“There is nothing like walking into the EOF office and interacting with everyone; it is there where the university becomes a home away from home.”

## KESHAWN WILLIAMS '19



**Hometown:** Middletown, New Jersey

**Major:** Criminal Justice

**Activities:**

- Track and Field
- EOF class representative
- Student Athlete Advisory Committee
- President of the Criminal Justice/ Sociology Club

**How has the Educational Opportunity Fund enriched your university experience?**

The Educational Opportunity Fund has had a huge impact on my college experience. The staff has provided me with endless support throughout my college career, ultimately becoming a third family for me aside from my team.

From connecting you with EOF alumni within your chosen career field to matching you with an upperclassman in the program to help tutor you, there is nothing the staff in the EOF office wouldn't do for us, and I am very grateful to be a part of this amazing program.



# EOF ALUMNI

*“EOF is a privilege.”*

## DHANDEVI DEOKIE '18



**Career:**  
Technician at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

**Caldwell University degree:** B.S. in health science

and public health education

**Caldwell University activities:** Worked as an assistant in the Office of Financial Aid as a work study student.

### What did the EOF mean to you when you arrived at Caldwell?

I am the first person in my family to attend college. My high school counselor mentioned EOF as a support system for college students. As a freshman, I was interested in being a part of it.

I was grateful to have the EOF program as an extra support system to help guide me along throughout my college years.

### What effect did the EOF have on your college and professional experience?

EOF had a very positive effect on my college experience. I received a lot of supportive services such as academic and career advisement, tutoring, and academic skills workshops. The EOF staff always strove to support us in making our career choices, and they did all they could do to help their students reach for the stars.

### What advice would you give to an incoming EOF student?

Getting accepted into the EOF program is a big opportunity for students. My advice to the incoming EOF students is to take advantage of the program and all it has to offer. Work hard and strive for excellence. Enjoy your college experience by trying new things every semester, and don't be afraid to go out of your comfort zone. Take advantage of everything you possibly can. Get to know your professors and classmates because at times they can be really helpful. Never be afraid to ask for help, and make the most out of your college experience.

## AMBERLY HERNANDEZ '12



**Career:**  
Senior auditor

**Caldwell University degree:** B.S. in accounting and a minor in management, M.B.A. with an accounting concentration.

**Caldwell University activities:** Resident assistant, worked in the Registrar's Office, worked at the security desk in the dorm.

### What did the EOF mean to you when you arrived at Caldwell?

To me, it was basically there to help me out financially but when I started and we had the summer program, it was so different because there I learned that the EOF staff was there to help me out. Any issues I had, personally, academically, they were there.

### What effect did the EOF have on your college and professional experience?

At monthly meetings, they bring speakers in; they talk about motivation and perseverance, things that you don't think about on a day-to-day basis. These people are in the workplace already. They prepare you and show you that this is what it is going to be like when you leave Caldwell and start your career.

### Why does the EOF matter?

As freshmen, you're going into a new school, meeting new people. We had the advantage of already knowing some people, and we became family. We would see each other around campus and in meetings. EOF prepares you. You need to have something in mind in terms of who you want to become. They helped us narrow our ultimate goals and focus on those that would mold us into the individuals we were meant to be.

### What advice would you give to an incoming EOF student?

EOF is there to support you, but at the same time, you need to do your work. You're the one that is in charge of your future, so a student needs to want to be in the EOF and want to be a successful person.

## DR. PATRICK LAMY '91



**Career:**  
Vice President of Student Affairs at Bloomfield College

**Caldwell University Degree:** B.A. in Biology

**Caldwell University Activities:** President of the Black Student Union, peer counselor, tutor counselor, resident assistant

*“I am part of a privileged group of people with a history that goes back 50 years.”*

### What did EOF mean to you when you arrived at Caldwell?

EOF was what I considered my family on campus. It was the support system I would need to be successful. The EOF office really was the most comfortable place on the entire campus at the time for me.

### What effect did EOF have on your college and professional experience?

The relevance of that experience as a student and young professional was critical to my career trajectory.

### Why does EOF matter?

EOF is celebrating its 50th anniversary. I think that starts the platform for why it should be supported. It makes a difference in our state in a very profound way. People are coming from underserved communities, and programs like EOF give students the opportunity to get the right kind of support to lead to the path of success.

### What advice would you give to an incoming EOF student?

Understand that you are a part of something bigger than yourself. Embrace the opportunities that are in front of you. College is an experience that goes by very quickly. Make sure that every second, minute, hour, day, week, month, every semester, every year is spent wisely. Make sure you make the right type of investment in yourself. EOF is a privilege. Not every student has that level of support.



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## STAFF FEATURE

# ANDREI ST. FELIX:

## AN EDUCATION IN PASSION



Everywhere you turn in Andrei St. Felix's office, you see pictures of students—smiling, confident groups of young people gathered at events and ceremonies, representing the many people who have passed through the Educational Opportunity Fund offices. But in the EOF program at Caldwell, you don't just "pass through" the college experience. Not if Andrei St. Felix has anything to do with it.

The EOF at Caldwell University works to provide a full range of career, academic, financial and spiritual support to its students. It is no accident, then, that St. Felix is at the helm of the department. She is a living example to students of what you can achieve if you commit to school, set

strong goals for yourself and put God at the center of everything you do.

St. Felix has a hunger for education that is contagious. After growing up in Haiti, she came to the United States with the goal of obtaining a college degree. When she saw a job at Caldwell College posted in the Newark Star-Ledger (she still has the clipping), she applied and was hired as the EOF secretary.

That was in 1992. St. Felix has stayed with the department, learning and advancing from secretary to counselor to assistant director and in 2009 to director. Thanks to strong mentorship from previous directors and a determination to grow and learn, she

took a path that led to her college degree, solid work experience, the directorship and much more.

"I love learning," St. Felix says, her face glowing as she describes her path to higher education.

After being hired at Caldwell, St. Felix began attending the college at night, first earning a degree in business administration and then a master's in contemporary management and another master's in pastoral ministry. She is pursuing her Ed.D. in the educational leadership program at Caldwell.

*"I have found my purpose, my passion, to educate young people."*

St. Felix's journey is painted with confidence, her goals checked off with fierce determination. That determination to stick to personal goals is central to the success of EOF students. As freshmen, they are asked to identify their long-term educational and career goals.

"The goal is to push them," St. Felix says of students, "to remind them, 'This is the goal.' We remember what they told us."

She recalls one student who came into the office and was shocked when St. Felix reminded her in detail of her life goals.

"How did you remember that?" the student asked.

"I remember because it meant something to you," St. Felix answered.

Life journeys are intensely personal, and that means something to St. Felix. She takes time to listen to students, to hear about their struggles and victories, and to gently remind them of the goals that



led them to college in the first place. Goals, goals and then, always, God. These guiding factors are never far from her when she is counseling students.

“That is what I like most about Caldwell University. I can talk about God. I can listen to students talking about their journey.”

Her faith background and her master’s in pastoral ministry help St. Felix advise students on how to be spiritually present as they go through life.

“Being spiritually strong helps you get stronger in other areas of your life.”

Knowing their goals and understanding their relationship with God are major components of a bigger picture that St. Felix encourages her students to see. These factors are a part of each person’s identity, and the concept of identity is second to none at the EOF.

St. Felix knows who she is, and she encourages her students to embrace their identities as well.

“I am a woman of faith. I am a woman who cares about other people. I am a woman who is liberated, free to do whatever I want to do. I am a woman who is not afraid to take risks.”

In an era when women more than ever are seeking a place at the table, St. Felix has found hers. Her responsibility to represent herself, black women and all women in places that lack diversity is not lost on her. It is woven into her identity.

“I am happy to represent. I have a responsibility,” she says with a smile.

St. Felix, a wife and a mother of two, has a passion for pursuing higher education. That is a core part of her identity, and she is passing it on to the next generation in her family.

Just as St. Felix’s strong sense of identity has been a key part of her success, it is a key for her students. In fact, the first workshop the EOF runs during its introductory summer program is called “Who Am I?”

During the academic year, St. Felix and her staff promote cultural events on campus, including gospel night, praise dancing

and Hispanic Heritage and Black History Month activities.

“If you do not know your roots, then something is missing,” St. Felix says. “That’s where you find your voice—when you know who you are.”

Armed with that knowledge, the alumni from her program have gone on to own businesses, serve as community leaders and work as doctors, teachers and lawyers. St. Felix is confident that with well-defined goals and hard work, many more will achieve their dreams. She will be there to help them along the way.

And so this woman, who has boldly woven together a tapestry of strong faith, fearless belief and a hunger for learning, is leading forward a group of students who are determined to succeed.

“I have found my purpose, my passion,” she says with confidence, “to educate young people.” ■

—Nicole M. Burrell '08

# EOF STAFF



**SADIA CHOUDHRY**

**Title:** EOF Counselor

**Quote:** “I am constantly inspired by how resilient our EOF students are. These students are some of the most hardworking individuals I have ever met. Through every obstacle, they persist and they rise! I hope I can have an impact on them as much as they impacted me. I am proud to be their EOF counselor.”



**MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ**

**Title:** EOF Counselor/Recruiter

**Quote:** “I get to come to work every day and support my students in accomplishing the very same dream I once had—to be the first in my family to graduate from college.”



**SUZANNE TESORO**

**Title:** EOF Office Assistant

**Quote:** “What is most rewarding about working for the Educational Opportunity Fund Department is the students. They really are the center of what the program represents, which is diverse backgrounds, personalities, values and most importantly the life-changing choices a young person makes during college.”



## FACULTY FEATURE

# MARY LINDROTH:

## BRINGING STUDENTS FROM THE PAGE TO THE STAGE

Dr. Mary Lindroth is passionate about attending theater, dance and the movies. She is equally enthusiastic about bringing the performing arts into her courses.

