

# CALDWELL

# UNIVERSITY

MAGAZINE

Faith in Action  
*Living the Mission*

DOMINICAN SISTERS  
OF CALDWELL



FAITH IN ACTION WALL  
CELEBRATES UNIVERSITY'S LEGACY

ALSO INSIDE:

A CALL TO ACTION: THE ONE  
MILLION IN FOUR INITIATIVE

KEEPING MUSIC ALIVE IN  
A PANDEMIC



Spring Forward!

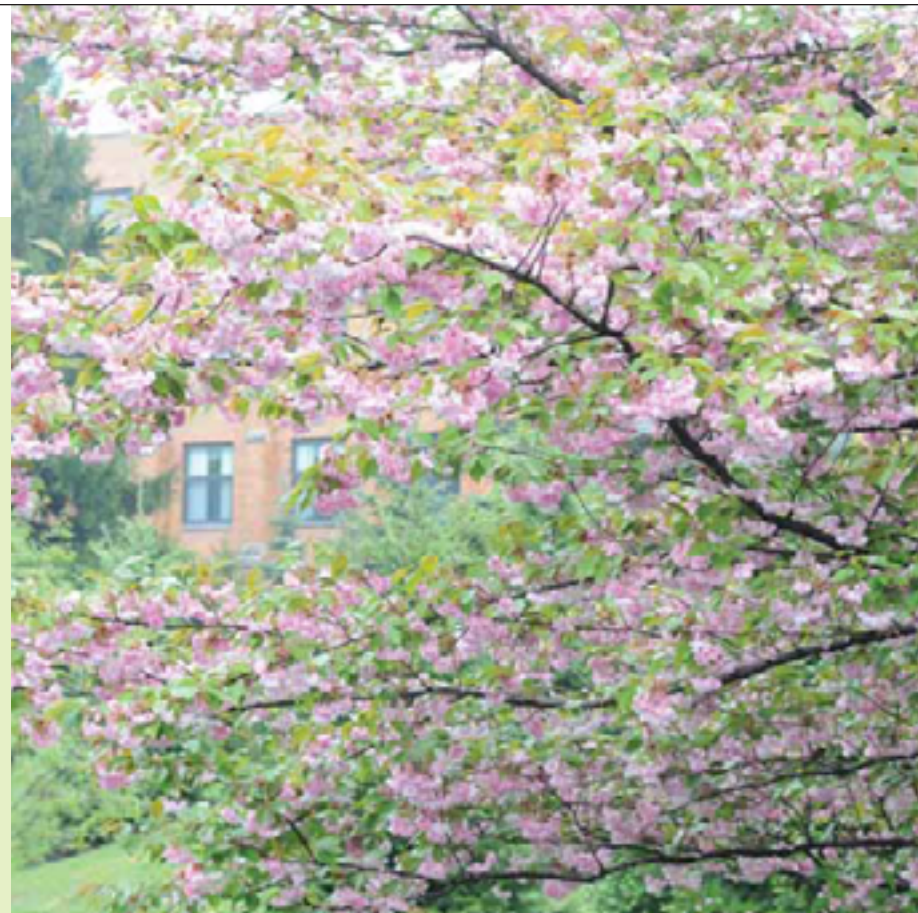
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CALDWELL UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE WINTER/SPRING 2021

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.

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Commencement 2020



Innovatively making music!



Nursing students and faculty serve at vaccine sites.

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Professor Aneesha Jean





# Hello, Caldwell family,

I hope and pray that you and your loved ones are well and navigating safely through the pandemic which continues to plague our lives and communities. The last year was one of unprecedented challenges, and while we learned to adjust to wearing facemasks and social distancing, we also faced the loss of loved ones and helped others who suffered the ravages of COVID-19. We are now met with a new year of ongoing restrictions for public health, and many are still experiencing hardships due to employment loss, closure of businesses and schools, remote learning and working, and of course, social isolation.

We have also engaged in difficult discussions as we watched political divisions grow to the point of the Capitol insurrection and death of innocent people. We have witnessed continued social unrest in response to the urgent and longstanding need to resolve the inequities faced by many of our neighbors and community members. Finally, we have watched as the country endured its most contentious election season in our history. 2020 was indeed a tough year.

However, a new year has arrived and as we look ahead to growth and rebirth it is now time for us to **Spring Forward!** New people, new ideas, and new voices will emerge which will help us eradicate the virus and bring us closer together. At Caldwell, we are poised to help fertilize this growth and rebirth with the very Core Values that have sustained us as Caldwell students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends – **Respect, Integrity, Community and Excellence.** You will see the living evidence of these values in stories throughout the magazine.

In this issue, you will read about one of our Caldwell heroes – Professor Aneasha Jean – who works every day to ensure our future nurses learn about the respect, care, and dignity that all people deserve. You will read about the ingenuity of our Music Department faculty in bringing music to our community, and also about our School of Education which recently received CAEP accreditation, demonstrating that Caldwell remains a place of

growth and excellence. You will read about the integrity of one of our students, Sophie Hicks '21, who brought us her ideas on promoting social justice and the dignity of all people. You can read about how we bring new ideas to life through Sister Gerardine's art and lifelong commitment to beauty and education. Our "Faith in Action" wall is featured on the cover of this magazine. When you are able to visit our campus, you will see that this wall in Werner Hall shows the blending of the missions of the Sisters of Saint Dominic and the University. In the meantime, you can spend time with us virtually on Sunday evenings with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Sister Mary Dominic Tweedus Chapel.

We are also very happy to share how many of you in our Caldwell community joined with us in our "One Million in Four" initiative to raise \$1 million in four months to ensure our students will have the resources they need to complete their education at Caldwell and continue on their personal journeys of growth.

Thank you to all those who support the mission of Caldwell University and the Sisters of Saint Dominic. You are the sunlight for Caldwell. You are our Spring! You help us grow, learn, and thrive, and your commitment will sustain us as we emerge from a cold winter ready to blossom!

I hope you enjoy reading these stories, and know that the sun is shining brightly at Caldwell!

God Bless.

Sincerely,

Matthew Whelan, Ed.D.  
President

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# Dominican Connection



## “FAITH IN ACTION” WALL IN WERNER HALL

A new “Faith in Action” wall celebrates the Catholic Dominican charism of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell and Caldwell University and graces the walls of the second floor in Werner Hall. Sister Kathleen Tuite, O.P., vice president for student life, wanted to create a special spot on campus where passers-by and visitors could see the social justice issues that the Sisters of St. Dominic pursue and how that work informs the university’s life.

The colorful display showcases projects and commitments that uphold what it means

to be “living the mission” and “growing mission every day” and to show “devotion to our Dominican heritage.” Panels show the Sisters’ commitment to the “sacredness of all creation” through their “corporate stances” and actions on nonviolence, the death penalty, genetically engineered foods and labeling of foods, human trafficking and immigration reform and their commitment to a land ethic and to confronting climate change. “It highlights the mission of the Sisters and gives words and reflection to their preaching and living,” said Sister Kathleen.

Senior Brittany Gaule got to know several of the Sisters of St. Dominic through her involvement in campus ministry. The wall “helps us remember them . . . and how they passed the torch to us,” said Gaule.

One of the projects highlighted is the installation of a solar energy system, which provides 8% of the electricity for Caldwell University, Mount St. Dominic Academy and the Motherhouse. Quotes are included from St. Dominic, St. Thomas Aquinas and Pope Francis’s encyclical “Laudato Si.”

Pictures and text present the academic and extracurricular activities showing a “direct connection” between the Dominican Sisters and “how we live the mission today at the university,” explained Colleen O’Brien, director of campus ministry, who worked on the project with Sister Kathleen. Activities included are Caldwell Day, the

annual day of community service; the volunteer trip to Belize; the Young Adult Dominican Preaching Conference; the Faculty Commission on World Concerns lectures; Founder’s Day, and Masses. A panel on Dominican values describes how the life of St. Dominic, the mission of the Sisters of St. Dominic and the four pillars of Dominican life inform the university’s core values of respect, integrity, community and excellence.

Senior Anthony Pineros said the wall’s visuals can encourage students to “incorporate in our lives the examples of faith and fellowship.” One of those activities is the Midnight Run during which students reach out to the homeless in New York City. He and Gaule joined the campus ministry run the week before Thanksgiving to give out clothing and food. It was especially poignant this year given the losses the vulnerable have faced due to the pandemic. “We brought light to their worlds,” said Pineros.

Relocated next to the showcase are pictures of the Dominicans, St. Dominic, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Agnes of Montepulciano, St. Martin de Porres and St. Rose of Lima.

New statements from the Sisters on the environment and racism will be added to the display. “The wall will continue to grow as the Sisters continue to bring forth the Gospel message,” said Sister Kathleen. She and O’Brien are encouraging the campus community and guests to visit the display to learn more about the roots of the university. “I think it will catch people’s attention and encourage them to reflect deeper on the call of the Caldwell Dominican mission,” said O’Brien.

For Pineros and Gaule, who are approaching the end of their college careers, it is special to be able to walk past the photos, some of which show them taking part in activities over four years at Caldwell. “Looking at this wall makes me take a trip down memory lane,” said Pineros. “It is something to hold on to and cherish,” said Gaule. ■

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## THE DOMINICAN MAGNIFICAT CONNECTS SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC AND STUDENTS



Sister Joanne Beirne, O.P.

When the pandemic prompted professors to be more ingenious with their assignments, Music Department Chair Laura Greenwald came up with a project to connect her students with the Sisters of St. Dominic. She assigned students the task of interviewing a Caldwell Dominican via Zoom or the phone about her involvement in education and her feelings about the Dominican Magnificat, a piece composed by Feargal King that is much loved by the Dominican Sisters, and the Dominican Blessing, songs the chorale normally sings at Masses and special functions.

“I have worked with so many of these brilliant women, and I know their

dedication to education and the order’s charism,” said Greenwald. “But now there are only a few Sisters working in person at the university, even though many live nearby. I wanted the students to meet and connect personally with at least one Dominican Sister to add to their understanding of the music we are singing.”

Noreen Abedrabbo ’24 interviewed Sister Joanne Beirne, O.P., who works in the Academic Success Center at the university. The conversation with Sister Joanne, a former nurse, was “a very fun project” and led Abedrabbo to understand the songs more and “sing them with more emotion.” Abedrabbo recounted some of the memorable moments for Sister with the music including when she and other Sisters sang the Dominican Blessing at the summer drive-by outside the health care facility, St. Catherine’s. The Sisters were thanking the essential workers for their courage and commitment during the pandemic. Sister Joanne holds in her heart the memories of when the Magnificat was sung at her 50th anniversary jubilee celebration and at a university baccalaureate Mass.