“Everything I know comes from what I’ve read, what I’ve seen on stage; that’s where I learn and I take that back into the classroom,” says Lindroth, professor of English. “In order to teach something, you have to be willing to do that something, so I’m a consummate audience member.”

Most weekends Lindroth hops the train to New York City to attend on- and off-Broadway plays, and ballet and modern dance performances. On her trip home, she often ponders how she can bring alive what she has just experienced to help her students develop their talents.

The English Department offers three performance classes: Great Drama and Performance, Shakespeare and Performance, and Modern Drama and Performance, and Lindroth has taught all of them. She has also taught just about every other English course from Freshman Writing and Shakespeare to Women’s Studies and Literature for English majors and non-majors.

Her style of teaching is focused on guiding students to learn about themselves, says alumna Eya Haddouche ’17, who received a Bachelor of Arts in English. “She would say, ‘I want it to come from you, not from me.’ That is a huge part of her ethic as a teacher.”

When Lindroth introduces performance to students who are initially shy or reticent, she works hard to help them feel comfortable on stage and to tap into their interests. “Instead of saying, ‘You don’t have these skills,’ I say, ‘You do have them. They are just buried. Let’s bring them to the fore so that if you need them, you can call on them,’” says Lindroth. When she asks students to take part in a performance exercise, she knows she has to model it first. “So if I’m willing to risk it and go out of my comfort zone, they should as well.”



“I was that shy student,” said Haddouche. “She uses her experiences to get her students to come out of their shells.”

Lindroth’s classroom is a place where students discover how the printed words from a play can come off the page into a performance. “For example, we will take Cinderella and look at the story and then look at the way the dancers perform it and what goes into it.”

Each time Lindroth teaches a drama course it becomes clearer to her how important performance experiences are for her students’ futures, no matter what they are majoring in. She is gratified to hear from alumni who tell her how beneficial an introduction to acting has been for them. She points to data showing employers are looking for people who can write, communicate, and present themselves.

Lindroth sees similarities between standing up in front of a class and being on stage. Even though she has been teaching for many years, like any good performer, she still “gets a little nervous” before she enters her stage, the classroom. That is when she draws on advice from her mother, Colette Lindroth, beloved professor emerita of English, who taught at Caldwell for over 50 years. “My mother always talks about it as a high-wire act. You cannot think about what you are doing before you go in. You just have to do it, and if you start looking down, you are going to lose your concentration, lose your focus and perhaps fall, but if you just go in and do it without thinking about it, then it becomes something else.”

And that ‘something else’ often means helping her students see how their classroom content relates to the



world around them. “I say, ‘Here’s the conversation that is being had right now’... whether it is the #MeToo movement or the anti-gun-violence marches” or other issues, she connects the discipline of English to the culture.

When Lindroth was a child, her desire for knowledge was fostered by watching her mother and her father, Dr. James Lindroth, a longtime English professor at Seton Hall University. Her parents were constantly learning; they surrounded themselves with books, always attended the theater, “read all the newspapers and were going to all kinds of (news) outlets.” Hearing her parents’ conversations about books was a “mini-course,” and she gravitated toward that, always wanting to learn more. But teaching English was not Lindroth’s first career choice. “I went into history to forge a route of my own.”

After earning a bachelor’s degree in history from Caldwell, Lindroth worked in a law office, thought about law school and did fundraising for Carnegie Hall. But the pull toward English won out, and she earned her M.A. in that discipline from the University of Iowa. A doctorate followed, also in English, at the same institution. “I’m a humanities person through and through. None of these disciplines are discrete or separate. They are all interconnected.” Her dissertation focused on Shakespeare and the Renaissance because she wanted to study something she might not have read on her own. Pointing out that film is a part of the humanities, she appreciates “the wonderful opportunity” of attending the Saturday morning movie screenings in New York City hosted by Professor John Yurko for the Media Educators Association. “The films he gets and the directors he interviews enrich my life. “What makes me know that I’m alive is being part of theater, dance and film experiences.”

Lindroth was chair of Caldwell’s English Department for nine years and worked on a number of committees including the Faculty Council and the Prioritization Committee when President Nancy Blattner arrived at



the university. “For me, committee work is important, who is on the committee (is important) and having a chance to work with colleagues on something that will get implemented is worthwhile.”

Lindroth values having colleagues “chip in” and work as a team to help each other get work done, as when the English Department develops courses that respond to the increased interest in creative arts. “We work well together.”

She is proud of the department’s recent accomplishments including hosting an undergraduate literature conference that

brought English majors from other universities and colleges to Caldwell in 2016.

In the spring, the department will introduce a new course that Lindroth created,

Solo Performance, in which students will write and perform their own work. The course grew out of a sabbatical experience Lindroth had in the fall of 2017 when she attended a workshop in New York City with solo performer Tim Miller. There she and others crafted their work into solo performances that became one work performed on the stage in Manhattan.

When school is not in session Lindroth enjoys visiting her three “beloved nephews” in Colorado. When they

come to New Jersey she has to impart her arts wisdom, taking them to the theater and the movies “whether they like it or not—I have that reputation,” she says with a laugh.

When the romantic drama “The Great Gatsby” came to the big screen, Lindroth took the boys and could not let the experience pass without analysis. “I say to them, ‘What was happening in the movie?’” With the print version of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel in hand, she had them discuss the differences between the movie and the book. “I love spending time with them.”

Whether Lindroth is with her nephews or with a student, learning must be underpinned by humanity. “Teaching is always about focusing on the human person,” she says. “The teaching-student relationship is so important. It transcends the classroom. They are not customers or future CEOs.” Her students appreciate that. Lindroth would take the time to meet one on one for rehearsal, says Haddouche. “Her criticism for papers was always focused on helping students strengthen what was already there.”

In the end, Lindroth wants her students to appreciate the ways the academic discipline of English can help them in just about every career and walk of life. “We want everyone to know what we know—that everyone should major in English.” ■

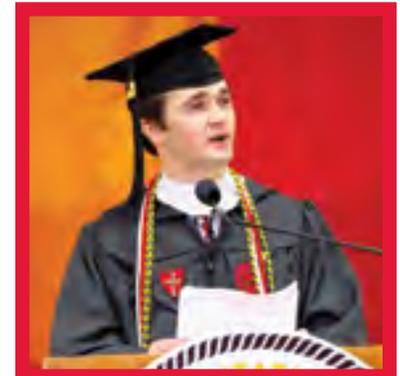
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“Everything I know comes from what I’ve read, what I’ve seen on stage...”





Danielle Hamblin, graduate ceremony speaker



Dennis Brady, undergraduate ceremony speaker

# CALDWELL UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES 76<sup>th</sup> Annual COMMENCEMENT WITH RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER OF GRADUATES

*Students are encouraged to be “amazing”*

Caldwell University celebrated its 76th annual commencement May 20 with a record-breaking 502 graduates.

Danielle Hamblin of White Township, New Jersey, delivered the student address at the graduate commencement ceremony, encouraging her fellow graduates to “be amazing.” Drawing on the words of a motivational speaker she once heard, she said the graduates need to take three simple steps to be successful. “Number one, wake up; number two, be amazing; number three, go to sleep.” It is obvious how to fulfill numbers one and three, said Hamblin, but number two is personal.

“It is up to each individual to define what being amazing is. Can you imagine if we all did?”

Hamblin received a doctoral degree in educational leadership with a special education concentration. She teaches as an adjunct on the college level and is director of special services for the Sparta public schools.

Dennis Brady of West Orange delivered the student address at the undergraduate commencement ceremony. “The close-knit family that we have grown into over these four years was something that none of us could have anticipated. Those bonds we will cherish forever—the sporting events we attended, the community service trips we went on—it all happened here on 120

Bloomfield Avenue,” said Brady. “We are now sent out to find our way in this world with the knowledge, and more importantly, the values of Caldwell that are instilled in us from the day we walked onto the campus.” Brady received a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication and media studies with a minor in business administration.

President Nancy Blattner presented doctoral students with their Ph.D.s and Ed.D.s, graduate students with their Master of Arts, Master of Business Administration or Master of Science degrees, and undergraduates with their Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. ■

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# Educational Leadership Doctorates

Educational Leadership doctoral students received their Ed.D. and Ph.D. degrees May 20. Danielle Hamblin, who was receiving her doctoral degree in educational leadership with a special education concentration, delivered the graduate ceremony commencement speech. Reflecting on her experience in the doctoral program with other students in the cohort, she said, “Caldwell provided us with mental challenges but not without the support of collegial partnership. I felt amazing when I knew I had contributed in meaningful ways to helping others on this journey.” ■



*L to R: Professor of Education and Co-Coordinator of Ed.D./Ph.D. Educational Leadership Joanne Jasmine; graduates Rachel Capizzi, Mary Kate Pretto and Brad Heimowitz; Professor of Education and Director of Graduate Studies Ellina Chernobilsky; graduates Humberto Bazquero and Robert Goman, Professor of Education Kevin Barnes, graduates Angela Paster, Danielle Hamblin, and Gail Clarke, and Associate Dean of the School of Education and Co-Coordinator of Ed.D./Ph.D. Educational Leadership Program Joan Moriarty. Students concentrate in K-12 Leadership, Special Education Leadership or Higher Education Leadership.*

## Research and Creative Arts Day



*Eva G. Kenfack Ngagwe presented her work on “Reduction of airborne microorganisms indoors with essential oils” at the second annual Research and Creative Arts Day on April 25. Ngagwe’s research was one of nearly 150 undergraduate and graduate projects. Among the judges were 27 alumni. Dr. Barbara Chesler, vice president of academic affairs, said the event was a testament to the Caldwell University community of scholars and the individual attention provided to students to advance their education. “In doing research projects, faculty and students journey together,” said Chesler.*

## Professional Day at JPMorgan



*J. P. Morgan executive Alma DeMetropolis hosted a roundtable for Caldwell undergraduate and graduate students at her company’s Summit, New Jersey, headquarters on Feb. 23. She is pictured here (front row, second from left) with Professor Bernie O’Rourke, associate dean of the School of Business and CIS (front row, second from right), and the students.*



## 2018 EMPLOYEE HONORS



**Albert Schnell**, operations manager for the Facilities 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. Virginia Rich**, professor in the School of Business and CIS and program coordinator of healthcare administration, received the 2018 “Excellence in Teaching Award” presented to the faculty member who best exhibits excellence in teaching, passion and enthusiasm for learning, and concern for students’

academic and personal growth.