“I went to public school and did not sing these kinds of pieces,” said Abedrabbo, but after her conversation with Sister Joanne, she sees how the songs are beautiful messages of hope that can help her lift her voice. “I can use that when I sing to make them stronger.” ■



## SUNDAY MASS IS LIVE STREAMED FROM CHAPEL

When Caldwell University Campus Ministry resumed the 7 p.m. Masses in the Sister Mary Dominic Tweedus Chapel this past fall, they looked a little different. Students and staff attended Mass but there was limited seating due to social distancing. To make sure everyone could join in, Campus Ministry began live streaming the Sunday Masses through the Campus Ministry YouTube channel. ■

[WATCH IT HERE](#)



## FACULTY FEATURE

## ANEESHA JEAN:

## NURSING AN ATMOSPHERE OF CARE IN THE AGE OF COVID-19



In a world where many people are feeling overwhelmed by health concerns, Professor Aneesha Jean is working hard to teach Caldwell University nursing students how to empower their patients and communities to embrace health. She has seen firsthand how important equipping others with the information they need to make healthy choices can be.

For Jean, treating patients with care and respect is personal. She was inspired to pursue nursing by her grandmother, Mary Lou James, who worked as a live-in health care attendant. “She would come home from her patient assignments after being gone for two or three days at a time and I would meet her at the bus stop,” Jean says.

“In those brief moments, she would tell me about her time at work. As a child, I saw what she meant to her patients and how fulfilling the work was.”

Jean found herself with her first patient before she had entered high school or had begun her pursuit of a nursing degree. That patient was her grandma, the same one who had prompted her love of nursing. She cared for her, acting as her nurse and advocate as she navigated the complexities of the health care system. Although her grandmother died in 2018, her inspiration and influence live on in her granddaughter.

“I believe nursing is a special profession because the nurse has the privilege and honor to care for the individual and

family during some of the most vulnerable times,” Jean says. “Supporting people through health promotion and mitigation measures during life crises, such as birth, illness and death, has been a calling. I am inspired by the patients and others like my grandmother who need advocates and professionals that empower them to live life to their fullest potential.”

Many skills go into nursing, and Jean knows that equipping students with those skills during their time at the university is key to helping them do their jobs effectively in the future. Jean comes armed with an impressive résumé, including time working as a clinical instructor at the Valley Hospital and as the director of wellness services and field nurse supervisor at the nonprofit HomeCare Option. A first-generation college student, she holds an undergraduate degree from a joint BSN program with Ramapo College, Englewood Hospital and UMDNJ, a master’s in nursing education from Ramapo/UMDNJ (now Rutgers University) and a doctorate in nursing practice with a focus on health literacy and patient engagement from William Paterson University.

Like many professions, nursing involves being a strong multitasker. In a non-pandemic semester, Jean would be teaching in the classroom, working alongside students in on-campus labs and traveling to supervise nursing rotations for students in hospitals and community sites. With the necessary changes this year, she is equally busy with many jobs. Jean teaches on campus and remotely, is a course coordinator, oversees work in the on-campus lab and has joined a team that works to ensure Caldwell University is following proper safety protocols and delivering an effective education to students throughout the pandemic.

“Caldwell has been very proactive about their approach and their plan to return



Professor Aneesha Jean (R) with December nursing graduate Jill Patel '20 in the simulation lab.

to campus,” Jean says. “They’re working to make sure the campus is safe for both faculty and students and staying current with guidelines set by the government and CDC.”

COVID-19 has offered Jean an opportunity to educate students on real-world issues. “When the pandemic first hit our nation, as it was emerging, it was very timely for my course. That was when I was teaching students about public health and public health policy and infection control and infectious disease control.”

Jean has incorporated lessons from the stages of the pandemic into her classes. Students will likely graduate into a world that is still dealing with the ramifications of COVID-19, and they will need to know how to care for their communities in an effective way. Jean and her colleagues have been quick to add features to classes that will serve students. Those include the addition of a telehelp program that students can use to contact the residents of Marion Manor—HUD housing adjacent to the campus where many Sisters of St. Dominic live—for wellness checks. Jean and the others also are emphasizing the mental health component of courses and offering training in proper contact tracing for COVID-19.

Whatever the type of nursing, preparing students to educate patients is a key component of care. That has not changed with the arrival of the pandemic.

“You have to listen to your patient,” Jean says. “Listen to what their concerns are. You have to validate their concerns. You have to be ready to confront their concerns with correct and accurate information. A lot of their fears are based on misinformation.” Once a patient has been

educated, it is important to trust patients to make the best choices they can. “Listen and understand where your patient is coming from, counter with accurate and timely information and then give them the full picture,” Jean says, describing her advice to students. “Tell them, ‘This is what can happen,’ and make sure that they can understand that and allow them to make an informed decision.”

In that moment of trust, nurses have the opportunity to legitimize the decision-making ability of patients. “We miss an opportunity when we don’t focus on the empowerment piece of health and health literacy and making sure that people can make informed decisions about their health choices and behaviors.”

Jean is determined that students leaving the nursing program at Caldwell will be prepared to offer their patients the highest quality care. One way she and the rest of the staff in the nursing program do that

is through simulations. In these simulated events, a student might enter a lab that has been modeled after a bedroom. The student might be tasked with treating a patient who is elderly, with a geriatric concern such as wound care or diabetic education. Even though the patient is

actually a mannequin, the student is expected to practice proper communication and care, giving simulated health care education based on the patient’s needs. Lab coordinators observe and give the students feedback.

“Caldwell has been very proactive about their approach and their plan to return to campus.”

Through relevant coursework, telehelp conferencing and simulated experiences, students learn how to effectively care for their communities. They also benefit from the experience of Jean, who knows how to bring concepts from the classroom into real-life situations. She is confident her nursing students will be ready when they graduate and enter the workforce. “My goal is to give the students the opportunity to learn some of those important community and public health concepts and to be prepared to deal with the public—to help individual families and communities to be empowered to make healthier decisions and choices.” ■

—Nicole Burrell '09



## FACULTY FEATURE

## KATIE KORNACKI:

## BRINGING LITERATURE ALIVE THROUGH HISTORY AND EXPERIENCES



Katie Kornacki knows things are clicking for her students when they start to relate to the lives of characters who lived 100 years ago. “They acquire a knowledge of history and start viewing the world from multiple perspectives,” says Kornacki, chair of Caldwell University’s English Department. She finds it most fulfilling when through reading prose, fiction, creative nonfiction, drama or poetry her students start to think “about themselves, or their place in the world or the relationships with other people.” That is more rewarding than “getting the quote-unquote perfect paper,” says Kornacki, who is also an associate professor in the department.

Championing English literature might seem like a futile exercise at a time when

some lament that young people are not reading books. But Kornacki doesn’t buy that as a challenge; she works with it. “This notion that ‘nowadays’ people aren’t reading, aren’t writing—if you read back through time, you could find people saying that in the 1860s, the 1920s,” she says. The nature of people’s reading and writing has changed. “They are writing more than ever. It is different writing,” says Kornacki, pointing to the explosion of digital and social media sites and of commentary and blog posts. In her classroom she builds on that and challenges students to go places they might not have gone before. For many that means reading longer-form books.

“You learn so much about how to write, not just from practicing writing but from

reading; you are not realizing it, but you are.” Plus reading English literature offers life lessons—like learning through characters how to be compassionate. “We can’t empathize with someone else unless we can put ourselves in their shoes,” says Kornacki.

Born and raised in New England, she knows what it is like to find a character or writer from 200 years ago who inspires a student. During her studies Kornacki kept hearing the name of another New England woman—Margaret Fuller, a 19th-century writer and advocate for the American transcendentalism movement. Fascinated by Fuller, she began to study her works and did her thesis on “Margaret Fuller’s Conversations: Self and Other in Nineteenth-Century Literary and Intellectual Culture.” Today Kornacki is on the board of the Margaret Fuller Society and is the co-editor of the organization’s newsletter, *Conversations*, which she founded.

Kornacki’s passion for history is incorporated in her classes. “We don’t have a good connection with the past ... it is impossible to understand where we’re at today without understanding history, and part of that comes through literature,” she says.

Kornacki also believes in providing students with experiential learning excursions. In her *Literature in the Environment* class, they go to the great outdoors and observe. In *African American Literature, American Images and Literature and Women in Literature*, they “appreciate literature as a tool for social justice”; her students read texts that include the history of slavery and race in America juxtaposed with contemporary works and current issues. She has taken students to the Schomburg Center for Research and Black Culture and on a walking tour of Harlem. When she directed the honors program she hosted trips to the United Nations and



Professor Katie Kornacki and students in her African American Literature class in spring 2019 on a field trip to tour the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and take a historic walking tour of Harlem. Here they are in a historic nightclub.

to Boston for the sightseeing Duck Tour and part of the Freedom Trail of national historical sites.

From a young age growing up in Groton, Massachusetts, Kornacki and her brother Steve Kornacki, a television political journalist, were encouraged by their father and mother to read. “My mother would take us to get our library cards. We did the summer reading program ... our parents were big believers in the educational family vacation.”

Kornacki attended high school in New Hampshire, earned a bachelor’s degree in English literature from the University of Maine, did a semester in law school and then went for a master’s in teaching from the University of Maine. She taught English for three years at Oakhill High School in Maine, which serves the towns of Litchfield, Sabbathus and Wales, and then earned a master’s degree in American and New England studies from the University of Southern Maine. “I’ve always had an interest in place. For me that place is New England.” Kornacki did her doctoral work at the University of Connecticut where she was “lucky enough” to be in the classroom the entire time. “I taught through graduate school.” While pursuing her doctorate,

she worked at the Harriett Beecher Stowe Center as a tour guide and helped facilitate programming and a conversation series, “Salons at Stowe,” on topics related to contemporary social justice and the history of slavery.

Once she earned her Ph.D., Kornacki sought to find a liberal arts school, a smaller institution; the large university had provided solid teaching training, but something was lost in that bigness: “You would not see a single familiar face walking across campus.” When Caldwell University came up, she was attracted to its size and diversity.

Kornacki is grateful for her “amazing” colleagues in the English Department and their creativity in developing new classes for English majors and non-majors where students

can engage in high-impact learning and make meaningful connections to the contemporary world outside the classroom.

Choosing English as a major “is a dangerous thing,” she says. “Parents and kids want to know ‘what kind of job I’m going to get,’ and this discipline is not ‘career-specific.’” Yet

“the sky is the limit,” she says, pointing out that law schools are attracted to English majors because of their humanities studies. Attorneys need to develop skills like “paying close attention to text” and doing “close reading,” which involves thoughtful, critical analysis of a text and rereading. Large corporations desire English majors because they recognize that good writing and critical thinking are missing in their employee base. Other English majors pursue publishing and writing careers; some double major and go into teaching. Kornacki says an increasing number of students with English degrees are pursuing careers in the medical humanities, inspired by “literature that deals with doctor-patient issues.” For non-majors, English classes

provide a chance to develop the skills of critical thinking, reading, and writing that can help students to be “successful anywhere,” says Kornacki.

In five years at Caldwell, she has directed the honors program, served on the Academic Leadership and Curriculum committees and helped with the Restart Task Force following the lockdown. She is currently serving on the task force for redesigning the core curriculum.