**Andrei St. Felix**, director of the Educational Opportunity Fund Office, 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 that goes beyond mere job description and that uniquely benefits

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



**Angelina Scimone, Ph.D.**, professor of chemistry, and **Patricia B. Verrone, Ph.D.**, professor of English, were conferred as professors emeritus, a title that recognizes former faculty members who have distinguished themselves as outstanding teachers, researchers, administrators or professional leaders.



**Jennifer Noonan**, associate professor of art history, was selected for the Alvin B. Calman Endowed Chair which is based primarily on the faculty member’s prior scholarly activity and the potential for continued high levels of scholarly activity.

Graduate Faculty Mentorship Awards were presented to **Thomson Ling**, associate dean, School of Psychology and Counseling, and **Tina Sidener**, professor of applied behavior analysis. The honor is given to a faculty member who exhibits excellence in mentoring graduate students. The recipient of this award furthers the development of his or her graduate students as ethical, moral, culturally competent and scholarly professionals.



## Catholic History in Spain

*Dr. Rosa Sanchez (L), assistant professor of Spanish language, literature and culture, led the study-abroad course and trip “Catholic Tradition in Spain” in June. Students lived with host families for a month, improved their language skills and learned about the rich Catholic history and culture of Spain. Here they are visiting La Cueva de Santo Domingo where St. Dominic prayed during his stay in Segovia from 1218 to 1219. Pictured with Sanchez are students Allison Diaz, Milagros Acosta, Sara Bearden, Genesis Rivas-Mendoza and Aimee Jimenez. Not pictured: Emily Valerian.*



## Business in Italy

*Exploring global business and sport management in Italy—School of Business and CIS students visited Milan, Rome and Bologna during a winter short-term study-abroad trip to learn about business and sport management. The students and Professor O'Rourke, associate dean of the School of Business and CIS, are pictured at Ferrari headquarters in Maranello, Italy, where they learned about the marketing techniques of the iconic Italian luxury sports car manufacturer. They also heard about the global soccer business strategy of Inter Milan at San Siro Stadium in Milan and met with Nike representatives. A special treat in Milan was an afternoon seminar with John Genzale, the founder of the leading U.S. sport media industry publication in sport business, SportsBusiness Journal. They visited the Basilica of St. Dominic in Bologna and the Vatican and the Coliseum in Rome.*



# Faculty & Staff Notes

**Agnes Berki, associate professor of biology**, was featured in a story on faith and career on the Hungarian Duna Television Network in the March 31 episode of the “Five Continents—One Nation” series (Duna TV: Öt Kontinens—Egy Nemzet).

**Kyle Bennett, assistant professor of philosophy**, was on a panel on “How to Write—and Love Our Neighbor—When the World Is Burning” at the Festival of Faith and Writing at Calvin College in April. Bennett and a colleague gave a lecture at Yale University in June on “Looking for Joy in All the Wrong Places: An Augustinian Guide to Our Anxieties.” Bennett wrote an article for Public Justice Review titled “The Postures of Public Justice.”

**Ellina Chernobilsky, Ph.D., director of graduate studies and professor of education**, co-authored a chapter titled “Perspectives on teacher research: Teachers report challenges in examining classroom practice” with colleagues from William Paterson and St. John’s universities. The chapter has been published in the edited book on literacy program evaluation and development initiatives for P-12 teaching.

**Christopher Cimorelli, assistant professor of theology**, convened the topic session on creation and eschatology for the annual conference of the Catholic Theological Society of America, “Grace at Work in the World,” in Indianapolis from June 7 to 10. He presented a paper titled “Newman, Frankl, and Conscience: Individual Fulfillment and Ecclesial Belonging” at the 2018 gathering of the Newman Association of America, “Newman and 20th Century Thinkers,” in Atchison, Kansas, July 26 to 28. Cimorelli has been invited to be a member of the editorial board of the Newman Studies Journal, which is affiliated with the National Institute for Newman Studies (Pittsburgh) and published by Catholic University of America Press (Washington, D.C.).

**James Flynn, Ph.D., chair of the Theology and Philosophy Department**, presented six lectures on Eastern philosophies at Agudath Israel synagogue in Caldwell, New Jersey, during the spring semester. The series focused on a discussion

of the similarities and differences between Western and Eastern philosophy. Issues examined included Eastern philosophies in terms of their claims to be guides for life and goodness, the philosophies of Confucius and the major thinkers within his tradition, Tao Tse and Taoism, and the philosophical connections and challenges in engagement with Buddhist and Hindu thought.

**Joanne Jasmine, Ed.D., Edith Ries, Ed.D., and Ellina Chernobilsky, Ph.D., professors of education**, presented their paper “Action Research as a Tool to Inform Pre-Service Teacher Instruction” at the 2017 annual International Education Conference in Boston.



**Emma L. Kendrick, Ph.D., LPC, ACS, coordinator of graduate programs in counseling and associate professor in the School of**

**Psychology and Counseling**, and **Nadia Sabeh, graduate assistant**, presented in Atlanta at the national American Counseling Association conference.

**Colette M. Liddy, director of media relations**, completed the Public Relations Society of America Crisis Communications Certificate Program. She had an article published in *Aleteia* titled “5 Simple but powerful words of advice for any challenge,” reflecting on a section of the novel “Late Have I Loved Thee.”

**Mary Lindroth, Ph.D., and Doug Anderson, Ph.D., professors of English**, presented papers at the Conference on Women and Gender held at Seton Hall University on March 16. Lindroth presented a paper titled “A Stage of One’s Own: Women’s Bodies and the Solo Performance Form.” Anderson presented the paper “‘I Wanna ... Watch Him Burn’: Grief, Rage and the Problem of Masculinity in Louise Erdrich’s ‘The Round House.’”

**Bob Mann, chair of the Communication and Media Studies Department**, and **Nick Amabile, studio manager**, took first place in the talk radio category of the Garden State Journalists’ competition for an episode on Sirius XM.

**Sister Barbara Moore, O.P., professor emerita of theology and adjunct professor in theology**, gave the reflective presentation “Everyone Loves a Story” on selected biblical figures at St. Bartholomew’s study group in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, in March.

**Marie Mullaney, Ph.D., professor of history**, presented the two-part series “Catholics in the USA: Trials and Tribulations” on April 18 and 24 at St. Rose of Lima parish in Short Hills, New Jersey. Part one focused on “Catholics in the New World to 1776,” “Building an American Catholic Community 1776-1840,” “The Rise of the Immigrant Church 1840-1920” and “Catholic and American? 1815-1928.” Part two looked at “Reformers and Crusaders 1860-1945,” “The Triumph of Catholicism in America 1945-1965” and “Contemporary Issues and Challenges.”

**Brenda Petersen, associate dean of the School of Nursing and Public Health**, was honored at the Institute for Nursing Awards and Scholarship Gala on April 5 for being nominated for a Beacon of Light award, which recognizes nurses and community members for leadership, excellence in nursing and community impact.

**David Petriello, instructor in the History and Political Science Department**, is the author of a new book, “The Dragon at War: A General Military History of China,” published by Westholme Publishing.

**Kathleen M. Prendergast, MSN, RN, APN, PMHNP-BC, psychiatric nurse practitioner in Caldwell University’s Counseling Services**, co-authored a book, “Psychiatric Case Studies for Advanced Practice,” published by Wolters Kluwer in May. A guide to advance practice psychiatric nursing care, it offers real-world clinical scenarios and psychiatric evaluations.



**Kenneth F. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D, professor of applied behavior analysis,** was selected to serve on the editorial board of the journal *Psychological Record*. He was a co-author on five published research papers on applied behavior analysis. Dr. Reeve was a co-author on eight research paper presentations at the 44th annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International in San Diego where he also chaired a symposium on concept formation. He served as an invited panel member on issues pertaining to licensure for behavior analysts that was sponsored by the New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis.

**Sharon A. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA, professor of applied behavior analysis,** was a co-author on four recently published or accepted research papers. One concerned the use of computer-based training to teach clinicians to evaluate data graphs; another concerned methods for teaching joint attention to individuals on the autism spectrum; a third involved teaching children with autism spectrum disorder to identify environmental stimuli; the final paper involved using video to teach exercise to individuals with autism. Dr. Reeve was an invited keynote speaker at the Berkshire Association for Behavior Analysis and Therapy's mid-year conference where she spoke about the importance of programming for generalization of skills while teaching children with autism. She was a co-author on seven research paper presentations at the 44th annual convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International in San Diego where she also served as a discussant for the symposium "Considerations in Maintenance and Generalization Following Behavior Skills Training for Behavior Intervention and Teaching Procedures."

**Stephanie Sitnick, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology,** co-authored the article "Guided Goal Setting: A feasible obesity prevention behavior change strategy for low-income parents with young children" in the *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*.