The pandemic has been a learning process for Kornacki and her department colleagues as they have endeavored to be innovative in teaching. They have found that the most effective methods involve a balance between synchronous—in real time whether in person or with technology—and asynchronous learning, with students navigating some of the coursework on their own. Most important to her and her colleagues is “reaching out to students and recognizing that we are in a pandemic and students are overwhelmed too ... they’ve appreciated that. They’ve seen that.”

As much as COVID-19 has forced an adaptation of the teaching and learning process, certain aspects must remain in a good English literature class, like the lessons to be learned from history, the empathy to be gained from the characters, the critical thinking skills and the search for truth. Kornacki knows good things

are happening when students are taking intellectual risks and asking interesting questions—whether in the classroom or in a lively chat on Google Meet. She wants them to be free to discover through the literature and gets

excited when they “connect meaningfully with at least one of the texts that we read: making connections between their own lives, thoughts, and emotion and those of published authors.” And she knows that sometimes that means they may be lucky enough to find a writer from 200 years ago who inspires them to discover their own research and writing passions. Yes, she says, “there are always reasons why we end up where we end up.” ■

—CL

“We can’t empathize with someone else unless we can put ourselves in their shoes.”



# CLASS OF 2020 GETS ITS DAY IN THE SUN



Dr. Matthew Whelan commended the graduates for making it to the finish despite the challenges of the pandemic.



Lamar-Shea Chang gave the student commencement address at the undergraduate ceremonies. He received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems and Biology with a minor in chemistry and is now studying in the MBA program.



Liam Kearney receives his MBA from his aunt, Sister Mary John Kearney, O.P., professor emerita, with President Whelan looking on.



CU had the chance to celebrate its Class of 2020 on Sept. 20 in three long-awaited ceremonies delayed by the pandemic. Two undergraduate ceremonies and one graduate ceremony—arranged for social distancing—were held on the athletics field in beautiful fall-like temperatures.

“We displayed resiliency and persevered through the pandemic ... we stand here today in celebration, better, stronger and

wiser for it,” said Marisa Juliano, of Forked River, New Jersey, who gave the student commencement address at the graduate ceremony.

Juliano, who earned a Master of Art in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with Art Therapy specialization degree, said that during their last months at Caldwell, students in her class were forced to adapt to ever-changing circumstances. Juliano,

who holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from Caldwell, said her life’s journey into young adulthood was shaped by her time on the university campus. “The experiences that I had here were a crucial part of my development.” During the pandemic Juliano served COVID-19 patients and high-risk seniors, providing art therapy services at a senior citizen community. “The Caldwell mission of giving back lives within each of us,” she said.

Dr. Matthew Whelan, who became Caldwell’s ninth president July 1, noted that if it were not for the pandemic, he and the graduates would not have crossed paths.

When “out of the ordinary things” like this happen, he said, “I like to ask myself, ‘What is this teaching me?’” He commended graduates for their hard work while juggling jobs, internships and other responsibilities. “You were met with unprecedented challenges. Your world was upended. And still you made it.” Quoting Nelson Mandela, Dr. Whelan said, “‘It always seems impossible until it’s done.’ You sit here today, the very embodiment of that quote. You have taught me that when you carry the Caldwell University mission and the core values of respect, integrity, community and excellence ... nothing is impossible. Class of 2020, you are an inspiration to us all.” Dr. Whelan told the graduates that he looked forward to continuing to meet them on their journeys as alumni.

Dr. Nancy Blattner, former Caldwell president, who could not attend due to travel restrictions, sent her remarks virtually from St. Louis, where she is now president of Fontbonne University.

In addition to the workforce and job readiness skills they gained at Caldwell, Dr. Blattner said she hoped the graduates had been inspired to take with them special values to live a full life—“the desire to do good and be a source of goodness to

others ... nurture an adventuresome spirit ... discover your passion ... take time every day for the rest of your life to be grateful.” Choose to do good, she said, “when you are not rewarded, when you are too tired or when people question why you take time to do so. That is when your goodness is needed most.” Be attuned “to those things about which you feel passionate and look for ways to express that interest in your family, in your workplace and in your communities.”

Lamar-Shea Chang gave the student commencement address at the undergraduate ceremonies. Chang, who received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems and Biology with a minor in chemistry, said Caldwell gave the students “the perfect gift for a lifetime.”

“We all received a great education, which will have ripple effects in all our individual communities. A great gift from Caldwell, a great takeaway,” said Chang, who grew up on the island of Jamaica in Portmore, St. Catherine. He pointed out that beyond the excellent academics, many other aspects of university life formed that perfect gift: the opportunities to exercise personal passions and to build communities within the dorms and lasting friendships, the inspiration for fundraisers, and “the Catholic Dominican way,” which in “essence means to act out of love.”

The mistress of ceremonies was Sister Kathleen Tuite, O.P., vice president for



Keisha Shay receives a diploma for her doctorate in educational leadership with a higher education specialization from President Whelan.

student life; the invocation was given by Colleen O’Brien, campus minister. Communication and Media Studies Professor Bob Mann presented the candidates and degrees. Dr. Whelan gave the benediction. ■

### The grand marshals were:

- **Graduate ceremony:** Joanne Jasmine, professor of education; coordinator, M.A. Curriculum and Instruction; co-coordinator, Ed.D./Ph.D. Educational Leadership.
- **Undergraduate Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Science in Nursing ceremony:** Kathleen Kelley, associate professor and director of undergraduate nursing education, School of Nursing and Public Health.
- **Undergraduate Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts ceremony:** Yang Cai, professor of sociology.



# STUDENT Accolades



Alicia Santamaria



Keith Kyewalabye



Samantha Miller

Three CU marching band members were chosen to participate in a performance of the Collegiate Band Directors National Association Intercollegiate Marching Band on Jan. 11. **Alicia Santamaria**, trumpet; **Keith Kyewalabye**, alto saxophone, and **Samantha Miller**, color guard, joined college band members from around the country in a video halftime show presented during college football's national championship game. "I am so proud of

these students for learning the required music/routine in such a short time," said band director Rebecca Vega. "I am excited to see their final performance in January."

**Prabuddha Raj Bastola**, an accounting major, was selected to receive a 2020-21 CohnReznick Accounting Scholarship through the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJCPA). Bastola said he is working extremely hard to be able to contribute to the industry. "I believe that public accounting can help a lot of people if done right." He has appreciated learning from Professors Ann Marie Callahan and Alvin Neiman. "Both of them are willing to leverage their connections to help us get internships and jobs. This gives me a lot of confidence to keep moving forward," said Bastola. He appreciates the scholarship from CohnReznick and NJCPA. "Someday I want to make them proud with my work."



Sojiyana Ligal Shrestha

**Sojiyana Ligal Shrestha '21** was selected to receive a Martin R. Sullivan Memorial/PricewaterhouseCoopers Scholarship through the Independent College Fund of New Jersey. Shrestha is double majoring in accounting and financial economics and plans to sit for the CPA exam and work for the Big 4. "Ultimately, I want to become a socially responsible CFO one day." She appreciates the faculty members she has had in the School of Business and Computer Science. "They were always willing to go that extra mile to make sure we are confident in our learnings."

**Simran Gurung**, a nursing major and vice president of the Student Government Association, is the recipient of the Partners for Health Foundation Nursing Scholarship through the Independent College Fund of New Jersey. She appreciates the nursing program at Caldwell and how the professors encourage her to become proactive and "a more confident problem solver, which is an essential skill for a nurse." She aspires to become a registered pediatric nurse, advance her studies, become a nurse practitioner and work with medically underserved children, eventually joining a nongovernmental organization her aunt runs back in her home country of Nepal. ■

# HOW DO YOU KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING?

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT DOES IT WITH INGENUITY AND PERSEVERANCE

How do you keep the music playing? It was a question Music Department faculty wrestled with as they ventured into the fall semester amid COVID restrictions. But faculty and students proved it can be done—teaching and performing with ingenuity and adaptability. All of the music ensembles met safely on campus with most students in person for the entire fall semester.

With sprint football sidelined until the spring due to COVID restrictions, the Marching Band, under the leadership of Professor Rebecca Vega, gave a "halftime" performance on a beautiful October Friday evening, with friends and families watching from the parking lot or on the CU Facebook page.

On a Sunday in November, the band surprised Dorie Volz of North Caldwell, who turned 100, marching up to her yard to perform "Happy Birthday," "25 or 6 to 4" and more.

Vega's class included an assignment for which students explored the "why" of their music by picking a favorite work and researching why and how composers used musical elements to create a message. Some of the composers met virtually with the class. Several students explored how music was used in their favorite movies. An international student shared his "why" by describing and showing examples of the music he heard while growing up in Uganda.



Dr. Laura Greenwald prepares for the chorale's Facebook Live performance with Dan Burg, media services coordinator, and Nicholas Peteya, senior technology specialist and member of the chorale.



Laura Greenwald, who chairs the Music Department, spent the summer researching how to sing safely. "I wanted the students to feel connected to others at a time when many people are isolated, so we rehearsed both inside and outside, wearing masks while staying socially distant." They worked with professional composer Karen Siegel to learn how to use technology to perform live over the internet. The culmination for the chorale was a socially distanced performance on Facebook Live in the gym Nov. 19 at which the group premiered the piece "Meditation" by Siegel.

Students in Greenwald's Opera Theatre Workshop class recorded a video of their devised opera "Pandemic" for which Greenwald and the students wrote new lyrics for songs by Mozart, Dowland and Schubert. Senior Lauren Mann, junior Maria Tavarez, sophomore Tatyanna Rodriguez and freshmen Noreen Abedrabbo and Krystal Tardif performed and staged the pieces, which reflected their feelings about the pandemic. They were accompanied by staff accompanist Nancy Chamberlain.

The jazz band, directed by Robert Middleton, took a break from preparing for performances in the style of a large ensemble and focused on small-group jazz skills while staying socially distanced. Each student musician took a turn leading the band in a performance of a tune from the standard jazz repertoire. "These skills

helped prepare each student musician to be ready to organize a small jazz band and lead it in a performance with little or no rehearsal as frequently occurs in this field," said Middleton. As a final project, each of the students conducted and played a video-recorded performance of a tune.

Nan Childress Orchard, professor of music, found it was an "unexpected blessing" to be a pianist in a pandemic since making music on the piano doesn't require blowing air through an instrument or straight out into the air as a singer must do.

Her piano classes were held in the keyboard lab with a limited number of students and one teacher, and private lessons were held in the large Alumni Theatre rather than in the small studio.

Orchard was happy that students had the chance to perform for each other in performance class.