**William A. Velhagen Jr., Ph.D., associate professor of biology,** presented a poster on his research "The Development of the Tongue and Tongue Sheath in Colubrid Snakes" at the annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology in San Francisco in January.

**Jason C. Vladescu, Ph.D., BCBA-D, NCSP, associate professor of applied behavior analysis,** co-authored four papers published in peer-reviewed journals—the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, *Behavior Analysis in Practice* and the *Journal of Special Education*—and had two invited chapters for "The Handbook of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy for Children on the Autism Spectrum." He co-authored 17 research papers presented at regional and national conferences. Vladescu accepted an invitation to join the board of editors for the peer-reviewed journal *Behavioral Interventions*.



**Marie Wilson Ph.D., ATR-BC, ATCS, ACS, LPC, recently retired professor from the School of Psychology and Counseling and coordinator of art therapy programs,** was

picked as a member of the Disciplinary Hearing Panel for the Art Therapy Credentials Board. Members of this panel are tasked with hearing cases reviewed by the ATCB's ethics officer.



**Caldwell University** received a second-place award from the Catholic Press Association in the category of Catholic college and university alumni/ae magazines for Best Personality Profile for "Bernie O'Rourke: An Irishman's Passion for Business."

**SEVERAL PROFESSORS IN THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENTED AT THE 66TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NEW JERSEY NURSING STUDENTS INC. MARCH 1 IN ATLANTIC CITY**

**Kathleen Boreale, MS, APN-C, CCRN, ACHPN, adjunct faculty member,** spoke on "Epilepsy Management: Caring for Patients and Their Families."

**Aneesha Jean, DNP, MSN, RN, CNE, assistant professor,** presented on "Health Literacy: Improving Patient Engagement Strategies."

**Kathleen Kelley, DNP, MSN, RN, CCRN, CNRN, associate professor and assistant director of the School of Nursing and Public Health,** presented on "Quiet Time Interventions for the Critically Ill Patient—Caring Measures for the Patient, Family and Staff."

**Mary Ellen Levine, MSN/Ed RN, CHPN, adjunct faculty member,** spoke on "End of Life: A Part of Nursing Education?"

**Donna Naturale, DNP, RN, APN, CDE, assistant professor,** presented on "Finding Balance: Transitional Care Nursing, Hospital to Home."

**Brenda Petersen, Ph.D., MSN, RN, APN-c, CPNP-PC, associate dean of the School of Nursing and Public Health,** spoke on "Promoting Resilience in Professional Nurse Practice through Mindfulness."

**CABINET NOTES**

**President Nancy Blattner** chaired the search for the new president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey. She spoke as part of an invited panel to incoming American Council on Education Fellows in Washington, D.C., in June. She served as chair of the Middle States accrediting team for Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh in April.



# Dominican Connection



Student Stefanie Konboz was blessed by Pope Francis at a general audience while she was on the Caldwell University Dominican Foundations Rome study-abroad trip.

## BLESSED BY THE HOLY FATHER

*Student living with cancer receives gift on Dominican Foundations Rome study-abroad trip*

“With God all things are possible.” Stefanie Konboz found herself saying that scripture verse as she walked into the majestic St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City. It was a morning in March, and Konboz, a Caldwell student who is living with thyroid cancer, had some very special prayers.

She and a group of six other Caldwell University students were on their way to Pope Francis’s Wednesday general audience as part of their spring break course, “Studying the Foundations of the Dominican Tradition in Rome.”

St. Peter’s is closed when there are papal audiences, but the group was with one of Pope Francis’s translators, who was taking them through the basilica when it is usually off limits. A few minutes into their visit, Caldwell President Nancy Blattner asked

Konboz if she could pray with her, and then to Konboz’s amazement she heard Blattner say, “With God all things are possible.” It was an affirmation of her prayer. Even though Konboz was hoping to receive Pope Francis’s blessing, she knew that even if she did not, going to the papal audience was “still an incredible experience.”

The group headed outside to the square to await the Holy Father’s arrival. It took a conversation or two with a gendarme and a Swiss guard and a show of her medical documents, but before she knew it, Konboz was being directed around a barricade and ended up a row away from the Holy Father. Soon Pope Francis was standing in front of her. Using the Italian she had become quite proficient in, from years of study in

middle school and high school, Konboz told Pope Francis she was a Syriac Catholic and explained her condition. He blessed her on the forehead, touched her scar and said, “Benedetto,” which means “blessing” in Italian. The experience was pure joy. “It was so surreal. I was smiling from cheek to cheek,” said Konboz.

The blessing was a highlight and a “chance of a lifetime,” and yet many other aspects

*“Being able to participate in Mass celebrated in St. Dominic’s cell at Santa Sabina was one of the most poignant moments.”*

of the trip filled her with gratitude. “Every minute I was there I was in awe.”

Blattner and Sister Kathleen Tuite, O.P., vice

president for student life, led the course, collaborating with the staff at the Lay Centre in Rome including Professor Donna Orsuto and Dr. Lori King. The curriculum



focused on the Christian church in Rome, how Rome shaped St. Dominic and how the Dominicans would affect the Church of Rome. Students heard presentations on topics such as the Acts of the Apostles, the Dominican Saint Catherine of Siena and church history. Shanice Edwards, a biology major, enjoyed the classes. “I liked the environment at the Lay Centre. They were so welcoming.”

The group visited the Dominican sites on the Aventine Hill, the abbey and churches of TreFontane dedicated to St. Paul the Apostle where it is believed he was beheaded, the Mamertine prison where St. Paul was incarcerated, St. Peter’s Basilica, the Vatican Museums, and the Sistine Chapel. They toured the Basilicas of St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls, San Clemente and St. John Lateran, the Catacombs of Priscilla, the Church of St. Peter in Chains, which holds the famous statue of Moses by Michelangelo, and more. They took the exclusive Scavi tour, which includes the necropolis under St. Peter’s Basilica, where St. Peter’s tomb is located. They spent a day in Assisi learning about St. Francis of Assisi, a contemporary of St. Dominic.

A special treat was a visit to Santa Maria delle Grazie in Rome, the titular church of Cardinal Joseph Tobin, archbishop of Newark.

Blattner recounted multiple highlights of the pilgrimage. “Being able to participate in Mass celebrated in St. Dominic’s cell at Santa Sabina was one of the most poignant moments. Seeing Stefanie blessed by our Holy Father was another once-in-a-lifetime moment of joy.”

Blattner and Sister Kathleen also found that in touring Rome they experienced their faith anew through the eyes of the students.

“It was a profound experience for me personally because in watching how inquisitive our group was, that appreciation for the knowledge amongst the students grew into a spiritual dimension, which opened the door for God to be present,” said Sister Kathleen.

Although the days of touring were physically challenging, Konboz was energized by the beauty of everything she saw—“the history, architecture, religion.”

Another gift from the trip was the bonds of friendships members of the group formed while in Rome, which continue now that they are back on campus, said Konboz.

The experience proved to be a chance for the students to grow and mature. “I’m more independent. I know my way around Rome,” said Edwards. “I can figure out directions without Google maps. I can tackle difficult situations.” Edwards calculated they visited roughly 96 chapels, but “I stopped counting after 42.”

She strongly encourages other students to take advantage of any opportunities they have to travel to the ancient city to probe more deeply the riches of the Catholic faith and of the Dominican tradition. And she has one more valuable piece of advice for future travelers: “Have gelato every night.” ■

—CL



*On the spring break study-abroad trip to Rome, the Caldwell group proudly displays the university flag in front of Santa Maria delle Grazie a Via Trionfale (Saint Mary of the Graces), the titular church of the archbishop of Newark, Cardinal Joseph Tobin.*

## BOXTOWN: STUDENTS SLEEP OUTSIDE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF HOMELESSNESS

Students slept outside on the Newman Plaza April 12 as part of the Campus Ministry project Boxtown aimed at raising awareness of homelessness. They heard a presentation by a speaker from the Midnight Run, a volunteer organization dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless, had a bonfire and took part in a poverty simulation.

Boxtown took shape when students Maria Lesniewski, Brooke McPherson and Devin Lattuga attended the 2017 Dominican National Preaching in Action Conference at which universities were charged with starting social justice projects to bring back to their campuses. The issue of homelessness hit McPherson when she was walking around New York City in 15-degree weather and was appalled to see spikes placed outside of hotel buildings so the homeless could not sleep there. “They are a forgotten group of people,” she said, and Boxtown is a good chance “to live in the shoes” of those who are less fortunate.

Student Sherif Habib said Boxtown made students pull back and consider others. “It helps you think about how the world is a larger picture.” ■

—CL



*Julianna Verso, Brooke McPherson and Jill Salerno after spending the night sleeping outside for the Boxtown project.*





Each year Caldwell University inducts honorary members who exhibit excellence in business and maintain strong ties to the university's business programs into the Delta Mu Delta honor society. The School of Business and CIS was proud to induct two distinguished alumni, Miguel Walker '07 and Rose Ann Labar '02, '05.

TRUSTEES AND FRIENDS GATHER IN SUPPORT OF THE 2018 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA



Dr. Nancy Blattner presents Alma DeMetropolis, New Jersey market president of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and New Jersey market manager of J.P. Morgan Private Bank, with the President's Award at the 2018 Gala.



A group of New Jersey women leaders who traveled together on a mission trip to India in 2015 gathered at the 2018 Presidential Scholarship Gala to honor Alma DeMetropolis. L to R: Daryl Rand, president and CEO of HarrisonRand Advertising; Ann Borowiec, independent director at Delaware Investments Mutual Fund Family and retired JP Morgan executive; Alma DeMetropolis, New Jersey market president of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and New Jersey market manager of J.P. Morgan Private Bank; Dr. Nancy Blattner, president of Caldwell University; Sharon Ambis, senior director of marketing and public relations for RWJBarnabas Health; Linda Bowden, New Jersey regional president of PNC Bank, and Anoli Patel, president and CEO of Think Reel Films.