By remaining socially distant and using bell covers and face masks, all her students were able to perform repertoire they were working on in their lessons. "This was particularly important to our four seniors, who are preparing for senior recitals in the spring semester," said Orchard. Technology was also used for class, with some students performing remotely from home or locations on campus. ■

—CL





# School of Education Receives CAEP Reaccreditation



It was just about the best early holiday gift the School of Education could have received. Before Thanksgiving, the school's associate dean, Kevin Barnes, received word from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) that the national committee had approved Caldwell's reaccreditation for the next seven years. The faculty members, staff and students had weathered several months of rigorous scrutiny amid COVID-19 to showcase the excellent education undergraduate and graduate students receive at Caldwell.

The university CAEP coordinators were Dr. Edith Ries, professor of education, and Dr. Brian Bulger, director of field-based education; along with Barnes they led the team in preparing for interviews and assembling materials. All full-time faculty members were engaged in the process. Originally the CAEP campus site visit was



*Dr. Brian Bulger, director of field-based education, and Dr. Edith Ries, professor of education, were CAEP coordinators for the university's reaccreditation process.*

planned for April, but due to the pandemic, travel arrangements, hotel rooms and meals were canceled and all meetings were moved online. Sixteen meetings with 68 people were held virtually. CAEP representatives spoke to undergraduate students, then their professors, to graduate students and then their professors.

Barnes is especially grateful to Ries and Bulger. "Their efforts can't be overstated as well as the efforts of all of the School of Education professors. There were phone calls, graphs and emails going often until 8, 9 and 10 p.m. at night." Faculty members are relieved that the process is completed. They passed with flying colors and with no stipulations. "We have a completely clear slate and reaccreditation for the next seven years!" said Barnes. ■



*Prabuddha Raj Bastola receiving a laptop donated by LG.*



## DONATION

Caldwell University is grateful to LG Electronics for its donation of 19 laptops for students who were in need of a device. In the fall semester, Heather Cook, director of Jennings Library, made arrangements for the library staff to distribute the laptops to the students in the library.



# Nursing Council Licensure Examination Rates Climb Due to HESI Products

Ninety-five percent of Caldwell's 2019 nursing graduates are either employed, enrolled in further education or serving in the military. In 2018-19 graduates from the program achieved a 98% overall pass rate compared with a national pass rate of 73% on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). The School of Nursing and Public Health attributes that to the work of incorporating Elsevier's HESI products across the BSN curriculum. Dr. Kathleen Kelley, director of the undergraduate nursing program, was featured in video and print interviews by Elsevier detailing how and why the NCLEX pass rates for Caldwell's nursing graduates rose exponentially after incorporating HESI into the nursing curriculum. ■



*December nursing graduate Marie Jean Pierre.*

**WATCH IT HERE**

## CALDWELL UNIVERSITY IS A 2021 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST VALUE SCHOOL



Caldwell University is one of the region's best value schools in the North, according to the U.S. News & World Report 2021 college rankings.

For nearly 30 years, the education rankings have been assisting parents and students in selecting a university or college.

Caldwell moved up to 14th place in the category of the best value regional universities in the North from last year's No. 18. The university is also among the top 75 regional universities in the North overall, ascending eight spots from last year to No. 67. Caldwell came in eighth for most international students and 19th as a top performer on social mobility.

"While no single ranking tells the story of any institution, it is gratifying to know we have been recognized for our outstanding value," said Dr. Matthew Whelan, Caldwell University's president. "Our nationally and internationally accredited programs in applied behavior analysis, our incredibly high pass rates on tests such as the National Council Licensure Examination for nursing, and the availability of unique programs in art therapy and esports management are complemented by the generous financial aid and very affordable out-of-pocket tuition our students pay."

In 2020 Caldwell University was formally recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Postsecondary Education, reflecting the growth in enrollment of Hispanic students at the university and the welcoming environment Caldwell has created for the students.

"We look forward to reaching out and ensuring that all students, especially those underrepresented in higher education, are offered the opportunity to move forward with us," said Dr. Whelan. "All of this is backed by the promise of our core values of respect, integrity, community and excellence and our deeply held Dominican mission to graduate students who will pursue truth and contribute to a just society. I can think of no greater value than that."

Caldwell University was also named to Money's 2020 Best Colleges list.

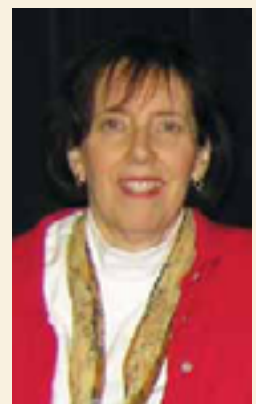
For the new 2020-21 academic year Caldwell welcomed over 520 incoming students, including 445 freshmen representing 14 states and 10 countries. It was a record-breaking year with 4,976 freshman applications and 3,750 acceptances. Caldwell continues to enroll a diverse population of students, with 68% of the incoming freshmen identifying as students of color. ■



# Faculty & Staff Notes

**Karla Batres, Ph.D.,** associate professor of psychology, **Stephanie Sitnick, Ph.D.,** associate professor of psychology, and **Thomson Ling, Ph.D.,** associate dean in the School of Psychology and Counseling, presented at the conference on “Moving the needle: Using data to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion towards student success,” which focused on using data to improve the outcomes of minority students.

**Ellina Chernobilsky, Ph.D.,** acting vice president for academic affairs; **Henrietta Genfi, associate dean of academic support;** **Susan Hayes, director of institutional research and assessment;** **Jhoanna Olivia-Marquez, assistant director, advisement** and **Barbara Chesler, Ph.D.,** former vice president for academic affairs, published the chapter “Supporting at-risk students in a small university” in the book “Humanizing higher education through innovative approaches for teaching and learning.”



**Nan Childress Orchard, DMA,** professor of music; **Thomson Ling, Ph.D.,** associate dean of psychology and counseling, and **Ellina Chernobilsky, Ph.D.,** acting vice president for academic affairs,

led a roundtable discussion at the American Association of Colleges and Universities’ annual meeting in January 2021 on the place of liberal arts in program prioritization.

**Ruth M. DeBar, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA,** professor of applied behavior analysis, co-authored an article published in *The Journal of Experimental Analysis of Behavior* and has had two articles accepted for publication in *Behavior Modification* and the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*. She served as a virtual site visitor evaluating educational programs in behavior analysis for the Association of Behavioral Analysis International. With a colleague and graduate students, she hosted

a training session on autism spectrum disorders for West Essex first responders.

**Meghan Deshais, Ph.D., BCBA-D,** assistant professor of applied behavior analysis, was nominated to the editorial board of the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.

**Jaz Graf, adjunct lecturer in the Department of Visual Arts and Design,** is scheduled to present her research on Thai papermaking in “Designing Words: Typography, Calligraphy, and Book Arts across the Asian Continent” as part of the College Art Association’s annual conference in February. Graf serves on the exhibitions committee of North American Hand Papermakers and is the recipient of a Creative Catalyst Artist Fellowship.

**John Hannum, assistant professor of education,** presented on “Is It Time for Another Eight-Year Study?” to members of the Association for Middle Level Education on Oct. 23. The presentation focused on how the future of education has been forever changed as a result of the pandemic and what can be learned from recent and past experiences.

**Patricia M. Hubert, adjunct lecturer in nursing,** completed the Caritas Coach Educator Program through the Watson Caring Science Institute to focus on caring science theory. She co-authored a paper in the institute newsletter on “Caring Science and Moral Distress in Nurses during COVID-19 Pandemic.”



**Timothy Kessler-Cleary,** assistant dean for student engagement and retention, co-facilitated a webinar for the Stetson University Law School Center for Excellence in Higher Education

Law and Policy titled “Boots on the Ground: Ensuring Equity and Mitigating Risk in the COVID-19 Era” on Nov. 5. The webinar focused on what is happening

on the ground at college and university campuses in the age of COVID-19, equity and access, the intersection between state guidance and institutional policy, and more.

**Colette Liddy, director of news and media relations and adjunct lecturer in the Department of Theology and Philosophy,** had her article “Pope’s new book-interview is a step toward a better post-pandemic world” published in the Christian online publication *Aleteia*.

**Thomson Ling, Ph.D.,** associate dean in the School of Psychology and Counseling, chaired a symposium at the American Psychological Association conference titled “Liberating diversity in teaching: Using identity to change the invisible landscape.” Ling, Chernobilsky and other colleagues wrote a presentation that **Henrietta Genfi, associate dean of academic support,** and Ling presented at the annual Drexel University Conference on Teaching & Learning Assessment. The presentation was titled “Engaging voices to make hard choices: Involving stakeholders in resource allocation and program prioritization.”



**Catherine Lundquist, Ph.D.,** adjunct lecturer in the School of Education and award-winning kindergarten teacher, served as a panelist during the school’s Principals’ Roundtable Nov.

13. Panelists Dr. Maurice Elias, Rutgers University psychology professor and internationally renowned social-emotional well-being authority; Mary Cunningham, Caldwell-West Caldwell public schools student assistant counselor, and Lundquist engaged in a virtual discussion about social-emotional development and well-being before 70 participants. Dr. Kevin Barnes, associate dean of the School of Education, served as the facilitator and host. The Principals’ Roundtable provides opportunities for the School of Education

to present guest lecturers of national renown to surrounding school personnel in an open forum for discussion and Q&A.

**Maria Lupo, adjunct lecturer in graduate art therapy in the School of Psychology and Counseling,** is a recipient of the South Mountain Conservancy award for her outdoor installation “Wishin’ & Hopin’: A Living Quilt,” an eco-friendly quilt that will be constructed of recycled tea bags and installed in the Wildflower Sculpture Park Exhibition at South Mountain Reservation, Essex County, in May. Lupo was awarded first place in the Essex County Senior Art Exhibition for her mixed media piece “Prophet’s Dream.”

**Neil Malvone, assistant professor of sport management and esports management,** published an article titled “Esports Game Changers Impact Society Following the Path of Traditional Sports” in the August 2020 edition of the *International Journal of Business Management and Commerce*.

**Megan Matesic, Ph.D.,** research analyst in the Institutional Research and Assessment Department, presented her research on “First-Year Retention of Students with Disabilities in Higher Education” at the Association of the Study of Higher Education conference in November. The project was based on her doctoral dissertation.

**Mary Ann B. Miller, professor of English,** has written blurbs for the back covers of books, ranging from critical studies of Catholic film and of Catholic writers of literature to small collections of poems by individual authors: Nancy Enright, “Catholic Literature and Film: Incarnational Love and Suffering” (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017); James Matthew Wilson, “The Hanging God” (Angelico, 2018); Paul Mariani, “The Mystery of It All: The Vocation of Poetry in the Twilight of Modernity” (Paraclete, 2019); Philip C. Kolin, “Reaching Forever” (Wipf & Stock, 2019); Maryanne Hannan, “Rocking Like It’s All Intermezzo” (Wipf & Stock, 2019); David Craig, “Lent Always Takes Us” (Wipf & Stock, 2019); Adam Arehart, “Clay Vessels” (Wipf & Stock, 2020); Wally Swist, “Awakening and Visitation” (Shanti

Arts, 2020). Miller was also a guest on “The Curious Catholic Podcast” during which she discussed the origin, growth and mission of Presence. She is the founding editor of this poetry journal and engages interested students in reading submissions every fall in her journal editing class.

**Christin Mulligan, adjunct lecturer in the English Department,** published an essay, “Divorce Ruling Without Consent: Gender, Penal Law, and the Faminized Body in Nuala O’Faolain’s ‘My Dream of You,’” which deals with art/architecture, feminism and the legal system. The essay appears in the interdisciplinary edited collection “Gender Justice and the Law: Theoretical Practices of Intersectional Identity” from Fairleigh Dickinson University Press.

**David Petrillo, Ph.D., adjunct lecturer in the Department of History and Political Science,** was interviewed for the DIA Connections podcast produced by the Defense Intelligence Agency focusing on the impact of the pandemic on world events, military threats and politics. He was interviewed by the Financial Times in October for an article on the impact of the pandemic on the election of 2020, intertwined with the history of disease and politics.



**Kenneth F. Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D,** professor of applied behavior analysis, co-authored a paper with his former doctoral student Carol McPheters and his ABA department colleagues

investigating how specific teaching variables affect concept formation in adults. The paper was published in a special issue on concept formation in the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*. Reeve was a co-author on three additional research papers published in other behavior analysis journals. He served as chair for the research symposium “Recent Research in

Equivalence-based Instruction and Match-to-Sample Procedures” at the 15th annual conference of the New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis where he was also a co-author with his students and ABA colleagues on three research paper presentations addressing effective instructional procedures. He served as a research paper reviewer for the journals *The Psychological Record* and *Behavioral Interventions*.

**Sharon Reeve, Ph.D., BCBA-D,** professor of applied behavior analysis, and doctoral alumna Alexandra O’Grady published an article in *Behavioral Interventions* on “Comparing Computer-Based Training and Lecture Formats to Teach Visual Analysis of Baseline-Treatment Graphs.” Reeve and master’s student Micah Lewis presented at the New Jersey Education Association conference.

**Edith Ries, Ph.D.,** professor of education; **Ellina Chernobilsky, Ph.D.,** acting vice president for academic affairs, and **Joanne Jasmine, Ph.D.,** professor of education, published a chapter on “Humanizing a teacher education program in a small liberal arts university” in the book “International Perspectives on emerging trends and integrating research-based learning across the curriculum.”

**Tina Sidener, Ph.D.,** chair of the Department of Applied Behavior Analysis, was chosen to be a subject matter expert for the Behavior Analyst Certification Board for 2021-24. She served as associate editor for the journal *Education and Treatment in Children*.

**Stephanie Sitnick, Ph.D.,** associate professor in the Department of Psychology and Counseling, was a co-author for a manuscript titled “Early Adolescent Predictors of Violent Behavior: Child and Contextual Risk, and Moderation by Rejecting Parenting” in the *Journal of Early Adolescence*. She also co-authored the paper “Parent food-related behaviors and family-based dietary and activity environments: Associations with BMI z-scores in low-income preschoolers,” which was published in *Childhood Obesity*.

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# Faculty & Staff Notes

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**Rebecca Vega, associate professor of music**, commissioned a new piece by composer Elise Carter for two flutes and percussion. The composition describes Vega's family trips. The new movement, titled "Ko Somet," was recorded in August and performed at the New Jersey Flute Society Virtual Flute Fair in October.

**Jason C. Vladescu, Ph.D., BCBA-D, associate professor of applied behavior analysis**, co-authored six papers published in the peer-reviewed journals Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis, Behavior Analysis in Practice, and Behavioral Interventions and gave an invited presentation for the Georgia Association for Behavior Analysis. Vladescu joined the New Jersey Association for Behavior Analysis board as university liaison/research chair in July 2020 and began a two-year term on the editorial board for the peer-reviewed journal The Analysis of Verbal Behavior in January 2021.

**Students and faculty from Caldwell University's Center for Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis** presented to first responders and the West Essex First Aid Squad in December on what to expect on calls involving people with autism spectrum disorder and other special needs and how to better assist them.



### CABINET NOTES

**Stephen Quinn, vice president for enrollment management and communications**, was a guest on the Remotely RNL+Render Web Series, discussing how to connect with prospective students for campus visits virtually and in person during the COVID pandemic.

**Ellina Chernobilsky, Ph.D., acting vice president for academic affairs**, participated in a panel discussion in November on educational trajectories in today's universities organized by Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia, as a part of the international forum "University Education Today and Tomorrow." In December Chernobilsky spoke about the American system of education from preschool to doctorate education in a panel organized by Herzen State Pedagogical University, St. Petersburg, Russia, as a part of the project "Pedagogical Seasons." She wrote an editorial on STEM education and science identity formation for the Journal of Research in Science Mathematics and Technology Education.

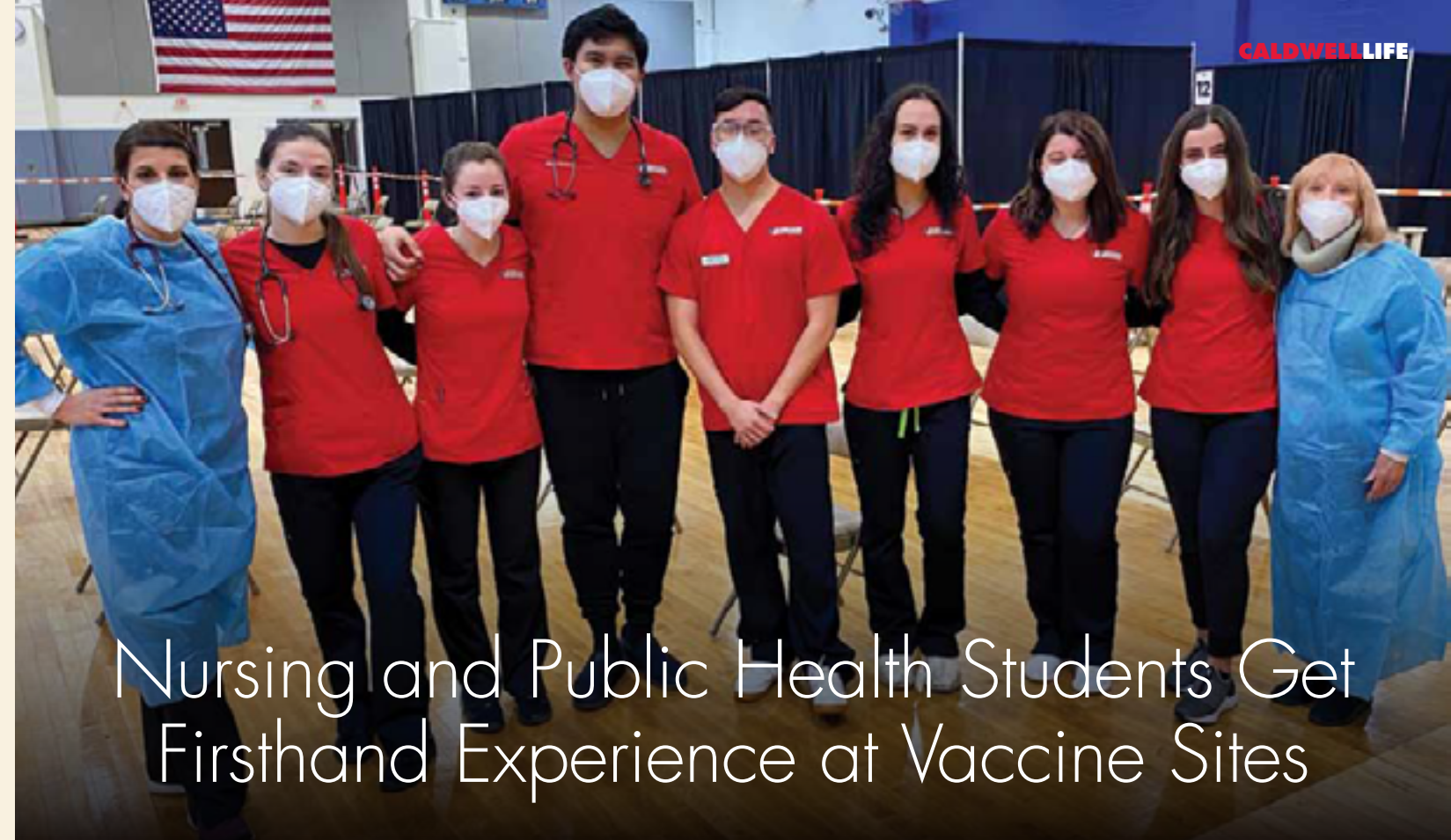
## Caldwell Featured in Videos on YouTube and CBS 2 Urging Social Responsibility

The university has produced a number of videos to help everyone feel connected as a community and to urge personal responsibility during the pandemic. President Matthew Whelan; Sister Kathleen Tuite, vice president for student life; staff, faculty members and students encouraged everyone to wear masks, remain socially distant, wash their hands and keep moving forward. Since communicating effectively while wearing a mask is becoming somewhat of an art, Rachel Carey, chair of the Communication and Media Studies Department, and students urged everyone to work harder on verbal and nonverbal communications skills to be understood. CBS 2's John Elliott covered the story. ■



Rachel Carey, chair of the Communication and Media Studies Department, was interviewed for a CBS 2 story.

[WATCH IT HERE](#)



## Nursing and Public Health Students Get Firsthand Experience at Vaccine Sites

Caldwell nursing faculty member Dr. Jennifer Rhodes; Claudia Avila, Megan Norton, Ryan Rutano, Adam Wilk Jr., Francesca Salvatoriella, Marissa Laterza and Emily Dello Russo, third-year nursing students who volunteered at a vaccine site over winter break, and Caldwell nursing faculty member Dorothy Kozlowski.

Caldwell University nursing and public health students are getting a front-row seat for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccines. Some volunteered over winter break working with nursing professors at vaccine sites. Others will work at the sites in the spring semester.

Ryan Rutano, a junior in the nursing program, volunteered at the West Caldwell site. Among his duties, he monitored patients after they received the injections and gave out information about the V-safe after-vaccination health checker. He was thrilled to put in action "the communication skills and medicine administration" he learned in class.

More than 40 nursing students, six a day, served in the clinics during break. Assistant Professor of Nursing Jennifer Rhodes, DNP, has been overseeing the student program at the sites and is impressed with how Caldwell students are eager to participate. She and the students were happy to see the health care professionals who have been on the front lines serving COVID patients get their shots. "With what they have had to endure, the least we can do is support them," said Rhodes.



Nursing students Alysha Ramos and Stephanie Zaldivar; Caldwell nursing faculty member Bettina Eulie; nursing students Simran Gurung and Leilani Cruz Zavaleta volunteering at a vaccine site.

Kathleen Boreale, Ph.D., assistant professor of nursing; Bettina Eulie, instructor of nursing, and Dorothy Kozlowski, nursing adjunct lecturer, have also been leading the students at the sites.

Rutano has appreciated the dedication of Caldwell's nursing professors in making safety a priority and using the virus as a "teaching moment" in many of his classes.