# events



Olga E. Bradford, Esq., member of the board of trustees, and her husband, the Rev. Keith Owens.



# Gala

Irina Collins; Edward R. Collins '98, member of the board of trustees; David Disler and Lisa M. Bromberg, Esq. '80, member of the board of trustees.



Robert Luciano and Dr. Linda Luciano '73, vice chair of the board of trustees.



Friends from Essex Fells gather at the 2018 Presidential Scholarship Gala.

Back row, L to R: Bernard O'Rourke, associate dean of the School of Business and CIS; John Crawford, member of the board of trustees; Greg Comito; Patrick Miczak; Harry Beatty, member of the board of trustees; Bill O'Brien, member of the board of trustees; Don O'Hagan, Caldwell University's chief information officer. Front row, L to R: Sheila O'Rourke, Caldwell University vice president for institutional effectiveness; Jennifer Beatty; M.J. Crawford; Mary Miczak and Sharon O'Brien.



**THE SUPER SATURDAY ALUMNI BASKETBALL EVENT WAS HELD ON FEB. 7 IN THE NEWMAN CENTER. OVER 100 ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ATTENDED.**



Jeff Egnatovich '08 and his family.



Thane McKenzie '09, Khaliah Douglas '13 and Javier Lewis '14.



Lynne Giachetti Machtemes, Esq. '98, and Sister Kathleen Tuite, O.P. '93, vice president for student life.

# Basketball

**VERITAS AWARDS**



Dr. Nancy Blatner presents the Hon. Marcella Matos-Wilson, Esq. with her Veritas Award for Excellence in Family Law.



Celebrating Veritas Award honorees – Front row, L to R: Nancy Hurtz Soyka '71, honoree Evelyn Ferrara Major '68, honoree Jonathan Callahan '04, honoree the Hon. Marcella Matos-Wilson, Esq. '87, chair Joan Galla Reamer '69. Back row, L to R: Peggy Jordan Romano '71, Meg Poltorak Keyes '75, Beatriz Gomez-Klein '73, Sally Ward Kelly '57, Dr. Nancy Blatner, Angela Aiello Zaccardi '58, Helen Babits '66, Rosemary Hilbert '96 and Barbara Ziglear Buechner '76.



Evelyn Ferrara Major accepts her Veritas Award for Excellence in Dominican Charism.



Jonathan Callahan, Excellence in Entrepreneurship honoree (center), with L to R: students Thomas Elliott-Smith and Connor Foor, Matt Mustachio, adjunct faculty member in the School of Business and CIS, and Bernard O'Rourke, associate dean of the School of Business and CIS.

# Veritas



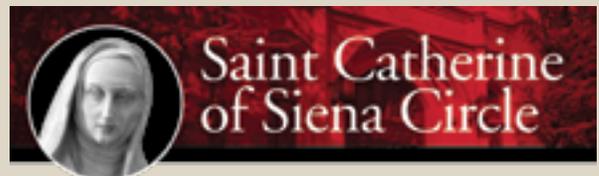


# You, like Dot, Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Future Caldwell Students

**DOT CACCHIO '61** is grateful for her time at Caldwell University and wanted to ensure that others benefit from the same education and experiences she did, and so she decided to include a gift for Caldwell in her will. You, like Dot, can make a difference in the lives of future Caldwell students.

To learn more about ways you can support Caldwell through your will or estate plan, visit <http://plannedgiving.caldwell.edu> or contact Lori Funicello at [lfunicello@caldwell.edu](mailto:lfunicello@caldwell.edu) or 973-618-3226.

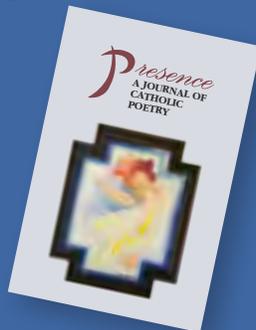
The Saint Catherine of Siena Circle gratefully recognizes Caldwell University alumni and friends who have supported the university through their will or estate plans.



## A N N O U N C I N G

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for submissions guidelines.

## 2018 SPRINT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



SEPT. 15	CORNELL	2 P.M.
SEPT. 22	ST. THOMAS AQUINAS	7 P.M.
SEPT. 29	@ POST	NOON
OCT. 13	U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY	1 P.M.
OCT. 20	@ PENN	1 P.M.
OCT. 27	@ MANSFIELD	1 P.M.
NOV. 3	CHESTNUT HILL	1 P.M.

HOME GAMES, IN RED, ARE AT JAMES CALDWELL HIGH SCHOOL



## COMING HOME:

# Hasani Whitfield Returns to Caldwell to Lead the Baseball Program



Caldwell University welcomed back Hall of Famer and baseball alumnus **Hasani Whitfield '05** this spring as the next baseball head coach. Whitfield, a standout four-year player for the Cougars, was inducted into the Caldwell Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012.

Whitfield returns to Caldwell after serving as the head baseball coach at Union County College for the past two seasons. While leading the program, Whitfield had three All-Region players for the first time in 10 years in NJCAA Region 19. In addition, the 2018 team ranked third all time in home runs, and his teams finished

in the top 20 in the nation for stolen bases the past two seasons. He previously worked as the assistant coach at Union CC from 2012 to 2016. In four seasons in that position, he was the primary hitting coach and worked with the outfielders.

“It means a lot to be able to return to my alma mater as the head coach of a program that is very special to me,” said Whitfield. “I’m grateful to Mr. Corino, the Athletic Department and everyone involved in the process. I look forward to working with the current players and alumni to energize the program.”

Whitfield was an outstanding hitter on some of Caldwell’s best teams, ranking among the all-time leaders in several categories during his time on the diamond from 2002 to 2005. He was selected Central Atlantic College Conference Player of the Year as a senior. Whitfield was a three-time CACC All-Conference selection

as well as two-time ACBA/Rawlings Northeast All Region honoree in 2004 and 2005. His teams were also successful as the Cougars won their first CACC regular-season title in 2003 and captured the 2004 conference tournament title to advance to the NCAA Division II Northeast Region Tournament for the first time.

In 2003, Whitfield had one of the most successful seasons not only in Caldwell history but in CACC history. As a sophomore, he ended the season with a .462 batting average, which placed him seventh in the nation for Division II. Whitfield ended his career as Caldwell’s all-time career hits leader and ranks in the top five in program history in home runs, RBI, hits, doubles, triples and stolen bases.

Whitfield earned his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice with a minor in psychology in 2005. ■

—JT

## Veteran Coach **Jim Kelly** to Lead Sprint Football Program



Veteran New Jersey football coach Jim Kelly joined the Cougars this summer as the university’s next sprint football coach. Kelly brings over 30 years of coaching experience

including eight seasons as an assistant coach at Montclair State University. He was an award-winning teacher in the Nutley school district.

Kelly served as the head varsity coach at Queen of Peace High School in 2015. Prior to that, he was part of the coaching staff at

Montclair State from 2005 to 2012. While he was an assistant coach, Montclair State won two New Jersey Athletic Conference titles and made two trips to the NCAA Division III playoffs.

Kelly has a long track record of coaching success on the high school level. He served as an assistant coach at Parsippany Hills (1987-88) and Montville (1989-90) and spent two seasons as an assistant for the Clifton High School Mustangs before becoming head coach in 1992. In his fourth season at Clifton, Kelly led his team to the NJSIAA state playoffs, the first appearance for the school in 13 years. Kelly was selected as the All-Area Coach of the Year by the Herald News.

In 1997, Kelly returned to his alma mater, Nutley High School, where he roamed the Raiders’ sidelines for seven seasons, receiving All-Area Coach of the Year honors

in his first season. Kelly has placed over 85 student-athletes in college football programs during his tenure as a head coach.

He has been a television station manager and instructor for 20 years at Nutley High School. In 2014, he received the Governor’s Educator of the Year Award. Kelly’s efforts in the classroom were recognized again in 2016 when he was honored with the NJ JAM Award for the best-produced campus sports talk show.

A graduate of Montclair State, Kelly earned a bachelor’s degree in broadcast communications and has taught television broadcasting at Nutley High School for 20 years. He holds a master’s in counseling from New Jersey City University. He resides in Nutley with his wife, Mary Ann, and their two children, Christine and Natalie. ■

—JT





# SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

The softball team celebrates as CACC champions for a second straight season.

## SOFTBALL TEAM REPEATS AS CACC CHAMPION ★ WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM RETURNS TO NCAA DII TOURNAMENT

The softball team won its eighth Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference championship this spring and second straight with a 10-7 win over Dominican College in the championship game. Freshman **Paige Sandoval** (Aliso Viejo, California) earned tournament MVP honors as she blasted a walk-off three-run home run to win the CACC title for the Cougars. Caldwell won its fifth straight regular-season title as it finished 24-2 in conference play and completed the season with a 35-18 overall record.

Sophomores **Christina Misiur** (Sayreville, New Jersey) and **Sara Bearden** (Ewing, New Jersey) and freshman **Kaileen Cain** (Hauppauge, New York) earned CACC First Team All-Conference honors. Senior **Marisa Monasseri** (Monroe, New Jersey), freshman **Maya Rodriguez** (Fort Lauderdale, Florida) and **Sandoval** were named to the CACC Second Team. The Cougars earned their eleventh consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division II championship tournament.