Living through a pandemic has helped many of Caldwell's future nursing and

public health professionals appreciate the opportunities they are receiving to prepare them to make a difference in their chosen professions. "We are determined to finish our degree and help out as soon as possible," said Rutano.

Public health student interns and students in the course "Community and Public Health Nursing" will serve at sites for their clinical placement experiences in the spring semester. ■





*The Latinos Out Loud: Hispanic Heritage Month closing event was presented by the Office of Student Engagement, the Educational Opportunity Fund Program and the Latin American Student Association and featured food, music, games and art.*



*Nursing students enjoying the The Latinos Out Loud: Hispanic Heritage Month closing event.*



*The campus community enjoyed food on the plaza from a variety of vendors throughout the fall semester.*



*International Student Abhisank Khadka plays guitar during the annual celebration of Tihar - Festival of Lights.*

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ADAPTS EVENTS TO KEEP STUDENTS CONNECTED DURING COVID-19

Like many departments in higher education during the COVID-19 pandemic, Caldwell University's Office of Student Engagement was forced to adapt its student events this past fall. With the goal of engaging students in a safe manner, the office initiated creative and unique activities across campus to keep students connected to the campus community.

Assistant Dean for Student Engagement and Retention Tim Kessler-Cleary said the health of students was the top priority in planning events in the fall. "Our goal was to provide an opportunity for students to stay connected during this difficult time while simultaneously following state and federal health guidelines to ensure the safety of our students. Overall, our mission was a success as we found that our students remained engaged and participated in their respective organizations."

Planning for the fall began in the late summer when the university announced that students would be welcomed back to campus based on guidance from New Jersey's secretary of higher education and state health officials. Kessler-Cleary and

his team used the health guidance in their preparations for hybrid and virtual programming for the fall semester. Many of the student-centered activities remained outdoors as the team hosted corn hole and frisbee tournaments and a home run derby competition. In an effort to support local businesses, the team hosted outdoor food trucks from late September through November so students could safely connect with their community and enjoy a meal together.

The vast majority of student organizations moved to a mostly virtual environment. The Student Government Association conducted normal business at virtual meetings, which resembled in-person sessions as closely as possible. Student organizations held meetings virtually and sought to maintain a connection to their membership. Greek organizations were able to recruit new members with a hybrid program, hosting in-person and virtual events.

To engage students across campus, the Office of Student Life collaborated with other departments, including the wellness

center, counseling services, campus ministry and residence life. Among these collaborative virtual events were an anti-racism series, voter registration drives and weekly game shows with prizes. The office also helped promote free virtual concerts and museum tours and TED Talks.

The student engagement leadership retreat was another significant activity during the fall semester. Typically held in person, the retreat for the leaders of student organizations moved to a virtual format. Among the topics discussed were leadership development in the organizations, how to encourage the growth of the organizations and how to communicate with members during the time of COVID-19. Caldwell President Matthew Whelan participated in the retreat and discussed the importance of student leadership and life after college. ■

—JT

## Reeya Callychurn: Mauritian Student Is Stepping Up and Stepping Out

When Reeya Callychurn arrived at Caldwell University, she was the first person from her country to attend the school. Mauritius, her home country, is an island nation located off the east coast of South Africa. Traveling by plane to the United States takes a full day. To some it might seem impossible that a high school student from Mauritius could find Caldwell University, let alone decide to attend. But Callychurn's path is a testament to her hard work and the dedication of the staff at Caldwell.

Callychurn discovered Caldwell because it met several of her most important desires for a college. She knew she was interested in a school in the United States after two Mauritian students visited her high school during a break from their university studies in America and shared positive experiences. She also wanted to find a school that offered good merit-based scholarships. And if she was going to end up in the United States, she hoped to study in or close to New York City. When she entered her parameters into her online college search, Caldwell University popped up.

"There were other schools that I was considering, but the very first factor which determines what school to choose for an international student is affordability," Callychurn says of narrowing down her search. "The next factor was a location. Location plays a big, big role."

The fact that Caldwell provided significant financial aid along with a location that offered easy access to New York City sold Callychurn. Beyond that, she was blown away by the personal attention she received from the staff as she tried to make her decision.

"One person who helped me greatly through every step would be Jan Marco Jiras," Callychurn says of the director of admissions. "If I'm here today, I would say it's because of him."



Once she arrived at Caldwell, Callychurn dove into her studies. As a freshman, she earned the C-Pin, an award given to exemplary students at honors convocation. She came from a very competitive education system in Mauritius and applied her work ethic to her university studies. Callychurn appreciates the opportunity to pursue her higher education in a caring, attentive environment, and this factor has driven her performance. "Caldwell is taking good care of me, and now it is my opportunity to give back as a good student."

Caldwell's emphasis on liberal arts stands out for Callychurn. She is studying biology and plans to pursue a career in pharmaceutical research. At the same time she is being exposed to a wide variety of subjects, like theology and more extensive literature studies. This is one of the ways the university has surprised her. She is also thrilled to discover that despite her worries, the Catholic college accepted her, a Hindu, and treated her with care and respect.

Even though Callychurn does not have the company of another student from her country at Caldwell, she has been able to

form strong bonds that are bridging the gap and meeting her need for connection and support.

"I feel very valued and treasured," she says of the Caldwell community. "The persons who brought me here were Jan Marco Jiras and Maulin Joshi. But if you look at the faculty and all the Sisters at school, if you need help, you reach out and they'll be here. The school provides a very good support system."

During her 18 months of study, Callychurn has gifted the school with her culture. She has placed the Mauritian flag in the Hall of Flags. She has brought her food to a schoolwide Thanksgiving celebration that was tailored to showcase the many backgrounds of students. Her presence has surely added to the tapestry woven from the diversity found on campus.

As for being a trailblazer as the first and only student from her country, Callychurn says it has its pros and cons. "Sometimes you don't fit in the crowd, but sometimes it makes you stand out." ■

—Nicole Burrell '09



# STUDENTS' ART ON DISPLAY In the President's Office

The works of several student artists are displayed in CU President Matthew Whelan's office. This fall, Dr. Whelan met with some of the artists who are studying in the M.A. in Clinical Mental Counseling with Art Therapy Specialization program. "I want to share the beauty and meaning of the artwork and the names of the student artists with those who may not yet have been to my office," he said.

Eileen Strungis's piece, "Ginko, 2016," depicts a tree at an environmental center near her house. "It was the most perfect autumn day and the ginkgo tree was in a glorious state of bursting color," said Strungis, who holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in art. She is looking forward to obtaining her M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with Art Therapy Specialization from Caldwell. "In my previous career, I worked with people in a creative way. I was a hairdresser. Studying mental health counseling and art therapy feels like a subtle shift from my previous career," said Strungis.

Boned Figueroa created her pieces, "I Am Enough" and "Educator," for her undergraduate art project, focusing on race. "I want to help people heal through the art process," said Figueroa, who is studying in the graduate program and who holds a bachelor's degree in art and psychology from Caldwell

Monika Jastrzebski was drawn to the M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with Art Therapy Specialization because she saw that the field offered opportunities to combine her creativity with her compassion and sensitivity toward people. "When God gives you a talent, you use it. The more I do it, the more it feels right," said Jastrzebski, who holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts. ■



Boned Figueroa and President Whelan as she displays her pieces, "I Am Enough" and "Educator."



Monika Jastrzebski with Dr. Whelan showing her work, "Sandy Hook."



Eileen Strungis and Dr. Matthew Whelan with her piece, "Ginko 2016."

# UNIVERSITY HOSTS ANTI-RACISM LECTURE SERIES

The university held an anti-racism lecture series this past fall in response to a cry for racial justice following several incidents including the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Speakers included Dr. Thomson Ling, associate dean of the School of Psychology and Counseling, on "Defining Diversity and Multiculturalism," Dr. Lena Campagna, assistant professor of criminal justice, on "Racism and Violence," Dr. Yang Cai, professor of sociology, on "Privilege, White Privilege and White Guilt," and Alex Thompson, LSW, counselor/substance awareness, on "Microaggressions."

The idea was proposed by Sophie Hicks '21 who said that during the lockdown after Floyd's death she had a chance to reflect and to educate herself more on issues of racism. She started an online petition for an anti-racism academic course and met with President Matthew Whelan and other members of the administration to present her ideas. Hicks, a psychology major with two interdisciplinary minors—medical humanities and neuroscience—says she is grateful to the administration for being

supportive of her suggestions. "If we can change or educate a small amount of people, that can change big things," said Hicks. "I've learned a lot too, and I'm not afraid to admit I have a lot to learn."

Dennis Martin '21, a social studies and special education major, attended all of the seminars. He said he was happy to see a collective understanding at Caldwell, which has a diverse population of students, that there is racism in the U.S. that needs to be addressed. As a future teacher, now student teaching, Martin says it is good to address discomfort. "I'm not color-blind. I appreciate a multitude of colors." He learned something at all the lectures but "genuinely enjoyed" Campagna's. It was "refreshing, as it was from a sociology perspective, not conventional," since race is often taught as a timeline in history, said Martin.

The planning committee included advisors Abdul Staten, director for student advocacy and prevention awareness, and Colleen O'Brien, director of campus ministry, and students Hicks, Prasanni Shrestha and Cindy Herrera. ■

—CL



Sophie Hicks '21 proposed the idea of an anti-racism lecture series and has been working on the planning committee for the forums.

The series is continuing throughout the spring semester with topics such as "Racism and Sports," "Racism and Healthcare," "The Legacies of Apartheid in South Africa," "Racism in Research," "Law and Systemic Racism," and "Racism and History in the U.S."

## Corporate Partnership Program Offers Convenience and Tuition Discount

Jordyn Koplik is a big planner. That certainly is an important skill to have in her work as a sourcing analyst in the strategic sourcing department at Atlantic Health System. It also helps her in her studies in the fully online MBA program at Caldwell through the university's Corporate Partnership program. She finishes her workday and then logs on for her classes and homework. "It is a perfect balance for me ... it leaves my weekends free," says Koplik, who has an undergraduate degree in biomedical marketing.

With the workplace and higher education changing due to the pandemic, many in the corporate world are finding this an opportune time to start a degree or finish one they had begun years ago. Caldwell University began the Corporate Partnership program to meet the needs of workers who want to pursue studies and refuel skills for the workplace of tomorrow. Companies with 250 employees or more can receive a 25% tuition discount for

their workers and their spouses and dependents. Students can study online or in person in the classroom in bachelor's, master's or doctoral programs.

Koplik was attracted to Caldwell's program because it offered the fully online option and the tuition discount. She has been in the MBA program since March. "I'm excited to eventually finish." Being in the program, she says, shows other professionals that "I am looking to improve myself and learn." She enjoys her work and thinks marketing may be in her future but is open to whatever avenues present themselves in her corporate journey. "You don't want to say no to certain opportunities. You don't know where they are going to take you."

To learn more about the CU Corporate Partnership program, go to <https://www.caldwell.edu/partners>. ■





## CU FOOD PANTRY GETS BOOST FROM SISTERS' HOLIDAY GIFT CARD COLLECTION

Every Advent the Commissions on Global Issues and Universe and Creation of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell pick charities to support for the holiday season. In December they chose the Caldwell University food pantry after hearing of the pandemic's devastating effect on students "in our communities, across the state and country," said Sister Mary John Kearney, O.P., chair of the Commission on Global Issues and professor emerita of education at the university. "This one had a lot of energy," she said of the selection of the food pantry for a collection.

Sister said she has never seen such a burden on families in her lifetime. "Although being born in the Depression, I'm sure my parents could equal it." The Sisters put the word out through their community newsletter, and the outpouring of support was "heartwarming," said Sister. The result was a collection of over \$2,500 in gift cards for stores like Foodtown, ShopRite and Stop & Shop. In addition, the order's leadership team donated \$1,000 as a Christmas gift in the name of the Sisters.

Rosa Sanchez, Ph.D., O.P.A., associate professor of Spanish language, literature and culture, and Dominican associate Ann Marie McCabe, O.P.A., made sure the effort was advertised to the university faculty and staff. Sanchez said the needs of students and their families have been on the minds of many in the university community. "I could not be happier with the turnout, and I hope that the money collected goes a long way." Sister Jeanne Goyette, O.P., chair of the Universe and Creation Committee, was also very grateful to the Sisters and university for the donations. She said they will be mindful of the needs of the pantry in the future too.

Colleen O'Brien, director of campus ministry, and Alison Self, administrative assistant for counseling and health services in the Wellness Center, have been overseeing the donations at the pantry throughout the pandemic. They have been impressed with the abundant generosity from the Caldwell community and beyond. "It has been amazing that we haven't had to restrict the amount of food people are able to receive when they are in need. This is our Catholic and Dominican identity in action," said O'Brien.

For information on how to pick up items from the pantry or to donate, contact O'Brien or Self at [cougarfoodpantry@caldwell.edu](mailto:cougarfoodpantry@caldwell.edu). ■

## Women's Tennis Kiana Wiggins Selected as CACC Rep on DII SAAC



Caldwell University women's tennis junior **Kiana Wiggins** (Washington, New Jersey) was selected to serve as one of the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference representatives on the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Wiggins is one of two student-athletes representing the CACC on the DII National SAAC.

Wiggins will serve a three-year term on the national committee

with her term ending in January 2023. She is a junior on the Caldwell women's tennis team and is one of the team's top athletes. In addition to her participation on the national SAAC group, Wiggins is part of Caldwell's SAAC executive board, serving as its vice president.

"It is such a great honor to be invited to join the national NCAA DII SAAC as a representative," said Wiggins. "In this position, I will engage in discussions on a national level and vote on different topics, such as new rules that can be implemented. With this role, I strive to provide the student-athlete perspective and voice on issues that affect all of us."

The mission of the NCAA Division II SAAC is to ensure the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity for all student-athletes, protecting their welfare and fostering a positive student-athlete image.

National SAAC representatives are responsible for gathering conference feedback and representing conference views at the national level. They are also charged with forwarding information addressed at the national level (e.g., legislation, issues affecting student-athletes) to their conference SAAC representatives.

For additional information on DII SAAC, visit <http://www.ncaa.org/governance/committees/division-ii-student-athlete-advisory-committee>. ■

—JT

# CALDWELL ATHLETICS LAUNCHES REDESIGNED WEBSITE



The Caldwell University Athletic Department, with the assistance of website provider SIDEARM Sports, is proud to announce the newly redesigned home of [caldwellathletics.com](http://caldwellathletics.com).

"We are excited for the relaunch of the Caldwell Athletics website," said Assistant Vice President/Director of Athletics Mark A. Corino. "We are pleased to continue our partnership with SIDEARM Sports and value their efforts in coordinating on this redesign project. We hope that our fans, current student-athletes and recruits will find the site user friendly and enjoy the many new features of the site."

The new website went live to all visitors in early December. The new layout features a modern look, large main story photos, links to news archives and a student-athlete-of-the-week feature.

The site also includes navigational buttons with a link to the athletics facilities page, a donate section dedicated to Cougar Pride, and a recruits option with links related to prospective student-athletes seeking information about Caldwell.



The site uses the CU logo with the Cougar as the main logo in the middle of the page as well as a sponsor section at the bottom. The upcoming events and results section has been enhanced to include the logos of opponents and is featured just below the main story window.

The updated Fan Zone drop-down menu bar includes links to the live coverage page, department social media accounts, the team store and the current year's visitors guide. ■

—JT



## Caldwell Athletics Recognized with President's Award for Academic Excellence



The Caldwell University Athletic Department was among 42 NCAA Division II institutions to receive the NCAA President's Award, which recognizes schools for their academic excellence. Caldwell ranks third in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference as the department achieved an Academic Success Rate (ASR) of 90% for the second time in the past three years. The department's mark is an increase of one percentage point from last year, leaving the Cougars tied for 36th place among Division II institutions.

"We are extremely honored to receive the NCAA President's Award that highlights the academic success of our department," said Mark A. Corino, assistant vice president and director of athletics. "As one of three schools in our conference to achieve a 90% academic success rate, this is truly a significant achievement for our department, and we are proud of our student-athletes and our entire staff."

The ASR represents the percentage of student-athletes who graduate within six

years of initial enrollment in college and includes virtually all Division II student-athletes and those not receiving athletics scholarships. The Division II ASR also captures about 50% more college athletes than the federal graduation rate. The national ASR is 74% for student-athletes who entered college from 2010 through 2013, the latest data released by the NCAA.

Caldwell University increased its academic success from the previous cohort year. Among the highlights from the current year's report are a 73% student-athlete graduation rate and Caldwell's status as one of three CACC institutions to achieve a 90% ASR.

Four of Caldwell's teams earned a 100% ASR rate, including women's lacrosse, women's tennis, women's volleyball and men's cross country/track and field. In addition, nine of Caldwell's teams attained an ASR at or above the national average for their sports. ■

—JT

# ONE MILLION IN FOUR Initiative Brings "Guardian Angels" to the Fore

The challenge of fundraising brings to mind the phrase "It takes a village." At Caldwell, that village comprises alumni, friends and corporate partners who continue to make significant investments in the university's mission and vision. This year, many alumni supporters stepped up, making their largest gifts to date and serving as guardian angels who are seeing Caldwell's students through this stressful period.

Due to revenue losses and increased costs in 2020, the need arose for an additional \$1 million in immediate scholarship support. As they say, when the going gets tough, the tough get going: Last September, the Development and Alumni Affairs Department put all other fundraising projects on hold and took on the challenge of meeting the \$1 million goal within just four months. Securing support for the COVID-19 Scholarship Relief Fund became the department's topmost priority. The goal was to ensure that students in need would remain safe,



able to pay their bills, study and complete the academic year. The year ended with the goal fulfilled.

In the early months of the pandemic, many students lost part-time employment or saw one of their parents lose work. Others were having difficulty meeting everyday expenses. "One Million in Four" resulted in a groundswell of support from the university's alumni and friends; all gifts became part of the COVID-19 Scholarship Relief Fund. Eligible students with a wide variety of urgent needs applied for assistance through the fund.

Tim Kessler-Cleary, assistant dean for student engagement and retention, notes, "The COVID-19 Student Emergency Relief Fund enabled the university to provide desperately needed support for our students who have been struggling with pressing financial issues since March of this year. The fund is a tremendous blessing for these young people in meeting their individual needs. Whether those needs are related to covering utilities, food, supplies, housing expenses or technology upgrades to facilitate remote learning, the fund has helped sustain students so that they could complete the fall semester. This support has been crucial for our international students, who are ineligible for federal funds available through the CARES Act. Our students are sincerely grateful and appreciative of the support they have received, thanks to the generosity of our alumni and supporters." ■

—Christina Hall



"Thank you! The money granted to me helped me afford my phone bills and books this semester!"

—Stephanie Lopez



"I am an international student. My parents often send me money through wire transfer, but because of the COVID-19 lockdown, all the banks in my country closed. I couldn't work on campus, which is how I earn money for transportation and food. But the fund provided me with bus fare and money to purchase groceries. Thank you so much for your contribution. It takes a good heart to empathize and donate. Thank you for your kindness."

—Yaman Thapa



"The COVID-19 Relief Fund helped me pay off some bills that I was desperate to pay so I could keep my laptop for the semester. The money I received helped me stay afloat during a difficult time."

—Yudemis Sanchez



# A HEARTFELT HOMAGE TO CALDWELL'S MOST CELEBRATED ARTIST

Some of you may remember one of the most successful campaigns in advertising history, which featured the memorable tagline "What Becomes a Legend Most?" In September, Sister Gerardine Mueller, Caldwell's artist-in-residence for more than 50 years, will become a centenarian. As is fitting for this watershed event, the university has proclaimed 2021 "The Year of Sister Gerardine" as a tribute to Caldwell's legendary and beloved teacher, mentor and friend.

Among Sister's exceptional achievements at Caldwell is her leadership effort during the 1960s to establish the art department. Her determination led what was then the Caldwell College for Women to offer the first Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in New Jersey. An iconic presence on Caldwell's campus, Sister Gerardine is revered by alumni, faculty and staff alike. Her body of work, which continues to grace the campus, is formidable, encompassing



Sister Gerardine Mueller, O.P., in her art studio.



The legend herself, pictured in the Motherhouse, October 2020.

sculpture, stained glass, illuminated manuscripts, wood carvings and clay.

In the fall of 2017, the Mueller Gallery, the centerpiece of visual culture at Caldwell University, was named in Sister Gerardine's honor. The gallery hosts several exhibitions annually to showcase a wide variety of works in all media from students as well as working artists.

A full year of art programming, including lectures, artmaking activities and student presentations is planned. During the first half of 2021, events will be held on the Zoom platform. Once the COVID-19 vaccine is widely available, there is the hope that some in-person events will take place in the second half of the year.

Announcements of upcoming events will appear in the alumni e-newsletter. Stay tuned! ■

—Christina Hall

Above: The Stations of the Cross in the Motherhouse chapel, which were created by Sister Gerardine Mueller.



Sister Gerardine created the tabernacle that is in the chapel in St. Catherine of Siena Convent and Healthcare Center.



Hand-painted 2020 Christmas card.



Sister Gerardine's sculpture of the Blessed Mother is located in the chapel in the Motherhouse. She has had a love for Mary since she was a child, nurtured by her mother. Sister tells the story of her mother's ectopic pregnancy while carrying her. "Neither she nor I was expected to live. She promised to dedicate me to the Blessed Mother, and I was dressed in blue and white in Mary's honor for seven years."



"Days of Creation" glass mosaic on display in Werner Hall.





# My Friend Dorothy



L to R: On a June day in 2017: Charlene Hamrah '69, Dorothy Cunningham '49 and Christina Hall.