The women's lacrosse team earned the first post-season victory in the program's five years to advance to the final four in the CACC championship tournament. The Cougars ended the season with a 6-9 overall record and finished in fourth place in the CACC with a 5-4 mark, earning a home playoff game for the first time. Caldwell defeated Wilmington University,

18-12, in the opening round before falling in the semifinals. Junior **Rachel Lucia** (Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey) earned CACC First Team All-Conference honors for a second consecutive season. Sophomore **Arden Kassaleh** (Pompton Plains, New Jersey) was selected to the CACC Second Team and broke the program's single-season points record. Kassaleh became the first player in school history to reach the 100-goal plateau.

Track and field athletes turned in outstanding performances this spring season as the men's team finished in fifth place, while the women's team came in seventh at the CACC championships. The men's team posted 14 top-10 finishes at the conference meet, while the women had nine top-10 finishes. Senior **Victoria Thaler** (Millville, New Jersey) earned all-conference honors as she won the 400-meter hurdles event. The women's team was honored for a second straight season with the CACC Team Sportsmanship Award for demonstrating outstanding character and class throughout the season and at the CACC championship meet.

The women's basketball team returned to the NCAA Division II tournament for a second straight season after posting a 24-7 overall record. The Cougars tied for the North Division regular-season title with a 16-3 conference mark. Caldwell reached the CACC tournament semifinals and made

the NCAA tournament for the second time in program history. Senior **Sharell Sanders** (Dorchester, Massachusetts) was named the CACC Defensive Player of the Year and was also a Second Team All-Conference selection. Senior **Kristen Drogler** (Middle Village, New York) was a CACC First Team All-Conference selection for a second consecutive season. Drogler earned Division II Conference Commissioners Association Second Team All-Region honors and Women's Basketball Coaches Association Honorable Mention All-American recognition. Drogler was selected to the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association First Team, while Sanders earned MBWA Second Team honors.

The men's basketball team ended the season with a 16-13 record and finished in third place in the CACC North Division with a 13-6 conference record. Senior **Derek Dorn** (New Rochelle, New York) earned CACC Third Team All-Conference honors.

The bowling team posted a 4-14 record in Northeast Conference play during the winter season. Senior **Daniele Roca** (Garden City Park, New York) was named the NEC Bowler of the Week in February, while the team earned the NEC Bowling Team Sportsmanship Award for a third straight season. ■

—JT



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALUM**

**Danielle Ciresi Murphy '91  
Inducted to CACC Hall of Fame**

Caldwell University women's basketball alum **Danielle Ciresi Murphy '91** was inducted into the third class of the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Hall of Fame on Feb. 17 at the Cougars' home doubleheader against Jefferson University.

The CACC Hall of Fame was established in 2015 to honor the legendary players and teams in league history. Ciresi Murphy joined men's basketball standout Matt Stuart '94 as the only Cougars named to the hall of fame.

Ciresi Murphy rewrote the Caldwell record books during her outstanding collegiate career. During her senior season, Ciresi Murphy broke the school scoring record and surpassed 2,000 career points in the same game with her former teammate and record holder, Gina Borea '88, in the Student Center stands. She went on to score 2,491 points, which at the time ranked her fourth all-time among college women's basketball players in New Jersey.

Ciresi Murphy led all New Jersey college players in scoring her junior and senior seasons. As a senior, she was named the CACC Co-Most Valuable Player and received All-American honorable mention honors. Her scoring average of 31.7 points per game as a senior led the nation and was fifth all-time in NAIA scoring history. ■

—JT



*President Nancy Blattner, Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics Mark A. Corino, CACC Hall of Famers Danielle Ciresi Murphy and Matt Stuart, and CACC Commissioner Dan Mara at Ciresi Murphy's induction.*



**Broadcasts  
Basketball  
Games**

On Feb. 17, the Caldwell University men's and women's basketball teams hosted Jefferson University in a Division II basketball showcase doubleheader streamed live on ESPN3 and the ESPN Watch app. The campus came alive with tremendous fan support, and both games were sold out. The Cougars were successful as the women's team defeated the Rams, 69-59, and the men's team claimed a 73-63 victory. Men's basketball head coach Mark Corino was honored by Caldwell President Nancy Blattner and Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Commissioner Dan Mara with the game ball from his 1,000th game as a head coach, a milestone he reached the prior month. ■

—JT



REMEMBERING

# Sister Vivien

Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., former president of Caldwell College, passed away on May 5. She served as president of the college from 1984 to 1994.

Sister Vivien paved the way for many historic firsts at the college. She was president when the decision was made in 1985 to transition from an all-women's institution to a coeducational college. She expanded intercollegiate athletics, was the first director of the Educational Opportunity Fund, a professor in the English Department, a director of continuing education and started the Fanjeaux study-abroad experience, which allows members of the campus community to learn in depth about the Catholic Dominican tradition.

Her former colleagues and friends reflected on her accomplishments and how she was courageous in moving the college forward while caring about the well-being of employees. "She had a way of making everyone feel important and validated, signs of a great leader," said Sheila O'Rourke, vice president for institutional effectiveness, who first worked with Sister Vivien starting in 1991.

Dr. Marie Mullaney, professor of history, remembers how Sister Vivien would say, "In higher education, to stand still is to regress, to go backwards.' This was an especially important approach that guided the college decision to become coeducational."

Caldwell University President Nancy Blattner, Ph.D., said that Sister Vivien's decision to transition Caldwell to coeducation "was understandably controversial at the time," but "positively changed the institution in terms of our student body, the degrees we offered, and our place in the field of higher education in New Jersey."

Sister Mary Joseph, O.P., was a member of the executive administration and the

board of trustees when Sister Vivien was president. "She was a quiet, moving individual who had extraordinary results."

One of those results was Caldwell's rising enrollment. By the time Sister Vivien left the presidency in 1994, enrollment had grown from 400 to nearly 1,000.

One reason for the increase was the support she provided in expanding intercollegiate athletics. Former chaplain Father Bob Stagg recruited Mark Corino, and Sister Vivien hired him to coach the men's basketball team and to build the athletics program. She trusted that Corino's vision was equal to that of the institution. "She and Sister Patrice Werner played great roles in allowing athletics to be a part of the college's vision," said Corino, assistant vice president and director of athletics. "Sister Vivien had outstanding leadership qualities and understood the value of athletics."

Sister Michel Rodgers, O.P., held several positions including sociology professor, residence life director, assistant academic dean, and vice president of student life. She recalled how early on when one of the teams won a championship and the Athletics Department did not know how it could afford travel for the team members, Sister Vivien said, "I will find the money and they will go."

*"She had a way of making everyone feel important and validated, signs of a great leader."*

Dean Johnson, associate director of athletics, was hired by Sister Vivien in 1990. "She is one of the big reasons we are as successful as we are today, with our growth in enrollment, added athletic teams and improved facilities."

Al Neiman, professor of accounting and an accountant, remembers Sister as being "an inspiration, humble and grateful." Trish Verrone, professor emerita of English, recalled how once at an all-campus meeting Sister Vivien said, "Never use the word



"small" to describe the college because, although we may have fewer students than some other institutions, we are big in ideas and vision.' Since that time, I have spoken at many open houses to students and parents, and I have never used the word. I have always remembered and respected that," said Verrone.

Sister Vivien held a bachelor's degree in English from Caldwell, a master's in English from Catholic University, a master's in communications from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. in English from Fordham. Sister also saw the value of emerging media and worked in telecommunications at Barry University and at the Catholic Telecommunications Network in New York City. In the early '80s, knowing that communications was an expanding field, she founded a communication arts certificate program at Caldwell and then in 1988 when Professor Bob Mann was hired she had him work toward the creation of the Communication Department and major, a goal achieved in 1995. "Sister Vivien and Sister Patrice were constant advocates of the creation of the



**DECADES OF “PERSONALLY HEARTWARMING AND PROFESSIONALLY STIMULATING” LUNCHES WITH SISTER VIVIEN**

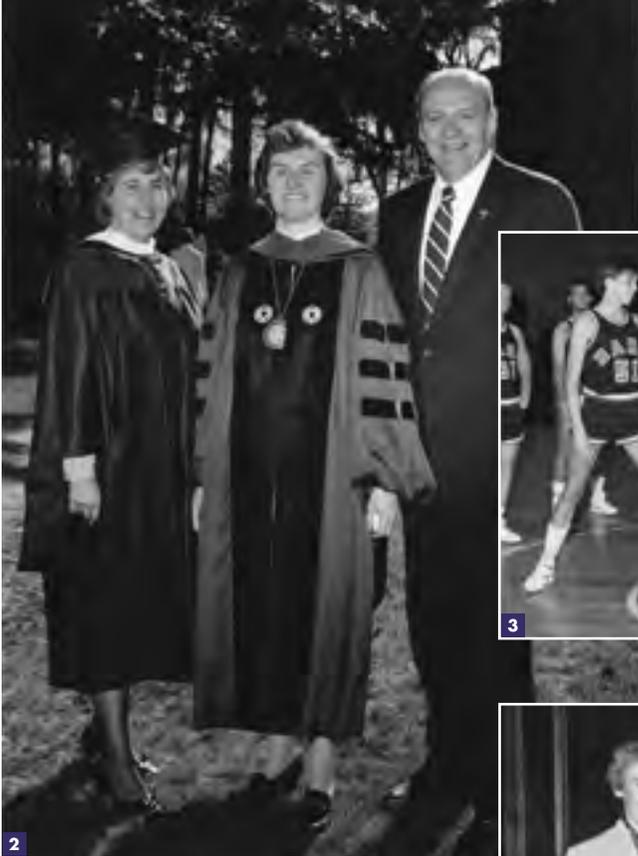
Marilyn Mancino Maguire '66 remembers having Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., as her English professor and her prefect in the dormitory at Caldwell College. Her high standards were a bit of a “shock to our systems,” said Maguire, but what felt like “penance” at the time became wonderful life lessons. “What is the point of aiming for mediocrity?” was an idea Sister Vivien instilled in her students. She wanted the students to see “that if we were going to do something at all, it was worth doing as well as we could,” said Maguire. Over time and with more maturity, Maguire and her classmates realized this mindset was a gift for the rest their lives.