She was brilliant, beautiful, fiercely independent, full of fire and determination: in all, an exceptional woman. She was tough enough to make her way in what was then openly called “a man’s world” and knew she had to work twice as hard to get half as far. And go far, she did. That was Dr. Dorothy Cunningham ’49, who on Sept. 22, 2020 left this earth, having made her indelible mark. Although I am rarely star struck, I was always dazzled by Dorothy’s formidable, razor-sharp intellect.

When I began working at Caldwell in 2013, I discovered a group of alumni from the Caldwell College for Women era who reside in Manhattan. Intending to organize a social gathering, I called Dorothy and asked if we could meet. She dismissed my invitation out of hand. She mentioned that her deceased sister, Alice, had also attended Caldwell College for Women when the annual tuition was \$200. Dorothy enrolled at no charge as the second child in her family to attend Caldwell.

As a major gifts officer, my job is to encourage investment in the university to support its students, programs and projects. I make a point of explaining to prospective donors that my call is not about “asking for money.” Simply put, I’m asking those who have benefited from a Caldwell education to help ensure that current and future generations of students will have the same opportunity. It’s an invitation to enter into a relationship in which I can help alumni and donors accomplish great things as we work together.

So, undeterred, I mailed Dorothy a handwritten note reiterating my request and was surprised to receive a call the following week. Her tone had changed from skepticism to something like curiosity. “People don’t send note cards anymore,” she observed. Our first meeting took place at the Beach Café, Dorothy’s favorite restaurant in her Lenox Hill neighborhood. She recommended the house hamburger; I learned that Dorothy loved a good hamburger, preferably accompanied by a glass of red wine.

It seemed impossible that the vibrant, talkative woman I met was, at that time, 86 years old. She was sharp, funny and together. A keen observer who noticed the tiniest details, she peppered me with questions about all manner of things and insisted on paying the check despite my protestations. When I asked if we could meet again, she said, “That would be delightful!” Over time, Dorothy, a former trustee of Caldwell, increased her giving, becoming a major contributor with gifts to support the university and the Sister Mary Dominic Tweedus Chapel.

As I got to know Dorothy over the years, I learned more about the big life she had led, one that unfolded upon leaving the small, protective environment that was then Caldwell College for Women. After graduating from Caldwell she went on to earn a Master of Science in Zoology at Catholic University in 1951. She next accepted a research position at Hoffmann-La Roche, where she worked for several years until joining the physiology department at the University of Pennsylvania as a research assistant. She then taught at Montclair State College (now University) from 1958 to 1962. But Dorothy was just getting started. She moved to New Haven, Connecticut, and enrolled in Yale’s doctoral program, from which she earned a Ph.D. in physiology, and became an assistant fellow at the John B. Pierce Laboratory, an independent research institute at Yale that supports research in the biological, behavioral and health sciences.

During summer sessions at Yale, Dorothy served as a visiting professor at the University of Lyon in Lyon, France, at the University of Calgary, in Alberta, Canada, and as a visiting scientist at the University of Kyoto, in Kyoto, Japan. Her lifetime of research, which focused on temperature regulation, was widely published in scientific journals. She was a key collaborator on a NASA project, developing a cooling system

for astronauts’ space suits in the early years of the first in-man space program. The work is archived at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington. In 1970, Dorothy was recruited by Hunter College, one of the constituent colleges of the City University of New York, to establish a program in the life sciences. She was on the School of Health Sciences faculty there from 1970 until 1995 when she retired as a full professor.

Despite earning many honors and distinctions throughout her career, Dorothy was humble and avoided the limelight. But her leadership talent earned her a place on the board of governors of the Association of Yale Alumni and chairmanship of the Yale University Council Committee on the Graduate School. She was an active

*“Our friendship is a gift I will treasure always.”*

member of the executive board of Yale Science and Engineering and the board of governors of the New York Academy of Sciences. Dorothy was one of the first recipients of the Veritas Award at Caldwell and received the

Yale Medal, the highest award presented to honor service to Yale University.

Whenever I called her, her greeting was always the same: “Good to hear from you! How are things on ‘The Hill?’” Even as the aperture focused on her life grew smaller, Dorothy never lost her sense of wonder, of curiosity, or her genuine interest in others. She taught me to continue cultivating those same qualities in myself.

As I write this, I like to imagine Dorothy enjoying a hamburger and a glass of Cabernet in some glorious celestial setting. Our friendship is a gift I will treasure always. ■

—Christina Hall

## History Alum Carlos Pomares Is an Essex County Leader

Congratulations to Carlos Pomares ’93, who was selected to serve as vice president of the Essex County Board of Commissioners, becoming the first Hispanic commissioner to hold a leadership role on the board. In 2017, Pomares received the June Dwyer Castano Veritas Award for Excellence in Cultural Activism. ■



# SAVE THE DATE

## FOUNDER’S DAY

### MARCH 24, 2021





## THINGS LOOK DIFFERENT RIGHT NOW, BUT WE CAN STILL



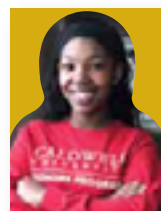
# GET IN THE GAME!

Show your support with the purchase of a "Fan Cut-out" — a self-standing coroplast 18"x24" cut-out personalized with your image!

Depending on the athletic event, your cut-out will be positioned in the bleachers, either indoors or outdoors, allowing you to show your Cougar spirit from a distance.

To order your Fan Cut-out(s) please visit [www.caldwell.edu/getinthegame](http://www.caldwell.edu/getinthegame). This is time-sensitive, so please order today.

**Thank you for supporting Caldwell Athletics!**



## You, Like MaryAnn, Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Future Caldwell Students

*"Caldwell gave me the confidence to take on new challenges."*

MaryAnn Gaydos Bury '66 is grateful to Caldwell for her education, which opened many doors for her throughout her career, and for the close friendships she formed with classmates — friendships she has enjoyed throughout her adult life.

MaryAnn was a French major; after graduating she taught for several years until teaching opportunities began diminishing. Leveraging her strong liberal arts background, MaryAnn attained a position working in the library of a plastics company. She rose through the ranks, becoming supervisor of services for the technical information center at the company, after which she was recruited by Allied Signal, where she became manager of the business library. Her career in information research reached its pinnacle at Honeywell, from which she retired at the same time as her 40th Caldwell class reunion.

As a generous and sustaining donor to Caldwell, MaryAnn says she is grateful for the ways in which Caldwell has enriched her life, and is including the university in her will.



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.



# Alumni President

LETTER FROM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD PRESIDENT  
ELAINE BAUER ZABRISKIE '73



Dear Fellow Alumni,

Happy 2021 to the Caldwell University alumni community! I am wishing that this new year will bring health and safety to all of you as we move forward in our lives and adapt to what is hopefully becoming a post-pandemic world.

The Caldwell University community has risen to professional, academic and personal challenges as we have navigated this past year. We have rearranged class schedules and programs to accommodate the requirements and restrictions imposed upon our campus by a worldwide pandemic, executed a series of commencement ceremonies and welcomed a new group of resilient alumni to our fold, while managing to raise \$1 million plus in scholarship monies! Let's give a shout-out to all the faculty, students and alumni who have been so innovative, adaptable in teaching and learning during this time, and committed to Caldwell's excellence in education.

The new Faith in Action Wall featured on this magazine's cover highlights the work of the Sisters' thought and mission that lives on at the university. We are grateful for the new pledge of \$500,000 made by Elaine Tweedus to provide scholarships, and we look forward to celebrating Sister Gerardine's 100th birthday in the coming year.

We are enjoying the synergies developed with our new president, Dr. Matthew Whelan, who has excelled in a new job under the most unique and daunting of circumstances.

And it is most gratifying to see more daylight each evening!

All the best,

Elaine Bauer Zabriskie '73  
President, Alumni Association

### 2020-2021 CALDWELL UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Megan Norton '22

*in memory of...*

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

Dorothy Cunningham '49

Geraldine Tyne Kempe '51

Joy Harrington Tierney '52

Joan Metzkie Crowther '56

Joan Shuhart Schweitzer '57

Else Berit Benz '58

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Mary McAlary '61

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Mary Frances Garrigan '63

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Brother of Judith Crudell O'Connor '65

Larissa Janiw-Fontana '65

Jerry Murphy

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Carmela Tripodi Novak '66

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Eileen Nilan Streiter '70

Kathleen Spaight '71

Gloria Maria Dirienzo Mocenigo '74

Susan Farrell Warnick '75

Barbara Katherine Green Waters '80

Todd Carleton Elliott

Husband of Brenda Vermont Elliott '87

Jean Erkin Thomas '93

Josephine Bracco

Mother of Gerri Bracco Lopez '08

Katherine "Kay" White Slattery '96

Devin Gold '15

Robert William Bednar

Former music professor





# JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR TREASURED SISTER, TEACHER, MENTOR AND FRIEND!

Caldwell University is launching "The Year of Sister Gerardine," a yearlong celebration to honor Sister Gerardine Mueller, O.P. '54, Caldwell's beloved artist-in-residence of more than 50 years, in advance of her centennial birthday in September. A prolific and deeply gifted artist, Sister Gerardine's monumental body of work features sculpture, stained glass, illumination and calligraphy, wood carvings, and printmaking.

Among Sister's exceptional achievements at Caldwell is her leadership effort to establish the art department in 1964. Her determination led Caldwell College for Women to offer the first Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in New Jersey, with the first diploma awarded in 1976.

A full calendar of presentations is planned in Sister Gerardine's honor, featuring members of the art faculty, alumni and students, each of whom will provide insight into the subjects of photography, art therapy and contemporary art, among others.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING ZOOM PRESENTATIONS!

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2021, 1:00 PM

A screening of the 2010 film "A Soul's Work," an introduction to Sister Gerardine's legacy at Caldwell University

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://caldwellu.zoom.us/j/99887667543?pwd=bHhTYjcvZDI1NERhRU5CbHUyK3ZEZz09>

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021, 1:00 PM

#### Smartphone Photography: A Quick Study

Explore the basic photographic concepts of composition, lighting, and subject matter to take better photos with your phone.

Presenter: Kendall Baker, Professor, Art Faculty

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://caldwellu.zoom.us/j/93412672701?pwd=OXQ5U3hINTFiUTBzcEEyTlQrUk03Zz09>

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021, 11:00 AM

#### "Creating Sacred Spaces"

Meg Poltorak Keyes '75, B.F.A. Liturgical Designer, will discuss her career and evolution as an artist and will be joined by Linda Sue Galate, Ph.D. '66 for a tour of the Sister Mary Dominic Tweedus Chapel. You'll enjoy this unique opportunity to learn about Meg's vision for the Chapel and hear about the creative process that brought it to life.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://caldwellu.zoom.us/j/91980549763?pwd=SW9NMkg4L21uekdzjcrenA0WnVhQT09>

For more information, email [alumni@caldwell.edu](mailto:alumni@caldwell.edu).