Sister Vivien had such an impact on her students that many maintained relationships with her later in life and visited with her often.

“After a bit of a hiatus” from being in touch (launching a work life, getting married, starting a family), Maguire and her Caldwell College roommate Lori Majewski LaCorte reconnected in the 1980s with Sister Vivien and Sister Rita Margaret Chambers, O.P., who was also their English professor. From those renewed relationships, blossomed friendships that would last for decades. She and LaCorte would take Sister Vivien and Sister Rita Margaret out for long lunches that were “personally heartwarming and professionally stimulating.”

Along with checking in on each other’s families, showing pictures and sharing stories about children, nieces and nephews, they would also have professional conversations—that were “so stimulating and so useful.” They would trade ideas and ask for advice, and the Sisters would tell their former students about the exciting projects they were engaged in. As educators themselves, Maguire and LaCorte said it was a wonderful sharing of perspectives, “They were our teachers for a few years and our friends for almost 40,” remarked Maguire.

“There were so many dimensions to Sister Vivien that we wouldn’t have known as students only.” Sister Vivien’s expectations were certainly high but her “capacity for love and understanding was just as remarkable,” said Maguire who knows that her life is that much richer for having known Sister Vivien and for being able to call her a friend. ■



Communication Department and major,” said Mann.

At Sister Vivien’s funeral on May 9, Sister Patrice, prioress of the Caldwell Dominicans and former president of Caldwell serving after Sister Viven, spoke of her mentor and friend as a “preacher of truth, the valiant woman.”

Even in her later years despite frailty, she continued “to stand tall in the life of the congregation she loved so much, still sharing her knowledge and Dominican vocation with others, fully involved in community activities,” said Sister Patrice.

That was evident just two weeks before Sister Vivien’s passing when she spoke to a class of undergraduate students about the great Dominican saints—Dominic, Thomas Aquinas and Catherine of Siena.

This is yet another generation of students who will remember Sister Vivien for sharing with them the ageless truths of the Dominican tradition. ■

—CL

- 1 Newark Archbishop Peter Gerety, Sister Vivien, Dr. Edward Goldberg, then assistant chancellor for academic affairs of the state Board of Higher Education, and the Rev. Edward Andrew McElwee, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell.**
- 2 Sister Vivien with Jane Burgio, then secretary of state of New Jersey, and Dean Gallo, then a U.S. representative from New Jersey, at her inauguration as the sixth president of Caldwell College.**
- 3 Sister Vivien and George Imperial, then the mayor of Caldwell, throw up the ceremonial ball at Caldwell College’s first men’s basketball game, against Bard College.**
- 4 Sister Vivien is pictured with Sister Ann Marie Rimmer, then major superior and chairperson of the board, as Sister Vivien receives the alumni Veritas Award in 1994 for Excellence in Leadership and Contributions to Education.**



## Beatriz Gomez-Klein '73: How Scholarship Forged a New Future

I was holding on to a post to keep from falling down,” **Beatriz Gomez-Klein '73** remembers. “My cousin, still a child herself, had her arms around me, trying to comfort me. There was a bucket at our feet. The smells and the rocking of the ship were making us so very sick.”

This is how Gomez-Klein recalls her journey from Cuba to the United States in 1962 in the aftermath of the infamous Bay of Pigs Invasion and Fidel Castro’s rise to power.

“My cousin and I traveled alone. My father and sister could not leave Cuba. They didn’t want to leave my 20-year-old brother, who was in prison there for his involvement with the underground resistance against Castro’s regime,” recalls Gomez-Klein.

This was not the first time she had experienced loss. At the tender age of seven, she lost her beloved mother. “She was my idol,” Gomez-Klein says, her sorrow still apparent so many years later.

At the time, Gomez-Klein was attending a school run by the Order of the Society of the Sacred Heart. She adored her school. When the grief-stricken child asked her father if she could board there, he agreed. The kindness and faith of the sisters provided the comfort Gomez-Klein so desperately needed.

*“My cousin and I traveled alone. My father and sister could not leave Cuba. They didn’t want to leave my 20-year-old brother, who was in prison there for his involvement with the underground resistance against Castro’s regime.”*

This period of solace did not last long. When Castro confiscated all private property in the 1960s, the school was closed and the sisters were ushered out of the country. Her father hired tutors to teach his daughter at home. “He was afraid that I would be indoctrinated at the public schools.”

He feared for his daughter’s future as well and sent her in the Bay of Pigs cargo exchange ship. Gomez-Klein’s oldest brother was already in the United States. He met the girls in Miami.

“I stayed awhile there, but there were so many Cubans in Miami that I wasn’t making enough progress in learning English, and so I traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, to live with an aunt and uncle there.”

Gomez-Klein soon moved to New Jersey from Louisville to live with another maternal aunt. She enrolled in Newark’s Barringer High School. “I still don’t know how I got up



the courage to tell the guidance counselor that I wanted to go to college. She must have thought I was insane! I had no money.”

The counselor looked at her thoughtfully and said she knew a priest in the area who might be able to help. The counselor made an appointment, and Gomez-Klein’s aunt accompanied her. He gave her an application for Caldwell College.

Caldwell offered her a full scholarship. “Without the scholarship, I could never have thought about going to college.”

Her new start was marked by more tragedy, however. Only a few weeks into her freshman year, her father passed away.

“At that point, I felt as though my loss was complete. By the age of 19, I had lost my mother, my school, my country, and then my father.” Far from her childhood home and new to college, Gomez-Klein doubted her ability to continue.

“I immersed myself in everything—becoming a Gamma Theta Lambda sister, joining the Spanish Club and serving as its treasurer, writing for the college’s Spanish



newspaper.” The sense of sisterhood and community at Caldwell gave her hope. “We had so much fun. When we had free time, we would put on little plays and skits. Even the sisters would play along!”

Gomez-Klein remains in close touch with her Caldwell classmates, a group that includes the dear cousin.

While studying sociology, she considered entering the Dominican Order and took on religious studies as a second major. She graduated cum laude and with Delta Epsilon Sigma and Kappa Gamma Pi honors, even while shouldering the responsibilities of class president in her senior year.

Although Gomez-Klein ultimately chose secular life, her sense of vocation remained strong and she pursued a master’s degree at Seton Hall University in education with a focus on rehabilitation counseling.

She earned a second master’s degree and an advanced certificate in clinical social work from Rutgers University and New York University, respectively.

Gomez-Klein’s professional experience includes serving as a rehabilitation counselor and later as a psychotherapist at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). In 1976, Governor Brendan Byrne appointed her to the board of trustees of the New Jersey Youth Correctional Institute. She served as a field instructor and supervisor for the baccalaureate social work program at Seton Hall University and on the UMDNJ Clinical Records Review Committee. In the 1990s, Gomez-Klein worked for the Visiting Nurse Association of Essex Valley as a case manager for elderly, disabled and AIDS individuals.

In 2001, Gomez-Klein opened her own practice in psychotherapy. She works with individuals and couples who want to learn to cope with depression, anxiety or interpersonal relationships. Her bilingual skills and her natural compassion allow her to reach a diverse community.

Gomez-Klein’s community service includes work with bereavement groups at Our Lady of the Holy Angels Church in Little Falls and as a behavioral health consultant for Notre Dame parishioners in North Caldwell.

She received the Visiting Nurse Association Achievement Award in 1996 and the University Health Care Excellence Award from UMDNJ in 1999. Caldwell University recognized her accomplishments with the prestigious Veritas Award. Today, she is supportive of her alma mater, serving on the Veritas Award Selection Committee. She has included the university in her legacy plans as well. “I want to give back to the institution that gave me so much.”

Among her many achievements, Gomez-Klein considers receiving the C-Pin in her freshman year at Caldwell

the greatest honor she has ever received. “At that time, C-Pin recipients were chosen by their classmates. Earning it meant that

you were considered to be the shining example of the Caldwellian woman.”

Anyone who has ever met Beatriz Gomez-Klein would be inclined to agree: she remains a shining example of a Caldwellian woman! ■

*“I immersed myself in everything— becoming a Gamma Theta Lambda sister, joining the Spanish Club and serving as its treasurer, writing for the college’s Spanish newspaper.”*

## Advocating on Capitol Hill for International Humanitarian Aid



Students Brittany Guale (right) and Yaskayra Gonzalez (left) and Caldwell Director of Campus Ministry Colleen O’Brien attended the Catholic Relief Services Student Ambassadors Leaders Together summit in July in Baltimore and Washington D.C.. They joined student groups from across the country to learn how to advocate for policy change on international humanitarian issues such as global migration and hunger.

On Advocacy Wednesday, July 18, they visited lawmakers on Capitol Hill and urged them to maintain 1 percent of the federal budget for international assistance so programs addressing poverty and hunger can continue. “Actually going to Capitol Hill and advocating was a chance to get our message out there and let our voices be heard for those who do not have that voice to ask for change themselves,” said Guale. Gonzalez says they look forward to bringing what they learned to campus and raising awareness about the Caldwell Catholic Relief Services Student Ambassador club.

## Alumni News Brief

Terry Ginther, who received a master’s in pastoral ministry from Caldwell, was appointed chancellor for the Diocese of Trenton by Bishop David M. O’Connell, C.M. She is executive director of the diocesan Office of Pastoral Life and Mission where she oversees the Department of Pastoral Planning, the diocesan Department of Pastoral Care, the Department of Youth and Young Adults, Department of Evangelization and Family Life, campus ministry and movements and retreat houses.

### BEATRIZ GOMEZ-KLEIN

**LIFE’S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?**  
Graduating from Caldwell College.

**MOST INFLUENTIAL BOOK?**  
“Man’s Search for Meaning” by Viktor E. Frankl.

**ADVICE FOR TODAY’S CALDWELL STUDENT?**  
Persevere when things get rough.



# Caldwell Alumna Builds Cultural Bridges

*What do an author, a musician, a radio executive, a writer and a chamber of commerce CEO have in common?*

This intriguing range of titles belongs to a single woman: **Eileen Donigan Curtis '68**. We caught up with Curtis recently to talk about how her career began.

Curtis initially chose Caldwell for practical reasons. "I was a scholarship student. My family could not have sent me to college without financial support."

Her ambitions surfaced quickly as she took on 27 credits in her first semester, including two off-campus courses and honors-level study in English and history. As a music major, courses in voice and piano demanded hours of practice. In addition, she held a part-time job. Over time she developed a deep interest in the history and theory of music, which led to graduate study in musicology.

A chance conversation pointed Curtis toward a career in radio when she contacted WGMS, a Washington, D.C. classical music station. She lacked radio experience, but her pianist fingers aced the typing test and she was hired as an assistant music director, later becoming the station's music director.

While at WGMS, Curtis earned a Peabody Award for a series on the history of American music. She covered the Bergen Festival as a guest of the Norwegian government, and worked with the German government on a program about major German composers. She received Austria's Silver Medal for the Arts for her coverage of the Vienna State Opera's first-ever visit to the United States.

Curtis transitioned out of radio in the 1990s when the station changed hands. By then she was busy raising a family and working as a freelance writer. But

she wanted to work again, and she wanted something new.

Thinking the local chamber of commerce might be a good place to start, she showed up at a meeting wearing a name tag that said "Jobseeker" and introduced herself to the chamber's president.

"He saw my name tag and asked if I was comfortable talking to new people," she said. "I told him about all the celebrities, princes and heads of state that I had interviewed over the years. Before I knew it, I was hired!"

Under Curtis's guidance, the Herndon Chamber grew into the 700-member Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and is now known for its commitment to diversity and for its contributions to STEM initiatives. Curtis, now retired, recounts the challenges and rewards of her chamber career in her self-published book, "Chamber Tales: A Memoir of Commerce, Community and Stunning Forces of Change."

*"I told him about all the celebrities, princes and heads of state that I had interviewed over the years. Before I knew it, I was hired!"*

What's next for Curtis? You can bet it won't be your typical retirement. "I want to fill in the gaps in my knowledge base, particularly on topics that are important to humanity: the environment, the divisiveness in our communities. I would like to begin a



blog and write a second book, possibly a travelogue." She also plans to spend more time with Marshall, her husband of 43 years, and her three daughters and five grandchildren. "I am blessed." ■

## EILEEN DONIGAN CURTIS

**CHERISHED CALDWELL MEMORY**  
Studying writing with Sister Vivien.

**MOTTO**  
Don't be afraid to try new things: jump in!

**GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS**  
Receiving the Peabody Award and the Caldwell University Veritas Award.

**EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES**  
Walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain; visiting the jungles of Peru; attending a Buddhist retreat in Nepal.

**FAVORITE SIGHT ON CAMPUS**  
Sister Gerardine's stained glass windows.

**ADVICE FOR STUDENTS**  
STEM and the liberal arts are equally important!



# Alumni President

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



**Dear Fellow Alumni,**

This past spring we celebrated a final Mass in our Mother Joseph Residence Hall chapel, which was founded by the Sisters of St. Dominic. This chapel was lovingly created, and physically worked on, by the Sisters, with a joyful first Mass celebrated on Christmas Eve, 1961. This beautiful chapel, with stained glass windows depicting Dominican saints, designed by Sister Julia Marie Moore, will now be centrally located by the Newman Center, allowing better access for all on campus. The stained glass windows will be moved to adorn our new chapel and other places on campus.

Contemplating this change along with the recent passing of our beloved Sister Vivien Jennings brings to mind our rich past and boundless future.

I am reminded of how very fortunate we are to have been blessed with the presence of our founding Dominican Sisters. They are the core and most integral part of our Caldwell family.

For our alma mater, the value our Dominican Sisters bring is clear and vital to our ongoing success. Our motto, Sapientia et Scientia (wisdom and knowledge), personifies their ongoing gift to all of us. Through their vision and because of their leadership, teachings and faith in God, we as alums can each hope in some small way to emulate their spirit of love. Since our beginnings in 1939, the commitment of the Sisters of St. Dominic to our students, alumni, faculty and staff has been inspiring; they have passed on their talent and depth of character to all of us.

We ask for continued blessings for our beautiful Caldwell University.

Sincerely,

Mary Sellitto-Curcio '83  
*President, Caldwell University Alumni Association*

## *in memory of...*

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

- Mary Ann Rush Walsh '47
- Elizabeth "Pat" Conway Knodel '51
- Rev. John Patrick McSpiritt, S.T.  
*Brother of Catherine McSpiritt Kelleher '51, Anita McSpiritt McCudden '49 and Marian McSpiritt '45*
- Barbara Rustia Fox '53
- Jane Tassielli Speck '54
- June Dwyer Castano '55
- Carol Dunn Shehadi '56
- Gail Keenan Hendricks '59
- Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P. '60,  
*Former president of Caldwell College*
- Ed Beneville Jr.  
*Husband of Barbara Kolakowski Beneville '63*
- Donald L. McNamara  
*Husband of Mary O'Donnell McNamara '65*
- Ed Lonyai  
*Husband of Elaine Tweedus '66*
- Pamela Senkier Scott '66
- Marilyn Pinaud '69
- Grace Dannhardt  
*Mother of Barbara Dannhardt DeChiaro '71 and Kathleen Dannhardt Rooney '75*
- Barbara Buse  
*Mother of Kathleen Buse '72*
- Genevieve Ahlmeyer  
*Mother of Alyse Ahlmeyer Casciano '78*
- Jerry Commisso  
*Husband of Colette Fleming-Commisso '78*
- Valerie Stuart '80
- Mary Westervelt  
*Mother of Helen Westervelt '80 and Patricia Westervelt Bator '84*
- Bernice Codey Hartwyk '89
- Virginia Kolnacki Wilson '04
- Cozette Ruddy '05
- Loriann Calogero  
*Adjunct instructor, communications and media studies*
- Stephanie Faust  
*Student*

**2018-19 CALDWELL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**PRESIDENT**

Mary Sellitto-Curcio '83

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Elaine Bauer Zabriskie '73

**SECRETARY**

Rosemary Hilbert '96

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

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Roxanne Knott-Kuczberski '03

Melanie Krause '95

Javier Lewis '14

Jonni Lucas '96

Lynne Giachetti Machtemes, Esq. '98

Sundra Murray '04

Nina Neglia '89

Anna Nelson '88

Hritesh Regmi '17

Noel Ruane '70

James Stark '14



## SAVE THE DATE

### HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, SEPT. 21 AND 22

### 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

MONDAY, SEPT. 17 • ESSEX FELLS COUNTRY CLUB

### CONCERTS

#### FACULTY FAVORITES

SATURDAY, SEPT. 22 • 3:30 P.M. • ALUMNI THEATRE

JAZZ ENSEMBLE AT ROCKN' JOE  
THURSDAY, NOV. 1 • 8 P.M.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE CONCERT  
THURSDAY, NOV. 15 • 7 P.M. • STUDENT CENTER GYM

SOLO AND CHAMBER CONCERT  
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28 • 7 P.M. • ALUMNI THEATRE

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

### LECTURES

WITH MSNBC'S STEVE KORNACKI  
THURSDAY, SEPT. 20 • 7 P.M.

SISTER MAURA CAMPBELL LECTURE  
"WHO IS THIS DUDE CALLED BENEDICT?"  
WITH POET AND JOURNALIST JUDITH VALENTE  
THURSDAY, OCT. 4 • 4:30 P.M.

### CALDWELL DAY

FRIDAY, SEPT. 28

### ADMISSIONS EVENTS

#### GRADUATE INFORMATION SESSIONS AND UNDERGRADUATE OPEN HOUSES

GRADUATE - 10 A.M. • UNDERGRADUATE - 11 A.M.

SATURDAYS, OCT. 13 AND NOV. 17

COUGAR CAMPUS DAY AND INSTANT DECISION DAY  
THURSDAY, NOV. 8 • 10 A.M.

### ART EXHIBITIONS

SEPT. 10 TO OCT. 9

#### "PLAY: AN ICONOGRAPHY OF SPORT"

ARTIST'S TALK: WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12 • 5 TO 6 P.M.  
OPENING RECEPTION: 6 TO 8 P.M.

OCT. 22 TO NOV. 27

#### "VALLEY OF ASHES: LIZBETH MITTY AND MATTHEW CONRADT"

ARTIST'S TALK: WEDNESDAY, OCT. 24 • 5 TO 6 P.M.  
OPENING RECEPTION: 6 TO 8 P.M.

### MASSES

SEPT. 12 • NOON

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT • STUDENT CENTER GYM

SEPT. 22 • 10:30 A.M.

HOMECOMING MASS • ALUMNI THEATRE

NOV. 1 • NOON

ALL SAINTS DAY AND MASS OF REMEMBRANCE  
MOTHERHOUSE CHAPEL

DEC. 5 • NOON

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS • STUDENT CENTER GYM

JAN. 28, 2019 • NOON

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS FEAST DAY  
MOTHERHOUSE CHAPEL